



THE ROYDON ROUND-UP

The newsletter for Roydon Parish Council

Issue 17: January 2025

Biodiversity plan aims to boost nature

Roydon Parish Council has a plan to boost biodiversity in the village and is urging residents to help reverse the decline in nature.

The UK State of Nature report for 2023 showed that since 1970:

- Pollinators have decreased by 18% on average
- Nearly one in six species in the UK are threatened with extinction

A British Trust for Ornithology 2023 report noted that wild birds in Britain had fallen by 73 million since 1970, and turtle doves by 99% between 1967 and 2020.

The council is looking to encourage biodiversity in a number of ways, including through the planning process. Other ideas include improving the way verges are managed, adding planting to help wildlife, encouraging the linking of habitats such as along green corridors in the parish, and education.

Richard Mabey, naturalist, writer and Roydon resident, provided this foreword to our plan: "Fragmentation of the landscape - by new housing estates, roads, ever enlarging arable fields - is one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. Wild organisms need the chance to move, especially in the face of climate change. Every stretch of living habitat -

hedgerow, road verge, damp ditch - can help towards reconnection. The Roydon Biodiversity Action Plan will contribute to this goal in our own backyard. Every garden, wild corner and unploughed field edge can be part of a growing network. So don't pave over your drive!"



Biodiversity in Roydon

Some ways to help flora and fauna in your gardens this winter:

- Build a wood pile with old logs and prunings. It's great habitat for newts, beetles and other insects
- Winter is a great time to plant bare root trees and native hedges. Bare root is a lot cheaper too
- Build nest boxes for birds from any spare untreated wood. Birds are starting to look for nest sites around now
- Consider the needs of bees, butterflies, moths and other insects when choosing plants and seeds for your garden this spring.

Join our next litter pick

One way to help improve our local environment is to join our regular village litter picks.

The next one takes place on **Saturday 8 February from 9.30am to 11.30am.**

To take part, **meet at the Village Hall on the High Road at 9.30am** to be allocated a location, and to collect rubbish bags, grabbers and hi-viz vests.

There'll be a pop-up cafe at the village hall in the morning with free refreshments for litter pickers. All are welcome to come along but we ask non-pickers for a donation to help cover costs.

More housing for Roydon?

The new government has set an ambitious policy goal of building 1.5 million houses over the next five years.

This may well mean that a further housing allocation for Roydon will be required within the Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan.

There is no firm indication of what additional number of dwellings this might mean for Roydon but any additional allocation will be something we would be legally obligated to accommodate. When any more accurate information is available it will be published in the Roydon Round Up.

Deal Farm biogas plan thrown out on appeal

The Planning Inspectorate has thrown out an appeal against South Norfolk District Council's decision to refuse permission for an anaerobic digester at Deal Farm, which lies just outside the Roydon boundary.

Roydon Parish Council opposed the digester plan, in support of our neighbours in Bressingham, partly on the grounds of highway safety as the plant would've required a considerable number of lorry movements on our narrow country lanes.

The applicants had originally been granted permission to build a smaller digester but further development was undertaken without council approval. Following a part-retrospective planning application, South Norfolk refused the scheme.

Following a hearing last year, the Planning Inspectorate agreed that the rural nature of the area and the character of the road network meant that the development would increase the risk of conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

Grid insisting on pylons through Waveney Valley

National Grid has scrapped an alternative option to put new cables underground through the Waveney Valley as part of the Norwich to Tilbury power network, saying it wants pylons.

The underground option had been proposed on the stretch of route south-east from the Roydon / Bressingham border on the A1066 in response to protests. Now the only option it's proposing will mean 50-metre pylons visible on key views from Roydon church and Grove Farm, and onward between Wortham Ling and Roydon Fen. This is despite opposition from residents and local authorities, and the valley being classified as a Valued Landscape.

The Grid claims pylons will be less environmentally damaging. It will now seek government approval for the plans. Local councils have no powers to refuse them but will be lobbying for further changes to the scheme.

Help out at Quaker Wood

Quaker Wood, the 5.5 acre woodland and open space on Factory Lane between Roydon and Diss that's managed by Diss Community Woodland Project, is always looking for volunteers to help out with regular maintenance tasks.

Working parties are held from 9.30am on the first Saturday of each month. For details of what's involved visit www.quakerwood.org.uk

Precept set for 2025-26

The Parish Council has agreed a 0.5% rise in the precept for the coming financial year. Because of a small increase in the number of households, this actually represents a 0.28 pence reduction per month on an average band D property. Our precept will be added to your overall Council Tax bill, which will include charges set by other local authorities.

Dates for your diary

Annual Parish Meeting: 29 April at 7pm, Parish Room at St Remigius Church. Find out about parish issues including policing.

Roydon Big Green Week: 7-15 June at various locations in and around the parish. Plans include walks, pond-dipping and other fun activities.

Parish council meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Parish Room, St Remigius Church. See website for any date changes, meeting agendas and minutes.

Got a suggestion or comment?

If you have a question for us or a suggestion for improving our village, please contact us.

Email the clerk at:

clerk@roydon-southnorfolk-pc.gov.uk

Or call 07707 495 297

Councillors' contact details are under the 'Councillors' tab on our website at:

<https://roydon-southnorfolk-pc.gov.uk/>

Roydon Parish Council is on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/roydondissparishcouncil/