

# **SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **BIO-DIVERSITY POLICY**

### **The Bio-diversity Policy**

In accordance with the Duty imposed on parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, People responsible for activities, events and developments within the Parish of Shelford are required to consider the effects on wildlife and biodiversity to preserve and, where possible, enhance the wildlife and biodiversity of the local area.

Shelford is located in the Borough of Rushcliffe and enjoys the benefits of a village community within a rural setting. Wildlife and Biodiversity form an important part of our community and must be preserved and enhanced.

This guidance note is to assist:

- Those responsible for organising and taking part in local activities and events.
- Those responsible for planning and construction of developments.
- Residents wishing to be more aware of their responsibilities towards wildlife and biodiversity.

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. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks, or 'ecosystems', that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel, and the vital services our lives depend on. It is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development and prosperity.

### **What will the Parish Council do?**

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. The Parish Council will support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications. Habitats classed as important are those that are included in SN14 Habitats of Principal Importance under the NERC Act, and/or priority habitats in the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Parish Council will, conserve the biodiversity of the land it manages in accordance with the aims of the 25 YEP and our Biodiversity Duty. It will adopt beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work. Special care Wildlife Policy 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.

The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues. It will, where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making. The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.

The Parish Council will produce a map of the Parish that identifies the sites designated for their wildlife importance (Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, ancient trees etc. to help protect these areas).

### **What can residents do around the home?**

Nest boxes and bird feeders, holes in fences for hedgehogs and amphibians to pass, planting for butterflies and bees, wildlife ponds, corners of the garden and areas of grassland and wildflowers left to nature, etc.

### **Useful reference for local residents:**

[www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org.uk)

[South Notts Wildlife | South Nottinghamshire's Wildlife Website](#)

[Nottinghamshire Wildlife by Neil Pinder \(rushcliffewildlife.co.uk\)](#)

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org>

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/bug/featured-insects/pollinators/>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats>

### **A walk or ride in our countryside?**

Residents and visitors to the countryside around Shelford enjoy the many public footpaths which are mainly maintained by the local farmers. People enjoying our Countryside must obey the Country code summarised as follows:

Respect other people:

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is kept clear.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow.

Protect the natural environment:

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home.
- Outside of your garden don't have BBQs or fires (except in designated areas)
- Keep dogs under effective control so that they do not disturb other people or wildlife.
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it.

Enjoy the outdoors:

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, and be prepared.
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures.

## **Wildlife Policy**

### **Wildlife Issues**

It is recognised that occasionally some aspects of wildlife and biodiversity can be detrimental to our health and safety and must be treated with caution. For example, rat infestation, wasp nests, animals in roof spaces bedbugs etc. within the domestic environment. Advice on treatment is available at: <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/pestcontrol/> It should be remembered that most bee and wasp nests are not harmful if left undisturbed and that these insects play a crucial role in crop and wildlife pollination.

### **Further information**

#### **Species of importance**

A comprehensive reference list of species (with many illustrations) and habitats of principle importance in England is given in Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_species\\_and\\_habitats\\_of\\_principal\\_importance\\_in\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_species_and_habitats_of_principal_importance_in_England)

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust offers helpful support and advice, and currently provide a free wildlife advisory visit to the Parish through a Service Level Agreement with Rushcliffe Borough Council. <https://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/>

Information about the priority habitats in Nottinghamshire can be found on:

<https://nottsbg.org.uk/project.htm#bap>

Information about the locations of Local Wildlife Sites and SSSIs in Nottinghamshire can be found on:

<https://maps.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/insightmapping/#>