



Northwich
town council

Biodiversity Policy

Policy Statement

Northwich Town Council recognises the vital importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems to the wellbeing, resilience and prosperity of the town. The Council is committed to protecting, enhancing and promoting biodiversity across all land, services and activities for which it is responsible.

The Council will work proactively to reverse biodiversity loss, create wildlife-rich spaces, reduce its environmental footprint and support community-led environmental action.

What have we done so far?

- Butterfly Conservation – Butterfly event in Vickersway Park
- The Butterfly-Friendly Council Pledge
- Natural planting at Verdin Park and wildlife friendly lavenders
- Planting pollinating plants around our friendship bench in Vickersway Park
- Growzone (local business) offers habitats and places for small animals
- Local schools - Kingsmead, Leftwich Charles Darwin and Hartford Manor teamed up with the Lion Salt Works in the PolliNation project. The aim was to provide floral pathways across the town for insects, bees and butterflies to fly between.
- Wildflower planting in Witton Cemetery, Witton Church and Verdin Park
- Work in partnership with Sustainable Northwich to plant trees in Dane Orchard
- The Woodland Walk – this area is left to natural habitat to promote wildlife
- Company vehicles – Vehicles that are replaced are no longer run on diesel
- Contract work – planning routes to different areas more efficiently to save on fuel
- Reducing fresh food menu (such as sandwiches) at our parks to avoid waste
- Making our own compost with garden waste

Legislative & Strategic Context

This policy supports and aligns with:

- Environment Act 2021
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 – Biodiversity Duty
- DEFRA Environmental Improvement Plan
- Cheshire West & Chester Council Climate and Nature Emergency Commitments

Policy Aims

Northwich Town Council aims to:

- Protect existing habitats and species.
- Enhance biodiversity on Council-managed land.
- Increase climate resilience through nature-based solutions.
- Reduce pollution, waste and carbon emissions.
- Support pollinators and declining species.
- Promote environmental education and community participation.

Key Principles

The Council will:

Principle

Commitment

Nature First

Prioritise ecological value in decision-making

Sustainable Operations

Reduce energy, waste and emissions

Pollinator Protection

Protect bees, butterflies and insects

Habitat Connectivity

Create linked green corridors

Community Involvement

Support local environmental action

Long-Term Planning

Make lasting improvements, not short-term fixes

Land Management & Habitat Creation

The Council will:

- Increase native tree, hedge and wildflower planting.
- Create and manage wildlife corridors between parks, cemeteries and green spaces.
- Protect veteran trees and hedgerows.
- Introduce meadow management regimes in suitable areas.
- Use peat-free compost and sustainable growing media.
- Retain fallen timber and leaf litter where safe to do so.

Pollinators & Species Support

The Council will:

- Expand wildflower meadows.
- Install insect hotels, bat and bird boxes.
- Reduce mowing in selected areas.
- Avoid pesticide use wherever possible.
- Promote “No Mow May” and pollinator-friendly initiatives.

Sustainable Operations

Northwich Town Council commits to:

- Transitioning to low-emission and electric vehicles.
- Increasing use of renewable energy.
- Installing rainwater harvesting systems.
- Using energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
- Reducing plastic, paper and food waste.
- Composting organic waste wherever possible.

Community Engagement

The Council will:

- Work with schools, community groups and businesses.
- Support citizen science, planting days and biodiversity events.
- Promote environmental education.
- Encourage local biodiversity projects.

Responsibility

Overall responsibility lies with the Chief Officer, supported by the relevant Committees.

Northwich Town Council – Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

2025 – 2030

Purpose

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) sets out how Northwich Town Council will deliver the commitments in its Biodiversity & Environmental Enhancement Policy through practical actions, measurable targets and community involvement.

Priority Habitats & Species

Priority Area

Why Important

Pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths)	Vital for food production and plant reproduction
Native hedgerows	Wildlife corridors, nesting sites, climate resilience
Trees and woodland	Carbon capture, shade, flood prevention
Wildflower meadows	Support insects, birds and small mammals
Cemeteries as wildlife refuges	Quiet, undisturbed habitats
Urban green spaces	Improve wellbeing and ecological connectivity

Action Programme

Action	Location	Lead	Timescale
Expand wildflower meadows	In as many of our Areas as possible	Parks Team	2025–27
Plant native hedgerows	Dane Valley Cemetery & Witton Cemetery	Parks Team	2026-27
Reduce mowing in selected areas	All suitable sites	Parks Team	Ongoing
Pollinator planting around benches & paths	Vickersway/Verdin/Witton	Parks Team	Annual

Sustainable Operations

Action	Target
Replace remaining diesel vehicles	100% low-emission by 2029
Increase electric gardening tools	Replace all petrol tools by 2029
Install rainwater harvesting	All parks by 2028

Community & Education

Action	Partner	Outcome
School planting days	Local schools	Increase environmental education
Volunteer planting days	Community groups	Habitat creation

Monitoring & Review

Full review every 5 years

Wild flowers in Witton Cemetery and other areas



Flowers in all bedding areas attracting wild life



Planters and SUDS planters



Trees and shubs planted in our areas

Other Sources of Information and help

Bat Conservation Trust www.bats.org.uk

Buglife www.buglife.org.uk

Environment Agency www.gov.uk/government/organisations/

Environment-agency Forestry Commission www.forestry.gov.uk

Freshwater Habitats Trust <http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk>

Natural England www.gov.uk/government/organisations/naturalengland

Peoples Trust for Endangered Species <https://ptes.org>

Plantlife www.plantlife.org.uk

RSPB www.rspb.org.uk

The Mammal Society www.mammal.org.uk

Woodland Trust www.woodlandtrust.org.uk