



Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council

Biodiversity Statement

As a public authority in England, Upwood and the Raveleys Parish Council has a duty <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/40> to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of its policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

The parish council demonstrates its duty to have regard for biodiversity with reference to “Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services” (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>) and by identifying the following ways in which it aims to integrate biodiversity in its day to day business:

- **In its development and implementation of policies and strategies:** *Where possible parish maintenance works are carried out with consideration for seasonal flora and fauna. Employees work from home and in most cases the business of the parish council can be accomplished on foot or by bicycle. Environmental considerations are at the heart of all parish council policies and strategies. Councillors and employees are all long-term local residents with affinity for their surroundings and a keen interest in its sustainable development.*
- **In its consideration of and input into the management of the planning system and in its consideration of and input into the development of infrastructure (roads, buildings and flood defences):** *The parish council aims to add local knowledge to support Huntingdonshire District Council’s current Core Strategy and in its Local Plan to 2036: <http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning/new-local-plan-to-2036/> and The National Planning Policy Framework: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/policy/>. Sustainable development, conservation and enhancement of the environment, and biodiversity are key considerations in each of these policies.*
- **In its management of:**
 - **Land and woodlands:** *The council manages its land using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity. Grass and hedge cutting is carried out by a local landscaping and countryside management contractor and a tree works are addressed by a local tree surgeon.*
 - **Public open spaces** (Charters Spinney): *Paths are cut for access through the spinney and the grass adjacent to the highway is kept short. There are several areas within the spinney which are left to evolve naturally.*
 - **Community amenities** (St. Peter’s Churchyard, Upwood Cemetery, Glebe Paddock, Bentley Close Play Area, the allotment sites in Meadow Road and Great Raveley): *Each of these sites embrace landscaped areas for visual appeal and accessibility together with conservation areas, natural hedgerows and areas planted with wild flower seeds. The church is home to a colony of bats. The community orchard, planted with traditional local fruit trees on the allotment site in Meadow Road is also host to raised lavender beds and a small pond which sit adjacent to cultivated allotment plots and a hay field.*
 - **Waste and pollution:** *The parish council regularly addresses the issue of dog fouling and is constantly reviewing procedures to tackle this antisocial behaviour. The provision of litter bins is reviewed regularly.*
- **In its decisions about procurement:** *Where possible the parish council sources local products and services.*
- **In its implementation of economic, environmental and social programmes:** *The parish council is supportive of community ideas and projects to enhance the conservation and enhancement of the environment. Volunteers are encouraged to take care of individual areas (parishioners volunteer to tend areas of the churchyard and cemetery; and grass verges). “Environment, Conservation and Appearance of the parish” formed a key area of the recent community led plan, and this will be extended as the parish considers preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.*
- **As host to sites of environmental importance:** *Upwood Meadows, Lady’s Wood and Raveley Wood lie within the parish boundaries and are managed by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. The parish also acts as a good neighbour to the internationally renowned Great Fen Project.*