

Reedham Parish Council

Biodiversity Policy

1. Legal Duty

In accordance with the duties placed on parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, and Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Reedham Parish Council will, in exercising its functions, have regard, , to the purpose of conserving biodiversity and will, from time to time, consider what actions it can properly take to further the general biodiversity objective of conserving and enhancing biodiversity. This duty also enables the Council to spend funds on conserving and enhancing biodiversity.

2. Definition

Biodiversity means the variety of life around us and includes every species of plant and animal, the genetic material that makes them what they are, and the communities that they form. It is essential to sustain the living networks, or 'ecosystems' that provide, food, clean water, clean air, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. Biodiversity underpins sustainable development and supports economic and social wellbeing.

3. Aims and Objectives

The aim of this policy is to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the parish.

The Parish Council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions, and will develop and implement policies and practices that support these aims.

The Council will also have regard to any Local Nature Recovery Strategies covering the parish and consider how its activities can support their aims.

4. Planning Applications

The Parish Council, when commenting on planning applications, will:

- support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats.
- support protection of sensitive habitats from development
- consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.
- consider opportunities for biodiversity net gain
- support the inclusion of biodiversity friendly policies within the neighbourhood plan

5. Land and Property Management

The Parish Council will:

- conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages¹.
- adopt beneficial practices regarding cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- source sustainable materials where practicable when procuring supplies
- consider biodiversity issues when managing its buildings and other assets

6. Local Community

The Parish Council will:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters
- engage with residents and local businesses on how they can support biodiversity
- involve the community, where feasible, in biodiversity projects on Council land, such as tree planting, wildflower meadows or bird box making

7. Partnership Working

Reedham Parish Council undertakes to work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.

It will also review any relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies, species conservation strategies or protected site strategies, and consider how it may support their recommendations.

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years or sooner if legislation or guidance changes

Adopted: 6th November 2023

Revised: March 2026

Review Period: 3 Yearly

Review Date: March 2029

¹ The land managed by Reedham Parish Council is currently the Woodland Walk on Holly Farm Road, the War Memorials land, the allotments on Mill Road, the Permissive Path from Station Road to the riverbank.