

BILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

Bilbrook Parish Council (BPC) is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an Environmental and Sustainability Policy.

Aims

BPC is committed to protecting the environment, including foot/bridle paths and the natural heritage of the Parish, recognising the importance and value of the area and its contribution to the quality of life for villagers and the wider community.

BPC activities

In carrying out its activities, BPC will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting the local and wider environment. It will seek to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and to minimise environmental pollution in all its own activities and through its influence over others.

Minimise waste and pollution:

- a. Reducing the use of resources.
- b. Re-using materials whenever possible. (including the use of Freecycle)
- c. Recycling when waste is produced.
- d. Seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.
- e. Provide information electronically as much as possible.
- f. Avoid and advocate against the use of single-use plastic items.
- g. Minimise the environmental impact of travelling on Council business, where practicable and safe, by walking, cycling, car sharing or the use of public transport.
- h. Holding meetings by online mechanisms such as "Teams" where possible (and where legislation allows)

Procurement

When purchasing services and goods where practical and economical and in line with best value outlined in other policies, BPC will give preference to:

- a. Local suppliers
- b. Environmentally friendly options
- c. Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials
- d. Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally and sustainably

Contractors and maintenance

BPC will require that contractors, staff, councillors and volunteers who carry out maintenance on Parish land, or on other areas of the Parish at the instigation of Council officers:

- a. Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- b. Minimise adverse impacts on air quality
- c. Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
- d. Where practicable, use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations, encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee-friendly species.

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Decision Making

In its decision-making, BPC will take careful consideration of the following:

- a. The importance of walking, cycling and the use of public transport where 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 protect vulnerable and protected species
- f. The need to conserve the natural beauty of its woodlands, The old and new Village Greens, the Twentyan playing fields and the surrounding landscape.

Trees

In maintaining our trees, we will:

- a. Organise regular tree inspections
- b. Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees
- c. Remove dangerous and damaged limbs
- d. Endeavour to replace large specimen trees with similar species.

If work is required, this will be programmed as necessary.

General

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

- a. Discourage the use of single-use plastics within the parish
- b. Discourage all forms of littering
- c. Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- d. Encourage reduction, reuse and recycling of resources within the Parish.
- e. Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve the energy efficiency of developments, new-builds, extensions and renovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- f. Encourage new builds, extensions and renovations to be nature friendly, located close to public transport and amenities, and to provide electric vehicle charge points.
- g. Encourage local action in support of the environment
- h. Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life.
- i. Ensure the nature conservation value of the surrounding landscape by encouraging maintenance and enhancements.
- j. Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife and as a support for animals and plants.
- k. Maintain the Public Rights of Way (PROW) to foster and encourage biodiversity whilst still meeting the legal requirements to clear them to the required widths.
- l. Encourage the provision of cycle lanes and footpaths.
- m. Encourage any person or organisation carrying out works in the Parish to do so in line with this policy.

| Date of Review | Description of Revision |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Sept 2024 | No changes |