

# Every Garden Counts



You might not be aware, but parish and town councils must now have biodiversity policies under the Environment Act of 2021, with the aim of conserving and enhancing biodiversity. This means making as much of the parish as wildlife friendly as possible. The Parish Council does manage a few areas – but our gardens cover a large area too. In England, gardens total an area about the same as Suffolk, so they have the potential to make a considerable contribution to helping wildlife and biodiversity nationwide – however big or small they are individually.

If you are already doing your bit to help wildlife, thank you! But there is always scope to do more. The most important tip is to be less tidy – creating more space for nature.

## Here are some simple tips:

- Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees
- Make leaf and/or log piles
- Provide water, whether it is a small bowlful, or a pond
- Install bird and bat boxes
- Build bug hotels
- Turn off or reduce nocturnal lights: they can have a negative effect on wildlife - particularly insects and birds
- Avoid using pesticides
- Cut your grass and hedges less often
- Leave some areas to grow wild – even if it is only a square yard



Applying these tips will improve ALL the wildlife in your garden, from the invertebrates at the bottom of the food chain through to the birds and small mammals at the top.

Most of our wildlife is in decline due to development, loss of habitat, and modern agriculture. We can all do our bit in our gardens, knowing that they really DO count.



You can get more information by visiting:

[southyarewildpatch.org/fact-sheets/](https://southyarewildpatch.org/fact-sheets/)  
and [www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife](https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife)