



Weldon Parish Council

ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1. Policy Statement

Weldon Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its area of operation whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result.

2. Context

The Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared at national regional and within some organisations, local level. The Parish Council will consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and will endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes, where this is practicable and affordable within the resources and financial capabilities of council.

The Parish Council will specifically consider the following:

- Continue to protect and enhance the special landscape of the Parish and to enhance the quality of the built and heritage features
 - promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
 - protect the valued green spaces in the Parish, including Common Land, and opportunities for recreation including sports and children's play
 - minimize environmental pollution and waste in all its own activities and encourage the conservation, reuse, and appropriate recycling of resources
 - seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy
 - reduce car use by satisfying local needs using local resources and encouraging walking, cycling and public transport
 - work in partnership with other organisations to promote the health of Weldon Parish both ecologically and physically
 - progressively build environmental concerns and sustainability into all its policies
 - promote social enterprise in the parish
- In order to achieve this, the Parish Council will:
- adopt practices that minimise the effects the Council has on the environment e.g. reduce, reuse, recycle
 - involve the local community and local groups and encourage local action in support of the environment
 - Ensure the nature conservation value of the Parish's Commons, and surrounding landscape by encouraging maintenance and enhancements.

- Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children

3. Aims In all its activities the Parish Council will aim to when purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will give preference to;

- Local suppliers
- Options that are environmentally friendly
- Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials
- Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- Minimise adverse impacts on air quality
- Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
- Where practicable use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species.

4. Principles

Weldon Parish Council will:

1. Commit to the principles of stewardship, inclusivity, integrity, and transparency and leading by example in the field of sustainability. a. Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge
2. Commit to the sustainability and environmental elements of all relevant legislation and regulations, including the Weldon Neighbourhood Plan and the UN Paris Agreement.
3. Promote walking, cycling and public transport to visitors and residents.
4. Encourage use of local and sustainable products and services, especially food.
5. Respect and protect natural resources by practising conservation and good management by
 - a. Improving utility consumption through investing in energy technology (e.g. low power street lighting) and water efficiency (e.g. finding alternatives to tap water for watering council vegetation).
 - b. Recycling and reusing waste materials where possible.
 - c. Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing
6. Commit to the prevention of pollution, and compliance with relevant legislation and other requirements such as using the services of sympathetic contractors, and lighting solutions that do not cause wildlife-disturbing light pollution and disposing of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods

7. Send minimum organic waste to landfill, e.g. use compost heaps on GPC property for grass-cuttings, etc.
8. Commit to protecting the village's architectural and historic aspects including protecting the brooks from unsustainable development.
9. Encourage wildlife such as birds and bees via the use of suitable plants including perennials and self-seeding annuals.
10. Encourage its Members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times