

# **Sutton Courtenay Parish Council**

## **Statement on Duties Related to Biodiversity**

### **Biodiversity**

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. Sutton Courtenay Parish Council's aim is to care for the environment through its own policies and practices and by encouraging others to do the same. The Parish Council will endeavour to be as conscientious as possible about biodiversity, conservation, and use of resources. The Parish Council will keep aware of the environmental regulations that apply to its business and ensure that its legal obligations are met. The Parish Council will communicate this policy to Councillors and Officers through channels such as meetings and work planning, and it will encourage suggestions of ways to provide a positive environmental impact.

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council practices and initiatives to improve biodiversity include:

- Assessing chemicals used (e.g. cleaning/gardening) and ensuring their appropriate safe disposal;
- Minimising use of harmful pesticides;
- Mulching horticultural waste where possible;
- Planting more trees and using indigenous species as much as possible;

### **Awareness Raising**

Councillors are reminded of their duties regarding bio-diversity and crime and disorder when making key decisions on Town Council services and functions. This includes commenting on planning applications and when considering grant applications.

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