

# All Saints Parish Council

## Environmental Policy

### 1. Introduction

All Saints Parish Council (The Council) pledges to ensure that in all its activities it behaves responsibly towards the environment. The Council recognises that the quality of the local environment is a vital ingredient in contributing to the quality of life for residents and visitors to the Parish. It also recognises that by improving the local environment this will contribute towards improving the overall sustainability of the community through healthier people, better social cohesion, economic prosperity and a diverse and rich natural environment.

### 2. Environmental Legislation

The Council will be aware of and act accordingly within the follow parliamentary Acts.

#### [The Water Act 2003.](#)

This Act places a duty on all public bodies to take into account, where relevant, the desirability of conserving water supplied or to be supplied to Council premises.

#### [The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#)

Any Public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

#### [Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006.](#)

This Act gives specific powers to town and parish councils to tackle climate change. The Act places an obligation on town and parish councils to improve their energy efficiency.

#### [Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.](#)

This Act extends the statutory offence of dropping litter and enables town and parish councils to authorise officers to serve fixed penalty notices for the litter offence under section 88 of the 1990 Environmental Protection Act; gives town and parish councils the power to issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti and fly-posting offences; and allows town and parish councils to create offences relating to the control of dogs and replaces the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

### 3. All Saints Parish Council Commitments

The Council will ensure that all its activities will be efficient and environmentally considerate. Key activities will include but not exhaustively:

- The prohibition of single use plastic bottles
- Using forestry stewardship commission or recycled paper
- All waste will be segregated or recycled in accordance with EDDC requirements
- Regular review of energy usage at any council run premises

## 4. Recycling and Waste

The Council will minimise its waste production wherever possible, by reducing, repairing and reusing resources, and by recycling the waste its activities produce, where facilities exist. Rubbish will be disposed of safely, following the correct procedures, and only licensed contractors will be used to deal with hazardous wastes.

It will support and promote schemes developed by East Devon District Council to cut the amount of household waste generated and ending in landfill and will encourage households to recycle and compost.

The Council will consider the possibility of pollution in its risk assessment procedure and will use this system to minimise the risks and implement mitigation strategies.

## 5. Planning and Development

The Council will ensure that environmental impacts are considered when commenting on planning applications.

The Council will also press for the use of planning obligations (section 106 agreements) to promote sustainable development and mitigate environmental impacts resulting from developments.

All Saints Parish Council will endeavour to conserve and protect the parish's outstanding natural and historic environment.

It will ensure that sustainable development principles are considered within the development of the All Saints Neighbourhood Plan.

## 6. Climate Change and Energy Conservation

The Council will monitor its energy use and improve upon energy efficiency within its buildings by adopting energy-saving measures, e.g. purchasing electrical equipment with good energy ratings. The Council will increase awareness of energy efficiency amongst employees and encourage energy-conserving behaviour, e.g. switching off lights that are not needed and switching off equipment rather than using standby.

In the longer term, the Council will investigate the feasibility of sustainable supplies of energy to power its premises.

## 7. Rural Environment

All Saints is a rural parish. The Council will work both directly, and with East Devon, to undertake specific roadway works that contribute to the improvement of the Parish environment. These include maintaining public footpaths and rights of ways, litter collections, dog fouling and emptying all types of waste bins.

The Council will work alongside all the Parish's community groups to ensure that the Council's environmental drives are understood and adhered to.

## 8. Transport

The Council will continue to encourage sustainable transport systems, promoting non-polluting modes of transport within the parish, such as cycling and walking.

The Council will promote speed reduction within the parish to reduce pollution, wherever possible.

## 9. Bio-Diversity and Green Spaces

The Council will, wherever possible, consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities, but particularly regarding land management.

The Council will seek to manage green spaces within the parish in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity. This includes the management of invasive plants.

The Council is committed to ensure any use of pesticides is done in an environmentally responsible manner and to identify environmentally-friendly alternatives.

The Council will protect and, where possible, enhance the quality of the parish's natural environment and open spaces.

## 10. Sustainable Procurement

The Council procurement will be continually assessed for sustainability implications, with the intention of purchasing renewable/recycled, environmentally low-impact and recyclable materials, so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met.

Where possible, the Council will use local suppliers to encourage economic growth within the local area.

It will not support the use of Single Use Plastic items unless their use is unavoidable.

It will support and promote the selling of local goods and produce, recognising that sourcing materials goods, services produced locally, where feasible, will reduce carbon emissions resulting from transporting produce.

## 11. Raising Awareness

The Council will encourage the creation of an environmental group focusing on promoting the environmental well-being of All Saints Parish.

The Council will engage with other the local community organisations and tiers of local government, on conservation projects.

The Council will promote awareness of, and information on, environmental issues within the community.

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