

Gurnard Parish Council

Environmental & Biodiversity Policy

Our Aim

Gurnard Parish Council cares for the environment through its own practices and by encouraging others. The Council will endeavour to be as conscientious as possible about biodiversity, conservation, the use of resources and recycling.

Policy

The Council will keep aware of the environmental regulations that apply to its business and ensure that its legal obligations are met.

The Council will operate suitable procedures and systems in order to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and look at ways to limit its environmental impact.

The Council will communicate this policy to its community through typical channels such as normal meetings, work planning and newsletters. It will encourage suggestions of ways to reduce the environmental impact.

The Council will encourage the minimising of the amount of waste being produced and going to landfill and encourage environmentally friendly ways of working through its and the residents' processes such those listed below.

The Council will encourage measures to promote diversity in the community, and will work towards compliance in all of its actions with Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

General

- ❖ Maximise energy efficiency e.g. through use of low energy light bulbs and insulation of pipes
- ❖ Sourcing materials and services locally where possible
- ❖ Considering the durability and end of life disposal implications of products before purchasing
- ❖ Encouraging the finding of ways to reduce water consumption and checking for leaks
- ❖ Promoting and using local recycling initiatives
- ❖ Encouraging the turning off of machinery, electrical appliances and lights when not in use
- ❖ Minimise travel and encourage car sharing & public transport
- ❖ Ensuring suppliers and contractors are aware of this environmental policy (*such as by providing them with a copy when they are asked for evidence of their public liability insurance*)
- ❖ Encouraging the disposing of waste properly to prevent pollution or harm
- ❖ Encourage businesses and community groups to carry out energy audits of premises and take appropriate action

Office and Administration

- ❖ Purchasing paper environmentally
- ❖ Only printing/photocopying when necessary and recycling waste paper
- ❖ Using both sides of paper whenever possible
- ❖ Using a minimum number of promotional leaflets as is necessary and returning or recycling those that are not used
- ❖ Encouraging the recycling of used ink cartridges and old mobile phones
- ❖ Use of email or telephone as a preference to the postal service
- ❖ Encouraging the recycling of Christmas Cards

Management and Maintenance

- ❖ Using recycled materials where appropriate and using companies such as Wiltshire Wood Recycling
- ❖ Using sustainable energy sources (*such as solar lighting*)
- ❖ Assessing chemicals used (*e.g. cleaning/gardening*) and ensuring their appropriate safe disposal
- ❖ Minimising use of harmful pesticides
- ❖ Composting and shredding garden waste, and controlled burning only when necessary
- ❖ Recycling Christmas Trees
- ❖ Promoting the composting of waste where possible
- ❖ Using black recycling boxes effectively
- ❖ Planting trees and using indigenous species as much as possible
- ❖ Minimise use of peat based composts
- ❖ Creating, enhancing and protecting wildlife habitats
- ❖ Reviewing ground maintenance regimes to improve biodiversity
- ❖ Encouraging the routine servicing and maintenance of equipment & plant to ensure efficient operation
- ❖ Encouraging the use of recycling facilities at Lynbottom
- ❖ To consider the adverse impact of planning and development proposals on diversity