1. Introduction

Ilmington's landscape — limestone grassland, orchards, hedgerows, verges, ponds, Greens, and woodland — supports a rich variety of wildlife. Biodiversity is declining nationally, and Ilmington Parish Council recognises its strengthened duty under the **Environment Act 2021** to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) sets out how the Ilmington Parish Council (The Council) will deliver that duty through practical actions, partnerships, and community involvement. It incorporates the updated **Ilmington Biodiversity Policy**, which provides the Council's formal commitments and governance framework.

Objectives:

To consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

In particular the Parish Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the parish in the following ways:

a) Consider the impact of biodiversity represented by planning applications.
b) Manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
c) Support local businesses in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
d) Support other organisations and their activities within the parish to manage their responsibilities with biodiversity in mind.
e) Support local residents in enhancing and promoting biodiversity.

The Council will

- work in partnership with: Ilmington 20:20, Ilmington 20:20 Wildlife Group, St Mary's Church, Ilmington Primary School, Village Hall, Horticultural Society, Cotswold Wardens, Show Committee, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, District & County Councillors.
- Support the establishment of a standing **Ilmington Biodiversity Partnership Group** to coordinate delivery.
- Encourage the **Ilmington Biodiversity Partnership Group** to produce a regularly updated parish biodiversity map to include annual species and habitat monitoring

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Biodiversity objectives			
Site/Objective	Action	Outcome	Target (Years)
Whole council area Ongoing	Raise local awareness of biodiversity	Gain local support for action	Ongoing
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity	Connect and diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing
Planning applications	When considering planning applications The Council will; • Consider biodiversity impacts in all planning responses • Apply Neighbourhood Plan policies **NE1** and **NE2** consistently • Support development that protects or enhances wildlife corridors, hedgerows, orchards, verges, ponds, and dark skies • Request nature-positive measures such as hedgehog highways, bat/swift boxes, native planting, and permeable boundaries	1. Biodiversity impacts and opportunities detailed in response to consultation 2. Biodiversity conditions applied to awarded planning applications 3. Confirmation of adherence to biodiversity conditions on completion of project.	Ongoing
Mabel's Farm Development	The Council will work with the Mabel's Farm Working Group & the developers to minimise any adverse effects on biodiversity from development on the Mabel's Farm site	Biodiversity impacts minimised	3-5 years
Parish Council Land	The Council will manage all parish land using wildlife-friendly practices, including:	Biodiversity criteria noted in parish council decision making	Ongoing

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	• Reduced mowing regimens • Creation of wildflower areas • Hedgerow enhancement and winter-only trimming • Minimising routine pesticide/herbicide use • Woodland management based on ecological principles • Installation of wildlife features (log piles, hibernacula, bird/bat boxes)		
Playing field pond	• Complete restoration of pond area including re-instating water supply	Self-sustaining wildlife pond	Three years
Local Businesses	The Council will support local businesses in adopting nature-positive practices, including: • Pollinator-friendly planting • Dark-sky compliant lighting • Reduced chemical use • Water-saving and habitat-friendly landscaping	Interactions with local businesses	Ongoing
Local gardens	The Council will encourage residents to adopt wildlife-friendly gardening and land management practices, including:	Advice and support to residents	Ongoing

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	• Hedgehog highways • Wildlife ponds • Pollinator planting • Reduced chemical use • Swift boxes • Composting and deadwood habitats		
Carbon footprint	The Council will explore strategies to reduce the carbon footprint of activities taking place at the playing field area. In particular, the heating and maintenance of the Sports Pavilion, installation of solar panels on the Sports Pavilion roof, provision of EV charging in the car park, and improving pedestrian and bicycle access to the playing field area.	Reduced carbon footprint	3-5 years

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