



Graveley Parish Council

Environment Policy

Adopted on 15.03.2022

[Minute reference 22/031]

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Policy Statement

Graveley Parish Council (GPC) is committed to the creation of a sustainable community, balancing and integrating economic, social and environmental components. It recognises Climate Emergency and agrees that all decisions taken by the Parish Council would take into consideration the environmental impact of that course of action. Developing a more sustainable community will benefit present-day residents and businesses, as well as future generations.

GPC is committed to the whole of the parish becoming cleaner and greener with the lowest carbon footprint possible.

GPC is seeking a high-quality built and natural environment for all and recognises the need to use its powers and influence to protect and improve the environment. GPC recognises its operations and activities have an impact on the environment. It has responsibilities to minimise adverse impacts and maximise positive impacts.

Policy Objective

To ensure where possible all operations and activities offered by the Parish Council are designed and maintained to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment.

To provide leadership to the community to ensure that the local and global environment considerations are intrinsic to actions by local authorities, residents, businesses and organisations.

Aims

The aim of this policy document is to guide members of Graveley Parish Council, in its internal activities, in the areas for which it is responsible, and in its dealing with outside bodies.

To achieve the policy objective GPC will:

1. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
2. Regularly update and improve policies in light of increasing understanding and knowledge.
3. Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations and consider the lifecycle impact of purchases. Reduce the use of single-use plastic where possible. Reuse waste materials where possible. Provide facilities for recycling and composting where possible. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
4. Minimise energy use and emissions to air. Use renewable energy resources as far as possible. Recommend energy conservation technology where applicable (including insulation, low energy light bulbs, low water use toilets).
5. Prepare, implement and monitor environmental action plans for playground and other public spaces and assets managed or leased by the GPC.
6. Respect and protect natural resources through conservation and good management.
 - a. Where possible conserve water from buildings and on allotments and check/protect external taps in winter.
 - b. Encourage users of GPC leased grounds and allotments to enhance biodiversity to encourage wildlife and plant-life where appropriate.
 - c. Cleaning fluids, polishes and glues etc should be as least environmentally damaging as possible. Bleach, solvents and pesticides harmful to the environment are to be avoided.

7. Where possible use contractors and suppliers who:-
 - a. Have an environmental policy which meets best practice and is updated regularly.
 - b. Are local, thus minimising transportation and supporting the local economy.

8. Consider the environmental impact of all planning applications submitted to it for comments from NHDC, with consistent up-to-date criteria:
 - a. What is the climate impact of the development and what avoidance of external energy and water usage has been incorporated within the application?
 - b. Is the application “sustainable” or dependent on car-usage?
 - c. How does the proposal assist in supporting the requirement for open spaces in accordance with national requirements?
 - e. How does the proposal support the additional need for educational services generated by the additional households?
 - f. How does the proposal add overall improvement to the community of Graveley?

9. The Council will promote awareness of, and information on, environmental issues within the community. It will act as a voice for local environmental concerns to those agencies given statutory powers to tackle problems.

10. Encourage community-led initiatives where appropriate.

11. Support initiatives that encourage sustainable transport, such as providing places for cycle parking, cycle path, recharging points for electric cars.

12. Work with and support other parishes, North Herts District Council, Hertfordshire County Council and other bodies to implement wider scale environmental initiatives.

Declaration

Graveley Parish Council is fully committed to safeguarding the local and global environment. All members of Graveley Parish Council should read the Council’s Environment Policy. Having read the Policy, they should be proactive in providing leadership within the community and within their decision making for Parish Council activities.