

SEPTEMBER 2020

WOOLSINGTON PARISH COUCL, TYNE AND WEAR

Woolsington Parish Council has just completed its first year of an ambitious Biodiversity Programme. Each year, the council will enact carefully constructed plans and investment to develop the local landscape into a centre for conservation. This will include the planting of trees, flowers and wildflowers while focussing on local wildlife. The Newbiggin Hall, Bedeburn, Callerton and Woolsington Village areas already contain wonderful landscapes, veteran trees and areas of outstanding scenery. The programme aims to improve habitats for insects, bees and butterflies and in doing so enhance the importance of green spaces for residents and visitors alike.

The biodiversity plan is specifically designed to build on and enhance these natural assets. The programme for 2021 is in the process of being composed. The council hopes to support a significant amount of school initiatives, including large-scale planting of trees, which incorporates celebrating Tree Charter Day in November!

The main focus of the Biodiversity Programme in its first year was the planting of spring bulbs, namely daffodils and crocus, with help from pupils from a local primary school and members of the community. The Biodiversity Project is especially important at this time of development and it seeks to mitigate the losses to wildlife. Woolsington Parish Council Biodiversity Project plans to further enhance the existing landscaped green spaces of the area.

The council plants natural wildflowers, together with spring and summer bulbs, and herbaceous perennials, are vital for bees, butterflies and insects. Their berries and seeds also provide food for birds and mammals. Not only are wildflowers attractive themselves and uplifting for all those who see them, but wildflowers are also an essential supply of nectar and pollen for insects. Additionally, the Biodiversity Project aims to increase the insect population which itself will help encourage more of these birds to return as they are in a decline nationally.

Has your council done something similar? Then get in touch by emailing Claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk

© NALC 2020