

## Biodiversity Policy

### **Background**

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 there is a duty on public authorities in England, including Parish Councils to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy or decision making. This was further strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 so public authorities must now consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This means a public authority must;

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on earth. Biodiversity is everywhere, in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and the sea.

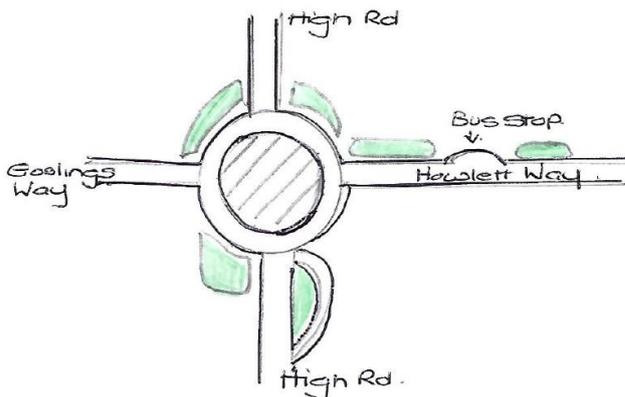
### **Our Local Area**

Trimley St Martin is a rural village, with a considerable number of natural areas, including hedges, ditches, farmland and marshland. In addition, Trimley St Martin is also in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### **Parish Council Responsibilities**

The Parish Council own one piece of land, which is where the Memorial Hall is sited on the High Road. This piece of land includes the hall, the car park, and the hedges etc which surround it.

The Parish Council also take responsibility for the maintenance of the Howlett Way Roundabout and the flower beds surrounding this, as the diagram below identifies.



### **What the Parish Council will do**

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made through the Parish Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
- Only use pesticides and herbicides on Parish Council owned land where necessary for reasons such as safety etc.

- Remain in contact and work with the Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.
- Continue to have Tree Wardens within the Parish to help manage and identify any issues or concerns.
- Maintenance trimming of hedges around the Memorial Hall will be carried out as necessary in order to keep the hedges in a tidy condition. However, timing of pruning will take into account the potential for nesting birds and be delayed until nesting season if there are any signs that indicate there are birds nesting.
- The Parish Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Parish Council website.