

LEWKNOR PARISH COUNCIL

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ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Agreed and adopted at LPC's meeting on 13th May 2024

Lewknor Parish Council (LPC) is committed to protecting the environment and the natural heritage of the Parish. LPC is obligated to consider the impact of its functions on the parish, which includes the villages of Lewknor, South Weston and Postcombe and any conservation areas within those villages.

Biodiversity, or 'biological diversity', is the term used to describe the enormous variety of life on Earth, including animals, plants, fungi and bacteria. It is important because all the Earth's species work together to survive and maintain their ecosystems.

Parish councils, along with all public authorities in the UK, have a legal duty to consider conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their functions. This includes:

- Ensuring public access to high quality open spaces
- Protecting Green Belt land and safeguarding the countryside from encroachment
- Maintaining green corridors, to prevent neighbouring areas from merging
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment through the protection of valued landscapes.

1. While carrying out its own activities, LPC will aim to make a contribution to protecting and enhancing the environment and biodiversity by:

- Following a policy of reducing, reusing and recycling
- Avoiding the use of 'single use plastic' items
- Keeping waste and pollution to a minimum
- Eliminating the unnecessary use of energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Providing information electronically and reducing the use of paper

2. When buying goods and services, LPC will give preference to:

- Products which have been manufactured from recycled materials
- Local suppliers where practical
- Options which are environmentally friendly

3. LPC will require contractors who carry out maintenance work of behalf of LPC to:

- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- Work in a way that benefits wildlife and the environment
- Follow LPC's environmental policy

4. In its decision making, LPC will take careful consideration of:

- The importance of walking, cycling and public transport
- Consider the potential impact on biodiversity in all planning applications
- The need to conserve and improve natural habitats
- The need to protect vulnerable and protected species
- The need to conserve the natural beauty of the parish and surrounding landscape

5. In addition, where possible, the Parish Council will:

- Encourage the protection and enhancement of the unique character, beauty, heritage and biodiversity within the parish
- Ensure the parish's natural beauty and heritage are not compromised by inappropriate development
- Encourage the use of materials and systems which improve energy efficiency of developments
- Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling and single-use plastics
- Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- Encourage the reduction, reuse and recycling of resources within the parish
- Recognise the importance of hedgerows as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife which may support many animals and plants
- support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact/nature positive practices
- encourage and support other organisations and residents within the village to manage their areas of Responsibility to enhance the environment and promote biodiversity.