

Biodiversity Policy for Emneth Parish Council

First consideration / what actions to take

The following will be considered by Emneth Parish Council and form part of their decision making process in order to encourage *biodiversity* to the land / areas that they manage throughout the Parish of Emneth:

Allotment land: build rapport with tenants to discuss soil health, water use, encourage tenants to install water butts, waste management and the appropriate use of pesticides on Parish Council-owned land.

Playing Field / Football Pitches: consider the amount of grass cuts that are carried out per annum and reduce cuts on certain pitches that are not used

Play Area: consider what time of year the hedges are cut to avoid nesting birds and provide nest boxes for birds

Cemetery / churchyards: consider testing for soil health, be mindful of how waste floral tributes are disposed of, be mindful of when tree works and hedge cutting is carried out to avoid nesting birds, have a conversation with residents regarding 'green' burials using biodegradable caskets¹/ eco-friendly, biodegradable memorials, reduce grass cutting in certain areas to encourage wildflowers to grow, install water butts.

Woodland Area: provide nesting boxes for birds and bats, plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers for pollinators

The former canal towpath (public footpath): provide nest boxes for birds and bats, native trees, shrubs and wildflowers planted, when tree works carried out leave the skeleton / trunk for attachment of bird boxes and for use as habitat stacks. Several habitat stacks are already in situ along the towpath. Provide hedgehog highways.

Planning applications: consider biodiversity when considering planning applications.

¹ caskets made from sustainably produced materials from renewable sources, are easily biodegradable, and don't add toxins to the earth as they decompose