

SOUTH WALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - BIODIVERSITY POLICY (March 2024)

The parish of South Walsham covers a large rural area which is predominately in agricultural production. Much of the parish is in the Broads National Park where ecology and biodiversity are assured through the Broads Authority's governing statute, and are maintained to international standards for conservation. The parish includes three of Norfolk's Broads and large areas of marsh/wetland.

A further vast area of the parish is owned by Norfolk County Council which has policies to ensure that this land is managed to high biodiverse standards. The land is split between tenanted farms and a 3,000-acre woodland and country park which is in the process of establishment.

A further 150 acres of land and water form The Fairhaven Water Gardens, a major tourist attraction owned and operated as a charitable Trust and famous for its high standards of wildlife management.

Additional land and marshes are owned and managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust, one of the UK's pioneering conservation bodies and part of this land is designated with SSSI status.

The Parish Council either owns or manages four wildlife ponds, a small village green, a large recreation ground, a woodland walk, a staithe and moorings, angling sites, a cemetery, a large churchyard serving two historic churches, footpaths, hedgerows, a number of mature trees and carparks.

These are all managed with a view to promoting and encouraging biodiversity. The parish council aims to use available environmentally friendly solutions wherever possible and only uses approved chemicals for managing its land when public safety or best practice dictate.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- The object of this policy is for SWPC to continue conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the council's area.
- SWPC will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions.
- The council will consider the potential impact on biodiversity represented by planning applications.

The council works with a number of organisations in the parish which have biodiversity plans already in place or have biodiversity aspirations. The council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the council area.

These include: -

- Broadland District Council (Planning and waste)
- Fairhaven Garden Trust
- Broads Authority (Broads National Park)
- Norfolk County Council (County Farms, Burlingham Woods Country Park, Highways)
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Blofield and District Conservation Group (BADCOG) (manages South Walsham Fen)
- Anglian Water

- Fairhaven primary School and Fairhaven Pre-School (promote understanding of biodiversity)
- Environment Agency
- The Parochial Church Council (and the Dioceses of Norwich)
- South Walsham Village Hall (independently managed play area, playing field and village hall managed for the community on behalf SWPC)
- Local farmers (SWPC maintains close contact with local farmers and land owners to promote biodiversity wherever possible)
- RSPB

SWPC was awarded a Pride in Place Community Grant in January 2024 by Broadland District Council for conservation and environmental work.

This policy was adopted on 5th March 2024 and will be reviewed every three years.

25/02/2024

South Walsham Parish Council

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