

Southborough Town Council



Environmental Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 Southborough Town Council is committed to supporting the creation of a sustainable community. The Council acknowledges that our activities may have an adverse impact on the environment and that we can take steps to minimise those impacts.

1.2 The Council attaches importance to matters relating to the environment and will strive to comply with, and where possible exceed, all environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice, as applicable.

1.3 The Council will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment.

2. Aim of Policy

2.1 The aims of the Southborough Town Council Environmental Policy are:

- To promote the importance and value of a quality environment and its contribution to the quality of life for the community of Southborough and High Brooms;
- To support our community in its enjoyment of our local environment;
- To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment.

3. Energy and Water Management

3.1 The Town Council is committed to responsible energy management and will promote energy efficiency throughout its operation. Examples of which are:

- Encouraging staff to ensure that electrical equipment and unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use;
- Encouraging staff to close windows and external doors when heating is on;
- Encouraging staff to minimise the use of electric heaters;
- Encouraging staff, allotment holders and hirers to use water efficiently on Council premises;
- Where possible utilise water butts fed by down pipes as a non-drinking water source;

- Ensure staff and council members minimise vehicle miles driven on council business.

4. Recycling and Conservation

4.1 The Town Council will:

- Encourage the recycling of wastepaper and cardboard at all operations and where possible plastics and glass;
- Promote and encourage recycling across the Town;
- Use Recycled Paper products where feasible;
- Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of waste paper;
- Observe its duty of care conscientiously with all its waste contracts;
- Utilise electronic communications wherever possible;
- Minimise pollution and prevent where possible;
- Encourage composting facilities at relevant operated amenities such as allotment sites.

5. The Natural Environment

5.1 The Town Council will:

- Seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of the natural environment of Southborough and High Brooms and its open spaces;
- Support the conservation of trees, hedgerows, pond and streams;
- Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities but particularly with regard to the management of its land;
- Seek to manage its green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity.

6. Awareness, Lobbying and Partnerships

6.1 The Town Council will:

- In all relevant communications promote awareness of, and information on environmental issues within the community;
- Where appropriate, act as a voice for 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 on the Town.

7. Sustainable Procurement

7.1 The Town 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;
- Ensure that all catering, including tea/coffee in offices, is sourced from local, organic, fair trade or other recognised certification schemes;
- Any timber or similar products used by the Council will be from FSC certified sources;
- Commit to developing a plan to reduce and eventually stop altogether the use of pesticides/herbicides on all land management and horticultural activities.

8. Sustainable Travel

8.1 The Town 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;
- Ensure all Council vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard.

9. Review

9.1 This policy and its application will be subject to annual review to ensure that it continues to reflect the aims and objectives of the Council and promotes continuous environmental improvement throughout the Council's operations

Approved by Full Council on 27 September 2018