

MESSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Environmental & Sustainability Policy

Introduction

Messingham Parish Council acknowledges that a climate emergency has been declared nationally.

The Parish Council recognises its responsibility to reduce its carbon and environmental footprints and is committed to supporting and contributing to a more sustainable future for the community.

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 the Council.

The policy applies to all Messingham Parish Council operations.

Energy and Water Management

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

The Parish Council will encourage, staff, members and volunteers to:

- Switch off electrical equipment and unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use.
- Close windows and external / internal doors when the heating is on.
- Minimise the use of electric heaters.
- Use water efficiently.
- Ensure the heating thermostat is lowered when council premises are not in use.

The Parish Council will:

- Seek to ensure Council buildings are sufficiently insulated.
- Seek to introduce use of energy efficient lighting and the implementation of renewable energy sources.

Waste & Recycling

The Parish Council will:

- Encourage the recycling of wastepaper and cardboard and where possible plastics and glass.
- Encourage the reduction in the use of resources, and use recycled products where feasible and reusing materials whenever possible.
- Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of wastepaper.
- Utilise electronic communications whenever possible.
- Promote and encourage recycling across the Parish of Messingham.
- Promote the council allotments, to encourage residents to grow their own produce.
- Promote sustainable practices at the council allotments eg. collection of rainwater for irrigation and composting.
- Observe its duty of care conscientiously with its waste contracts. Waste contract licences will be requested to ensure proper and safe disposal of any materials originating from the premises.

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Biodiversity and Green Spaces

The Parish Council will:

- Seek to protect and where possible, enhance the quality of the natural environment and open spaces in the Parish.
- Support the conservation of trees and hedgerows and other habitats.
- Consider the conservation and promotion of local diversity 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.
- Encourage that the use of pesticides/herbicide are minimised in its land management and horticultural activities.

Awareness, Lobbying and Partnerships

The Parish Council will:

- Promote public awareness on environmental issues within the community.
- Where appropriate, act as a voice for the 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.
- Work with its partners in the adoption of low impact / nature positive practices.
- Design a data gathering system and annually report and monitor its environmental performance.

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 equality are met.
- Seek, wherever possible to use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy.

Sustainable Travel

The Parish Council will:

- Encourage staff and members to car-share where possible when a car journey must be made on Council business.
- Encourage staff and members to minimise vehicle miles driven on Council business.
- Promote and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport.

This policy will be reviewed annually to incorporate up to date national legislation, local authority policy, and emerging technology.

Date Policy Adopted	10 June 2024	Minute reference	1808 36e)
Date of Last Review	9 June 2025	Minute reference	1882 37a)
Date of Next Review	June 2026		