



Lytham Town Council Biodiversity Policy

(Adopted: 25/03/2026, Review due: 25/03/2029)

1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Policy sets out Lytham Town Council's commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity in accordance with the Environment Act 2021. The Council recognises its duty under **Section 6 of the Environment Act 2021**, which requires all public authorities to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity, and commits to supporting the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All functions of Lytham Town Council
- Any land owned, leased, or managed by the Council, and
- Specifically, the Mythop Road Allotments (current or future ownership/management)

3. Legal Context

The Council will act in accordance with:

- Environment Act 2021 - Section 6 general biodiversity duty
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 - Section 40 duty
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)
- Relevant Fylde (Borough) Council (or successor Unitary Authority) planning policies

4. Policy Statement

Lytham Town Council commits to:

- Protect and enhance biodiversity in all its activities
- Deliver measurable biodiversity improvements where land is owned or managed
- Support local, regional, and national biodiversity priorities
- Engage the community in biodiversity conservation
- Actively consider biodiversity impacts when responding to planning applications as a statutory consultee, including supporting proposals that deliver biodiversity net gain and seeking improvements where appropriate

This is all in keeping with the Council's role to represent the community, deliver services to meet local needs, and to improve the quality of life for residents.

5. Objectives

The Council will, in as far as its remit allows:

- Increase habitat diversity and ecological resilience
- Protect priority species and habitats
- Promote sustainable land management practices
- Support pollinators and native species
- Encourage community participation and education

6. Biodiversity Actions - Management of Allotments

Lytham Town Council recognises that through the effective management of allotments, it can significantly enhance urban biodiversity, improve community health, and contribute to environmental sustainability.

These benefits align with broader ecological goals and support the well-being of both residents and local wildlife.

Where the Council owns or manages allotments, it will:

6.1 Habitat Creation and Enhancement

- Establish wildflower areas using native species
- Create hedgerows and boundary planting with native shrubs
- Install and maintain ponds where feasible
- Provide log piles, compost habitats, and undisturbed areas

6.2 Species Support

- Install bird boxes, bat boxes, and insect hotels
- Promote pollinator-friendly planting
- Avoid use of peat-based products

6.3 Sustainable Management

- Minimise or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use
- Encourage organic and regenerative growing practices
- Promote water conservation measures

6.4 Allotment Tenant Engagement

- Provide guidance to plot holders on biodiversity-friendly practices
- Encourage participation in biodiversity initiatives
- Promote shared spaces for nature
- Ensure that any allotment management group commits to the aims and objectives of this Policy as part of any management agreement.

6.5 Biodiversity Audit

- Undertake, or commission the undertaking, of an audit of existing biodiversity within the allotment area, to form an effective baseline to measure changes.

7. Biodiversity Net Gain

The Council will:

- Seek to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain on any future developments it undertakes
- Use the DEFRA biodiversity metric (or latest version) where applicable
- Support Fylde Borough Council in delivering BNG locally

8. Partnerships

The Council will work with:

- Fylde Council
- Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- Local community groups and schools
- Allotment associations

9. Monitoring and Reporting

The Council will:

- Ensure stewardship of this policy is delegated to the Environment & Maintenance Group of the Council
- Appoint a Lead Councilor for this subject area.
- Create and then maintain a simple biodiversity action plan for any owned or managed land
- Monitor habitat improvements annually
- Review progress and report to Full Council

10. Training and Awareness

Councillors and staff will be encouraged to:

- Undertake biodiversity awareness training
- Stay informed of best practice guidance

11. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed periodically, and at least once every three years, to ensure it remains effective, proportionate, and aligned with legislation and county & national guidance.

Version Control

Version	Date	Description of Change	Author
V1 DRAFT	17/03/2026	DRAFT policy written	Clerk / RFO
V1	25/03/2026	Adopted by Council	Clerk / RFO

