

ATTACHMENT J

EPPING TOWN COUNCIL

Biodiversity Statement

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. From 1 October 2006, every public authority must in exercising its functions have regard so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. (Parish and Town Councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.)

Epping Town Council aim to enhance and protect biodiversity in their actions and decisions. The Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- The practising and promotion of recycling
- The conservation of energy through careful electrical use
- The preservation of trees in relation to the water table and wildlife
- Careful use of water through the promotion of water butts
- The promotion of composting
- Environmental protection through Neighbourhood Plan
- Environmental and tree protection in our role as as a Planning Consultee
- Supporting Epping in Bloom and community partners in their work to improve biodiversity eg bug hotels, wildlife gardens
- The use of animal and environmentally friendly products would be used and encouraged where possible
- Hedgehog highways would be encouraged

Epping Town Council's Planning Committee will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications.

Epping Town Council will consider and respect biodiversity in its activities, particularly when managing our open and green spaces.

The Council will aim to work in partnership with the development of environmental friendly areas created by residents, local organisations and businesses. The Council will help raise awareness of environmental issues and promote conservation projects, where appropriate, in conjunction with appropriate bodies.