

Bleadon Parish Council

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Bleadon Parish Council (BPC) owns or manages a number of open spaces (play area, picnic areas, allotments, footpaths, etc.) as well as the public conveniences and two unmetered street lights.

We believe that energy and water use should be minimised while maintaining health and safety standards; and the land should be used and managed in a manner that benefits wildlife and the environment as well as for the enjoyment of parishioners.

Actions of BPC in the community often have an environmental impact and the Council needs to be mindful of this in its decision-making. BPC is in a position of influence and may be able to use this to improve and help protect the local environment.

2. ROLE OF BPC

As a Parish Council we aim to:

- i. build environmental considerations and sustainability into our policies
- ii. minimise environmental pollution and waste in our activities and encourage the conservation, re-use and appropriate recycling of resources within the Parish
- iii. promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- iv. use our influence in planning matters to protect the local environment

3. BPC ACTION

Specific actions include, but are not limited by, the following:

- a. Installing low-energy lighting where appropriate.
- b. Restricting the Council's use of herbicides, using them only when other methods of necessary control have been exhausted or are impractical.
- c. Influencing partners and contractors to promote the conservation, re-use and appropriate recycling of resources.
- d. Incorporating environmental considerations and sustainability into new policies and existing ones when they are reviewed.
- e. Sourcing goods and materials locally where possible.
- f. Selecting from product ranges with good environmental standards and ratings in production, use and disposal.
- g. Preparing contingency plans to deal with foreseeable environmental incidents.

4. BIODIVERSITY

BPC aims to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the parish. We will:

- a. liaise with others to support or undertake surveys in order to understand the biodiversity position and needs of the parish.
- b. consider advice from recognised environmental bodies to take steps where necessary to actively manage the flora and fauna in the Parish, which on some occasions may require taking pest control measures (a Pest Control Policy is in preparation).
