Kingskerswell Parish Council

Environmental & Sustainability Policy

Date: 10th January 2024
Agreed at Full Council Meeting: 29th January 2024

Climate Emergency

The Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared and in 2021 published the following on its website:

Kingskerswell joins other Parishes and Towns across the country in declaring a Climate Emergency.

Across the world catastrophic fires, floods and heat domes of July and August of 2021 alone have demonstrated beyond all deniability that we are living in a climate emergency.

As a Parish Council we continue to strive to consciously reduce our carbon footprint and to use local and sustainable products wherever we can.

We commit to developing our knowledge and skill set as to things we can do to contribute to a more sustainable future for our community.

Introduction

In response to our climate emergency statement and to further our commitment we have produced the Kingskerswell Parish Council Environmental & Sustainability Policy.

Kingskerswell 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.

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.

Energy and water management

The Parish Council is committed to responsible energy management and will promote energy efficiency throughout its operation.

We will encourage staff and members to:

- Ensure that electrical equipment and unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use.
- Close windows and external doors when heating is on.
- Minimise the use of electric heaters.
- Use water efficiently on Council premises.

Waste, recycling and conservation

The Parish Council will encourage the reduction in the use of resources, by re-using materials whenever possible and when waste is produced, we will recycle where feasible.

We will minimise the amount of printing and the amount of wastepaper, utilising electronic communications wherever possible.

We will observe our duty of care conscientiously with all our waste contracts, seeking, wherever possible, to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, up dated and measured against recognised, best practice examples.

We will promote composting facilities at relevant locations.

Biodiversity and green spaces

The Parish Council will:

- Seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of Kingskerswell's natural environment and open spaces.
- Support the conservation of trees, hedgerows, 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.

Awareness, lobbying and partnerships

In all relevant communications the parish council will promote awareness of and information on environmental issues within the community.

Where appropriate, we will act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems.

We will ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy.

Sustainable procurement

The Parish Council will seek to minimise environmental damage caused through the transportation of goods by sourcing materials and services locally so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met.

We will encourage that the use of pesticides/herbicides are minimised in our land management and horticultural activities.

Sustainable travel

The Parish Council will:

Encourage members and officers to car-share where possible when a car journey must be made on Council business.

Promote, and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport.

Status and Review

This policy was adopted by Kingskerswell Parish Council at a meeting of the full council on 29th January 2024. It will be reviewed periodically. Date of last review January 2026.