



Statement on Biodiversity

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 placed a duty on Local Authorities to consider biodiversity as part of its policy and decision making.

Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. It is the responsibility of Crediton Town Council to have due regard to this when exercising its various duties and responsibilities. The Council is committed to doing all it can to enhance and protect biodiversity in Crediton. To achieve this, it closely monitors and reviews the work it carries out to ensure it meets its obligations, this includes:

- Ensuring the council considers biodiversity in exercising all of its statutory regulatory functions. Examples of this are:
 - When considering planning applications.
 - The creation of a Neighbourhood Plan, which includes policies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.
 - When considering new projects and initiatives.
- Improving the management for biodiversity of land and buildings owned by Crediton Town Council, such as:
 - Management plans that maintain and enhance biodiversity such as retaining mature trees and replacing any which have to be removed using species indigenous to the area. Reducing the use of herbicides.
 - Creation of new areas of habitat such as the recent creation of the Peoples Park wildlife area.
- To raise awareness of biodiversity and promote opportunities for formal and informal learning and understanding of the natural environment by:
 - Involving local schools, community groups and organisations in biodiversity projects, for example, during 2016 Landscore and Haywards Primary Schools created bug and bee hotels at the Peoples Park Wildlife Area.
 - Creation of the Wildlife Hunt, which encourages children to visit outside spaces to see the wildlife living in Crediton.
 - Encouraging all elements of the local community to volunteer and help to maintain and become involved in local conservation projects, which can also assist in combatting social isolation and engenders community cohesion.
- Act as an example of best practice, by incorporating biodiversity into relevant strategies and within partnership working, for example:
 - The Public Open Space Committee works in partnership with local groups and organisation, land owners and the community to raise standards and transform unkept and unloved spaces in the town.
 - The Floral Crediton Committee encourages residents and businesses to enhance the Town environment through floral displays.