

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN - January 2025 – V1 ADOPTED at Committees meeting of 22.01.25

Based on the results of the recent Biodiversity Audit carried out by Suffolk Wildlife Trust Wilder Ecology together with other information gathering and discussions, suitable actions have been developed that will improve the biodiversity interest of the parish. Actions are focussed on providing a connected space for wildlife across the parish. Some of the actions listed are already underway; others are potential projects, while others are aspirational, they represent ideal actions given sufficient resources and time. The actions listed represent the current priorities. Priorities will, however, change for many reasons, hence the need for regular review of this BAP.

| SITE / OBJECTIVE                                                           | ACTION                                                                                                                                                                          | OUTCOME                                                                           | TARGET<br>(1 – 10 Years)                              | REPORTING / PUBLICITY                     |
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| <b>Whole council area</b><br><br>Protect, support and enhance biodiversity | Raise local awareness of biodiversity.<br>Raise awareness of its health and wellbeing benefits.<br>Carry out resident consultations on what they would like to see and support. | Gain local support for actions. Encourage engagement/ownership of biodiversity    | Ongoing                                               | Newsletter<br>Website page<br><br>Mapping |
|                                                                            | Generally encourage suitable planting and management of existing habitats to support biodiversity.                                                                              | Connect & diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species   | Ongoing                                               |                                           |
|                                                                            | Consult specialists for advice and practical help                                                                                                                               | Gain wider knowledge and understanding                                            | Ongoing                                               |                                           |
|                                                                            | Undertake a tree inventory, log and assess mature trees for veteran status. Assign TPO's where necessary                                                                        | Protection of the existing tree canopy                                            | Tree wardens to complete by end of 2025<br>Year 1 - 2 |                                           |
|                                                                            | Identify areas for the installation of bird, bat and swift boxes, hedgehog corridors and wood piles.                                                                            | Increased cover for birds, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. | Ongoing                                               |                                           |

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| <b>Cemetery / churchyard</b><br><br>More Space for Wildlife without compromising visitor experience | <b>Additional planting at the new cemetery of trees and hedging.</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Increased diversity of habitats and food sources</b>                                               | <b>Completed January 2024</b>           |  |
|                                                                                                     | In conjunction with PCC - support wildlife & diversity whilst maintaining the site in a way which enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance. Pass on relevant recommendations made in the Wilder Ecology Audit. | Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.                            | Year 1 – 5                              |  |
|                                                                                                     | Encourage PCC to establish some areas of rough grassland, to be allowed to overwinter uncut, adjacent to bramble scrub and along hedgerows and trees.                                                                           | Encouraging insects particularly butterflies & bees. Valuable for hedgehogs, small mammals, reptiles. | Year 1 – 5                              |  |
|                                                                                                     | Install swift boxes                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                       | Year 1                                  |  |
| <b>Recreation ground</b><br><br>Improve wildlife habitat without compromising visitor experience    | Sympathetically maintain hedging. Cut parts one year and remainder the next. Assess sparse areas for coppicing to improve density at the base.                                                                                  | Food sources & cover                                                                                  | Year 1 and ongoing following assessment |  |
|                                                                                                     | Only use environment friendly herbicides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions.                                                                                                                       | Sustain & enhance natural habitats.                                                                   | Ongoing                                 |  |
|                                                                                                     | Plant native bulbs in small areas on perimeter of cut grass area.                                                                                                                                                               | Encourage insects and pollinators                                                                     | Year 1 – 2                              |  |
|                                                                                                     | Erect bird boxes                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Increased cover                                                                                       | Year 1 - 2                              |  |

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| <b>Common / other open spaces<br/>MSDC owned/managed</b><br><br>Enhance and improve habitat for wildlife without compromising resident amenity | Enhance and support MSDC meadow mowing plans. Highlight “Flagship” areas                                                                                                                                | Sustain & enhance natural habitats.                                                                   | Year 1 - 2 | Website/newsletter   |
|                                                                                                                                                | Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs.                                                                                                                                      | Protecting habitats                                                                                   | Ongoing    | Website/social media |
|                                                                                                                                                | Work with the county council on verge management. Identify any sites that have the potential to establish Roadside Nature Reserves.                                                                     | Protecting/enhancing habitats                                                                         | Ongoing    |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                | Increase standing dead wood and wood piles.                                                                                                                                                             | Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.                            | Ongoing    |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                | Contact Local Hedgehog group to establish what can be done to enhance habitat for small mammals                                                                                                         |                                                                                                       | Year 1     |                      |
| Heather Close                                                                                                                                  | Establish the northern green as a Flagship area for rewilding as this is thought to provide excellent habitat. Set up resident consultation via an open meeting on site to discuss further enhancement. | Encourage resident ownership and pride in their biodiversity support. Create a species rich grassland | Ongoing    |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                | Enhance with bird boxes, bee houses, tree planting and picnic benches.                                                                                                                                  | Encouraging insects particularly butterflies & bees.                                                  | Year 1 – 2 |                      |
|                                                                                                                                                | Revisit resident consultation around the southern green with the aim to manage this area in the same way.                                                                                               | Create space for residents to use and want to look after.                                             | Year 1 - 2 |                      |

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| Genesta Drive  | Assess existing area. Establish what can be done to enhance biodiversity in this area as alternatives to less mowing. Enhance the scrub areas, gradual extension of naturally uncut areas around trees. | Encouraging insects particularly butterflies & bees.                                                                           | Year 1 – 2 |  |
|                | Revisit residents to garner support for some enhancement. Set up resident consultation via an open meeting on site.                                                                                     | Create small dense scrub that can be species rich whilst creating a space for residents to be proud of and want to look after. | Year 1 - 2 |  |
| Maltings Garth | Establish the existing cutting regime on the larger spaces as a Flagship area for rewilding as this is thought to provide excellent habitat.                                                            | Sustain & enhance natural habitats.<br>Create a species rich grassland                                                         | Ongoing    |  |
|                | Ensure pathways are cut regularly for people to enjoy.                                                                                                                                                  | Create space for residents to be proud of and want to look after.                                                              | Ongoing    |  |
|                | Assess the remaining areas to establish what can be done to use the verges to increase connectivity and whether there is space for additional tree planting (native and berry rich)                     | Sustain & enhance natural habitats.                                                                                            | Year 1 - 2 |  |
|                | Enhance with bird boxes, bee houses, tree planting and picnic benches.                                                                                                                                  | Increased cover                                                                                                                | Year 1 -2  |  |
|                | Create a permanent bird bath feature.                                                                                                                                                                   | Fresh water for birds for drinking and bathing                                                                                 | Year 1- 2  |  |
|                | Revisit residents to garner support for some enhancement. Set up resident consultation via an open meeting on site.                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                | Year 1     |  |

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| Furze Close | Establish contact with the owner of this open space with a view to work together to ensure protection of the wildlife value of the site and to pass on the recommendations from the Wilder Ecology audit | Sustain & enhance natural habitats.                                                                      | Year 1 - 2 |  |
|             | Possible increase to the scrub, creation of more understorey, plant fruit and nut bearing hawthorn, hazel etc. Relax mowing to encourage spread of gorse and holly.                                      | Create space for residents to be proud of and want to look after.                                        | Year 1 -2  |  |
|             | Plant more bulbs.                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                          | Year 1 - 2 |  |
|             | Follow up any positive collaboration with resident consultation                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                          | Year 1 -2  |  |
| The Hambros | Continue to support the existing cutting regime on eastern area as this is thought to provide excellent habitat. Introduce signage similar to other rewilded areas.                                      | Sustain & enhance natural habitats.<br>Create space for residents to be proud of and want to look after. | Ongoing    |  |
|             | Assess area to the west for additional tree planting                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          | Year 1 -2  |  |
|             | Erect bird boxes                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                          | Year 1 -2  |  |
|             | Revisit residents to garner support for some enhancement. Set up resident consultation via an open meeting on site.                                                                                      |                                                                                                          | Year 1     |  |

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| Birch Road 1<br>St Peters Way 2                        | Continue to support the existing cutting regime on sites 1 and 2 as this is thought to provide excellent habitat. Review signage and ensure pathways are cut to ensure the area looks deliberately managed. Introduce signage similar to other rewilded areas. |                                                                                                             | Year 1                                            |  |
| School Road/Cavendish Close (gravel pits) 3 (PC Owned) | Assess existing area. Establish what can be done to enhance biodiversity in this area as alternatives to less mowing. Review completed 2023 residents against rewilding.                                                                                       |                                                                                                             | Year 1 - 2                                        |  |
|                                                        | Revisit residents to garner support for some enhancement/rewilding<br>Set up resident consultation via an open meeting on site.                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                             | Year 1                                            |  |
| <b>PC Owned/managed Open Space</b>                     | Carry out audit of existing open space                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Gain a wider knowledge and understanding of existing biodiversity habitats and species present in the area. | <b>Completed audit by Wilder Ecology Oct 2024</b> |  |
|                                                        | Assess areas suitable for future projects which will enhance existing habitats – Ensure measures are appropriate to the location                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                             | Ongoing                                           |  |
|                                                        | Plant up gaps in hedges,<br>Plant new hedgerows to form corridors to link up habitats                                                                                                                                                                          | Extending habitats will sustain & enhance natural habitats.                                                 | Ongoing                                           |  |
|                                                        | Create transitional habitats along boundaries of amenity spaces                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                             | Ongoing                                           |  |
|                                                        | Create a method of survey and record for PC for birds, plants and invertebrates – encourage resident participation<br>Expand on any existing project.                                                                                                          | Gain local support for actions. Encourage engagement/ownership of biodiversity                              | Year 3                                            |  |

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| Heath Road           | Sympathetically maintain hedging. Cut parts one year and remainder the next. Assess sparse areas for coppicing to improve density at the base. Leave any cutting until after December to enable fruiting.                             | Food sources & increased cover                                                                                                                               | Year 1 – 2 |  |
|                      | Create a gradient from the hedge to the amenity grassland to improve connectivity and enhance species rich habitat                                                                                                                    | Increased connectivity                                                                                                                                       | Year 2 – 4 |  |
|                      | Create a wildlife area in the western corner, leave grass uncut and cut paths through for exploration by children.                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                              | Year 2 - 4 |  |
|                      | Plant fruit and nut bearing trees                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Encouraging insects particularly butterflies & bees.                                                                                                         | Year 2 - 4 |  |
|                      | Collaborate with Thurston Relief in Need Charity on future plans for the whole area. Encourage future opportunity for tree planting, wildflower margins.                                                                              | Opportunity for joined up thinking on a large area of land to enhance biodiversity and resident enjoyment of the open space at this site.                    | Year 1 - 5 |  |
|                      | Create a nettle patch supports for vast number of invertebrates (worms, insects)                                                                                                                                                      | Sustain & enhance natural habitats. Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.                                               | Year 1 -5  |  |
| New Green Open Space | Extend the wilder area around the outside of the Wildlife Garden with relaxed mowing regime at entrances and along Sandpit Lane to the corner of the green with additional wildflower sowings, bulb planting and fruit bearing trees. | Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.<br>Encouraging insects particularly butterflies & bees.<br>Increased connectivity | Year 1 - 2 |  |

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| Wildlife Garden             | Continue to support the existing cutting regime within the wildlife garden as this is thought to provide excellent habitat, a haven for wildlife and an amenity for residents                                                                 | Sustain & enhance natural habitats.                               | Completed August 2024    | Ongoing monitoring and maintenance<br><br>Ongoing monitoring of the boxes to ensure they are clean and ready for each season |
|                             | Install an information lectern for visitors to the garden                                                                                                                                                                                     | Create space for residents to be proud of and want to look after. | Jan/Feb 2025             |                                                                                                                              |
|                             | <b>Erection of three bird boxes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Increase nesting habitat for cavity dwelling birds</b>         | Completed August 2024    |                                                                                                                              |
|                             | <b>Install single bee houses</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Create habitat for solitary bees</b>                           | Completed September 2024 |                                                                                                                              |
|                             | Install a bee bank                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Create habitat for solitary bees                                  | Year 1 - 2               |                                                                                                                              |
|                             | Create a dead wood habitat, log pile/stumpery                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Improve food sources & increased cover                            | Year 1 - 2               |                                                                                                                              |
|                             | Sympathetically maintain hedging. Cut parts one year and remainder the next. Assess sparse areas for coppicing to improve density at the base. Allow to grow wide whilst keeping low to ensure self-policing to reduce anti-social behaviour. |                                                                   | Ongoing                  |                                                                                                                              |
|                             | Use only native species, remove any invasive or non native                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                   | Ongoing                  |                                                                                                                              |
| Allotments<br>Thurston Park | Encourage tenants to garden peat free and manage pests organically                                                                                                                                                                            | Improve soil biodiversity, protection of peat bogs                | Year 1                   |                                                                                                                              |
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| <b>Other Public Open Space coming forward</b>           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                           |               |  |
| Thurston Park Open Space and SUD's lagoon<br>(Denbury)  | Ensure that management of this amenity enables the maintenance of the open water the development of scrub either side of pathways into a grassland and scrub mosaic by leaving unmanaged for several years to develop natural scrub patches. | Sustain & enhance natural habitats. Increase connectivity | Ongoing       |  |
| Grange Park Open Space and SUD's<br>(Bovis)             | Monitor the management of this area to ensure enhancement of natural habitats.                                                                                                                                                               |                                                           | Ongoing       |  |
| College Park Open space and SUD's<br>(Persimmon)        | Monitor the management of this area to ensure enhancement of natural habitats.                                                                                                                                                               |                                                           | Ongoing       |  |
| <i>Cavendish View Open space and SUD's<br/>(Vistry)</i> | <i>Monitor the management of this area to ensure enhancement of natural habitats.</i>                                                                                                                                                        |                                                           | When complete |  |
| <i>Thurston Grove Open Space and SUD's<br/>(Bloor)</i>  | <i>Monitor the management of this area to ensure enhancement of natural habitats.</i>                                                                                                                                                        |                                                           | When complete |  |
| <i>St Peters Chase Open Space and SUD's (DBWH)</i>      | <i>Monitor the management of this area to ensure enhancement of natural habitats.</i>                                                                                                                                                        |                                                           | When complete |  |
| <i>4942/16 Meadow Lane – Matthews Homes</i>             | <i>Monitor the management of this area to ensure enhancement of natural habitats.</i>                                                                                                                                                        |                                                           | When complete |  |

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| Lady Greene Woodland<br>(05070/16 DC/20/01249) | Create a wild fun area                                                                                                                                       | Provide a habitat for people of all ages and wildlife can thrive together<br>Promote biodiversity and connectivity | Year 3 - 10 |  |
|                                                | Encourage schools to use new areas and to record and survey                                                                                                  | Encourage engagement/ownership of biodiversity                                                                     | Year 3 - 10 |  |
|                                                | Set up traditional woodland craft events                                                                                                                     | Promote                                                                                                            | Year 3 - 10 |  |
|                                                | Manage the ponds – remove silt, ensure shallow sloping edges, remove overhanging vegetation<br>Create a bog garden adjacent to the pond                      | Promote biodiversity and connectivity                                                                              | Year 3 - 10 |  |
|                                                | Leave dead wood safely                                                                                                                                       | Promote biodiversity and connectivity                                                                              | Year 3 - 10 |  |
|                                                |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                    |             |  |
| <b>The Built Landscape</b>                     | Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan                                                         | Protecting/enhancing Habitats.<br>Sustain & enhance natural habitats. Increase connectivity                        | Ongoing     |  |
|                                                | Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries, integral bird and bat boxes.                                                             | Extending habitats.                                                                                                |             |  |
|                                                | Encourage buffer zones between built development and the open countryside created and planted appropriately to enhance biodiversity.                         | Extending habitats.                                                                                                |             |  |
|                                                | Encourage the retention of existing trees, shrubs and hedges and planting of native trees and shrubs and planting to support pollinators (Policy 11/12 TNHP) | Protecting/enhancing habitats                                                                                      |             |  |
|                                                | Encourage new tenants to adopt a wildlife friendly approach to gardening                                                                                     | Extending habitats.                                                                                                |             |  |
|                                                | Require wildlife friendly lighting                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                    |             |  |

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|                                                     | Revisit and review Thurston Neighbourhood Plan and feed in findings of Biodiversity Audit and Action Plan                                                                                                                         | Promote biodiversity and connectivity                                                                                                     |                             |                           |
|                                                     | Highlight key species to enable developers to focus on enhancement for these.                                                                                                                                                     | Promote biodiversity and connectivity                                                                                                     |                             |                           |
| <b>Increase community awareness of biodiversity</b> | Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish.                                                                                                                      | Engagement/ownership of biodiversity<br>Increase in bird boxes, feeders, ponds, grassland, wildflowers, less mowing                       | Ongoing                     | Website<br><br>Newsletter |
|                                                     | Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the parish magazine.                                                                                                  | Promote biodiversity.                                                                                                                     | Ongoing                     |                           |
|                                                     | <b>Bird Box Project</b><br>Encourage further uptake of bird boxes and ensure feedback is received and publicised.<br><br>Extend this project – personalise boxes, monitor locations<br>Incorporate into a Biodiversity Open event | <b>25 resident bird boxes distributed in 2023/2024. Feedback monitored and published.</b><br><br>Scheduled for 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 | <b>Completed March 2024</b> |                           |
|                                                     | Create a page on the parish council website for photographs / information / links                                                                                                                                                 | Promote biodiversity.                                                                                                                     | Year 1 -2                   |                           |
|                                                     | Encourage local farmers to contribute.<br><br>Provide information for landowners, possible funding streams and/or free planting opportunities                                                                                     | Promote biodiversity.                                                                                                                     | Ongoing                     |                           |
|                                                     | Provide seed bombs / bulbs etc. for residents' use.                                                                                                                                                                               | Extending habitats.<br>Increased diversity of habitats and food sources                                                                   | Year 1 - 2                  |                           |
|                                                     | Discourage floodlighting.                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Protect nocturnal animals.                                                                                                                | Ongoing                     |                           |
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|                                                                                                           | Form an active community wildlife group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Year 3 - 5 |  |
|                                                                                                           | Survey - Set up a survey for residents to record and monitor plants, birds, fungi, invertebrates, amphibians<br>Invest in trail cameras<br>Invite specialist groups to survey                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Year 3 - 5 |  |
|                                                                                                           | Exchange information with local wildlife trust                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |            |  |
|                                                                                                           | Challenge/competition - establish an ongoing seasonal art entry competition to incorporate learning and encourage outdoor engagement with biodiversity in the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Encourage engagement/ownership of biodiversity                                                                                                                                                                                                 |            |  |
| <b>Local Nature Recovery Strategy</b><br><a href="#">Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership,</a> | Suffolk County Council has been designated as the responsible authority for developing Suffolk's LNRS. The strategy is still being prepared and expected to be completed by mid 2025. As part of the process a local habitat map has been created which highlights areas of the county that are particularly valuable for nature.<br><a href="#">full version of the map</a> | Understanding how/if the LNRS is relevant to us<br>Be aware of how the LNRS affects land that we own or manage, or actions we take to conserve and enhance biodiversity<br>Consider how we could contribute to the strategy, where appropriate | Ongoing    |  |

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| Reviewed 18.06.25 | Identified projects – Extended bird box project and Biodiversity Day added. |
| Reviewed 17.09.25 | No amendments or updates                                                    |
| Reviewed 21.01.26 | Added community engagement project from resident                            |
|                   |                                                                             |