



Elmsett Parish Council Wildlife Policy

Introduction

Elmsett Parish Council (the Council) owns two specific areas of land in the parish, the village green and a small strip of woodland known as the Squeech. These are shown on the map below.

The village green displays the village sign and consists of trees, grass, some scrub and wild flowers. It is central to the village, accessible by road and public footpath and is open to the public at all times and has been used for public events such as 'Tea on the green'.

The Squeech has various trees, bushes and a seasonal pond. It is south of the residential core of village surrounded by farmland and reached only via public footpaths one of which passes alongside the woodland. There is no public right of way through the Squeech.

The following policy is a guide to the management of the wildlife of these areas.

Trees

The Council has a duty of care to ensure that all the trees on its land are kept in a reasonable condition and do not put persons and property at undue risk. Inspections of trees will be carried out by a qualified arboriculturalist. The frequency and timings of such inspections will be guided by independent advice provided by an arboricultural expert taking account of the Parish Council's duty of care.

After inspection, dead, dying, diseased or dangerous trees will be removed or made safe, whichever is deemed necessary. Removed trees (as a consequence of danger or disease) may be replaced by native species. Consideration will always be given to the impact of any tree pruning or felling on local wildlife. Tree work will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on local wildlife is minimised except if any urgent safety work is immediately required. The Council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns.

Bird/Bat Boxes

Where appropriate the Council will support the provision of bird and bat boxes on its land.

Badgers

in cases of issues with badgers and setts on Parish land the Council will take and act on advice from the Badger Trust. The Council does not support or permit badger hunting or culling on its land.

Grass cutting on the village green

Grass will be cut from 1st April to 31st October by a contractor appointed via an open tender process. It may also be cut outside of these times in the event of exceptional weather. The frequency will depend upon the rate of growth. All grassed areas will be cleared of litter before cutting. All grass cuttings will be removed from site.

The contractor will be made aware of daffodil and any other wild flower areas and these will be left uncut until they have seeded and died back. No herbicide will be used unless otherwise consent is specified in writing by the Council.

Wildlife Areas

The Council will support the creation of manmade or natural (e.g. fallen timber) wildlife areas where appropriate taking into account the location and public safety.

Elmsett Parish Council adopted this Wildlife policy on 15th February 2021

