

Walsingham Parish Council

Environment and Sustainability Policy

The Parish Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an environmental and sustainability policy.

Adopted.....10 July 2024
To be reviewed May 2025

1) Aims

- a) The 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 villages 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 other Parish Councils, North Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council, local businesses, community groups, schools and the public, the Parish Council aims to help meet the needs of today's society without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.
- b) The Parish Council will try to ensure development within the Parish, does not have an adverse effect on the River Stiffkey (an important chalk stream) and its catchment area.

2) Council activities

- a) In carrying out its own activities, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will
 - i) Minimise waste and pollution:
 - (1) Reducing the use of resources
 - (2) Re-using materials whenever possible
 - (3) Recycling when waste is produced
 - (4) Seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - (5) Provide information electronically as much as possible.
 - (6) Avoid and advocate against the use of single-use plastic items.
 - (7) Minimise the environmental impact of travelling on Council business, where practicable and safe, by, walking, cycling, car sharing or the use of public transport.
 - (8) Holding meetings by on-line mechanisms such as "webinars" where possible
 - ii) Procurement
 - (1) When purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will give preference to:
 - (a) Local suppliers
 - (b) Options that are environmentally friendly
 - (c) Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials
 - (d) Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

3) Contractors and maintenance

- a) The Parish Council will require that contractors, councillors and volunteers who carry out maintenance on Parish-managed land, or on other areas of the Parish at the instigation of Council officers:
 - i) Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
 - ii) Minimise adverse impacts on air quality
 - iii) Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
 - iv) Where practicable use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species.

4) Decision Making

- a) In its decision making the Parish Council will take careful consideration of:
 - i) The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport when practicable.
 - ii) The need to reduce, re-use and recycle to protect resources
 - iii) The need to avoid adverse impacts on air quality

- iv) The need to conserve and improve natural habitats
- v) The need to protect vulnerable and protected species
- vi) The need to conserve the natural beauty of the environment and surrounding landscape.

5) General

- a) Where the Parish Council has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economic, it will:
 - i) Encourage a 'Plastic Free' Parish by discouraging the use of single use plastics within the parish and encouraging businesses to use alternatives
 - ii) Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children; promote and facilitate an annual litter pick.
 - iii) Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
 - iv) Encourage reduction, re-use and recycling of resources within the Parish.
 - v) Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve energy efficiency of developments, both new-build and changes, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - vi) Encourage new-builds and changes to be nature friendly, located close to public transport and amenities, to provide electric vehicle charge points.
 - vii) Encourage local action in support of the environment
 - viii) Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life
 - ix) Ensure the nature conservation value of the playing field, verges and surrounding landscape by encouraging maintenance and enhancements.
 - x) Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood, ditches and watercourses as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife, and a support for animals and plants.
 - xi) Maintain the Public Rights of Way (PROW) to foster and encourage biodiversity whilst still meeting the legal requirements to clear them to the required widths
 - xii) Encourage any person or organisation carrying out works in the Parish to do so in line with this policy.