

Woolsington Parish Council: Area Biodiversity Project

An introduction



Woolsington Parish Council (WPC) has been running its Area Biodiversity Project since 2018, in support of the Newcastle City Council's Green Infrastructure Plan and Bee-friendly City Strategy.

In order to help fulfil WPC Area Biodiversity Project objectives for improving general health and well-being and to preserve natural habitats for wildlife, WPC assembles an annual investment plan. This enables a variety of schemes to be introduced across the Parish; this includes the planting of trees, spring bulbs, shrubs and hedgerow, flowers and wildflowers whilst focussing on local wildlife benefits.

The Newbiggin Hall, Bedeburn, Bank Foot, Callerton and Woolsington village areas already contain wonderful landscapes, veteran trees and hedgerows, and areas of lovely scenery. The Area Biodiversity Project aims to improve habitats for insects, bees and butterflies and in doing so enhance the importance of open green and blue spaces for residents and visitors alike.

Understanding Biodiversity

Working with Schools and local Community Groups is also an important factor in delivering the Parish Council's conservation objectives:

It is important to understand what biodiversity actually is, its benefits and threats to it and how we can protect it, right here in Woolsington Parish.

Scheme selection

Each year all of the individual schemes are discussed with representatives of local residents and schools in each Ward, before being discussed and agreed by the Parish Council, where the budget is set. The objectives are also heavily influenced by the outcomes of the Community Engagement process through social media, the website, and questionnaires.

The budget is broken down and ring-fenced for each of the 4 Wards and for each of the 4 Primary Schools in the Parish.

Parish Councillors have led by example, getting involved in community planting activities. They have been working with local schools on mass bulb planting, outdoor learning and facilitating tuition in support of nature.



Wildflowers at Sovereign Lodge