

Nature Crisis motion.

This Council notes:

- The UK has lost nearly half of its biodiversity since the Industrial Revolution and is ranked in the bottom 10% in the world and the worst among G7 nations for biodiversity.
- The Conservative Government has missed its 2020 target for 50% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest to be in favourable condition and for UK seas to meet Good Environmental Status.
- The Conservative Government is set to miss its target for 75% of rivers and streams to be in good condition by 2027, with just 14% of surface waters in good ecological condition in England and 0% in good overall condition.
- There has been a global decline of 68% in animal population sizes since 1970.
- The climate emergency and the ecological emergencies are intrinsically linked.

This Council believes that:

- The ecological emergency is one of the greatest threats to life on Earth, and to people's health, wellbeing and prosperity, and without urgent and effective action nature and human life will be put in serious jeopardy.
- Everyone has a role to play in responding to the nature crisis, including local government.
- We can support our communities and residents to improve the natural environment in our district.

This Council resolves to:

- Set ambitious targets and actions for increasing biodiversity in the district, including:
 - Supporting new habitat creation schemes.
 - Encouraging communities to identify opportunities for nature and biodiversity improvements and support them to take action.
 - Make planning work for nature by encouraging developers to go beyond minimum biodiversity net gain requirements.
 - Seeking future planning changes to improve biodiversity net gain requirements by increasing the length of time that net gain habitat must be maintained from 30 years to 120 years and increasing the net gain requirement for major developments from 10% in smaller sites up to 100% in larger greenfield sites.
 - Working with partners and regulatory bodies to enforce environmental rules to protect nature.
- Support communities and landowners to increase woodland cover in the district, targeting a doubling by 2050.
- Seek Government funding to:
 - Increase the network of local nature reserves and ensure they are well managed.
 - Move to more nature-friendly management policy of council land.
 - Put sustainability at the core of purchasing policy.
- Request the Leader to write to our local MPs to push for Government action to:
 - Manage our land for nature by providing a fair deal for farmers with a long-term funding guarantee, based on public money for public goods, to pay for a shift to a wildlife-friendly, high welfare, climate-positive and economically thriving farming sector.
 - Introduce a 'Right to Nature' and recognise everyone's human right to a healthy environment.