

Environmental and Biodiversity Policy

1. Introduction

Pevensey Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its area of responsibility whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result. PPC is also committed to ensuring any new works on its land complies with the biodiversity duty. This includes the management of the land, any new works, or improvements.

2. Background

The Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared at national, regional and within some organisations, local level.

The link provides the information on the climate emergency plan from Wealden District Council. Link to <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/environment-and-pollution/climate-emergency/>).

The Parish Council will consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and will endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes, where this is practicable and affordable within the resources and financial capabilities of council.

3. Aims and Objectives

The objective of this policy is to work towards improving and protecting the environment and biodiversity of Pevensey. The council will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when making decisions and will develop and apply strategies as required.

The Parish Council will specifically aim and take into consideration the following:

- the affect that running its assets has on the environment,
- the impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment,
- where possible and appropriate, replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives
- the impact of the Parish Council's activities may have on the environment
- manage its land and property using environmentally friendly practices that will promote biodiversity.
- support local businesses, residents and local organisation activities to enhance and promote biodiversity.

4. Actions

a. Partners

- PPC will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the parish.

- It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies, such as the Pevensy Levels, in respect of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

b. Land and property management.

PPC will encourage its service users to:

- Ensure special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.
- The council will consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings and to seek, where possible, to purchase from local or regional suppliers - to maximise input to the local community and minimise carbon emissions from transport.
- Ensure that the potential environmental impact of any capital projects will be assessed and minimised. This will include, where possible:
 - methods of construction which make best use of resources.
 - designs which result in low maintenance and high energy efficient and the use of building materials from sustainable sources.
 - encouraging employees, volunteers and service users to preserve energy and minimise waste and improve and safeguard the quality of any land or property they use to deliver their services.

5. Principles

Pevensy Parish Council will strive to:

- Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
- Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing
- Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible.
- Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
- Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources.
- Respect and protect natural resources by practicing conservation and good management
- Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment.
- Encourage its members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times.

Environmental actions to date and plans moving forward:

2020 - 2024 The following environmental improvements were made:

- **Street Lighting**
 - The conversion of council street light stock (191 lights) to LED throughout the parish to date:
 - Since 2021 PPC have converted 88 street Lights to LED. – these should be on a part dim programme.
 - Some LEDs were converted before the pledge to convert all stock and there aren't on a part dim.
 - 68 lights still need to be converted. 53 in Pevensey Bay / 15 in Pevensey
- **Ethel Wood Community Centre.**
 - Auto-shut-off taps were installed in ladies' toilets.
 - Hall heating under remote control
 - Main Hall windows were replaced.
 - LED sensor lights installed in the main hall, toilets and lobby and around the outside of the building.
- **Anderida Field and Open spaces**
 - To assess any trees that has failed to see if branches can be left to help with biodiversity
 - The field is only cut once a year to encourage wildlife and promote biodiversity and reducing the carbon emissions in grass cutting.
- **Contractors**
 - Where possible the council uses local suppliers for the parish contractor, recreation ground grass cutting and tree surgeon.

From 2025 inwards Action Plans:

- Start Fundraising to refurbish the pavilion. **June 2025**
- As part of the tender process and specification PPC will be asking that contractors must say how they will contribute towards the environment and carbon neutral accreditation through their works programme (ie using soil removed) **Autumn 2025**
- The delivery of the project will not damage or destroy natural habitats
- The project will reduce the carbon footprint of the site. **Summer 2026**
- We will be putting provisions in for sola panels. **Autumn 2025**