

West Bletchley Parish Council

Sustainable Environment Policy

West Bletchley Parish Council is committed to protecting and maintaining the quality of the environment by managing its land and assets and carrying out its services in an environmentally sensitive way where this is practical and economical. The Parish recognises the growing importance of environmental considerations and will, wherever practicable promote the concepts of sustainable development. Sustainable development is about 'meeting the needs of today's society without compromising future generation's ability to meet their own needs' (Brundtland report 1987).

The Council has commissioned a Carbon Footprint Audit and will take positive action to reduce emissions at source.

1. West Bletchley Parish Council will comply with all relevant environmental legislation/regulation.

2. West Bletchley Parish Council will promote the responsible use of resources, by purchasing from reputable local suppliers, recycling materials, using recycled goods wherever practicable and installing energy saving measures at all of its premises, where it is reasonable to do so.

3. West Bletchley Parish Council's Health & Safety policy and legislation are to be observed when disposing of waste, to ensure responsible working practices, prevent pollution and reduce our impact on the environment.

4. Specialist companies which deal with restricted materials such as asbestos, will be engaged to ensure the safe removal of the same.

5. When removing material from the Council's property, consideration is to be given to whether items can be re-located elsewhere, or if the material can be recycled before being disposed of.

6. Recycling bins at the Council's premises are to be installed wherever practicable and collection of material scheduled to take place on an as and when basis, according to the volume of material to be collected.

7. Computer consumables, fluorescent light tubes and batteries will be disposed of appropriately in accordance with the WEEE regulations (waste electrical and electronic equipment). Mobile phones and computer equipment will be securely disposed of by licensed companies, after measures have been taken to remove any data which could be abused.

8. Water butts and compost bins are encouraged to be installed at the Parish Council's allotment sites to help reduce water costs and encourage home composting respectively.

9. Good housekeeping and regular maintenance of all the Council's buildings, facilities and equipment are to be undertaken, to minimise the incidence of avoidable major revenue expenditure.

10. Water, electrical equipment, lights and heating are to be turned off when not required, to conserve resources and to cut costs.

11. Price comparisons for utility services are to be undertaken in advance of the termination of contracts, to ensure that value for money is actively sought alongside sustainable energy sources where possible.

12. Local suppliers are to be used wherever possible for routinely ordered goods, to promote local business and to reduce transport costs and environmental impact to a minimum.

13. Non-confidential information is to be disseminated by e-mail wherever possible to reduce paper, printing and postage costs.

14. Where hard copy documents are required, these will be printed via the Office photocopier on double-sided paper. Colour printing via the Parish Office individual printers is to be undertaken only if necessary.

15. The Parish Council will when commenting on planning applications:

- i) support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats,
- ii) actively support small and large-scale planning applications for renewable energy in the area where appropriate,
- iii) request that all applications for new homes be zero-carbon.

16. Grounds maintenance programmes are to include biodiversity considerations wherever possible, to encourage wildlife.

17. Bark chippings from winter bed works are to be used within the Parish woodlands as footpaths and in our allotment site.

18. Where feasible, measures will be taken to reduce the amount of chemical spraying by Landscape team within the Parish.

19. Identify and provide appropriate training, advice and information for staff / councillors to facilitate understanding of and participation in the Climate Change Agenda.

20. This policy is to be observed by Councillors, members of staff, contractors, and representatives of other organisations working on behalf of the Council.

Reviewed July 2020