

# Hartley Wintney Parish Council Sustainability Policy

## POLICY STATEMENT

HWPC aims to carry out its duties with environmental consideration and 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.

## CONTEXT

Hartley Wintney Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared at national, regional and within some organisations, local level. Hart District Council has a Climate Change Action Plan to reach zero net emissions by 2040 ([20 01 21 Climate Change Action Plan.pdf](#) ([hart.gov.uk](http://hart.gov.uk))) and HWPC will do all it can to support and emulate the aims of the Action Plan.

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:

1. The impact that operating its assets has on the environment.
2. The impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment.
3. Where possible and appropriate, replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives.
4. The impact that execution of the Parish Council's activities may have on the environment.
5. The environmental benefit to be gained by embracing new technology where appropriate within its areas of activity.

## AIMS

In all its activities the Parish Council will aim to:

- a. Minimise the consumption of all unsustainable resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the buildings and equipment it uses and the administration of its activities.
- b. 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.
- c. Where possible, affordable and commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, support local initiatives aimed at climate change and/or, biodiversity protection or enhancement.

## PRINCIPLES

Hartley Wintney Parish Council will strive to:

- i. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.

- II. Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
- III. Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing.
- IV. Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible.
- V. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
- VI. Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources.
- VII. Respect, protect and enhance where possible, natural resources by practicing conservation and good management.
- VIII. Require contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment.
- IX. Require its Councillors and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times.

In the light of the current climate change national emergency, this policy will be reviewed annually to incorporate up to date national legislation, local authority policy, and emerging technology.

#### **Amendment Record**

Version 1: Initial Issue as Interim Policy – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Approved by Policy Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Approved by Full Council – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021