



Waldringfield Parish Council

Environment and Biodiversity Policy

Adopted 09 December 2025

Waldringfield Parish Council

Environment and Biodiversity Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Environment Act 2021 requires public authorities including Parish Councils to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must:
 - 1.1.1. Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
 - 1.1.2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration
 - 1.1.3. Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives
- 1.2. Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and the sea. Lives can be much longer than human ones (trees) or much shorter (insects)

2. Purpose

- 2.1. To protect and enhance Waldringfield and its landscape character as an attractive rural village with a good and sustainable quality of life, and to enhance and deliver a measurable increase in biodiversity and natural habitats.
- 2.2. Waldringfield is a small Parish within the AONB/National Landscape. The Parish Council has few physical assets under its direct control and so only some of our aims can be delivered by the Parish Council alone. The Parish has a vibrant and active community with a number of voluntary groups who actively promote and support **biodiversity** enhancement. The PC will continue to provide assistance and support where appropriate to local projects designed to help mitigate the adverse effects of climate and ecological change.

3. Scope

- 3.1. The Parish Council's direct responsibilities within the scope of the Environment & Biodiversity policy include the following:
 - The Parish Council owns the playing field on the corner of Cliff Road and School Road, and is responsible for the care and maintenance of the field.
 - It does not own the verges or the public footpaths & bridleways (PROW) but is responsible for arranging the grass cutting.
 - It is a statutory consultee on Planning Applications within and/or which impact the Parish, but does not make planning decisions.
 - The Parish Council appoints a Tree Warden who advises the Parish Council on Planning Applications with regard to landscape, arboriculture and biodiversity, etc. The Tree Warden also organises activities such as new hedge planting and the propagation of indigenous species of trees which are provided to the community.

4. What the Parish Council will do

- Work to current best practice, policy and legislation
- Consider the impact on biodiversity in all decisions made through the Parish Council, including responses to planning applications.

- Co-operate with neighbouring parishes to improve local environmental connectivity.
- Continue to support local organisations to raise awareness of environmental issues and initiatives.

5. Specific Policy Areas

5.1. Trees and landscapes

- Raise awareness of the value of trees and hedges
- Encourage tree planting and support replacement where felling cannot be avoided
- Liaise with planning applicants to encourage the retention of existing trees.
- Apply for a TPO where a significant tree is considered to be at risk of felling or damage.
- Support the creation of a register of significant trees and those of special amenity value within the parish.
- Work with the Tree Warden in pursuit of the above

5.2. River and saltmarsh

- Raise awareness of the fragility of the saltmarsh.
- Encourage measures to limit (and if possible prevent) damage to the foreshore, river wall and saltmarsh for example by:
 - Supporting the statutory restrictions on cycling along the river wall – Supporting the statutory requirement to keep dogs under “close control”
 - Support the monitoring of river water quality that is now done all along the river, through the Deben Climate Centre. (In addition to monitoring done by the EA in the stretch of the river that has designated bathing water status)
 - Encourage measures to limit all forms of pollution of the river
 - Raise awareness of the dangers caused by litter on the beach, in particular plastic & non biodegradable waste.

5.3. Public spaces

Playing field

- Remove invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna, as required
- Maintain a grass cutting regime by contractors which leaves a wildflower border and complies with WPC Annual Maintenance program.
- When required, use only non-detrimental weed control

Verges, Footpaths & Bridleways (PROW):

- Continue to liaise with contractors responsible for maintenance
- In liaison with the community, maintain a grass cutting regime that is friendly to wildlife and improves biodiversity and complies with WPC cutting program .
- Continue to discourage the use of pesticides and herbicides
- Continue to support verge planting with bulbs etc.

Roads:

- Maintain and deploy the Parish Council’s traffic speed indicator and traffic volume device (SID). Publicise the resulting data which can also provide an evidence base where appropriate.
- Organise litter clearing on the approach roads to the village

5.4. Private Gardens/Buildings

When considering planning applications the Parish Council will seek to ensure that all planning applications avoid/mitigate any loss of garden habitat and comply fully with the relevant ESC Landscape & Biodiversity Policies, in particular:

- Policy SCLP10.1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Policy SCLP10.3: Environmental Quality
- Policy SCLP10.4: Landscape Character (AONB/National Landscape)

5.5. Private Landowners & Farmers

The Parish Council recognises the important responsibility that landowners and farmers have for most of the land area within the parish boundary, including both the environment it currently offers and its longer term future. We welcome and support the growing involvement of landowners and farmers in nature recovery initiatives.

5.6. Allotments

We continue to seek suitable sites for the provision of allotments within the community.

5.7. Local organisations

The Parish Council has provision for two Biodiversity Co-ordinators to collate the activities of the local environmental community groups and report to the Parish Council at meetings.

The Parish Council will continue to support local community groups with activities & projects that are designed to help mitigate the adverse effects of climate and ecological change. These projects include raising awareness of what we as individuals can do within our own immediate environment and include the following:

- Planting hedges, especially mixed native hedging instead of fences.
- Installing wildlife assisting measures such as:
 - Creating hedgehog gaps in existing fence bases.
 - Where possible, swift nesting boxes on houses/buildings.
- Installing “porous” surfacing if a “hard” surface is required
- Installing rain water catchment measures.
- Creating on-site composting of surplus garden materials
- Avoiding the use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc, including pet flea and worm treatments where these contain nicotinoids.
- Taking steps to protect our rural landscape’s dark skies from light pollution as recommended in the AONB Lighting Guide such as:
 - Using curtains and shutters to prevent indoor lighting from spilling outside.
 - Where external lighting is required, installing only motion activated, low level down lighters.
- The Parish Council will continue to liaise with local community groups and organisations.

- The Parish Council will continue to liaise with neighbouring parish councils concerning shared initiatives, especially those that promote biodiversity connectivity between parishes.

This policy replaces the following legacy policies: River and Foreshore Policy (2018); Biodiversity Policy (2023); and Landscape and Wildlife Policy (2019)