



1. Purpose

To promote and ensure appropriate consideration is given to the environment while Westbourne Parish Council and its employees or contractors are conducting its business and activities. In order to do this, the Parish Council needs to take responsibility for its actions and have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

2. Scope

The scope of this policy includes all employees, contractors, those receiving grant funding from the Parish Council and users of Parish Council owned resources. It also has a bearing on those with delegated authority to purchase materials and/or goods from suppliers and to instruct/employ contractors to undertake various types of work with or on behalf of the Parish Council, as these third party activities can have a direct impact on the environment.

3. Policy statement

The Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared nationally and by Chichester District Council www.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange

The Parish Council is committed to protecting and maintaining the quality of the environment by managing its land and properties and carrying out its services in an environmentally sensitive way. The Parish Council recognises the importance of environmental considerations and will, wherever practicable, promote sustainability.

The Parish Council has a responsibility to care for and protect the environment in which it operates, including the promotion of biodiversity through the protection of habitats and connectivity for wildlife. It is fully committed to improving environmental performance across all of its activities, and will encourage its delivery partners and members of the wider community to contribute to this effort.

The Parish Council recognises its key impacts to be in the areas of:

- Energy use
- Raw material use
- Waste generation
- Emissions to air/water
- Water use
- Transport
- Procurement

It will strive to:

- Adopt the highest environmental standards in all areas of operation, meeting and exceeding all relevant legislative requirements.
- Adopt and promote measures to protect wildlife and biodiversity in its own activities and those of contractors.
- Assess its activities and identify areas where it can minimise impacts.
- Minimise waste through careful and efficient use of all materials and energy.
- Purchase sustainable products wherever feasible (e.g. recycled FSC or low environmental impact products and energy from renewable sources).
- Publicise its environmental position.
- Ensure contractors use good environmental practice and encourage involvement in environmental action.
- Reduce risks by implementing an environmentally sound transport strategy
- Aim to include environmental and ethical considerations in purchasing decisions where appropriate.
- Assist in developing solutions to environmental problems.
- Continually assess the environmental impact on all operations.

4. Energy use

The Parish Council will reduce the amount of energy and water it uses by careful housekeeping while using community buildings for its meetings. It will encourage local community halls to use energy from sustainable sources.

The Parish Council will procure electricity for its 30 street lights from West Sussex County Council's PFI scheme to secure the most competitive price so that public funds are used efficiently.

The Parish Council will maintain its street lights through the County Council's maintenance PFI scheme to ensure they are well maintained. It will join the County Council's project to upgrade all street lights to LED bulbs to reduce electricity use.

Please note: The County Council's chosen bulbs are neutral white LEDs which are a compromise between emissions and the requirements to have affordable and correctly lit areas. The County Council also keeps abreast of the latest reports and considers any new recommendations. An example is the latest report on the impact of street lighting on the local insect populations. Their policy is to implement part-night lighting, dim levels and to ensure that all sites are lit to the correct level. They meet the recommendation of below 5.7 Lux for rural areas and limit the impact that any lighting on the insect population. The County Council's conversion programme to LED will reduce their carbon emissions by approx. 2,864 tonnes per year.

5. Paper

The Parish Council will reduce the amount of paper it uses by:

- Writing and printing on both sides whenever possible.
- Filing photocopies for use at a later date if appropriate.
- Sending information electronically where appropriate.

- Buying paper that is environmentally friendly.
- Using the projector screen at meetings instead of printing hard copies of documents.
- Recycling any unused paper.

6. Purchasing and contracts

Where possible and practicable, the Parish Council will purchase its goods and services from local suppliers who share the same environmental viewpoint:

- To purchase and use products which have been manufactured from recycled materials and can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way.
- Use contractors who share the Parish Council's environmental objectives or when working for the Council, adopt equivalent environmental standards.

7. Waste disposal

The Parish Council (and contractors) will aim to reduce the amount of waste produced and, where practicable, recycle/re-use to reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfill.

The Parish Council fully supports Chichester District Council's recycling scheme and will support and promote recycling facilities within the Parish.

8. Management and maintenance

The Parish Council, or contractors, will:

- Assess chemicals used, ensuring there is appropriate safe disposal.
- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides.
- Compose and shred green waste and not use burning.
- Routinely service and maintain equipment to ensure efficient operation.
- Use peat-free compost.

The Parish Council has responsibility for allotments, two recreation grounds and burial grounds which will be managed to enhance nature, through changing mowing regimes and planting wildflowers.

The Parish Council will support new tree planting in the Parish.

9. Transport

The Parish Council will liaise with the County Council and other relevant bodies in embracing all initiatives aimed at encouraging the use of, and improvements to, the public transport infrastructure. This will include encouraging the use of local bus services (Bourne Community Bus), schemes aimed at increasing the number of people who walk or cycle to work/school and the use of public footpaths for pedestrians and the less able bodied people to use and enjoy.

The Parish Council will support the installation of electric vehicle charging points in the Parish.

10. Litter and dog fouling

The Parish Council will actively seek to discourage all forms of littering, and in particular dog fouling. Any incidents brought to the Parish Council's attention will be reported to the police and District Council.

The Parish Council will hold an annual Spring Clean Day to encourage members of the public to take part in litter picking.

11. Building and development, and natural and historic environment

The Parish Council will work to protect, enhance and preserve the natural environment within the Parish. This will be achieved through the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement which set out planning policy that must be adhered to in any future development.

The Parish Council will support the development of Chichester District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority Local Plans. It will use its role as a consultee to the local planning authorities to seek strong policies in the Local Plan requiring the highest possible standards of energy efficiency for new housing and other buildings. Sites allocated for new housing should also be accessible by walking, cycling and public transport and avoid loss of local nature sites and green spaces.

12. Promote practical action by local people

The Parish Council will share information with local residents about schemes offered by the District and County councils to help save energy and reduce costs.

It will work closely with Greening Westbourne, Friends of the Ems and the Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum to support local environmental projects.

13. Adherence to policy

It is the responsibility of the Clerk to notify and provide copies of this policy to councillors and contractors.

14. Review

This policy was adopted by Full Council at its meeting on 10 November 2022. It will be reviewed regularly and amended as necessary.