

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council

Biodiversity statement

Purpose

This statement explains the Biodiversity Duty placed on parish councils and sets out Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council's approach to complying with the duty. The statement has been written so that:

- Parish Councillors and staff understand the scope of the biodiversity duty,
- The Council has an agreed approach to fulfilling its duty, and
- Members of the public understand the Parish Council's biodiversity duty and how the Council plans to comply with that duty.

What is the Biodiversity Duty?

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) places a duty on parish councils to consider what action they can properly take to further the 'general biodiversity objective'.

The 'general biodiversity objective' is the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England.

The duty came into force on 1 January 2023.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is biological diversity. The World Wildlife Fund defines biodiversity as 'all the different kinds of life you'll find in one area – the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world'. The simplest definition in UK government documents refers to biodiversity as 'the variety of life on Earth'.

What does this duty mean for Parish Councils?

This duty means that Parish Councils must be able to evidence that they take the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity into account in their decisions and actions. There is no requirement for Parish Councils to report on compliance with the biodiversity duty.

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council and the Biodiversity Duty

The Council aims to protect, manage and enhance the biodiversity within the parish by:

- Managing Gobowen Playing Field, Hengoed Cemetery and Gobowen Allotments using environmentally friendly practices that promote biodiversity including:
 - reducing the use of herbicides, pesticides, and water,
 - undertaking hedge cutting outside of the bird nesting season,
 - planting only native species obtained from sustainable sources,

- preserving and conservating large and mature trees,
- planting new trees to replace trees which have had to removed and planting additional trees wherever possible,
- implementing measures to prevent the spread of invasive species and plant disease,
- leaving dead wood in place (when safe to do so), and
- creating and maintaining habitats for wildlife and nature corridors.
- Increasing community awareness of biodiversity issues, and
- Supporting local biodiversity projects.

Planning applications

The Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications including:

- the preservation of large and mature trees in the landscape,
- the use of energy saving heating systems,
- the provision of electric vehicle charging points,
- the use of sustainable materials in the design,
- the retention of hedges, and
- the planting of native species in any new hedges

Keeping up to date

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council will update this statement to take account of any new information or training and changes to good practice.

Adopted: October 2023

Next review date: October 2024