

# Brixworth Parish Council

# Environment Policy



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## **Introduction**

Brixworth Parish Council is committed to support and actively encourage the creation of a sustainable community. The Council recognises that some of its activities may have some negative impact on the environment, and the aim of this policy is to establish broad objectives to enable the development of actions which mitigate the effects of these actions/Council operations.

The policy applies to all Brixworth Parish Council operations and council activities. It should be read alongside the Brixworth Green Plan (when adopted /date of agreement of this by council to be inserted).

## **Energy and Water Management**

The Parish Council is committed to responsible energy management and will promote energy efficiency throughout its business. Examples of which include but are not limited to, are:

- Encouraging staff to ensure that electrical equipment and unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use
- Use the most efficient light bulbs in offices and on footway lights
- Encouraging staff to close windows and external doors when heating is on
- Encouraging staff to minimise the use of electric heaters
- Encouraging staff, to use water efficiently on Council premises
- Ensure staff and members minimise vehicle miles driven in fossil fuelled vehicles on council business through for example but not limited to, the promotion of active travel, car share opportunities, public transport where available

## **Recycling and Conservation**

The Parish Council will endeavour to:

- Encourage the recycling of wastepaper and cardboard at all operations and where possible the recycling of plastics and glass
- Promote and encourage recycling across the Parish
- Use Recycled Paper products where feasible, including folders, printer papers, toilet rolls and envelopes
- Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of waste paper
- Observe its duty of care conscientiously with its waste contract
- Utilise electronic communications for written communications wherever possible
- Minimise pollution and prevent where possible, through for example but not limited to, the use of appropriate waste bins and recycling, use of appropriate environmentally friendly products – cleaning, maintenance and garden products such as herbicides and pesticides

## **Biodiversity and Green Spaces**

The Parish Council will endeavour to:

- Seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of Brixworth'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 its land
- Seek to manage its green spaces in a manner that promotes, protects and increases biodiversity in line with Daventry Local Plan Part 2 ENV5 - Biodiversity

## **Awareness, Lobbying and Partnerships**

The Parish Council will endeavour to:

- In all relevant communications promote awareness of, and information on environmental issues within the Brixworth community
- Actively seek opportunities to inform and educate on matters of environmental and biodiversity concerns
- 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
- Where appropriate work with its partners to minimise the effects of noise and light pollution on the Village
- Explore methods on how environmental performance can be measured and implement them where possible

### **Sustainable Procurement**

The Parish Council will endeavour to:

- 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 the use of pesticides/herbicides are minimised in its land management and horticultural activities and environmentally friendly methods are employed wherever possible
- Ensure the tender process considers whether the tenderer's practices are compatible with this plan

### **Sustainable travel**

The Parish Council will endeavour to:

- Encourage car-sharing where possible when a car journey must be made on Council business
- Promote, and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport

### **Management and Maintenance**

The Parish Council will endeavour to:

- Assess the use of any chemicals necessary for the carrying out of its duties, ensuring there appropriate safe disposal
- Reject the use of harmful pesticides such as for example any neonicotinoids, finding environmentally friendly options
- Routinely service and maintain equipment to ensure efficient operation

### **Litter & Dog Fouling**

The Parish Council will endeavour to:

- Actively seek to discourage all forms of littering including dog fouling. Any incidents brought to the Council's attention will be investigated and reported to the relevant authorities in line with any current Public Space Protection Orders

### **Building & Development**

The Parish Council will endeavour to:

- Support planning policies (as detailed within the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan) that conserve the countryside, with the aim of minimising the impact of the built form on the natural environment
- Promote and support the use of green energy – in line with Joint Core Strategy S10 Sustainable Development Principles and S11 Low Carbon and Renewable Energy and Daventry Local Plan part 2 ENV9 Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development

### **Adherence to Policy**

It is the responsibility of the Clerk to notify and provide copies of this policy to staff. This policy will be promoted through the Council Website and social media channels.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed regularly and amended as necessary.