



Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Aims and policy statement

Appledore Parish Council is committed to protecting the environment and the natural heritage of the Parish and recognises the importance and value of this environment and its contribution to quality of life for the villages and wider community.

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.

General

Where the Parish Council has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economic, it will:

- a. Encourage reduction, re-use and recycling of resources within the Parish;
- b. Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve energy efficiency of developments, both new-build and changes, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- c. Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children;
- d. Highlight the importance and value of the character, identity and rural setting of the Parish and our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life;
- e. Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows, unkempt spaces and deadwood, as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife, and a support for animals and plants;
- f. Seek to protect and enhance valued green spaces within the Parish, such as village greens, and opportunities for recreation including sports and children's play;
- g. Prioritise safety for all road users, including pedestrians, especially around issues of speeding vehicles, HGVs and air pollution;
- h. Maintain the Public Rights of Way to foster and encourage biodiversity whilst still meeting the legal requirements to clear them to the required widths;
- i. Encourage the use of low emission and low carbon footprint forms of transport;
- j. Promote buying local and using local leisure and recreation activities; and
- k. Encourage any person or organisation carrying out works in the Parish to do so in line with this policy.

Council Activities

In carrying out its own activities, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will seek to minimise its use of non-renewable resources, waste and pollution. It will do that by:

- a. Re-using materials whenever possible;
- b. Recycling when waste is produced where possible;
- c. Seeking to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions;
- d. Providing information electronically as much as possible;
- e. Requiring that contractors, councillors and volunteers who carry out maintenance on Parish-managed land, or on other areas of the Parish at the instigation of Parish Council officers minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals;
- f. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations;
- g. Avoiding and advocating against the use of single-use plastic items; and
- h. Minimise the environmental impact of travelling on Council business, where practicable and safe, by, walking, cycling, car sharing or the use of public transport.

Procurement

When purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will give preference to:

- a. Local suppliers;
- b. Options that are environmentally friendly;
- c. Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials; and
- d. Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Decision Making

In its decision making the Parish Council will take careful consideration of:

- a. The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport when practicable;
- b. The need to reduce, re-use and recycle to protect resources;
- c. The need to avoid adverse impacts on air quality;
- d. The need to conserve and improve natural habitats;
- e. The need to conserve the natural beauty of its woodlands and surrounding landscape.