

# Harbury Parish Council

## Statement on Biodiversity

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places the following biodiversity duty on local councils:

*‘Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity’.*

Harbury Parish Council strives to conserve biodiversity wherever possible by the following actions:

1. General management of village greens and other parish council maintained open spaces including the playing fields, the cemetery and allotments will include:
  - The careful use of water.
  - Ensuring that hedge cutting is only undertaken outside the bird nesting season.
  - Planting only native species, obtained from sustainable sources.
  - Preservation and conservation of large and mature trees.
  - Planting new trees to replace trees which have had to be removed and planting additional trees where possible.
2. Responses to planning applications will seek to preserve large and mature trees in the landscape, ensure the use of energy saving heating systems, the provision of electric vehicle charging points, the use of sustainable materials in the design, and the retention of hedges.
3. Support and promotion of local energy saving projects such as Harbury Future Energy.
4. Support for local markets and businesses providing locally produced goods and services using sustainable materials and methods.