

# Risby Parish Council

## Wildlife Policy

The Parish Council's policy with regard to wildlife on public land areas will be as follows:

1. To encourage the protection and enhancement of the unique character, beauty, heritage and biodiversity<sup>1</sup> within the Parish.
2. To highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life.
3. To have wild spaces which benefit people's wellbeing by being amongst wildlife.
4. To have areas placed all around the village, so that everyone can have daily access to these wild areas.
5. To encourage local action in support of the environment.
6. To encourage community volunteers in the form of a group called the Wildlife Working Group.
7. To recognise the importance of hedgerows and verges as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife which may support many animals and plants.
8. To use native, wildflower friendly species, for planting schemes where appropriate.
9. To support and encourage actions and initiatives to bring land into proactive conservation management.
10. To encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
11. To discourage all forms of littering<sup>2</sup>, particularly dog fouling and single use plastics.
12. To adopt a wildlife policy strategy which supports the ambition of Suffolk County Council's strategy to reduce biodiversity loss by 2030.

In its decision making the Parish Council will take careful consideration of the above points.

1. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states that "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity."
2. It is an offence to drop or leave litter under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) on all types of land, including land covered by water. Therefore, fixed penalty notices may be issued to someone caught dropping litter. Alternatively, the person may be prosecuted and face a fine of up to £2,500.