



## Environmental & Sustainability Policy

### REVIEW AND AMENDMENT RECORD

Reviewer / Amender	Date	Amendments
<b>Full Council</b>	<b>23 May 2023</b>	<b>Adopted</b>
<b>Fiona Richardson</b>	<b>21 Nov 2024</b>	<b>Amendments</b>

Section	Change Made	Reason for Change
Policy Statement	Added alignment with national sustainability goals and statutory regulations.	Ensure the policy is in line with national environmental standards and obligations.
Aims	Clarified the scope of environmental protection (including footpaths and natural heritage areas).	Added clarity to specific areas of environmental responsibility.
Council Activities	Emphasised holding others accountable for environmental standards.	Strengthened accountability for environmental practices beyond the Parish Council itself.
Minimising Waste and Pollution	Rephrased to ensure clearer responsibility for reducing resource consumption.	Provided clearer and more actionable language for reducing waste and pollution.
Procurement	Added specific mention of the framework for best value.	Ensured the policy meets procurement standards in relation to sustainability.
Contractors and Maintenance	Strengthened language around promoting biodiversity and wildlife-friendly practices.	Highlighted the importance of biodiversity and wildlife protection in council activities.
Decision Making	Broadened focus on improving natural habitats and preserving the landscape.	Expanded decision-making scope to include habitat conservation and aesthetic value.
Trees & Wild Verges	Simplified and made language clearer about regular inspections and replacing trees.	Clarified procedures for tree management and care.
General	More explicit language on promoting plastic reduction and sustainable resources.	Enhanced clarity on the overall responsibility of the council for plastic reduction and sustainability.

## **Policy Statement**

1. Halton Parish Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment through the adoption of an Environmental & Sustainability Policy that aligns with national sustainability goals, statutory regulations, and best practice for local governance.

## **Aims**

2. Halton Parish Council aims to protect the environment, including footpaths, bridleways, and natural heritage areas within the Parish. The Council recognises the value of these areas in enhancing the quality of life for parishioners and the wider community, and it seeks to support the sustainable management of these resources.

## **Council Activities**

3. In its operations, the Parish Council will strive to make a positive contribution to both the local and wider environment. The Council will promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, reduce environmental pollution in all its activities, and hold contractors, suppliers, and others accountable to the same environmental standards.

## **Minimising Waste and Pollution**

4. The Council will minimise pollution and environmental impact by:
  - a. Reducing the consumption of resources.
  - b. Re-using materials wherever feasible.
  - c. Recycling waste produced in all activities.
  - d. Seeking to eliminate unnecessary energy use and reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.
  - e. Prioritising electronic communications to minimise paper waste.
  - f. Advocating against the use of single-use plastic items and encouraging alternatives.
  - g. Minimising the environmental impact of travel by promoting digital meetings, walking, cycling, and public transport where practical and safe.

## **Procurement**

5. When purchasing goods and services, the Parish Council will, where possible, and within the framework of best value, preference will be given to:
  - a. Local suppliers.
  - b. Environmentally friendly options.
  - c. Products made from recycled materials.
  - d. Products that are easily recyclable or biodegradable and can be disposed of sustainably.

## **Contractors and Maintenance**

6. The Parish Council will require contractors, councillors, and volunteers who maintain Parish-managed land to:

- a. Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals.
- b. Reduce negative impacts on air quality.
- c. Ensure that work benefits wildlife and the environment, where feasible.
- d. Use, where possible, locally sourced plants grown in the UK and, in suitable locations, promote the use of native wildflower and bee-friendly species.

### **Decision Making**

7. In decision-making processes, the Parish Council will consider the need to:

- a. Reduce, re-use, and recycle whenever possible.
- b. Minimise adverse effects on air quality.
- c. Conserve and improve natural habitats and ecosystems.
- d. Protect vulnerable and protected species.
- e. Preserve the natural beauty and landscape of the Parish.

### **Trees & Wild Verges**

8. In the management of trees and wild verges, the Parish Council will:

- a. Organise regular inspections and assessments.
- b. Remove dead, dying, or dangerous trees.
- c. Prune damaged or dangerous limbs as needed.
- d. Replace specimen trees with similar native species where possible.

### **General**

9. The Parish Council will take every opportunity to:

- a. Discourage the use of plastic within the Parish.
- b. Prevent and discourage littering of all kinds.
- c. Promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- d. Encourage the reduction, re-use, and recycling of resources.
- e. Acknowledge the importance of trees, hedgerows, and deadwood as vital green corridors for wildlife and biodiversity improvement.