



# NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT

**Objective:** Under the Environment Act 2021, which states that public authorities must define what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The Newick Parish Biodiversity Plan aims to enhance and preserve the local ecosystem, promote sustainable practices, and engage the community in conservation efforts.

**The Local Area** – The Parish of Newick is largely a rural area of just under 8 square Kilometres (3 square miles). Lying on the Greenwich Meridian and in the Low Weald of East Sussex, which is a Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. Many trees in the Parish are protected by Tree Preservation Orders, and there are several areas of ancient woodland that have been wooded continuously since at least 1600AD. The high quality of the soil and equitable climate enabled Newick to become a centre of soft fruit growing, especially the famous ‘Newick Leveller’ gooseberry and to support agriculture.

In the mid 1800s the population was around 1000, growing currently to around 2500 today. The built up area of the village and most of the Parish are not prone to flooding. The River Ouse, which borders most of the eastern boundary of the village often floods the surrounding fields and meadows.

There are 2 Conservation Areas in the village – Newick (The Green) and Newick (Church Road), which includes the historic Church. These areas have been designated because of the quality and setting of their buildings and fine views across open countryside.

**The Way Forward** – The Parish Council recognises that they must continue to work to increase biodiversity within the Parish, and so the following actions have been identified to assist with this goal

- Promote biodiversity on social media outlets and encourage residents take action with their own properties.
- Enforcement of the dark sky policy on new areas of development within the village.
- Remove any invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora and fauna
- Continue to support local volunteer groups, such as Rootz, in their work to maintain public land / twittens within the village. Working on Newick Common, Rootz have been involved with hedge laying to create wildlife habitats and have built a pond. Excessive bracken and gorse has been cleared to encourage birds and winged insects. This common has now been designated a Local Wildlife site and will continue to be monitored. Beechland Mill Wood has been improved by clearing of ditches, constructing a bridge and improving drainage to the area.
- To work with Rootz, and other groups to carry out Plant , Reptile, Bird and Butterfly surveys in appropriate locations in the parish.

-To work with Lewes District Council when carrying out Bat and Moth Surveys - and to encourage residents and children to take part.

-Support the appropriate provision of wildflower planting and manage the agreed areas of rewilding to encourage and support pollinators and also to establish wildlife corridors.-

- hold Litterpicking events in the village to minimise the damage caused by plastics / rubbish to wildlife.

-to build awareness in the community of the work needed to maintain rural habitats and encourage participation in volunteer groups