



## **BURY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Environmental Policy**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Bury Parish Council is committed to the creation of a sustainable community, balancing and integrating social, economic and environmental components. Developing a more sustainable community will benefit present-day residents and businesses, as well as future generations.
- 1.2 The parish council will work in partnership with others to deliver the policy objectives and specific actions.

#### **2.0 Legal Requirements**

- 2.1 The main pieces of relevant legislation are:

**The Water Act 2003.** This Act places a duty on all public bodies to take into account, where relevant, the desirability of conserving water supplied or to be supplied to premises.

**The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.** From 1 October 2006, every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

**Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006.** This Act gives specific powers to town and parish councils to tackle climate change. The Act places an obligation on town and parish councils to improve their energy efficiency.

**Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.** The Act provides local authorities with more effective powers to tackle poor environmental quality and anti-social behaviour. In particular the Act includes sections on nuisance and abandoned vehicles, litter, graffiti, waste, noise and dogs.

**Duty of Care (Waste).** The Duty of Care covers any business that produces or disposes of waste and requires the business to ensure that any waste produced is handled safely and in accordance with the law.

#### **3.0 Policy Coverage**

- 3.1 This policy applies to all the land and properties that Bury Parish Council owns and land/properties that the council manages or is responsible for. The policy will also apply to land or property the council will take on in the future.
- 3.2 This policy will be applied to activities undertaken by the council on both a statutory or discretionary basis.

#### **4.0 Policy Objectives**

- 4.1 Bury Parish Council recognises that its activities will have some negative impact on the environment. The aim of this policy is to establish broad objectives to enable the development of activities that will minimise negative effects on the general environment and work towards enhancing and protecting Bury's immediate environs.
- 4.2 The council will aim to improve its environmental performance and influence improvement in Bury in the following ways:
- Use energy, natural resources, and non-renewable resources efficiently and strive to minimise waste and pollution.
  - Inform Bury's residents of the council's environmental activities and respond and react to feedback.
  - Support individual behaviour change in Bury's residents, leading by example and supporting environmentally friendly activities.
  - Support local organisations in the adoption of low-impact practices.
  - Manage its land using environmentally friendly practices that will promote and increase biodiversity and protect habitats.
  - The Bury Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the village and the wider parish which forms the character of where we live.

## **5.0 Specific Environmental Actions**

Bury Parish Council is committed to action in the following, specific areas:

### **5.1 Biodiversity and Green Spaces**

- 5.1.1 The council will, wherever possible, consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities, particularly regarding land management.
- 5.1.2 The council will seek to manage its open spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity. This includes the management of invasive plants on its land and using planting schemes that exclude species known to be invasive in the south-east of England.
- 5.1.3 The council will seek to protect and, where possible, enhance the quality of Bury 's natural environment and open spaces, and to make open space accessible wherever possible. The council will promote the work of Huntingdonshire District Council in the control of invasive species, environmentally sensitive land management and biodiversity conservation as detailed in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036.

### **5.2 Climate Change and Energy Conservation**

- 5.2.1 The council aims to be carbon neutral by 2050.
- 5.2.2 The council will monitor its energy use and improve upon energy efficiency within its buildings by adopting energy-saving measures, e.g. purchasing electrical equipment with good energy ratings. The council will increase awareness of energy efficiency amongst employees and encourage energy-conserving behaviour.
- 5.2.3 The council will investigate the feasibility of sustainable supplies of energy to power to its premises as these schemes develop.

### **5.3 Development**

- 5.3.1 The council's Planning & Transport Committee will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications in Bury .
- 5.3.2 The council will look to achieve the highest possible environmental standards when developing or redeveloping any of its own buildings.
- 5.3.3 The council will also press for the use of planning obligations (section 106 agreements) to promote sustainable development and mitigate environmental impacts resulting from developments.

### **5.4 Promotion, Partnerships and Raising Awareness**

- 5.4.1 The council will promote awareness of, and information on, environmental issues within the community. It will act as a voice for local environmental concerns to those agencies given statutory powers to tackle problems.
- 5.4.2 The council will continue to engage in partnership working with the local community, organisations, and other tiers of local government in partnerships on conservation projects. The council will also support other groups involved in environmental work in the parish.

### **5.5 Sustainable Procurement**

- 5.5.1 Council procurement will be continually assessed for sustainability implications, with the intention of purchasing renewable/recycled, environmentally low-impact and recyclable materials, so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met. The council will give preference, wherever possible, to the procurement of good and services from locally based suppliers, subject to best value principles.
- 5.5.2 The council will reduce the use, by the council or its contractors, of environmentally damaging products where an alternative product or method is available.

### **5.6 Transport**

- 5.6.1 The council will continue to encourage sustainable transport systems, promoting public transport and non-polluting modes of transport within the town, such as cycling and walking. As traffic congestion can significantly reduce air quality, which directly impacts upon human health, the council will also press other tiers of government for the alleviation of traffic congestion within Bury .

5.6.2 The council will seek to minimise the environmental impact of any vehicles it may procure.

## **5.7 Urban Environment**

5.7.1 Bury Parish Council will work both directly, and with partners, to ensure that specific highway works that contribute to the improvement of the town environment are progressed. These include issues around hedge-trimming, graffiti removal and clearing fly-posted signs and litter.

5.7.2 The council will address and control instances of noise pollution that fall within its remit.

## **5.8 Waste**

5.8.1 The council will minimise its waste production wherever possible, by reducing, repairing, and reusing resources, and by recycling the waste its activities produce, where facilities exist.

5.8.2 Rubbish will be disposed of safely, following the correct procedures, and only licensed contractors will be used to deal with hazardous wastes.

5.8.3 The council will incorporate the possibility of pollution in its risk assessments and will use this system to minimise the risks and implement mitigation strategies.

## **5.9 Water**

5.9.1 Water will be used efficiently for council activities and on council premises.

5.9.2 Where the council has open spaces planting schemes and technology that minimise the need for watering will be used, e.g. planting drought-resistant species and using mulches.

5.9.3 The council will implement water-saving measures on its allotments, for example, encouraging tenants to reduce their water usage.

5.9.4 The council's Planning & Transport Committee will consider issues of water use, water run-off and water pollution when making recommendations on planning applications. The council will support the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in new developments and redevelopments to reduce flooding risks, manage stormwater, minimise diffuse pollution from surface water runoff and help maintain groundwater levels.

## **Version Control**

1.0 Policy created. June 2023.

1.1 Policy updated and revised.