

Barnwell Parish Council Environmental Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Barnwell Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its area of operation whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result.

CONTEXT,

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

The Parish Council will consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity 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

AIMS

In all its activities the Parish Council will aim to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment.

To achieve this Barnwell Parish Council will:

1. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
2. Progressively build environmental concerns and sustainability into all of its policies and planning decisions.
3. Prepare, implement and monitor annually an environmental action plan.
4. Educate in respect of its environmental policies by involving the local community and encouraging local action in support of the environment.
4. Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations and consider the lifecycle impact of purchases. In particular reduce the use of single-use plastic where possible and recycle waste paper etc.
5. Minimise waste in BPC activities. Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible. Provide facilities for recycling where possible if not already done so by NNDC. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
6. Minimise fossil fuel and energy use and emissions to air. Use renewable energy sources as far as possible. Recommend energy conservation technology where applicable (including insulation, low energy light bulbs, low water use toilets)
7. Respect, protect and enhance the valued green spaces and natural resources through conservation and good management.
8. Encourage users of BPC owned grounds to enhance biodiversity to encourage wildlife and plant-life where appropriate.
9. 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.
10. Reduce the need for movement of people by satisfying local needs and encouraging walking, cycling and public transport.