

NEW EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

BIO-DIVERSITY POLICY

New Earswick Parish Council formally adopted this policy on 21 October, 2024 in response to the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' placed on local authorities introduced by the Environment Act 2021. New Earswick Parish Council will take biodiversity into account in all its decisions and actions. All local authorities including parish and town councils must complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January, 2024. New Earswick considered their response and completed an initial review of the groups and organisations in the Parish who were working to support this initiative. The Council will review their findings on a regular basis and look at the actions they can take.

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

They need to understand how or if they are relevant to their organisation, be aware of how these strategies affect land that is in the New Earswick Parish area and how they could support or enhance biodiversity and the contribution to the strategy where appropriate. Biodiversity is the collective term for the variety and abundance of forms of life found in an area, including animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms 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.

New Earswick Parish Council will:

- 1 Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions it makes in Council, committee and working group meetings. It will seek to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity as a result of the Council's activities and will identify opportunities to increase biodiversity when practicable.
- 2 Encourage practices and projects beneficial to biodiversity through grants made to local groups.
- 3 Communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity whenever possible..
- 4 The Parish Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the area of the parish.

5 The Parish Council will, wherever possible, raise public awareness of biodiversity issues as parts of its leadership role within the local community.

6 The Parish Council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. It will support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications.

7 Monitor its internal policies and processes to enhance biodiversity.

Attached is a list of community, conservation and nature projects running in the village as at October 2024.

BIO DIVERSITY IN NEW EARSWICK

A list of Community, Conservation and Nature projects running in the village
The Parish Council works closely with the following organisations

<p>New Earswick Folk Hall</p>	<p>FOLK HALL Recycling Hub</p> <p>Re-cycling & sustainability is actively promoted by making productive ongoing working relationships with charities that collect re-cycling products along with two primary schools, local organisations, voluntary groups and within the community with the collaboration of JRHT Trust & Folk Hall staff.</p> <p>In the corridor by our Orchard Hall is the Recycling Hub, the one stop shop, for all things recycling. When we were putting together the Recycling Hub, the goal was to make one place where you can find the boxes, caddies and bins that you need for recycling. This includes paper and card, glass, plastic, pens, cans, batteries and much more.</p>	
<p>Nest</p>	<p>NEST runs a community garden in the village offering advice and information to gardeners new and experienced.</p>	
<p>New Earswick Nature Reserve</p>	<p>“A Designated Educational Nature Reserve ” whose object is to provide a place for the outdoor study of natural history ”</p> <p>There are Open Days several times in the year focussing on Fungi, lake dipping, bird watching.</p> <p>There are bee hives on site and a members only fishing club</p>	
<p>Community Action for Nature</p>	<p>C.A.N want to encourage all residents of Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust to come together and create, develop and maintain green spaces in their community. CAN works with local schools, offers social prescribing and encourages wildlife, birds and native species plants into the area</p>	
<p>St Nicks</p>	<p>St Nicks is the green heart of York</p> <p>A centre for nature and green living, with an ambitious vision for York. Regular contact between St Nicks, New Earswick Nature Reserve, River Foss and CAN for various projects</p>	
<p>River Foss Society</p>	<p>WE WANT TO:</p> <p>conserve the river’s natural environment prevent pollution in the river restore natural habitats along the river for its vegetation, fish and all animals improve the river for everyone by making it a better</p>	<p>Works with York University and City Nature Challenge</p>

	place to walk, fish and enjoy other recreational activities help prevent floods in the future by working to control water better	
New Earswick Community Wood Yard	Produces garden furniture, planters, bin stores etc all from recycled wood. Invites volunteers to join in and is open most days through the week	