

CHURCH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Environmental Strategy / Policy

Strategy / Policy Statement

Church Aston Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with minimum impact on the environment and its resources, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its area of operation whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result.

Context

The Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared nationally and by our Borough Council (Telford & Wrekin).

The Parish Council will consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and will endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes, where this is practicable and affordable within the resources and financial capabilities of the Council.

The Parish Council will specifically consider the following:-

1. Seek ways to reduce the impact that operating its assets has on the environment (for example, by reducing energy needs)
2. Ways in which it can produce renewable energy (directly / indirectly)
3. Support provision of sustainable public transport and ensure whenever possible safe walking and cycling routes within the parish are available
4. The impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment
5. Where possible and appropriate, replace environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives
6. The impact that execution of the Parish Council's activities may have on the environment.

AIMS

In all its activities the Parish Council will aim to:-

1. Minimise consumption of all resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of buildings and equipment it uses and the administration of its activities
2. Seek, wherever possible, to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, up-dated and measured against recognised, best practice examples
3. Where possible, affordable and commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, support local initiatives aimed at climate change and / or biodiversity protection and enhancement.

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Principles

Church Aston Parish Council will strive to:-

1. Use whole energy principles when assessing the benefit of any scheme (whole energy principles ensure the result of any activity is neutral or positive)
2. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
3. Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge
4. Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing
5. Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible
6. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods
7. Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources
8. Respect and protect natural resources by practicing conservation and good management
9. Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment
10. Encourage Members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times
11. Seek to support and promote renewable energy projects within and adjacent to the Parish
12. Support energy reduction strategies within the Parish
13. Develop and support sustainable growth strategies within the Parish
14. Progressively build environmental concerns and sustainability into all of our policies
15. Promote a culture of understanding and participation in environmental issues through education, information and consultation.

END

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