



Sustainable Environment Policy

West Bletchley Parish Council is committed to protecting and maintaining the quality of the environment by managing its land and assets and carrying out its services in an environmentally friendly way where this is practical and economical. In December 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency with a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The Parish recognises the growing importance of environmental considerations and will, wherever practicable promote the concepts of sustainable development. Sustainable development is about 'meeting the needs of today's society without compromising future generation's ability to meet their own needs' (Brundtland report 1987).

The Council has carried out a Carbon Footprint Audit and has started to take positive action to reduce emissions at source.

1. West Bletchley Parish Council will comply with all relevant environmental legislation/regulation.
2. West Bletchley Parish Council will promote the responsible use of resources, by purchasing from reputable local suppliers, recycling materials, using recycled goods wherever practicable and installing energy saving measures at all of its premises, where it is reasonable to do so.
3. West Bletchley Parish Council's Health & Safety policy and legislation are to be observed when disposing of waste, to ensure responsible working practices, prevent pollution and reduce our impact on the environment.
4. Specialist companies which deal with restricted materials such as asbestos, will be engaged to ensure the safe removal and disposal of restricted materials.
5. When removing material from the Council's property, consideration is to be given to whether items can be re-located elsewhere, or if the material can be recycled before being disposed of.
6. Recycling bins are installed wherever practicable at all Council premises.
7. Computer consumables, fluorescent light tubes and batteries will be disposed of appropriately in accordance with the WEEE regulations (waste electrical and electronic equipment). Mobile phones and computer equipment will be securely disposed of by licensed companies, after measures have been taken to remove any data which could be abused.
8. Water butts and compost bins are encouraged to be installed at the Parish Council's allotment sites to help reduce water costs and encourage home composting respectively.
9. Water, electrical equipment, lights and heating are to be turned off when not required, to conserve resources and to cut costs.

10. Price comparisons for utility services are to be undertaken in advance of the termination of contracts, to ensure that value for money is actively sought alongside sustainable energy sources where possible.

11. Local suppliers are to be used wherever possible for routinely ordered goods, to promote local business and to reduce transport costs and environmental impact to a minimum.

12. All information is to be disseminated by e-mail wherever possible to reduce paper, printing and postage costs, confidential information will be password protected when sent via email.

13. Where hard copy documents are required, these will be printed via the Office photocopier on double-sided paper. Colour printing via the Parish Office printers is to be undertaken only if necessary.

14. The Parish Council will, when commenting on planning applications, support:

- i) site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats,
- ii) small and large-scale planning applications for renewable energy in the area where appropriate,
- iii) design, layout and use of materials that encourage a high degree of energy efficiency.

15. Grounds maintenance programmes are to include biodiversity considerations wherever possible, to encourage wildlife.

16. Bark chippings from winter bed works are to be used within the Parish woodlands as footpaths and in our allotment sites.

17. All landscape maintenance operations shall be carried out in a sustainable manner with due regard to the protection and conservation of the environment. Glyphosate or similar chemicals are not to be used. Only Katoun Gold or similar natural weed management products are to be used.

18. The Landscape contractor shall ensure that Vehicles, Plant and Equipment demonstrate high levels of environmental sustainability. This includes the requirement for all hand tools to be battery operated e.g. Hedge cutters, strimmers, leaf blowers and pedestrian mowers.

19. The Parish Council will identify and provide appropriate training, advice and information for staff / councillors to facilitate understanding of and participation in the Climate Change Agenda.

20. This policy is to be observed by Councillors, members of staff, contractors, and representatives of other organisations working on behalf of the Council.

Reviewed July 2022