

Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Parish Council Environmental Policy

1. Policy Statement

Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Parish Council is committed to support the creation of a sustainable community and aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its parish 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 nationally and the Local Council has committed to work in partnership to develop proactive carbon reductions agenda that helps the wider Borough of Swindon to reduce their emissions to Net Zero ahead of 2050.

The Parish Council will therefore 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.

3. Environmental Commitments

The Parish Council will specifically consider the following:

- The impact that operating its assets has on the environment.
- The impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment.
- Where possible and appropriate, replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives.
- The impact that execution of the Parish Council's activities may have on the environment.

4. Aims

The Parish Council will aim in all of its activities to:

- Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the buildings and equipment it uses and the administration of its activities.
- Seek, wherever possible, to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, updated and measured against recognised, best practice examples.
- Where possible, affordable and commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, support local initiatives aimed at climate change and or, biodiversity protection or enhancement.

These aims will be achieved by:

4.1 Energy and water management

The Parish Council is committed to responsible energy management and will promote energy efficiency throughout its operation and where possible use energy from sustainable sources.

Examples of which are:

Encouraging staff and Members to ensure that electrical equipment and unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use.

Encouraging staff and Members to close windows and external doors when heating is on (*unless this is contrary to prevailing Government (Covid) guidance*).

4.2 Recycling and conservation

The Parish Council will:

- Promote and encourage recycling across the Parish.
- Use recycled paper products where feasible
- Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of wastepaper.
- Utilise electronic communications wherever possible.
- Minimise pollution and prevent where possible.

4.3 Biodiversity and green spaces

The Parish Council will:

- Seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of Bishopstone and Hinton Parvas environment and open spaces.
- Support the conservation of trees, hedgerows, rivers, ponds and streams.
- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities but particularly with regard to the management of any land in our ownership.
- Seek to manage its green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity.

4.4 Awareness, lobbying and partnerships

The Parish Council will:

- In all relevant communications promote awareness of, and information on environmental issues within the community and seek accreditation to illustrate this.
- Where appropriate, act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems.
- Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy.
- Where appropriate, work with its partners to minimise the effects of noise and light pollution (Dark Skies) on the Parish.

4.5 Sustainable procurement

The Parish Council will:

- Seek to minimise environmental damage caused through the transportation of goods by sourcing materials (which have been manufactured from recycled materials and can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way) and services from local suppliers who share the Parish Council's environmental viewpoints so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met.
- Ensure that the use of pesticides/herbicides are minimised in its land management and horticultural activities.

4.7 Building & Development

The Parish Council will:

- Support the Local Councils approach to managing the impact of development on the local natural and historic environment as well as its features and resources.

5. Review

The policy was approved -

The review date of the policy -