

Hi Holmedale and Barningham Parishioners,

We would like to hear your views to help us decide if and how we can create a local community nature project.

**Link:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NXDDKGD>

### **Firstly, who are we?**

We are a group of local representatives (there are a few of us from each Parish) who have expressed an interest in exploring what we can do for nature and more specifically biodiversity and the community locally.

### **What do we mean by biodiversity?**

Biodiversity (short for biological diversity) is a term that describes the variety of plant, bacteria and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat or area. A higher level of biodiversity (i.e. a wider range of animals, plants, bacteria etc.) is usually considered to be important and desirable, because it can be seen as a measure of the health of nature.

The UK is one of the most biodiversity depleted countries in Europe. This is not a good thing for us as humans as it impacts the food we grow, the quality of water, the natural environment and other resources. There is also strong evidence that connecting with nature is good for our health and wellbeing.

### **How did this start? Some background information.**

Sally Zaranko had the idea to set up a biodiversity project for Whashton (see our Parish website) and asked the parish if anyone would like to help.

I (Lizzie Rumble) said I would like to be involved. Shortly after our Parish chair was approached at the golf club by National Highways asking if they could support a biodiversity project at the golf club however at the time the understanding was that they were only interested in supporting big projects.

So myself and Sally thought a project in Whashton would be too small but that maybe a Holmedale project would be considered big enough. We had an initial open meeting in

February that was attended by about 40 people from the parishes. At the meeting there were lots of great ideas for nature and also for the community.

At a further meeting with National Highways it became clear that there was funding for all sorts of projects. The spending deadline for National Highways is April 2025. However we could look to apply for funding from other organisations depending on what the project becomes about and timeframes.

So yes personally I would love to do a biodiversity project that will benefit nature and increase biodiversity with the knock on benefits for us as residents, landowners, farmers and businesses in Holmedale. But that's just my view, what matters to you about where we live and work?

This is a community project so what we would like to know is what is important to you and if you would like Holmedale to have a project and what you would like the project to be.

Please follow the link on the email to complete the survey to share your views or complete a paper copy to return to your local representative. There are comment boxes at the end of each question to give you the opportunity to share your thoughts, positive and negative.

**Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NXDDKGD>

Thank you for your support

Lizzie