

WINTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Introduction

Winterbourne Parish Council (WPC) has long been committed to preserving and enhancing the environment of the Parish. At their Council Meeting of 5th October 2020, Winterbourne Parish Council agreed to produce an Environmental Policy to ensure it remains focused and committed to achievable goals. Activities and actions will be documented for future reference.

Commitments

- Ensure all policies and decisions of the Council assess any environmental impact.
- Promote actions and activities that regenerate our ecology and enable a low carbon Parish.
- Demonstrate leadership through our own practical actions.

Goals & Actions

1. Greenspaces & Biodiversity

WPC Assets

WPC invests in many outdoor Green Spaces.

- Frenchay and Hambrook Commons
- Tuckett Field and Tuckett Pond in Frenchay
- Nature Reserves at Monks Pool, Bradley Brook, The Dingle, Quarry Barton, Huckford Quarry and Newleaze. Newleaze Community Woodland which was created on land bought by the Parish Council, first being planted in 1998.
- The Recreation Ground in Winterbourne.
- The Winterbourne Fishpond
- The Allotments
- The play area at the Greenfield Centre

WPC is committed to securing and managing new assets and are working towards taking ownership of new Frenchay Parkland, Frenchay Allotments and Frenchay Nature Reserve.

WPC is engaged with local environmental groups and has given support to a new wildflower meadow at The Small Common, Hambrook. Grants have been given to local environmental groups and as an ongoing policy the Parish Council will look to continue supporting them in the future in accordance with the Grant Policy.

WPC will:

- Continue to manage its Green Spaces with 'ecology and lowering its carbon footprint' being taken into consideration.

- Identify areas and land assets that are suitable for wildlife habitat enhancement and assist the implementation of wildlife corridors.
- Consider areas and land assets suitable for tree and habitat planting.
- Periodically review the environmental management procedures and practices in respect of our assets.
- Consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications, and advise organisations and individual developers of the importance of designing sustainable buildings.

2. Infrastructure & Businesses

WPC Assets

WPC has:

- Installed clothes recycling facilities outside the Greenfield Centre.
- Installed recycling bins at the Greenfield Centre and Recreation Ground
- Installed solar panels at the Greenfield Centre in 2014 and subsequently receive regular income payments in return for the energy they produce.
- Committed to using eco-friendly products wherever possible.
- Highlighted the work of environmental groups in its newsletter.
- Reduced plastic usage at Parish Council meetings and in the Greenfield Centre.
- Reduced paper usage where possible.

WPC will:

- Where possible replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives.
- Promote environmental issues with local businesses and other organisations.

Transport

WPC is not the local authority responsible for Highways or Transport as that lies with South Gloucestershire Council. However, WPC has:

- Campaigned for a reduction in speed limits across the Parish to improve safety and will continue to do so as considered necessary.
- Invested in cycle hoops situated close to school areas to encourage cycling to school.

WPC will:

- Share any transport initiatives with the public on its social media, including South Gloucestershire Council Car Sharing Schemes, Cycling initiatives and Public Transport information.

Businesses

WPC will:

- Seek to use local contractors and materials whenever such materials and skills exist.
- Make purchasing decisions that not only secure good value for money but taking into account that they are also environmentally sound.

Each member and employee of WPC will take responsibility for the implementation of this Environmental Policy.

Adopted: 1st March 2021