



## Flitwick Town Council

### STATEMENT TO ENSURE COUNCIL MEETS ITS DUTIES IN RELATION TO BIODIVERSITY AND CRIME AND DISORDER

**Adopted by Council: 7 June 2022**

#### **Crime and Disorder**

The Town Council acknowledges its duty to consider crime and disorder implications when exercising its various functions and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area, in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. One of the Council's strategic objectives is to "Work to make our Town safer". Several actions in its Delivery Plan appertain to this.

Flitwick is among the top 5 safest small towns in Bedfordshire (December 2020), and is the 55th most dangerous overall out of Bedfordshire's 127 towns, villages, and cities. The overall crime rate in Flitwick in 2020 was 44 crimes per 1,000 people. This compares favourably to Bedfordshire's overall crime rate, coming in 62% lower than the Bedfordshire rate of 72 per 1,000 residents. For England, Wales, and Northern Ireland as a whole, Flitwick is the 315th safest small town, and the 3,712nd most dangerous location out of all towns, cities, and villages. Over the last four years most crimes have reduced with only anti-social behaviour, drugs and public order increasing.

The Town Council is supportive of the Safer Central (community safety) Partnership, which brings together a range of partners to reduce crime, protect communities and help people feel safer. The Council support the local Neighbourhood Watch and publish on the Council's Website, crime prevention information from the Police and Fire & Rescue authority as well as safety advice.

The Town Council will work with the local business network to deter crime. The Council operates a small CCTV network and is liaising with the unitary council to seek to extend CCTV coverage in the Town.

The Council consider crime prevention when commenting on planning applications and as part of managing its facilities and services. Council will undertake periodic crime audits undertaken on its services and operations to ensure compliance with its statutory duty.

#### **Biodiversity**

Flitwick Town Council acknowledges in its Environmental and Sustainability Policy, its duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, s40 to consider the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out its functions. One of the Council's strategic objectives is to "Protect and enhance our local environment and address sustainability." Key actions supporting this priority are to "initiate wildflower and tree planting, while also seeking to develop wildlife areas, including re-wilding a community park". The Council will also introduce "wilding" into its public realm standards.

Council has in its Strategy, an action to undertake an environmental audit which will include a section on land management. The Town Council own and manage allotment sites and a number of parks and play areas. Through proactive management of these, are able to provide opportunities for natural habitats which the Council is committed to protecting through its Environmental and Sustainability policy.

The Council uses its Public Realm team to ensure that problems of fly-tipping and litter are tackled, so as not to put green areas and natural habitats at risk. The Council funds a floral display throughout the town centre.

Planning applications are scrutinised and comments submitted to the Planning Authority endeavouring to ensure that the environment is not in any way harmed by any development proposal itself or the work required in delivering it. The Council endeavour to ensure landscaping schemes on new developments are designed to benefit wildlife through planting of trees, native hedges and other plants which encourage wildlife and minimise disturbance to resident species.