

COUNTY COUNCILLOR WENDY PATTISON

EMBLETON PARISH

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



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EMBLETON PARISH

Summer has finally arrived and I hope you are enjoying the better weather and are making the most of being outdoors in the wonderful countryside that Northumberland has to offer.

I fully recognise that all of the 9 Longhoughton Division Parish Councils know their own local communities better than anyone and we are so lucky to have such beautiful villages to enjoy and live in. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment in ensuring that your residents have villages and communities to be proud of.

BIODIVERSITY PLAN

All Local authorities including town and parish councils have a duty in regard to biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

When to meet your biodiversity duty

You should have completed your first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024. You must agree your policies and objectives as soon as possible after this.

You must reconsider the actions you can take within 5 years of when you complete your previous consideration.

You can decide to do this more often, for example, you could reconsider your actions quarterly, annually, or every 5 years.

Consider relevant strategies

You must check if these strategies will affect how your parish council complies with the biodiversity duty:

- [local nature recovery strategies](#)
- [species conservation strategies](#)
- [protected site strategies](#)

You must:

- understand how/if they are relevant to your parish
- be aware of how these strategies affect land that you own or manage, or actions you could take to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- consider how you could contribute to the strategy, where appropriate

Local nature recovery strategies

These will be locally led strategies for nature and environmental improvement established by the Environment Act 2021. Each local nature recovery strategy will:

- agree priorities for nature's recovery
- map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals

There will be around 50 local nature recovery strategies covering the whole of England with no gaps or overlaps.

When the local nature recovery strategies are published, you will need to understand which ones are relevant to you and how you can contribute to them. These are likely to be the strategy, or strategies, for the areas in England you're active in.

You may want to consider how you could get involved in preparing and delivering them now. For example, you could contribute by acting on proposals to create or improve

habitat on land you own or manage, or help someone else to do so. By including any positive actions you plan to take in the strategy, you can help improve their quality. It will also make it easier for you to show how you have fulfilled your duty.

Established by the Environment Act 2021, species conservation strategies aim to safeguard the future of the species that are at greatest risk. The strategies will find better ways to comply with existing legal obligations to protect species at risk and to improve their conservation status.

The action you take for biodiversity will contribute to the achievement of national goals and targets on biodiversity.

Some small scale biodiversity projects can be undertaken such as:

- Nest boxes
- Bird feeders
- Bug hotels
- Hedgehog houses
- Bat boxes
- Log piles
- Communal gardens
- Pollinator nest sites
- Planting wildflowers
- Creating ponds
- Living walls

To discuss Northumberland County Council's approach to biodiversity net gain please contact David Feige, Environment and Design Team Manager & County Ecologist.
david.feige@northumberland.gov.uk

KEEPING SAFE IN RIVERS AND LAKES

A timely warning has gone out to those swimming in lakes, rivers and other inland bodies of water to look after themselves and others this summer.

During the school holidays as soon as the sun comes out it is only natural for families and young people to head to water for refreshing fun and adventure.

However, as Northumberland County Council's "Love it Like it's Yours" campaign safety messages remind us, water can also pose life-threatening risks..

In the UK around 400 people die through accidental drowning every year and sadly two young lives have already been lost in the River Tyne in Northumberland this year.

Swimmers, kayakers and paddle-boarders should take time to think about potential hazards whether they are in a lake, a river or an accessible reservoir where swimming is permitted.

Most risks can be lessened with proper awareness and by taking sensible precautions - so that no more happy days out turn into heart-breaking tragedies.“

Group Manager Joe Hunter, Head of Northumberland Fire and Rescue services Community Risk and Response department said: “One potential problem that’s often underestimated is cold water shock - a serious condition that can affect even the strongest of swimmers. The body experiences an involuntary gasp reflex followed by hyperventilation, followed by panic and difficulty in controlling breathing, leading to inhaling water and potentially drowning. This can happen even on a hot summer day, as the temperature of rivers and lakes can remain quite low typically below 15°C (59°F).

Cold water can quickly stop muscles working properly making it difficult to swim or even stay afloat - with children at highest risk as their smaller bodies lose heat faster than adults. It can increase the risk of cardiac arrest, especially for those with pre-existing heart conditions.”

It should go without saying that children should be supervised at all times when in, or near, inland bodies of water as drowning can happen quickly and silently. They should enter the water slowly to allow their bodies to get used to the temperature and wear properly fitted life jackets if possible.

Adults should check the water for potential hazards like strong currents, deep water, and submerged objects and vegetation, if in doubt – stay out. Or swim in designated areas where lifeguards are on duty.

Children can be taught basic emergency skills, such as floating on their backs if they are struggling using the ‘Float to Live’ method and adults should avoid swimming alone and alcohol - and brush up their emergency skills - as responding quickly can save lives in an emergency.

Should anyone see someone in trouble they should firstly phone the emergency services, then throw them a lifebuoy if there is one – and they should not enter the water putting themselves at risk also.

Enjoying inland bodies of water during the summer can be a very enjoyable experience – leading to the creation of positive summer memories for years to come.

To call the emergency services if someone gets into difficulty in inland water call 999 and ask for Fire and Rescue.