

Limpsfield Parish Council Biodiversity Strategy Project Priorities and Criteria

Limpsfield Parish Council has adopted its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in compliance with its Biodiversity Duty imposed by the Environment Act 2021. The Council has identified potential areas of local engagement which will promote biodiversity in the Parish.

Activities for the 2024/25 Fiscal Year may include issuance of grants to local groups as well as participation in local biodiversity projects initiated by the Council or by other organisations.

When evaluating biodiversity projects, the Council should consider the following Priorities and Criteria for selection:

1. Projects designed to enhance biodiversity within the main Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) located in the Parish. Specifically:
 - a. ND07 North Downs Scarp – Woldingham & Oxted Downs
 - b. WG07 Wealden Greensands – Limpsfield Heaths
 - c. RO2 River Biodiversity – Eden & tributaries
2. Projects that will contribute to attainment of the Surrey and Tandridge Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), which is currently in development.
3. Projects related to any relevant Species Conservation Strategy or Protected Site Strategy.
4. Other Projects that will enhance local habitats of significant interest or potential, such as Beyond Biodiversity Areas, areas outside of BOA boundaries which may facilitate connections between BOAs, or other important habitats for fauna and flora not already included within a BOA.

Project Evaluation Criteria should include, but not limited to:

1. Collaboration with local entities with nature and biodiversity experience (i.e. Surrey Hills Society, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Surrey Nature Partnership National Trust).
2. Projects which focus on areas with public access or visibility (e.g. public footpaths, highway verges, local green spaces).
3. Projects on land that is accessible by the Council (with authorisation) and that can be managed by the Council on a continuous basis.
4. Projects on private land should only be considered if there is a significant public benefit.
5. Projects where biodiversity and habitat benefits can be measured to assess improvement from a measured baseline.
6. Projects with an educational component involving participation of local schools or other educational facilities.
7. The Council should avoid projects on private land that are part of a Biodiversity Net Gain scheme or an Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).
8. Cost of the Project relative to measured benefits.
9. Cost of maintaining the project in future.
10. Any other criteria relevant to selection.