

Hatfield Peverel Parish Council Environmental Policy v1.0**1. Policy Statement**

Hatfield Peverel Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity, whilst recognising the competing interests on the land that it owns.

2. Context

The Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared at national, regional and within some organisations, local level.

The Parish Council has a duty in exercising its statutory responsibilities to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 section 40. The Parish Council will consider the impact its activities have on both biodiversity and climate change issues and will endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes, where this is practicable and affordable within the resources and financial capabilities of council.

The Parish Council will specifically consider the following:

1. The impact that operating its assets has on the environment
2. The impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment
3. Where possible and appropriate, replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives
4. The impact that execution of the Parish Council's activities may have on the environment.

3. Aims

In all its activities the Parish Council will aim to:

1. Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the buildings and equipment it uses and the administration of its activities
2. Seek, wherever possible, to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is regularly reviewed, updated and measured against recognised, best practice examples
3. Where possible, affordable and commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, support local initiatives aimed at climate change and or, biodiversity protection or enhancement.

4. Objectives

Hatfield Peverel Parish Council will endeavour to:

1. Comply with current relevant environmental legislation and regulations
2. Regularly update and make improvements in light of increased understanding and knowledge
3. Avoid, where possible, the creation of unnecessary waste and environmental damage by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing
4. Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible
5. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods
6. Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources
7. Respect and protect natural resources by practicing conservation and good management
8. Manage its land, verges and other green spaces using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity and protect and enhance habitats for wildlife
9. Increase tree coverage in the village
10. Increase and improve hedgerows in the village
11. Use pesticides infrequently and where unavoidable in an environmentally responsible manner, wherever possible using environmentally friendly alternatives
12. Encourage a 'Plastic Free Hatfield Peverel Parish' by discouraging the use of single use plastics within the parish and encouraging businesses to use alternatives
13. Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children
14. Encourage and facilitate walking and cycling in the village
15. Promote air quality and reduction of traffic emissions
16. Encourage land owners to ensure the quality of rivers, streams and ponds running through or on their land
17. Engage with developers and Braintree District Council to ensure that new builds in the parish deliver their environmental mitigation measures required in Planning Consents, ideally exceeding 10% biodiversity net gain
18. Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment
19. Encourage its Members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times
20. Encourage the Parish Council's lease holders to be aware of and comply with the Council's Environmental Policy.

5. Review

This document was approved for use at the meeting of the Parish Council on 15th May 2023, it shall be reviewed annually.