

Wellow Parish Council Environmental Policy

Policy Statement

Wellow Parish Council (WPC) (and its employees or contractors) will aim to carry out its business and activities ensuring that appropriate consideration is given to protect, maintain and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its area of operation.

Context

WPC is situated within numerous environmental protection areas, including the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Bristol-Bath Green Belt, two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and a Conservation Area.

Wellow is nationally recognised for its important wildlife and natural heritage. Over many centuries the communities in Wellow have co-existed with this beautiful landscape and developed a thriving and idyllic Parish.

It is therefore of utmost importance that WPC, on behalf of the local community, act as stewards and safeguards this precious natural heritage, in order that generations to come continue to benefit from living in such a beautiful, natural place.

WPC recognises that a climate emergency has been declared nationally and by Bath and North East Somerset Council in March 2019.

WPC acknowledges the potential adverse impact of its operations on the natural environment and seeks to minimise these wherever possible.

Scope

All employees, contractors, stakeholders and those receiving grant funding from WPC and users of WPC owned resources (land and buildings).

This document also has a bearing on those with delegated authority to purchase materials and or goods from suppliers and who instruct/employ contractors to undertake various types of work with or on behalf of Council, as these third-party activities can have a direct impact on the environment

Aims

Where possible, practical, affordable and commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, WPC will strive to:

- Reduce our carbon and environmental footprint in all aspects of our operations, and evolve over time as new information/technology becomes available
- Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing, recycle and reuse waste materials where possible, and dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods
- Seek ways to reduce the impact that operating its assets has on the environment (for example by reducing energy requirements)
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and update our policies and practices in line with any changes in legislation
- Seek, wherever possible, to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, updated and measured against recognised best practice examples
- Respect and protect natural resources by practicing conservation and good land and waterway management
- Reduce risks from environmental, health or safety hazards for parishioners
- Consider the environmental impact of every planning application and / or development proposal and favour those with the lowest impact, e.g. wildlife friendly, carbon neutral / low energy designs
- Encourage local renewable energy schemes which may benefit parishioners
- Encourage local initiatives aimed at mitigation of the harmful effects of climate change and / or biodiversity protection and enhancement - for example those aimed at reduction of the community carbon footprint
- Encourage the use of sustainable transport within the parish and support projects which improve such methods, ensuring suitability for the needs of our rural community

- Encourage a culture of understanding and participation in environmental issues through education, information and consultation
- Review all of our activities, products and services annually to evaluate their environmental impact

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly and amended as necessary.

Adopted	7th February 2022: Min 10.02.22
Reviewed	4th March 2024 agenda item: