

NORTH FERRIBY PARISH COUNCIL

Biodiversity Policy



1. Introduction

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains Rivers and the sea.

2. The Local Area

The Parish of North Ferriby is a semi-rural village, on the northern bank of the River Humber, a RAMSAR, SSSI, SPA, SCA site, and is bordered by farmland including hedges and ditches, and the Long Plantation wood. The character of the village is strongly influenced by the presence of two conservation areas and tree lined streets. There are also a significant number of TPO's in place both within and outside of the conservation areas. In addition, less than 500m from the eastern boundary of the parish is the Humber Bridge Country Park.

3. Parish Council Responsibilities

The parish council resolved on 22 November 2021 (minute number PC 21-103.4) to consider climate impact in their decision making and committed to the production of a Biodiversity Action Plan. This document will now replace that action plan.

The Parish Council owns the following pieces of land

- Coronation Garden and the War Memorial at the junction of the Church Road and High Street
- Riverside Walkway which incorporates the Yorkshire Wolds Way and the TransPennine Trail
- Reed Pond adjacent to the Yorkshire Wolds Way.
- North Ferriby Playing Field in its capacity as the sole trustee of the Playing Field Charity.
- Anne Turner Memorial Allotments, which includes a copse, in its capacity as the sole trustee of the Anne Turner Memorial Allotments Charity.
- Humber Road Car Park

What the Parish Council will do

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications. This includes submitting comments on tree applications, where the Council (through the Environment Committee) will challenge the removal of any tree for purely cosmetic reasons. Where an application is approved with a condition that replacement trees will be planted, this will be monitored by the Parish Council and reported to Planning Enforcement if not fulfilled.
- It is acknowledged that poor air quality causes harm to both human health and habitats and biodiversity. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the local air quality using data from the ERYC Zephyr monitors and ensure that local air quality is considered during the planning process.
- The use of pesticides will not be permitted on Parish Council owned land.
- The Environment Committee in its role as manager of the Riverside Walkway and the Reed Pond has worked with Mires Beck to develop a Conservation Management Plan for the area which includes a set of action plans to enhance the various types of habitat present. In brief the actions involve
 - Creation of a wildflower meadow
 - Sensitive woodland management to create an understory and more diverse habitat
 - Annual maintenance of the Reed Pond
 - Installation of bird and bat boxes
 - Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required. Chemical treatment of Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed is permitted but only by a licensed operative.
- As Trustee of the Playing Field the Parish Council will maintain the Playing Field area considering the opportunities for enhancing the biodiversity alongside the need for a safe recreational space. The Playing Field Committee in its role as manager of the Playing Field will :-
 - Allow fallen tree branches to remain within the treeline, if safe, to provide habitat for invertebrates.
 - Preserve the Coronation Oak tree.
 - Create an area of wildflower planting on the verge at the entrance to Grange Lane.
 - Arrange for hedges around the playing field to be cut once a year, outside of bird nesting season, and place some of the cut hedging on the ground along the tree line to encourage use by respective animals and invertebrates.
 - Manage the tree line in a sensitive way, planting new specimen trees to replace the Poplar trees when necessary.
 - Allow the use of mild chemicals to treat and remove algae and weeds which grow on play surfaces, play equipment and the tennis courts.

- The Environment Committee in its role as manager of the Coronation Gardens will encourage planting for pollinators.
- As Trustee of the Anne Turner Memorial Allotments the Parish Council will sensitively manage the copse, hedge and ditch and permit bird boxes to be installed with the copse.
- The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website.
- The Parish Council will take part in the Hull and East Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and share and promote activities linked to this work.
- Work with ERYC on the sensitive maintenance of the tree lined streets, acknowledging the impact of diseases affecting Horse Chestnut and Ash.
- Work with ERYC on sensitive management of The Triangle.
- Work with other landowners in the village and groups to encourage similar activities to enhance biodiversity.