



Policy Document

Member groups and organisations of Wildlife Friendly Communities will:

1. Encourage the protection and enhancement of biodiversity¹ and wildlife habitats within their community, both on both public and private land.
2. Ensure accessibility to community green spaces and wildlife areas.
3. Support and encourage actions and initiatives to bring both public and private land into proactive conservation management.
4. Set appropriate targets for the proportion of public land within the community that will be designated as, and converted to, wild spaces.
5. Communicate the value of wildlife to the local environment and its contribution to community's quality of life and wellbeing.
6. Hold meetings for local residents, and use appropriate media, to connect, discuss and learn about wildlife.
7. Encourage community volunteers, in the form of an action group, to help maintain and create wild spaces in the community.
8. Recognise the importance of hedgerows and verges as places that support many animals and plants, and are an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife.
9. Use native, wildflower-friendly species, for planting schemes, where appropriate.
10. Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
11. Discourage all forms of littering², particularly dog-fouling and single-use plastics.
12. Adopt a wildlife policy strategy which supports the ambition of the Government's strategy to reduce biodiversity loss by 2030.

1. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states that "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."

2. It is an offence to drop or leave litter under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) on all types of land, including land covered by water. Therefore, fixed penalty notices may be issued to someone caught dropping litter. Alternatively, the person may be prosecuted and face a fine of up to £2,500.