

# Environment Policy

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This Environment Policy represents Frampton Cotterell Parish Council’s commitment to environmental sustainability and stewardship. This policy shall be regularly reviewed and updated to remain aligned with evolving best practices and to ensure that our actions contribute to a healthier, more sustainable community for current and future generations.

## 1. Hiring Contractors

**1.1 Contractor Selection:** Contractors shall be evaluated based on their environmental commitment, track record, and sustainability practices. Preference will be given to contractors who have demonstrated efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and employ environmentally responsible practices.

**1.2 Environmental Clauses:** All contracts awarded by the Parish Council will include environmental clauses that clearly adhere to environmental regulations.

**1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment:** Contractors shall fill out an environmental impact assessment (appendix 1) and submit this with their tender documents. Impact assessments for regular contractors shall be updated and resubmitted to council every 3 years.

## 2. Eco-Friendly Events

**2.1 Sustainable Event Planning:** For events organised or supported by the Parish Council, sustainable event planning practices will be implemented, including waste reduction, recycling and the use of reusable and/or biodegradable materials.

**2.2 Food and Beverages:** Prioritise locally sourced, organic, sustainable food options. Encourage vendors to use eco-friendly packaging and utensils. Where possible, avoid heavy diesel use food vehicles.

**2.3 Plastic Free Frampton:** Avoid use of single use plastic at events, such as plastic cups and cutlery. Signpost event organisers to plastic free initiatives such as reusable cup hire schemes.

**2.4 Protecting Nature:** Events held on parish council land shall not cause harm to local biodiversity. Event organisers shall work with the parish council to minimise impact on wildflower zones and be assigned areas of land for use.

**2.5 Fireworks and lanterns:** Fireworks shall not be used by the parish council or on parish council land. Fireworks cause harm to local wildlife and livestock. Silent fireworks may be approved by the Climate and Nature Committee on request, however alternatives to fireworks shall be prioritised. Fire lanterns not to be used by parish council or on parish council land.

**2.6 Lighting of the Beacon:** The beacon at Centenary field may be lit up at the discretion of the Council and/or Clerk. A risk assessment must be completed and include a dry weather risk assessment. In the event of dry weather and dry grassland (e.g. over 25 degrees Celsius for 5 or more days and the grass is dry and long) then the beacon shall not be lit due to the risk of grassland fire. Investigate options to move the beacon away from the long grass areas.

**2.8 Room bookings:** For events held by residents at the Brockeridge Centre, staff shall recommend users follow eco-friendly practices where possible. A guide on ecofriendly events shall be provided with booking forms (appendix 2).

## 3. Carbon Neutrality

**3.1 Carbon Footprint:** The Parish Council's carbon footprint shall be calculated annually with the goal to reduce the footprint to net zero by 2030.

**3.2 Carbon Offset Initiatives:** Investigation of local carbon offset initiatives such as reforestation and renewable energy projects to neutralize our remaining carbon emissions by 2030.

**3.4 Action Plans:** The Local Climate & Nature Action Plan shall include projects to ensure carbon neutrality is reached by 2030. This plan shall be reviewed and updated regularly.

## 4. Cleaning Products

**4.1 Eco Products:** Environmentally friendly cleaning products shall be used in the parish council buildings.

**4.2 Certification:** Cleaning products shall meet recognised eco-certification and comply with environmental regulations.

**4.3 Packaging:** Preference shall be given to cleaning products with sustainable, refillable or recyclable packaging.

## 5. Power Tools

**5.1 Energy-Efficient Equipment:** Energy-efficient power tools and machinery will be prioritised where possible, including battery-powered and electric alternatives, to reduce emissions and noise pollution in our operations.

**5.2 Maintenance and Fuel Efficiency:** Proper maintenance of power tools and the use of fuel-efficient equipment will be standard practices to reduce the parish councils carbon footprint.

## 6. Nature and Wildlife

**6.1 Habitat Preservation:** Protect and enhance natural habitats within the Parish, supporting the conservation of local wildlife and biodiversity through wildlife friendly land management. Habitats shall continue to be mapped on the Local Nature Action Plan Map of Frampton Cotterell.

**6.2 Native Plantings:** Native plants shall be prioritised for planting in public spaces to create wildlife-friendly environments and reduce water consumption.

**6.3 Community Engagement:** Engage with local schools and community groups to spread awareness to residents about the importance of wildlife conservation. Continue to recruit wildlife volunteers to support the parish in completing nature projects.

**6.4 Pesticide use:** Continue to follow the procedures outlined in the Pesticide Policy (which includes herbicides, neonicotinoids, and insecticides) to reduce the impact of chemicals on nature. For example, the parish council shall avoid the use of glyphosate.

**6.5. Birds and bats:** The Bird Nest and Bat Roost Policy shall be followed to avoid harm on nesting birds and roosting bats.

**6.6 Hedgerows:** Protection of native hedgerows through management practices, including hedge laying and native hedgerow planting. Engage with landowners to improve their management practices and utilise volunteers available to help.

**6.7 River Frome and associated water courses:** Promotion of responsible waste disposal practices, such as the yellow fish campaign, and work with local environmental groups to reduce pollution in the river.

**6.8 Preservation of Green Spaces:** Ensure conservation management plans are updated every 5 years on parish council land. Encourage responsible use of green spaces and support relevant stakeholders to follow best practices.

**10. Feedback and Improvement:** Solicit feedback from residents and experts to continually improve policy and action plans.

## 7. Sustainable Travel

**7.1 Alternative Transportation:** Encourage and investigate the use of public transportation, cycling, walking, electric vehicle schemes and carpooling among our staff and community members to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with commuting.

**7.2 Communication:** Engage with residents and neighbouring councils and businesses to promote green travel schemes and cycling provision schemes.

## 8. Water Management and Refill Revolution Schemes

**8.1 Water Conservation:** Implementation of water-efficient low-flow fixtures, and other water-saving measures in its facilities and public spaces, such as continuing to install self-closing taps to prevent water wastage. We will investigate water usage at allotment sites and repair any pipe leaks in a timely fashion.

**8.2 Refill Stations:** Maintain and promote public water refill stations to reduce single-use plastic bottle waste and promote the use of reusable containers.

## 9. Waste and Recycling

**9.1 Waste Reduction:** Actively work to reduce waste generation by promoting practices such as “reduce, reuse, recycle”.

**9.2 Local Groups:** Continued collaboration with local groups such as Plastic Free Frampton Cotterell to promote waste reduction schemes such as Teracycle.

**9.2 Recycling:** Continue to recycle plastic, cardboard, paper, glass, metal accumulated in parish council buildings through the local authority. To recycle office items, such as batteries and ink cartridges, through a suitable collector.

**9.3 Composting:** The Brockeridge Centre compost stations shall be utilised for appropriate waste.

**9.4 Glass milk bottles:** Glass milk bottles from the local milk man shall continue to be sourced, reducing plastic waste and supporting local businesses.

**9.4 Paper:** Agenda papers to be automatically paperless. Paper versions of agendas available on request from the Clerk to ensure accessibility.

**9.10 Food waste:** raw vegetarian food waste shall be placed in the Brockeridge compost bins. Any meat and cooked related food waste to be removed from site and recycled appropriately. Council shall investigate providing food waste collection from the Brockeridge centre and Pavilion.

**9.11** Waste from projects involving ground works shall be disposed of correctly and not dumped on or near ditches.

## 10. Development and Planning

**10.1 Environmental Considerations:** All planning decisions will take environmental impacts into consideration, such as habitat preservation, sustainable building practices, and river pollution management.

**10.2 Green Infrastructure:** Prioritisation of green infrastructure projects that enhance river quality, improve air quality, and provide natural recreational spaces for the community.

**10.3 Bats:** To consider any impact on bats in planning and development decisions. Adherence to the Bird Nest and Bat Roost Policy.

## 11. Responsible and Sustainable Procurement

**11.1 Sustainable Product Sourcing:** In procurement processes, preference shall be given to products with lower environmental impact, including those with eco-certifications or a high level of recycled content. To be cautious of green washing from products and businesses.

**11.2 Local and Sustainable Suppliers:** Seek to support local businesses where possible/suitable and suppliers who adhere to sustainable and ethical practices.

## 12. Awareness, Lobbying, and Partnerships

**12.1 Community Engagement:** Engagement with the community through social media, workshops, and public awareness campaigns to promote sustainable practices and increase environmental consciousness.

**12.2 Advocacy:** Advocate for environmentally responsible policies and practices at the local, regional, and national levels, feeding into relevant consultations.

**12.3 Partnerships:** Collaboration with local environmental organisations, community groups, local authority, and other stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise in addressing environmental challenges.

## 13. Energy Use and Lighting

**13.1 Energy Audits:** Regular energy audits will be conducted to identify opportunities for energy savings in our facilities and operations.

**13.2 Energy-Efficient Upgrades:** Investigation and investment in energy-efficient technologies, lighting, heating, and cooling systems to reduce energy consumption.

**13.4 Green energy suppliers:** green energy companies to be used to supply parish council buildings.

**13.5 Lighting:** New lighting installations shall meet environmental requirements, including LED lights. For any new outdoor lighting installations that may impact bat activity, use warm white spectrum LED lighting and avoid blue light. Only illuminate areas that need it and avoid lighting spill and upward facing lights.

## 14. Council Projects and Policy

**14.1 Impact Assessment:** For projects/contracts over the procurement value of £1000, an Environmental Impact Assessment shall be carried out either by office staff or the contractor (appendix 1).

**14.2 General projects:** All projects at any procurement value shall consider the environment, and projects that have a positive or neutral impact shall be prioritised.

**14.3 Policy:** Prior to approving a new policy, an environmental impact assessment must be carried out (appendix 1).

**14.4. Circular Economy:** The Parish Council will explore opportunities to promote a circular economy by reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling resources to minimize our ecological footprint.

Appendix 1 – Environmental Impact Assessment

### **Frampton Cotterell Parish Council Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Template**

**Project/Policy Name:** [Insert Project/Policy Name]

**Date of Assessment:** [Insert Date]

#### **1. Project/Policy Overview**

**1.1 Description:** Provide a brief description of the project, contract or policy, including its purpose, objectives, and scope.

**1.2 Location:** Specify the location(s) where the project, contract or policy will be implemented.

#### **2. Environmental Context:**

**Natural Environment:** Describe the existing environmental conditions in the project/contract area, including ecosystems, habitats, and natural resources. Identify any known sensitive or protected areas, species, or features.

**2.2 Social Environment:** Describe the social and cultural aspects of the policy/project/contract area, including local communities, heritage sites, and cultural practices.

**2.3 Economic Environment:** Explain the economic context of the policy/project/contract, including potential impacts on local economies and livelihoods.

### **3. Potential Environmental Impacts**

**3.1 Direct Impacts:** Identify and describe direct impacts that may result from the project, contract or policy. Include factors such as habitat disruption, pollution, resource consumption, and land use changes.

**3.2 Indirect Impacts:** Assess potential indirect impacts that may arise as a result of the project, contract or policy, including secondary effects on ecosystems, communities, and economies.

**3.4 Mitigation Measures:** Propose measures to minimize, avoid, or mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts.

**4. Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:** Describe the process of engaging with the public, stakeholders, and affected communities during the assessment (if applicable).

**5. Decision and Mitigation:** State whether the project, contract or policy has been approved, modified, or rejected based on the assessment findings.

**7. Monitoring and Reporting:** Define a monitoring and reporting plan to track the effectiveness of mitigation measures and ensure compliance with environmental commitments.

## Appendix 2 – Eco Events Guide

***This events guide can be shared with prospective event holders at the Brockeridge Centre. Communications Officer to develop into an eye pleasing poster.***

Welcome to The Brockeridge Centre! We are committed to promoting sustainability and eco-friendly practices. We encourage all event organizers and attendees to help us reduce the environmental impact of your event. This guide provides you with tips and recommendations to host an eco-friendly event.

- Where possible, use reusable plates, utensils, and cups, or opt for biodegradable alternatives to plastic. For single use tableware, consider materials such as bamboo, cornstarch or paper.
- Minimize single-use plastics and recycle any you do use.
- Turn off lights and equipment when not in use.
- Ensure all waste is properly sorted and disposed of, recycling and composting where possible.
- Please take food waste home with you for recycling or composting.
- If applicable, why not donate any useable left-over food to local charities or food banks,
- Opt for reusable or recyclable decorations for your event, such as paper garlands, fabric bunting, mason jar centrepieces, leaf or paper confetti. There are so many more ideas online, have a browse!
- Make use of our water refill stations instead of bringing single use plastic water bottles.
- Where possible, avoid using helium balloons. If used, avoid using helium balloons outside as they can cause harm to wildlife if they are let go. Use biodegradable balloons where possible.
- Avoid use of plastic glitter. Seek glitter alternatives or ecofriendly glitter.
- Feel free to make use of our bike racks on site for sustainable travel where possible.
- You can use our reusable cups and mugs and cutlery free of charge – these can go in our dishwasher after, so no mess!

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for making our venue and events more eco-friendly. We are committed to improving our eco-friendly practices based on feedback and the latest environmental standards.

By following this Eco Events Guide, you contribute to the sustainability efforts of Frampton Cotterell Parish Council and help reduce your event's impact on the environment. Thank you for your cooperation!