

Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Biodiversity Plan

Protecting and Enhancing Local Nature for Future Generations

Introduction

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, encompassing plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms, as well as the ecosystems they form. For a small village parish council preserving and enhancing biodiversity not only supports wildlife, but also improves wellbeing, strengthens community resilience and promotes a sustainable environment for all residents.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to nurture a thriving natural environment within the parish owned land and support those private owners who aim to use renewable energy to reduce the impact on the environment.

Objectives

1. Protect and enhance existing natural habitats within the parish owned land and support parishioners, landowners and land managers to increase biodiversity whereby the use of renewables, wild flower and other methods that may be of use to the environment which are not current present.
2. Increase native flora and fauna through targeted planting and habitat creation on owned parish land. – **If deemed appropriate by the parishioner's and the PC**
3. Raise community awareness and involvement in biodiversity initiatives.
4. Help and support where possible with local organisations and landowners and managers to maximise biodiversity.
5. *Monitor progress and adapt actions based on evidence and community feedback. Maybe to far as monitoring can be a large undertaking.*
6. *Not to add further complications to current building policies which cover a vast amount of biodiversity within planner rules and regulations.*

Key Actions

- Habitat identification:
 - Identify what land is owned by the parish council (see attachment 1) and have informed discussions about the look, feel and ability to add value to the biodiversity of the parish and does it best suit the parishes needs.
- Protect Existing Habitats owned by the parish council:
 - Promote sympathetic management practices among landowners and gardeners if they require help to increase the biodiversity on their own land.
- Sustainable Land Management:
 - Promote practices that are safe for the environment but not reducing the ability of those working in the parish to do their jobs both sustainably and economically.
- Community Engagement:
 - Hold biodiversity-themed events, workshops, and talks. Create educational materials and promote citizen science initiatives (e.g., bird counts, pollinator surveys). **Must be done with house owners, land owner / managers permission if going on private property.**
- Partnership Working:
 - Collaborate with local schools, conservation groups, and neighbouring councils to share knowledge and pool resources.
- Planning applications:
 - When commenting on planning applications, support sites and building designs that benefit biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats, but not hinder the sustainability of the village by stopping all planning applications due to lack of parish council owned land.
- Monitoring and Reporting:
 - Establish a system to monitor biodiversity changes over time. Publish annual reports and adapt the plan as necessary. **Maybe be hard to track changes.**

Implementation Timeline

Action	Timeframe
Policy introduction	Jan 2026
Identify parish owned land	Jan 2026
Habitat review on owned land	TBC
Community Engagement Events	TBC
Monitoring & Reporting	Annually (starting December 2027)

Measuring Success

- Increase quality of habitats.

- Recorded improvements in species diversity and abundance.
- Greater community participation in biodiversity activities.
- Positive feedback from residents and stakeholders.
- Annual review of this policy to see if improvement can be made.

Conclusion

By implementing this biodiversity plan, our village parish council can make a meaningful contribution to the protection and enhancement of local wildlife and habitats. Through collaboration, education, and practical action, we will ensure a greener, more vibrant parish for generations to come whilst not infringing on privately land and keeping the parish in a well maintained state.

Attachment 1: A village plan to be added with the land owned by the parish.