

# TAVERHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

### 1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Taverham Parish Council recognises that a high quality environment plays an important role in promoting the wellbeing of its Parishioners. The Council will seek to protect and enhance our local environment, for the benefit of present and future generations of residents; and to set a positive example in the way it manages its own activities.

### 2. Objectives

- 2.1 To manage the green spaces in the Council's ownership or control in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity.
- 2.2 To support our community in enjoying their local environment in a responsible and sustainable way.
- 2.3 To carry out our own work, either directly or through contractors, in a way that minimises its adverse impact on our environment.
- 2.4 To reduce the amount of waste the Council produces and use renewable and recycled materials whenever possible.
- 2.5 To ensure that we use energy responsibly in all our operations, working towards reducing our carbon footprint in the long term through the use of renewable energy sources.
- 2.6 To dispose of all waste we produce through safe and responsible methods, in compliance with relevant environmental legislation.

### 3. Actions to Achieve Policy Objectives

- 3.1 Provided that we can meet our criteria for quality and value-for-money, we will -
  - Actively seek to source materials locally and to appoint local contractors, whenever possible;
  - Specify the use of reclaimed or recycled materials, where these are appropriate and available;
  - Consider, over the longer term, the potential for Council owned premises to use alternative energy systems, financed either by borrowing or by grants available under initiatives such as the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.
- 3.2 We will increase awareness of energy efficiency amongst employees and encourage energy-conserving behaviour, e.g. switching off lights that aren't needed, switching off equipment rather than leaving it on standby, ensuring taps are switched off, etc.
- 3.3 We will support initiatives which encourage residents to travel in a more sustainable way, e.g. using public transport, car-sharing, cycling or walking.
- 3.4 We will continue to lobby for measures which improve pedestrian/cyclist safety in our parish, with particular emphasis on safe routes to schools and to recreation facilities, so that our children can reap the resultant social and health benefits in the safest possible environment.
- 3.5 We will support initiatives to promote and improve the Council's allotments to provide opportunities for residents to "grow their own" and to pass on their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to younger generations.
- 3.6 We will continue to support local recycling schemes and facilities within the parish.
- 3.7 Our Planning Applications Committee will consider water-related issues when making comment on planning applications, in addition to the more longstanding issues of noise and light pollution and the loss of trees.
- 3.8 We will continue to support -
  - Initiatives to reduce vandalism, graffiti and litter in our parish;

- Events which foster a sense of community;
  - Schemes which help young people to feel valued within our community and able to make a positive contribution towards its wellbeing.
- 3.9 We will follow best practice and good husbandry in the management of open spaces and woodlands, ensure contractors are competent to do so and have the requisite qualifications, certification or experience. Where appropriate, a copy of the contractor's own Environmental Policy will be requested.
- 3.10 Where the use of chemical is necessary, contractors will be required to confirm that they will not be using any chemicals identified in the UK "Red List" or EC "Black List"
- 3.11 We will continue to arrange events in our woodlands which encourage families - and young people in particular - to take part in tree-planting and other activities, so that they learn to appreciate, respect and cherish these vital community assets.
- 3.12 We have demonstrated our commitment to protect the land which we hold on our residents' behalf, by entering into a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust for all of our open spaces and woodlands. The Deed guarantees that the land will survive intact, in perpetuity, for the benefit of our local community.

## RELEVANT LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

### **The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**

From 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. This Act means that town and parish councils can spend funds on 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 and efficiency.

### **Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005**

This Act extends the statutory offence of dropping of litter and enables town and parish councils to authorise officers to serve fixed penalty notices for the litter offence under section 88 of the 1990 Environmental Protection Act; gives town and parish councils the power to issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti and fly-posting offences; and allows town and parish councils to create offences relating to the control of dogs (replacing the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996).

### **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.

## PESICIDES ON THE UK "RED LIST" AND EC "BLACK LIST"

In 1989, the Department of the Environment compiled the "Red List" of chemicals as part of a policy to reduce environmental pollution. The list was developed by considering factors such as the toxicity, persistence and bio-accumulation characteristics of each compound. The list is added to over time. The current list is as follows:

### Insecticides/Acaricides

Aldrin  
Azinphos-methyl  
DDT, DDD, DDE  
Dichlorvos  
Dieldrin  
Endosulfan  
Endrin  
Fenitrothion  
Gamma-HCH (lindane)  
Malathion

### General

Cadmium compounds  
Carbon tetrachloride  
1,2-Dichloroethane  
Hexachlorobutadiene  
Pentachlorophenol  
Polychlorinated biphenyls  
Trichlorobenzene

### Fungicides

Hexachlorobenzene  
Tributyltin compounds (also algicidal)  
Mercury compounds  
Triphenyltin compounds

### Herbicides

Atrazine  
Simazine  
Trifluralin

The following chemicals are under consideration for inclusion on the "Red List" and are therefore best avoided:

### Insecticides/Acaricides

Azinphos-ethyl  
Demeton-O  
Dimethoate  
Fenthion  
Mevinphos  
Parathion

### Fungicides

Biphenyl

### Nematicides

1,3-Dichloropropene

### Herbicides

Chloroacetic acid  
2,4-D  
Linurin  
Pyrazon