



Poringland Neighbourhood Plan Update December 2018

Hello! I'm Henry Gowman, member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee plus the Tree Warden for the village. I write a regular article in the 5+ Newsletter but just in case you missed it here is a slightly extended version, as I wanted to link it in with the Neighbourhood Plan and how it can help to protect our trees, plus hedgerows and natural habitats.

Thanks for reading!

Henry Gowman

Poringland is (if you haven't noticed), experiencing a lot of development which does have an impact on our trees. For some developers, trees are an inconvenience and 'in the wrong place' so must not come down to allow a straight row of houses to be built.

This practice is not good for our environment and does not provide the new residents of these developments with a sense of living in a semi-rural village. I hope you are aware that your Parish Council is working upon the planning strategy for the next Local Plan.

This document is our **Neighbourhood Plan**, and will give guidance to developers as to what kind of place we would like Poringland to look like in the future.

The Policies that will make up the Plan are currently being developed following the public consultation events we held at the Poringland Community Centre in September

where valuable feedback was given by over 100 visitors from the local community.

This joins the data gathered from the Community Survey which went out to each household earlier this year.

The heartening and most welcome outcome of all this evidence gathering is that the vast majority of those who have shared their views with us say that the **local environment is the most important thing to protect and prioritise within new developments.**

This has been reflected in the Natural Environment Policy, which stands to protect and preserve the habitat for wildlife, including hedgerows and trees.

[Scroll down to read this particular policy in its current format.](#)

There will be more public consultation starting in the New Year – please partake in deciding the future of your village.

Want to know about the Neighbourhood Plan?

You can find out more by visiting www.poringlandparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan

Email the Neighbourhood Plan Project Officer:

poringlandneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com



This policy is one of around 20 policies which cover a wide range of issues concerning Poringland. The policies are currently being reviewed following the public consultation events in September, so the final wording may be slightly different, but they will be published in the New Year, so watch this space!

Policy 6: Natural Environment

As a minimum, all development will be expected to result in a demonstrable ecological gain, including through the creation of a range of habitats and reflecting the needs of local species. Great weight will be given to any proposals that would result in a significant ecological benefit.

There will be a presumption against any proposals which seek to remove protected or native species hedgerows, unless the impact can be adequately mitigated and an overall ecological gain achieved.

Any hedgerow lost will be required to provide a native species replacement of an equivalent length and depth, as a minimum, and great weight will be given to proposals which result in an overall gain in the length of native hedgerows.

Policy 6b

The loss of any significant individual or groups of trees will only be considered to be acceptable if replaced on a 3:1 ratio by native species or broadleaved trees.

The above will apply retrospectively to any trees or hedgerows removed within five years prior to a planning application being made.



Please note: *This is the current wording for the Policy which aims to protect and preserve the natural environment in Poringland. It received very positive support at the Policy Preview event in September 2018, but may be amended slightly in light of feedback. The latest version of this policy, along with the others that will form the plan, will be available to view in the New Year.*

If you'd like to be added to the mailing list to receive more information regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, please email the Project Officer, thanks.