



Approved: 12th April 2016

Review: April 2017

## **Biodiversity Statement/Policy**

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. From 1 October 2006 every public authority must in exercising its functions have regard so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions to the purpose of the conserving biodiversity.

This act means that parish and town councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity

### **Objectives**

The object of this policy is to work towards enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of the parish of Somerton. The Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- manage its land using environmentally-friendly practices that will promote biodiversity
- support local businesses in the adoption of low impact practices
- support residents and local organisations activities to enhance and promote biodiversity

### **Specific Actions**

The Planning Committee will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications

The Council will, whenever possible, consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities, particularly with regard to the management of its open spaces

The Council will aim to work in partnership with the development of environmentally friendly areas created by residents, local organisations and businesses

The Council will raise awareness of environment and promote conservation projects in conjunction with appropriate bodies.