

**BRYMPTON PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENT 16**

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**PURPOSE:**

This document has been created to define the environmental parameters within which the Brympton Parish Council (referred to herein as the BPC) conducts its business and also provides the guidelines within which the BPC Environmental Working Group conducts its own specific functions as instructed by the BPC full council.

The BPC acknowledges that some of its activities may have an adverse impact on the environment and therefore can take steps/precautions to minimise those impacts.

The BPC continues to strive to make a positive contribution towards the protection and enhancement of the local and global environment through the implementation of appropriate measures, which includes the appointment of a BPC Environment Champion

**SCOPE:**

- The BPC advised and assisted where necessary, by the Environmental Working Group, will consider the environmental impact of every decision and action.
- All aspects of the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recovery (4R's) will be considered in any actions and undertakings that the BPC can influence.
- Working with other specialist bodies such as the District Council environmental officers and the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust, the BPC will strive to improve air quality, soil and water habitats.
- As part of its community engagement activities, the BPC will encourage all parishioners to consider the environmental impact of their activities.

**1: POLICY:**

**1. Waste & Recycling**

**1.1 Reduce**

Non-essential documents and emails will not be printed.

The BPC will endeavour to avoid using disposable cups and food packaging where possible.

The BPC will use phone, e-mail, face-to-face discussions or other electronic means for communications wherever possible to reduce paper use.

**1.2 Reuse**

Wherever possible the BPC will try to find a second life for items through local charitable re-use schemes or donations to local voluntary organisations (i.e., furniture, computers, mobile telephones and other electrical goods).

Scrap paper used on one side only will be used for printing internal and draft documents and for making note pads. Envelopes, stationery will be purchased as re-used, packing will be re-used where possible. Items that can be repaired will be so unless it has to be replaced.

**1.3 Recycle**

Paper, cardboard, cans, plastic, glass, textiles, ink and toner cartridges, batteries and electrical equipment will be recycled whenever possible.

The BPC will compost any green and organic waste where possible.

**2. Purchase & Travel****2.1 Purchasing**

The BPC will purchase "fair-trade" goods where available.

It will buy organic, locally produced goods where possible.

The BPC will strive to increase the proportion of goods and services purchased which are less harmful to the environment, within financial limitations.

Purchasing decisions will be based on the choice of materials or products that have the lowest environmental impact in production, transportation, use and disposal.

The BPC will influence its indirect environmental impact by 'greening' its supply chain e.g., encouraging the supply chain to take up initiatives such as adopting environmental policies and providing environmentally friendly products where this is possible.

**2.2 Travel**

The BPC will promote walking or cycling or possibly e-scooters to local meetings.

It will also promote the use of public transport where possible.

Car sharing will be encouraged where possible.

**3. Resources****3.1 Energy**

Although it does not own any building or rent office space, the BPC will seek to minimise the use of energy in all its activities.

New electrical goods purchased will be of the 'A' rating where available.

**3.2 Water**

The BPC will conserve water where possible.

**3.3 Biodiversity**

The BPC will endeavour to protect, restore and enhance biodiversity.

When possible, and in conjunction with the District Council and relevant landowners, native, wildflower friendly species will be used for planting schemes.

To prepare for potential climate change impacts, drought tolerant species will be used wherever possible.

**3.4 Hazardous Materials & Chemicals**

The BPC will take all possible measures to not expose the environment to chemicals that can harm people or nature.

**3.5 Planning Applications**

All planning applications will be scrutinised for their environmental impact

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