

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Policy Statement

Buckland Parish Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an environmental and sustainability policy.

Aims

Buckland Parish Council is committed to protecting the environment including footpaths and bridleways as well as the natural heritage of the Parish, recognising the importance and value of the area and its contribution to quality of life for parishioners and the wider community.

Council activities

In carrying out its own activities the Parish Council will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting the local and wider environment. It will seek to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and to minimise environmental pollution in all its own activities and by holding others to account.

Minimise waste and pollution:

- a.Reducing the use of resources
- b.Re-using materials whenever possible
- c.Recycling when waste is produced
- d.Seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.
- e.Provide information electronically as much as possible.
- f. Avoid and advocate against the use of single-use plastic items.
- g. Minimise the environmental impact of travel, where practicable and safe, by encouraging walking, cycling, etc.

Procurement

When purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, and in line with best value outlined in other policies the Parish Council will give preference to:

- a. Local suppliers
- b. Options that are environmentally friendly
- c. Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials
- d. Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Contractors and maintenance

The Parish Council will require that contractors, councillors and volunteers who carry out maintenance on Parish-managed land:

1. Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
2. Minimise adverse impacts on air quality
3. Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
4. Where practicable use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species.

Decision Making

In its decision making the Parish Council will take careful consideration of the need to:

1. Reduce re-use and recycle where possible
2. Avoid adverse impacts on air quality
3. Conserve and improve natural habitats
4. Protect vulnerable and protected species
5. Conserve the natural beauty of the Parish

Trees

In maintaining our trees, we will:

- a. Organise regular tree inspections
- b. Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees
- c. Remove dangerous and damaged limbs
- d. Endeavour to replace specimen trees with similar native species

General

Where the Parish Council has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economic, it will:

1. Discourage the use of plastics within the Parish
2. Discourage littering of all kinds
3. Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
4. Encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of resources
5. Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood as an essential green corridor for wildlife and to improve biodiversity
6. Achieve a net increase of biodiversity in our Parish, as required by the Buckland Neighbourhood Plan (2022)

Adopted March 2023

Reviewed May 2025