



CRESSWELL PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENTS OF GUIDANCE AND POLICY

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & BIODIVERSITY

Introduction

Cresswell Parish Council is committed to protecting and nurturing our environment and reducing our carbon footprint where possible.

The village lies at the southern end of the beautiful 7 mile sweep of Druridge Bay. It is predominantly residential but has two large caravan parks which welcome thousands of visitors each year. In addition there is a recently restored Pele Tower and St Bartholomew's Church ,dating back to 1836, which welcomes worshippers from the surrounding villages.

A large undulating village green stretches down from the entrance to Cresswell Towers Caravan Park to the beach road (Southside) and has a number of benches for casual seating.

Key areas of focus are :

1. Traffic management
2. Parking
3. Road flooding
4. Housing Development
5. Beach care
6. Recycling
7. The Natural World

1.Traffic Management.

Speeding through the village , particularly down Cresswell Road and along Southside is a concern and we seek to discourage this .

Speed monitors have now been installed at strategic points in the village and in due course further speed monitoring will take place.

2.Parking.

There is limited parking within the village and with a significant influx of visitors each summer ,this causes major problems along the beach road, both north and south, to the extent that ,at times, emergency vehicles would not be able to *could not* pass through.

Cresswell Parish Council is committed to addressing responsible and considerate parking.

The village green belongs to the parish and is for the pastoral use of the village.

As a general principle the village green is a no parking area and there are several no parking signs in place. However it is accepted that there is a requirement to be reasonable when appropriate access for service (repairs to stone walls), maintenance (drainage issues), other repair & public pastimes ,requiring short term occupation of the terrain, is necessary.

3.Road Flooding

Road flooding ,,both north and south, on beach road (C110) is an issue and we will continue a dialogue with NCC to address this.

4. Housing Development.

The Local Plan (NCC) identifies Cresswell as a small village.

As a general principle we will resist any efforts for any new housing developments within the village, however an overall evaluation of the needs and considerations of our residents will be paramount when making informed decisions.

All new planning applications within the village are carefully scrutinised, according to planning regulations, and an appropriate response sent to NCC.

5. Beach Care/Litter.

Litter bins are provided at strategic points to encourage appropriate litter disposal, and Cresswell Parish Council commits ongoing endeavours to encourage this.

Quad Bikes regularly use the beaches and it is understood to cause damage as well as raising safety issues. As a council we are keen to discourage this and any incidents should be reported to the Police without delay by telephone on 101 or on their website.

6.Recycling.

As a council we support recycling of household waste and glass and were disappointed not to be part of the NCC kerb recycling pilot.

7.The Natural World.

Biodiversity

Background

All local authorities including parish sector councils must complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1st January 2024.

Policies and objectives must be agreed as soon as possible after this. Councils can and should reconsider their actions on a quarterly, annual or regular basis and must reconsider the actions they can take within five years of when they completed their previous reconsideration.

According to the Act, public authorities need to check if a number of strategies affect how they comply with their biodiversity duty including:

- Local nature recovery strategies
- Species conservation strategies
- Protected site strategies.

Biodiversity is the collective term for the variety and abundance of forms of life found in an area, including animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms like bacteria. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems to maintain, balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive including, food, oxygen, clean air and clean water.

CPC Biodiversity policy includes, but is not exclusive to, the following:-

1. Proactively remove invasive and non-invasive species as required under appropriate legislation in order to prevent harm to native species.
2. Avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides except in exceptional circumstances.
3. Properly scale and time grounds maintenance work or vegetation removal such that the impact on biodiversity is minimised. Maintenance practices that are beneficial to biodiversity will be taken into consideration when contracts are considered.
4. Create dedicated spaces to attract and enhance wildlife. Leave standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates and leaf litter and dead vegetation, wherever possible, as a habitat for invertebrates. Leave a margin of uncut grass, where practical, around hedges to allow longer grasses to grow. Sow wild flowers on the Village Greens.
5. Ensure that any hedge and tree cutting takes place in accordance with tree and management policies.
6. Improve the buildings it manages and land around them to enhance biodiversity

Version:	Date Reviewed:	Next Review Date:
3.0	August 2025	August 2026