Nature Action Plan. Ubley Parish Council. March 2024

Background

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

* Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
* Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
* Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives .

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth1. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains Rivers and the sea.

The Local Area

Ubley Parish Council is a rural village, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland, and streams. Rare orchids grow at The Glebe.

Parish Council responsibilities

The Parish Council owns two pieces of land- the land around the Village hall and The Cross, and has responsibility for, by lease, The Glebe.

What the Parish Council will do

* Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
* It will endeavor not to use pesticides and herbicides used on Parish Council owned land
* It will review how it manages the Council owned and managed land. This may include, but is not limited to.
  + Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates
  + Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates
  + Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
  + Limiting the number of cuts in the Glebe and allowing the grasses to grow and be swathed in September.
  + Ensuring that there is a margin of uncut grass around the hedges to allow longer grasses to grow
  + Allow fallen tree branches to remain, if safe, to allow invertebrates to habitat
  + To preserve trees and encourage biodiversity.
* The hedges around the Glebe field are cut twice a year, outside of bird nesting season, however some of the cut hedging is placed on the ground to encourage use by respective animals and invertebrates
* The Parish Council will look to purchase and install bird boxes in the Parish Council owned trees.
* The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website.