

AVENING PARISH COUNCIL



Biodiversity Policy

Background

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Avening Parish Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) must from time to time consider what action it might properly take, consistent with the proper exercise of its functions to further the general biodiversity objective.

Definition

The natural world underpins our economy, society, and our existence. Biodiversity provides us with everything we need to survive including food, water, medicine, materials for shelter, and even natural cycles such as climate and nutrients. Our economy relies on nature too – a report by The World Economic Forum in 2020, has estimated that over half of global GDP is highly or moderately dependent on nature to the tune of \$44 trillion per annum. According to DEFRA (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants alive on the planet.

The ecosystem services supported by biodiversity help mitigate issues such as flooding and drought events, regulation of climate, provision of sufficient, clean water, and pollination of our crops. One in every three mouthfuls of food we eat is dependent on pollinators such as bees, butterflies and moths so the rapid loss of these pollinators from our environment has significant implications for human life.

Business as usual is no longer an option if biodiversity and all the services it provides to us is to be protected and enhanced.

Aims and Objectives

The objective of this policy is to help the council work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Avening area.

This policy recognises that the Avening Conservation Area is part of the Cotswold AONB (renamed in June 2020 as the Cotswold National Landscape although AONB is still the legal designation) and should be read in conjunction with the Cotswold National Landscape Management Plan 2023 – 2025.

This policy also recognises the need to balance and manage the sometimes conflicting interests of local stakeholders such as farmers, small holders, estate managers, residents and visitors.

The Council will consider the impact on sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity of any decisions it makes and will develop a strategy and implement policies to improve biodiversity in the following areas:

- Commenting on the impact of local planning applications
- The management of the land and property under the ownership or influence of the council

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- Encourage and / or support local businesses and organisations in the adoption of environmentally positive practices
- Encourage and /or support Avening residents to promote and enhance biodiversity

Specific Actions

Planning Applications

Note: Cotswold District Council have made it clear that local opinion and local policies carry no weight with them when they review planning applications, however CDC have used the Building with Nature Standards in its Cotswold District Green Infrastructure Strategy <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/vs4j4fmf/1-draft-green-infrastructure-strategy-draft-for-consultation-june-2021.pdf>.

Never-the-less, Avening Parish Council will:

- Assess planning applications with reference to the Building with Nature Standards and aim to deliver key information for CDC to consider, based on CDC's stated principals.
- Support the protection of sensitive habitats from the consequences of developments
- Consider whether changes to a proposed development could enhance biodiversity - following the CDC and Building with Nature Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Land and Property Management

Note: The only land under Avening Parish Council control are the Lee Croft Playing Fields and the Community Orchard, and the only property is the Avening Memorial Hall

Avening Parish Council will

- Carry out a biodiversity audit of its holdings
- Collate biodiversity information about areas of the village outside its control. This will include compiling a record of road verges of conservation concern, other habitats of conservation concern and protected species. This will include the stream that runs through the village.
- Consider the conservation and promotion of biodiversity with regard to the management of the playing fields and the community orchard, specifically:
 - the impact of established and potential future use
 - the timing of hedge trimming,
 - management of the copse and the community orchard
 - a review of trees in the village that are currently under a TPO and consideration if other trees should be subject to a TPO
 - application of chemical herbicides/pesticides
 - need for and timing of removal of vegetation
 - Ash dieback – it is recommended that the Cotswolds and Vale Ash Dieback Forum information is used with regard to ash die back and the need for tree works or tree

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felling. <https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CoVAD-Ash-Dieback-Information-for-famers.pdf>

- Recording of invasive and/ or non-native species
- Consider biodiversity issues related to the management of the Avening Memorial Hall, seeking to enhance biodiversity where possible

Local Community

Avening Parish Council will:

- Build on the successful partnerships with the Cotswold Rural Skills programme and the Avening Community Orchard
- Seek to raise public awareness of biodiversity issues through regular reporting
- Seek to engage with residents regarding biodiversity in Avening and identify ways in which the community can get involved in enhancing biodiversity in the village
- Support local residents gain access to advice i.e. related to TPOs or the Avening Stream.

Monitoring and Review

This policy was adopted on 8th October 2025 and will be reviewed in 2 years' time, or sooner if required by legislation.

A summary of how this policy has been implemented will be published annually.