



Wroughton Parish Council

Biodiversity Statement

July 2023

We have a dedicated Flora and Fauna Working Party with specific brief on biodiversity and improving nature in Wroughton. The group comprises of Parish Councillors, Members of our Grounds Team, a resident, and representatives from Vision4Wroughton and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

In recent years we have introduced wildflower planting to the verge on Church Hill and have extended the area for the last 3 consecutive years with positive feedback from the public.

In 2022 we planted 1000 native species saplings on parish managed land at Maunsell Way Recreations Ground, Falkirk Field and Belmont Green. We were delighted with the turnout at the community planting event we organised with all the saplings being in the ground within less than 3 hours. This project including 5 years of maintenance costs was fully funded by Swindon Borough Council's Trees for Climate scheme.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have been commissioned to give guidance and advice on the upkeep of the Moat Pond area. To preserve biodiversity for plant, insect and animal life there are limited windows of time where maintenance of the pond area should take place. We are looking at improving the Moat Pond area in the coming year and are likely to introduce some information boards relating to natural elements that can be observed there.

We continue to work in partnership with Vision4Wroughton who have volunteer gardeners who maintain the flower beds and planting in WillowBrook Gardens. We recently supported their application for a shed to store their tools etc in the Ellendune Centre garden area.

Last year we also introduced a biodiversity trial where a number of selected sites around Wroughton were not cut and left to rewild. The areas were labeled with eco-friendly wooden signage and communications put out in our monthly updates, our website and social media. Due to significant resident feedback relating to two of the sites and their perceived untidiness, two of these sites were cut back. It is very difficult for us to get the balance between biodiversity and some residents perception of what is tidy and presentable. There are very differing views on this and we will continue to endeavor to strike the right balance and welcome ongoing resident feedback on this.

The successful Biodiversity trial areas have been carried forward to this year 2023 and these sites are cut once a year. Our standard, regular maintenance programme applies to all other areas of grass and hedging under WPC's control.

Our refurbished 'Secret Garden' play area off Boness Road includes sustainable hardwood play equipment, native species hedging and native species trees. Bulbs and wildflower swathes have also

been introduced to the area. Our Grounds Team follow Royal Horticultural Society Guidance and do not cut back daffodils for a minimum of 6 weeks after flowering to allow for the nutrients to return to the bulb and promote better future flowering.

We are looking to review our weedkiller use with the Open Spaces Committee receiving a report on this later this year.

We have longer term plans to introduce electric vehicles to our Grounds Team fleet to reduce emissions.



