

Freckleton Parish Council

The Environmental Biodiversity and sustainability Plan.

Introduction

Freckleton Parish Council recognises that it has an important stewardship role, to maintain a sustainable community environment, where biodiversity and sustainability practice can be encouraged to thrive.

We accept our existing and future responsibilities under the Environment Protection Act (2021) to conserve and promote biodiversity. This will be achieved through positive and innovative management of the Parishes open communal spaces and verges, as well as conservation of our natural areas.

We will strive to lead by example in positively managing the village's complex environment and habitats.

About biodiversity within Freckleton Parish

Biodiversity is the collective term for the variety and abundance of life found in a defined and designated area, including terrestrial and aquatic animals, plants, fungi, algae and bacteria. These species (including humanity) can organise to work in co-operative ecosystems to maintain, balance and support life. Thriving biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems are essential for human survival and well-being and reducing biodiversity losses are a key feature of this survival.

Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive including production of food, oxygen, fixing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, clean air and clean water. Furthermore, activity of crucial microbial activity supports environmental pollution control and inputs into major important geochemical cycles, such as the carbon cycle. Moreover, biodiversity gives the village a valuable esoteric image, including participation in villages in bloom competitions and by underlining our "village of flowers and music" motto and creating spaces that add to mental health well-being and is an intrinsic part of village life.

Freckleton parish contains a complex set of mixed ecosystems that encompasses habitats of planktonic and fixed complex estuarine marshland, small scale mixed

agricultural farms with ancient hedgerows, from medieval field enclosures. Adding to this complexity are the river Ribble and its tributary, the river Dow, which are part of a very important thriving wildfowl migration and overwintering centre. There is also an exciting blend of privately owned and parish managed gardens and allotments that add massively to the appeal and ecological significance of the village. The village has many unique features that deserve our stewardship for locals to enjoy. The area surrounding Freckleton is within a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and is afforded special protection under environmental law. Marshland habitats contain many insects and plants that are special to this area of the Fylde coast.

What the Council will do to promote biodiversity

The Council has for a number of years introduced Biodiversity Projects that has enhanced the Village. See Appendix for details.

As an aid to this policy we will in the long term –

As far as is possible, continue to conserve and promote the biodiversity of the land it manages.

Continue to use and monitor beneficial environmental practices. Specifically with regard to cutting, removal and recycle of waste vegetation, application of toxic chemicals and timing of maintenance work.

In specification of grounds maintenance, continue to ensure that environmental work continues to acceptable standards and that it does not harm the natural environment.

Continue to work in partnership with Freckleton in Bloom, Contractors. Fylde Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to protect, promote, monitor and enhance biodiversity within areas of the Parish.

Raise public awareness of biodiversity issues as part of its stewardship role within the local community, via the FIB committee and the Contractors.

Continue to involve the community in “greening” and promoting biodiversity, for example by tree planting, developing living areas and wilding areas (areas allowed to revert to natural species) and supporting local initiatives such as FIB.

Communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its social activity websites and Parish newsletters.

Scrutinise the local Planning application to ensure they meet the required Fylde Borough Council Regulations.

As an aid to this policy we will in the short term -

Conserve and enhance existing habitats and provide new habitats. This will include (not an exhaustive list)

Review timing of hedgerow cutting practices to avoid flower and berry food loss, to birds and insects, provided any delay does not cause a danger to pedestrians and vehicles.

Continue to replant trees and hedgerows to replace and increase microhabitats essential to diverse speciation.

In conjunction with the Tree Officer at FBC, protect ancient mature trees that are flourishing ecosystems.

When identified, encourage existing bat populations by arranging for the building and siting environmentally safe non-toxic “bat boxes”.

Continue to grow plants that encourage numbers and species of diminishing pollinator species of insects, bees, butterflies and birds.

Support the local schools and FIB in their efforts to produce natural “wilding” areas within the Parish.

Appendix

Date	Description	Org	Comments
1988- 2000	Design & Plant Memorial Gardens & Cenotaph	PC	Includes New Borders, Pathways and trees & plants up to the Memorial stone. New Borders in the Cenotaph.
2004 - to date	Planting bulbs in various parts of the village	FIB & PC	
2010	Plant trees on Bush lane sport field	PC	To replace trees that were a danger to the public
2012	Plant trees in Graveyard	PPC	Diamond Jubilee
2014	Plant Coastal path with wild flowers	FIB	
2017	Install Bees on Croft Butts Allotments	AHA	This encouraged residents to introduce bee hives on their property
2018	Plant orchard at bottom of Balderstone Road.	FIB	
2019	Replant Shrub borders in Park	PC	Professional advice was obtained from Newgate Nurseries to plant shrub that would encourage wildlife.
2022	Plant 33 Hawthorne Bushes on Sport Field	PC	
2024	Plant 88 Hawthorne bushes on Croft Butts lane allotments	PC	To replace damaged fencing
2024	Plant trees on Sport Field & Park	PC	Donated by FBC.