

Dear Town and Parish Councillors,

Suffolk Wildlife Trust are growing our planning team, and we wanted to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves to parishes across Suffolk. Our team now consists of Rupert Masefield (Planning and Advocacy Manager), Gareth Dalglish (Ecology and Planning Adviser) and Ellen Shailes (Ecology and Planning Adviser). Our role at Suffolk Wildlife Trust is to ensure development in Suffolk is well designed and planned to ensure the protection of wildlife and wild places, contribute towards nature's recovery, and provide benefits to communities through improving access to nature for everyone.

As a Suffolk based wildlife charity, part of this mission includes ensuring strengthened protection for the natural environment and biodiversity within Neighbourhood Plans in Suffolk. We also see Neighbourhood Plans as having the potential to increase engagement with the natural world through community action for wildlife, which can support our goal of encouraging 1 in 4 people in Suffolk to take action for nature. See [Team Wilder](#) for more information.

We hope to be able to provide better advice to town and parish councils preparing their Neighbourhood Plans and we now aim to respond to all Reg 14 Neighbourhood Plan consultations, to ensure we are providing guidance to all parishes preparing their Neighbourhood Plan. We are also in the process of improving the advice on our Wilder Planning webpages – See [Wilder Planning | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#). Another one of our aims is to develop training on how to consider the natural environment and biodiversity in Neighbourhood Plans. This could potentially be delivered through an online webinar which would then be available on our website. A webinar would look to cover topics such as where to find information regarding the biodiversity in your parish, good examples of Neighbourhood Plan policies to protect wildlife and how to map green corridors.

Separately, the Suffolk Wildlife Trust consultancy, [Wilder Ecology](#), can also provide advice to parish and town councils through the production of Landscape and Biodiversity Assessments. This is a paid service where we pull together all the landscape and biodiversity evidence for your parish, such as what protected species, priority habitats, County Wildlife Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest you have locally, which can then be used to inform the creation of your Neighbourhood Plan.

Please let us know if you would be interested in attending a webinar or similar event hosted by us on this topic. We would also welcome your thoughts and advice on how best Suffolk Wildlife Trust can support parishes who are preparing their Neighbourhood Plans and what you would like us to include in any future training we provide.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Ellen Shailes

Ecology and Planning Adviser

Suffolk Wildlife Trust