

WYMONDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy & Action Plan

Adopted May 2025

MODEL BIODIVERSITY POLICY

BACKGROUND

Under Section 40 of the [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#) (NERC), updated by Section 102 of the [Environment Act 2021](#), every public body, including Town & Parish Councils, has a duty to conserve biodiversity and can spend funds in doing so.

Wymondham Town Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.

Biodiversity matters because it supports the vital benefits humans get from the natural environment (Gov UK, 2024). It contributes to the economy, our health and wellbeing, and enriches our lives. As well as helping our ecosystems provide goods and services such as food, fresh water and clean air, it also helps with protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, purification of our water and pollination of our crops.

Over 97% of the UK's wildlife meadows have been lost since the **1930s**. These now make up just 1% of the UK (National Trust 2024). Wildlife meadows can contain up to 40 species in one square metre. They attract pollinating insects including bees, beetles, butterflies and moths. Biodiversity is also increased by the siders, reptiles, amphibians, bats and birds in meadows (National Trust, 2024).

DEFINITION

According to Defra (Biodiversity 2020), biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants – everything that is alive on our planet.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake and has its own intrinsic value. A number of studies have shown this value also goes further. Biodiversity is the building block of our 'ecosystems' that in turn provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, but also less obvious services such as protection from natural disasters, regulation of our climate, and purification of our water or pollination of our crops. Biodiversity also provides important cultural services, enriching our lives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The object of this policy is to work towards conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the Council's area.

The Full Council and any committees of the Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and implement policies and strategies as required.

Wymondham Town Council will aim to improve the biodiversity of the area in the following ways:

- consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses and council operations in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.

- encourage and support other organisations in Wymondham to manage their areas of responsibility to promote biodiversity.
- support residents and community groups such as Greening Wymondham and Wymondham Nature Group to enhance and promote biodiversity.

ACTIONS

Planning applications

The Council will:

- Where appropriate support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats, when commenting on planning applications.
- Support protection of sensitive habitats from development and consider where the development would mean loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
- include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighbourhood plan.

Land and property management

Outdoor spaces managed by Wymondham Town Council:

- 1) Becketswell
- 2) Bellrope Park
- 3) Council Offices – Ketts Park
- 4) Priory Gardens
- 5) Browick Recreation Ground
- 6) Queen Elizabeth II memorial Garden
- 7) Ketts Park
- 8) King's Head Meadow
- 9) Rothbury Road Park
- 10) Tolls Meadow
- 11) Wymondham Cemetery
- 12) Chapel Lane Allotments

The Council will:

- Promote the conservation and increase of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces by doing the following:
 - Continue with the ban of the use of glyphosate.
 - Keep a record of the use and timings of any pesticide use.
 - Follow [Norfolk County Council's guidelines](#) and the [HSE code of practice for using plant protection products](#)
 - To comply with the [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#), time maintenance work to avoid nest building time: March to August
- Take particular care in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, does not harm the natural environment, whilst reaching acceptable standards.
- Source sustainable materials when procuring supplies for Wymondham Town Council use.

- Promote biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.

Local community

Wymondham Town Council will:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.
- engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community enabling members of the community to assist and make a difference.
- Involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.

Partners

Wymondham Town Council will work in partnership with other organisations including Greening Wymondham, Wymondham Nature Group, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and other community groups, businesses and individuals to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area.

Wymondham Town Council will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

MONITORING

- This policy was adopted on 16/07/2024 and will be reviewed/readopted annually, or sooner should legislation dictate.
- Biodiversity monitoring by local groups will be welcomed by Wymondham Town Council and where appropriate the council will act upon the findings
- Develop an action plan on improving biodiversity with SMART objectives and monitor progress.

ACTION PLAN

SITE / OBJECTIVE	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity.	Gain local support for action.	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity.	Connect & diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	Mapping
Cemetery / churchyard	Additional planting Maintain and renew bird boxes as required. Adopt a plan to support wildlife and diversity whilst maintaining the site in a way which enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance. Leave leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates.	Increased diversity of habitats and food sources Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. Encouraging insects particularly butterflies and bees.		
Recreation ground (s)	Sympathetically maintain hedging. Leave some areas unmown. Only use environment friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions.	Food sources and cover Encourages insects. Sustain and enhance natural habitats.		
Common / other open spaces	Adopt a management plan. Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs. Work with the county council on verge management, favouring biodiversity but noting which areas may need cutting for highway safety. Encourage residents to adopt areas to look after, making it clear what is	Sustain and enhance natural habitats. Protecting habitats Protecting/enhancing habitats Regular attention.		

	expected e.g. peat free compost and no chemicals.			
SITE / OBJECT	ACTION	OUTCOME	TARGET (Years)	REPORTING / PUBLICITY
The Built Landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries	Protecting/enhancing habitats Extending habitats.	Ongoing	
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish. Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the parish magazine. Create a page on the parish council website for photographs / information / links Encourage local farmers to contribute. Provide seed bombs / bulbs etc. for residents' use. Discourage floodlighting.	Engagement/ownership of biodiversity Promote biodiversity. Promote biodiversity. Promote biodiversity. Extending habitats. Protect nocturnal animals.	Ongoing	Neighbourhood plan
Support Community Projects and Groups	Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas. Work in partnership with the school to develop young people's awareness of the environment around them. Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations.	Extending habitats. Promote biodiversity. Promote biodiversity.	Ongoing	

	Work in partnership with Wymondham Access Group to ensure our open spaces are accessible for those with disabilities.	Promote accessibility.		
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