

STISTED PARISH COUNCIL

Biodiversity Statement and Policy



Adopted on: November 2023

Next review due: November 2025

INTRODUCTION - STATUTORY DUTY

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Government guidance published on 17 May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

- consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

A plan of first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity must be completed by 1 January 2024

A Climate and Nature For Stisted (CANS) working group has been set up and is discussed at meetings and outputs published in the parish magazine

Biodiversity should be considered when responding to Planning Applications

A Local Nature Action Plan will be prepared in 2024 / 2025

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, Stisted parish Council will consider future actions to further the general biodiversity objective. This duty also means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.

DEFINITION According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. including essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area. The Full Council and any committees of the Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

Environmental Statement for Stisted Parish Council sustainability working party CANS (Climate and Nature for Stisted)

CANS, alongside the Parish Council, recognise the critical need for collective action to address the pressing environmental challenges facing our community and the planet as a whole. With a shared commitment to building and maintaining a thriving, sustainability-focused community, CANS is dedicated to implementing strategies that will result in a significantly reduced carbon footprint. Our mission encompasses various aspects, each presenting unique challenges that demand thoughtful consideration and effective solutions.

1. Transport: *Challenge:* High carbon emissions from conventional transportation methods. *Objective:* Promote sustainable transportation alternatives, such as cycling, walking, and carpooling, while exploring the feasibility of electric and hybrid vehicles for local use.
2. Heat Loss/Oil Dependency: *Challenge:* High dependence on oil for heating, leading to increased carbon emissions. *Objective:* Implement energy-efficient practices and technologies, including improved insulation and renewable energy sources, to reduce heat loss and decrease reliance on oil for heating.
3. Increase in Natural Habitats: *Challenge:* Loss of natural habitats due to urbanisation and development. *Objective:* Foster the creation and preservation of natural habitats within the community through green spaces, tree planting initiatives, and wildlife conservation projects.
4. Waste: *Challenge:* Excessive waste generation and limited recycling practices. *Objective:* Implement comprehensive waste reduction and recycling programs, including community education on waste segregation, promoting reusable products, and supporting local recycling initiatives.
5. Challenging Perceptions/Building Community & Education: *Challenge:* Limited awareness and understanding of sustainability issues. *Objective:* Engage the community through educational programs, workshops, and events to raise awareness, challenge perceptions, and build a united commitment to sustainable practices.
6. Planning & Legislation: *Challenge:* Navigating complex planning processes and legislation. *Objective:* Advocate for and implement sustainable planning practices, ensuring that future developments align with environmental best practices and comply with relevant legislation.

Through collaboration with Stisted Parish Council and the active involvement of community members, we aim to create a model of sustainable living that not only addresses the challenges listed above but also serves as an inspiration for neighbouring communities. By working together, we can create a future where Stisted is not only environmentally responsible but also a vibrant and resilient community that prioritises the well-being of both its residents and the planet.