



ST LEONARDS & ST IVES

PARISH COUNCIL

Environmental Policy

Policy No: 7

Policy Statement

Dorset is a beautiful part of the world, with an environment that is internationally renowned. Dorset Council has adopted a Natural Environment, Climate and Ecological strategy that places the health of our environment at the heart of its priorities. It stipulates that this can only be achieved through working with partners, stakeholders and communities across Dorset.

St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council recognises that a healthy environment is fundamental to the prosperity and wellbeing of our community. Many of the decisions and actions of St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council affect the environment either directly or indirectly. In recognition of this, the council will seek to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It will use best endeavours to minimise environmental pollution in all its own activities and through its influence over others.

The council recognises that the environment is important and will comply with and, where possible, exceed existing environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice where reasonable and practicable.

St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council recognises that it has many roles that may in some instances have an impact on the environment, which include:

- consumer of goods and services
- opinion leader
- decision maker

- public watchdog
- provider of services
- landowner
- employer

It is with this in mind, that the council has developed this environmental policy to ensure that it makes a positive contribution towards protecting and enhancing the local and global environment.

Aims of the policy

In all its activities the parish council will aim to protect the environment including the parish sites and natural heritage of the parish by:

Enhancing and protecting our natural environment

- Protecting and enhancing the quality and extent of the natural environment in St Leonards and St Ives
- Supporting the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds, streams and coastal habitats
- Managing council assets (including public rights of way, coastal areas, play areas, playing fields, and verges) in a manner that protects and increases biodiversity
- Introducing environmental growth opportunities and activities, as appropriate, on council assets

Reducing our impact on the climate:

- Encourage staff switch off electrical equipment and unnecessary lights when not in use
- Encourage staff to close windows and external doors when heating is on
- Encourage staff to minimise the use of electric heaters and fans
- Introduce phased replacement of LED bulbs in council premises
- Introduce phased replacement of electrical equipment used on council premises with products of maximum energy efficiency rating
- Switch to 100% renewable energy tariffs for electricity on council premises
- Phased replacement of non-renewable heating sources (oil, gas fired systems) with renewables
- Invest in electric car charging points
- Retrofit buildings with energy saving measures (glazing, roof insulation)
- Introduce natural climate change solutions (such as tree planting and rewilding) on council assets
- Undertake an audit of current council emissions
- Agree measures to track the council's carbon footprint over time
- Promote and support modern working practices, such as remote working, amongst staff and councillors
- Encourage members and officers to car-share, where possible, when a car journey must be made on council business
- Recycle all recyclable waste generated at council premises and events

- Source materials and services locally so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met
- Providing information electronically where possible
- Avoiding and advocating against the use of single-use plastic items
- Holding meetings online where lawful and where possible
- Minimising the environmental impact of travelling on council business, where practicable and safe, by walking, cycling, car sharing or the use of public transport.

Communications:

- Promote awareness of, and information about, environmental issues within the community
- Support, and act as a voice for, local environmental concerns within the community For information about biodiversity net gain
- Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation (including contractors) are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy
- Work with partners, where appropriate, to increase environmental growth within the Town/Parish

Principles

St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council will strive to:

1. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
2. Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
3. Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible.
4. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
5. Encourage the responsible use of energy.
6. Respect and protect natural resources by practising conservation and good management.
7. Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment by minimising the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals. Encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species.
8. Encourage its Members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times.
9. Purchase products and services which are energy environmentally benign and sustainable where these are available competitively in terms of quality and price.
10. The council will aim to minimise the environmental impact in the use of land, treatment of the land and any building projects upon the land. It will seek to conserve and improve both the natural and built environment as appropriate, and to carry out environmental improvements to all areas within its ownership and control. Such improvements, once achieved, will be monitored and promoted for maximum public enjoyment.

Reviewed by the Parish Council at their Annual Meeting in May 2023

Next review May 2024