



**ENVIRONMENT  
& GREEN  
SPACE**



WARE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## **Providing net gains in biodiversity through planning policy**

**The plan's environment policies seek to ensure that the multiple benefits of Ware's green and blue spaces – including their importance in combating pressure on wildlife, habitats, biodiversity and geodiversity and in off-setting the effects of air pollution – are recognised and enhanced.**

This applies particularly where individual spaces have a greater collective value as part of wider chains of green infrastructure. Our plan aims to support the requirement to conserve and, where possible, provide a net gain in biodiversity through planning policy while accommodating sustainable development.

Ware's Neighbourhood Plan would seek to mandate that all future development proposals be supported by a biodiversity appraisal, which must demonstrate how negative impacts would be minimised and biodiversity net gain achieved.

The appraisal should demonstrate that where significant harm cannot be avoided, proposed development and other changes should adequately mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for the harm.

**Neighbourhood Plans also have the opportunity to designate Local Green Spaces which are of particular importance to them – affording them protection from development other than in very special circumstances.**

The following areas are considered to fulfil all of the criteria outlined in planning guidelines:

1. Lady Margaret Gardens (playground area and open space)
2. The Bourne
3. King George Fields
4. Lower Bourne Gardens
5. The Pastures

6. Priory Playgrounds
7. Grange Gardens Green
8. Buryfields
9. Widbury Hill Allotments
10. Plaxton Way
11. King George Road Allotments