

NETTLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.
- 1.2 Councils are required to agree policies and objectives for actions to take for biodiversity.

2 SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 2.1 This policy applies to the all property and green space owned, managed or influenced by Nettleham Parish Council. The Council reserves the right to update the policy, as required.

3 AIMS OF THE POLICY

- 3.1 This policy seeks to set out the Council's principles in the management of its property and green spaces, including:
 - Woodlands, gardens, parks and public open space
 - Community amenities including sports grounds and cemeteries
 - Waste and pollution
 - Energy and water
 - Infrastructure
 - Procurement
- 3.2 This policy seeks to guide the Council's decision making framework as regards biodiversity under a sequence of key actions:
 - Avoid harm
 - Minimize harm
 - Restore and
 - Develop.

4 RESTRICT THE USE OF PESTICIDES

- 4.1 Minimise the impact on habitats and biodiversity from grounds maintenance and landscaping work and prevent pollution by restricting the use of pesticides to a minimum. Applicable to contractors in addition to employees.

5 CREATE, MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE HABITAT

- 5.1 Seek to create, maintain and enhance habitats to encourage both plants and animals, where possible.
- 5.2 Minimise the impact on biodiversity from development works and, where possible, install nature based solutions and seek a net increase in ecological value through project design and delivery.
- 5.3 Ensure ecological surveys are completed prior to, and post completion of change of use, building work etc. Results to be documented.
- 5.4 Work with stakeholders to improve habitat and biodiversity management practices.
- 5.5 Seek opportunities to cultivate an awareness of and connection with nature within our community through the management of our estate.
- 5.6 Identify the risks of and, where possible, reduce the impact of alien species on parish property
- 5.7 Encourage landscapes to minimise water usage on parish property.

- 5.8 Review and increase over time the grassed areas that can be left unmown/follow a reduced mowing regime.
- 5.9 On identified areas, only one mowing a year where possible and consider rotational mowing in sections to avoid mowing an entire site at once (good for hibernating insects and ground nesting birds) - aim to mow in August / September after seeding.
- 5.10 Develop wildflower meadows to support pollinating insects on suitable identified areas.
- 5.11 No artificial fertilisers that reduce the quality of grasslands
- 5.12 Planting more trees and hedges on suitable sites.

6 Training

- 6.1 Provide training for staff to ensure they are able to meet the requirements of the Biodiversity and Sustainability Policies.

7 CHOOSING MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS

- 7.1 Consider whether a proposed purchase is made from manufactured or recycled materials (though some recycling methods also have an environmental impact); using natural materials such as wood deserves consideration.
- 7.2 Consider the lifetime expectancy of a new purchase (the longer the better), which in turn relates to how robust it is and how much it is at risk from climate change, vandalism or other threats.
- 7.3 Consider whether it has elements that may be replaced, giving it a longer life (although the less components the better)
- 7.4 Consider whether its operation has a carbon impact
- 7.5 Consider how it may be recycled or re-used in due course

8 CHOOSING CONTRACTORS

- 8.1 Potential contractors should be asked to fill out an environmental questionnaire e.g. including their understanding of their firm's own environmental impact, their environmental policies and environmental qualifications as applicable to biodiversity.

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