

EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Strategy / Policy Statement

East Leake Parish Council is determined to serve the best interests of the local community by protecting and actively promoting the improvement of the local environment. It will endeavour to minimise negative and maximise positive effects on the environment as a result of its activities, integrating the consideration of environmental issues into its decision-making processes.

Context

East Leake Parish Council has declared a climate emergency in line with that which has been declared nationally and by Rushcliffe Borough Council

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.

The Parish Council will specifically consider the following:

1. Seek ways to reduce the impact that operating its assets has on the environment (by reducing energy needs for instance).
2. Ensure wherever possible safe walking and cycling routes within the parish are available.
3. The impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment.
4. Where possible and appropriate, replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives.
5. The impact that execution of the Parish Council's activities may have on the environment.

Aims

In all its activities East Leake Parish Council will aim to;

1. Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the buildings, equipment, and energy it uses and the administration of its activities.
2. Seek, wherever possible, to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, updated and measured against recognised, best practice examples.
3. Where possible, affordable and commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, support local initiatives aimed at climate change and or, biodiversity protection or enhancement.

Principles

The Parish Council will strive to;

1. Assess its activities and identify areas where it can minimise impacts and, where possible, eliminate all forms of pollution.
2. Avoid waste and encourage the appropriate conservation, re-use, and recycling of resources.
3. Avoid and eliminate the use of single-use plastic, e.g., bottles and wrapping paper wherever possible.
4. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of the Parish's built environment by use of The Neighbourhood Plan, Community Plan and the Conservation Area regulations.
5. Minimise the use of fossil fuels by reducing, where possible, the use of powered vehicles and encourage its staff to walk to areas of work. Encourage the staff to plan their workday in advance so that essential vehicle movements can be kept to a minimum.
6. Use whole energy principle when assessing the benefit of any scheme (whole energy principles ensure the result of any activity is neutral or positive).
7. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
8. Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
9. Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing.
10. Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible, disposing of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
11. Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources for Council buildings.
12. Respect and protect natural resources by practising conservation and good management.
13. Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment.
14. Encourage its members and employees, and members of other organisations, to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times.
15. Conserve and enhance the character and quality of the Parish's built environment by use of:
The Neighbourhood Plan; Community Plan and the Conservation Area regulations.

Additionally, the Parish Council will strive to;

1. Encourage residents to walk or cycle by encouraging developers to consider connectivity of all developments and by the provision of cycle stands within the village centre.
2. Seek to support and promote renewable energy projects and energy reduction strategies within the parish.

Tenders

Since the Parish Council, as a public body, is also required to secure good value for money, purchasing decisions will take account of both Environmental and Value-for-money factors. Tenders will make clear what requirements are mandatory and which are desirable but discretionary.

General

The Parish Council will:

1. Encourage each member and employee of the council to take responsibility for the implementation of the Environmental Policy
2. Encourage volunteers and members of other organisations to adopt good practices so as improve their performance and minimise their impact on the environment.
3. Review and, where possible, improve its performance each year with positive action in any areas of non-compliance.