

## **Environmental Policy**

### **Our Aim**

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

### **Introduction**

Stradbroke Parish Council will keep aware of environmental regulations that apply to its business and ensure that its legal obligations are met. The Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment within its area of operation whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result.

In all its activities the Council will aim to;

- i. Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the administration of its activities.
- ii. Seek, wherever possible, to use only contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, one which is continually reviewed, up-dated and measured against recognised, contemporary best practice examples.

### **Principles**

#### **ENERGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT**

The Council is committed to responsible energy management and will promote energy efficiency throughout its operation. Examples of which are:

- 1.1 Encouraging staff to ensure that electrical equipment and unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use
- 1.2 Encouraging staff to close windows and external doors when heating is on
- 1.3 Encouraging staff to minimise the use of electric heaters
- 1.4 Where possible utilise water butts fed by down pipes as a non-drinking water source
- 1.5 Ensure staff and members minimise vehicle miles driven on council business

#### **RECYCLING AND CONSERVATION**

The Council will:

- 2.1 Encourage the recycling of wastepaper and cardboard at all operations and where possible plastics and glass.
- 2.2 Promote and encourage recycling across the Parish
- 2.3 Use Recycled Paper products where feasible, including folders, business cards, printer papers, toilet rolls and envelopes.
- 2.4 Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of waste paper
- 2.5 Observe its duty of care conscientiously with all its waste contracts
- 2.6 Utilise electronic communications wherever possible
- 2.7 Minimise pollution and prevent where possible
- 2.8 Use composting facilities at relevant operated amenities.

## BIODIVERSITY AND GREEN SPACES

The Council will:

- 3.1 Seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of Stradbroke's natural environment and open spaces
- 3.2 Support the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams
- 3.3 Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities but particularly with regard to the management of its land
- 3.4 Seek to manage its green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity

## AWARENESS, LOBBYING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Council will:

- 4.1 In all relevant communications promote awareness of, and information on environmental issues within the community.
- 4.2 Where appropriate, act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems
- 4.3 Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy.
- 4.4 Where appropriate work with its partners to minimise the effects of noise and light pollution in the Parish.

## SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

The Council will:

- 5.1 Seek to minimise environmental damage caused through the transportation of goods by sourcing materials and services locally so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met.
- 5.2 Ensure that the use of pesticides/herbicides are minimised in its land management and horticultural activities

## SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

The Council will:

- 6.1 Encourage members and officers to car-share where possible when a car journey must be made on Council business
- 6.2 Promote, and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport