

Old Catton Parish Council

Environmental Policy

Strategy

Old Catton Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its area of operation whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result.

Context

The Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared nationally and that the global emissions deadline is set for 2030, with the net zero deadline set for 2050.

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 Council will specifically consider the following:

- Seek ways to reduce the impact that operating its assets has on the environment (by reducing energy needs for instance)
- Ways in which it can produce renewable energy (directly and/or indirectly)
- The impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment
- Where possible and appropriate, replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives
- The impact that execution of the Parish Council's activities may have on the environment

Aims

In all its activities the Parish Council will aim to:

- Promote the importance and value of a quality environment and its contribution to quality of life for our community
- Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the buildings and equipment it uses and the administration of its activities
- 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 practise examples
- Where possible, affordable and commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, support local initiatives aimed at climate change and or, biodiversity protection or enhancement

Objectives

Old Catton Parish Council will strive to:

- Minimise the creation of waste and, wherever possible, recycle or reuse materials
- Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- Use whole energy principle when assessing the benefit of any scheme (whole energy principles ensure the result of any activity is neutral or positive)
- Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge
- Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing
- Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods
- Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment
- Respect and protect natural resources by practising conservation and good management
- Encourage its Members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times
- Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources
- Seek to support and promote renewable energy projects within the Parish
- Support energy reduction strategies within the Parish
- Develop and support zero growth strategies within the Parish

Adopted: 14th February 2022

Reviewed: 9th January 2023