

Appendix 2: Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan – Lewes District Council

Focal Area	ACTION	DETAIL	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES NEEDED
1	Maintain and expand partnership working with existing and new partnerships to ensure we are making the best use of resources, finance, grant funding and knowledge to achieve our biodiversity goals.	Partnerships include Sussex Biodiversity Records centre, Local Wildlife Sites initiative, Biosphere Partnership, Sussex Local Nature Partnership, SDNP, RWLT, town councils, FLOW, Greenhavens, Local community groups, Changing Chalk Partnership etc (For a full list of potential partners, please see Appendix 1)	Short term	Officer time
1	Identify areas where the community could take on management of land to create local biodiversity assets at the heart of communities. This will also help in the education of nature to local people.	Existing sites with community involvement include the Community Orchard at Landport, Riverside Park in Newhaven and Lost Wood in Seaford. Existing sites can be reviewed to see if they are suitable for “local management” if the local community is keen.	Medium term	Officer time in set up and oversight
2	Maintain and improve existing biodiversity friendly management of land owned or managed by LDC	This includes nature reserves, parks, open spaces, housing areas, common land etc. Sites will be managed in line with our Pollinator Strategy and Pesticide Policy, along with this Biodiversity Strategy. Where work is to be carried out by a contractor, these elements will be built into any work specification.	Short term	Existing staff and budgets

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2	Where possible, ensure that our commitment to biodiversity is passed to third parties when and if our land is devolved to them.	As land is devolved to third parties such as town and parish councils, we will ensure that, wherever possible, compliance to our Pollinator Strategy, Pesticide Policy and Biodiversity Strategy is built into any legal transfer agreements.	Short – Long term	Officer time.
2/6	Review management of and write management plans for land owned or managed by LDC that is not currently managed for biodiversity.	Working with parks/estates/housing teams identify at least one/two new areas per year to bring in more favourable biodiversity management.	Medium term	Officer time
4	Setup due process for taking account of biodiversity in all council decisions	Up to date guidance and signposting readily available for all departments.	Long	Officer time
2	Allow and encourage the re-naturing of areas wherever possible, to include the development of wildflower / wildlife verges and borders and the sowing of pollinator friendly species.	<p>Ascertain suitable sites for nature restoration and promote and encourage feedback from residents as to where these areas could be, thereby encouraging community buy-in to new management regimes of local sites.</p> <p>We will continue the existing programme of maintaining existing, and introducing new wildflower areas each year into parks, open spaces and verges.</p>	Short – Long	Officer time
2	Adopt a policy within parks and open spaces where the use of pollinator friendly / biodiversity rich planting is used as a “first choice” where appropriate.	<p>When landscaped areas within existing sites are renewed or renovated, pollinator friendly plants grown in peat free soils will be used in any new scheme as a first choice where this is possible and appropriate.</p> <p>The use of annual bedding plants will be reduced over time and / or adapted to have</p>	Short – Medium term	Officer time

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		both a visual and biodiversity friendly schemes.		
2/6	Develop tree planting programmes to increase tree planting on council-owned land where feasible and appropriate and explore options of tree planting on third party land where council land is not available.	<p>A year on year tree planting programme to be developed to assist towards the zero carbon target. Where land is limited, we should work in partnership with ESCC, local schools, Housing Associations etc to find additional sites where possible.</p> <p>Identifying suitable planting sites and just as importantly maintaining new trees to ensure they survive the planting process for the first 2-3 years will be essential to ensure success.</p> <p>The council will ensure that management of its woodlands and trees is appropriate and in accordance with accepted arboricultural and silvicultural practice, and respects their value as landscape features, wildlife habitats and recreational amenities.</p>	Medium	Officer time / funding
2	In support of the net zero 2030 target, develop the approach to 'carbon counting', reporting and monitoring in projects undertaken as part of this action plan.	To estimate the current carbon sequestration capability of existing habitats under our control and to determine potential within these sites for increasing sequestration for use in carbon offsetting schemes.	Short term	Officer time
3/4/ 5/6	Promote the Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advisory Note and sustainability checklist to reflect and incorporate BNG in the interim	This Technical Advisory Note is designed to advise developers on our requirements. It will need to be promoted by the planning team who will need training in Biodiversity requirements. We will need to engage with	Short term	Officer time

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		Planning First to Identify existing practices and opportunities for better decision making for biodiversity.		
5	Gain up to date Biological Data - to be accessible for all officers through the mapping system	Access to SxBRC through SLA and partnership working.	Short / medium	Officer time
3/6	Create wildlife friendly parks and open spaces	An initial project will be to make Grange Gardens a haven for hedgehogs by creating hibernation habitats, careful use of machinery, providing water etc.	Short	Officer time
2/5	Review planning applications for new and existing developments to meet net biodiversity gains and ensure regulation with wildlife laws.	These need to be reviewed by a qualified and experienced ecologist.	Short	Officer time
3	Feasibility and potential purchase of a suitable piece of land to create a new mini woodland forest to assist in carbon off setting, increase tree numbers and develop wildflower glades where other land is not available and improve natural sequestration.	Research will need to be carried out to find a suitable large piece of land, quite probably existing farmland. Funding opportunities will need to be examined and sourced. Longer term maintenance costs will also need to be considered.	Medium / Long	Officer time
3/6	Stanley Turner Cockshut Project - A project to realign the Cockshut stream and to create a new nature area which will significantly increase biodiversity in the area and create a wildlife haven.	This scheme is in the planning stages but is full of potential. A big advantage is that the land is owned by LDC.	Medium / Long term	Officer time / finance / grant applications.
3	Feasibility and potential purchase and management of an area of land adjacent to Bollens Bush in Newhaven.	Some of the land adjacent to Bollens Bush is unused by people except for occasional walkers and is good habitat especially for birds. Acquiring this land would allow better	Medium / Long term	Officer time / finance

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		access to Bollens Bush and allow opportunities to restore the mixed mosaic nature of the habitat. Acquiring some farmed land beyond and adjacent to this area may create opportunities for new tree planting or allow small scale re-wilding/nature restoration as downland/other good habitat for biodiversity and form an extension to the nature area.		
3	Purchase of an area of land in the Lewes / Rural area to create a new natural / green burial site. Lewes Cemetery is almost at full capacity and there is no room for extension. One option would be to purchase a new site (low grade agricultural land) to create a new cemetery that is managed as a natural burial ground.	The aspiration is for a green burial site managed as a nature site, with significant tree planting and wildflower glades. Possibly a hybrid green burial/ traditional burial site. The benefits would be two-fold – both creating a new cemetery area for Lewes and providing a new nature area high in biodiversity value. This project would also have the advantage of creating an income stream for LDC once it was operational.	Medium / long term	Officer time / finance

Focal Areas:

- 1 Collaboration through partnership working
- 2 Preservation and enhancement of existing biodiversity
- 3 Creation of more / connecting habitats
- 4 Implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain
- 5 Promotion of biodiversity understanding
- 6 Nature-based solutions and ecosystem services