

TARVIN PARISH COUNCIL

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

The Parish Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an environmental and sustainability policy which aims for the Parish to be seen as a vibrant and prosperous hub of the local rural community, offering an attractive place to live, work and play for people of all ages.

Aims

- Tarvin Parish Council is committed to protecting the environment and the natural heritage of the Parish and recognises the importance and value of this environment and its contribution to quality of life for the village and wider community.
- In carrying out its own activities the Parish Council will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting the local and wider environment.
- In conjunction with businesses, community groups and the general public, the Parish Council aims to help meet the needs of today's society without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

Council activities

In carrying out its own activities, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will:

- Minimise waste and pollution.
- Follow a hierarchy of reduce, re-use and recycle.
Reducing the use of resources, Re-using materials whenever possible, Recycling when waste is produced.
- Seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide information electronically as much as possible.
- Avoid the use of single-use plastic items where meetings are held, and when on Council business.
- Seek to minimise the impact of travelling on Council business, where practicable and safe, by, walking, cycling, car sharing or the use of public transport. When purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will give preference to:
 - Local suppliers who pay, at minimum, the Living Wage
 - Options that are environmentally friendly and certified as Fair Trade
 - Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials.
 - Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Contractors and maintenance

The Parish Council will require that contractors, councillors, and volunteers who carry out maintenance on behalf of the Council:

- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals.
- Minimise adverse impacts on air quality.
- Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
- Where practicable use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species.

Decision Making

In its decision making the Parish Council will take careful consideration of:

- The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport when practicable.
- The need to reduce, re-use and recycle to protect resources.
- The need to avoid adverse impacts on air quality.
- The need to conserve and improve natural habitats.
- The need to protect vulnerable and protected species.

General

In addition, where the Parish Council has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economic, it will:

- Encourage a 'Plastic Free'¹ Parish by discouraging the use of single use plastics within the village and encouraging businesses to use alternatives.
- Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children.
- Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Encourage reduction, re-use and recycling of resources within the Parish.
- Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve energy efficiency of developments, both new-build and changes, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Recognise the importance of hedgerows as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife, and which may support many animals and plants.
- Encourage local action in support of the environment.
- Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life.
- Encourage any person or organisation carrying out works in the Parish to do so in line with the policy.

¹ Plastic free does not mean avoiding all use of plastic; it refers to eliminating single-use plastics such as single use plastic bottles, plastic cups and plastic straws.