

RYHILL	PARISH COUNCIL	BIODIVERSITY	EVIDENCE AND STRATEGY 2025 2026		
Site/Objective	Action	Outcome	Evidence	Target/Years	Report/Publicity
Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity	Gain local support for action	Ryhill Park and Stray 20yrs+ RRAID Action Group; local school children planting trees on areas rescued from dereliction with grants and voluntary work. Maintenance ongoing by parish council Leased old station site – minimal intervention so encouraging wildlife and biodiversity Bulb planting Areas left unowned; wild flower meadow	20+ years and ongoing year on year to present	Newsletter Website
Protect and support biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity	Connect and diversify habitats to meet needs of a variety of wildlife species	As above – Ryhil Park and Stray. Huge planting undertaken with Woodland Trust. Hedgerow and slow growing trees (hornbeam) Wildflower meadow seeding May 2025	12.2023 & 2.2024 Autumn 2025	Newsletter Website
Allotments	Additional planting. Maintain and renew birdboxes as required. Adopt a plan to support wildlife and diversity whilst maintaining site in way which enables visitors to experience quiet and calm. Leave leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as habitat for invertebrates.	Increased diversity of habitats and food sources. Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. Encouraging insects particularly butterflies and bees.	Good practice guide for tenants Tenancy agreement specifies biodiversity practice; cultivation of 66% of plot; bans cutting of hedge and trees without consent; hedges and trees in plots and around sites Areas regularly left uncultivated on sites to encourage biodiversity and species with brambles, nettles, etc One site naturally part of green corridor with fields and park on each side	Ongoing since at least 2014	New noticeboards on both allotment sites Good tenant guide

Allotments continues			Updated good tenant guide with specific tips to encourage biodiversity: companion planting, logs/stones, water, no pesticides	Autumn 2025	New noticeboards on both allotment sites September 2024 Guide on website and in noticeboards November 2025
Recreation ground	Sympathetically maintain hedging. Leave some areas unmown. Only use environment friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions.	Food sources and cover. Encourages insects. Sustain and enhance natural habitats.	As above Ryhill Park/Stray Rycroft Leisure – thick hedges; flower borders; bug hotels (youth club); selective mowing New wildflower area and vegetable plot New wildflower sowing	6.2024 3.2025 10.2025	Newsletter Website
Common/other open spaces	Adopt a management plan. Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs. Work with district council on verge management favouring biodiversity but noting which areas may need cutting for highway safety, Encourage residents to adopt areas to look after, making it clear what is expected, e.g.	Sustain and enhance natural habitats. Protecting habitats. Protecting/enhancing habitats. Regular attention.	As above Ryhill Park/Stray and Rycroft Leisure Dog fouling signs/stencilling Litter picking Specific secure area for dogs off lead – Park/Stray Planters adopted by residents and paid for by parish council year on year - programme ongoing More planters purchased and sited around village to double current provision at least with more planned as part of ongoing long-term strategy	2015 2012 April 2025	Newsletter Website Ongoing

	peat free compost and no chemicals.				
The Built Landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan. Encourage hedgehog/small mammal highways with permeable boundaries.	Protecting/enhancing habitats. Extending habitats.	Cllrs designated to check planning applications Proactive discouragement of development on green belt land Campaigned with RRAID AG to prevent industrial development and then restoration of Stray Leased land Stray and old station site to protect wildlife areas from development Specifically raised in comments to Wakefield MDC planning application 25/01591/FUL (hedge bordering Stray and Park and biodiversity and protected species generally in area	Ongoing and historical Regular and ongoing Historical and ongoing with maintenance	Newsletter Website Chair's annual report and ongoing
Increase community awareness of biodiversity	Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish. Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the parish magazine.	Engagement/ownership of biodiversity. Promote biodiversity. Promote biodiversity.		From now and by 2026	Newsletter 2026

	Create a page on the parish council website for photographs, information, links. Encourage local farmers to contribute. Provide seed bombs/bulbs, etc for residents' use. Discourage floodlighting.	Promote biodiversity. Extending habitats. Protect nocturnal animals.	Young at Heart and youth club – yearly Liaised with church to lessen floodlighting -letter from council	Ongoing	
Support Community Projects	Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas. Work in partnership with the school to develop young people's awareness of the environment around them. Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations.	Extending habitats. Promote biodiversity. Promote biodiversity.	As above Ryhill Park/Stray – past Current 2023/2024 offered involvement to local primary school via Woodland Trust May Fest event – all about biodiversity Parish Council and Rycroft Leisure Seeds and planting for children Attendance by Woodland Trust and local countryside rangers Increased number of planters programme involving parishioners, Young at Heart group and youth club	2023 2024 4.5.2024 April 2025 and ongoing	Newsletter Website Further events ongoing to be planned