



AMENITIES COMMITTEE **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Policy Statement

Marden Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, 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

Marden Parish Council recognises that a climate emergency has been declared at a national and borough level.

Marden Parish Council aims to consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues, and endeavours 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 Marden Parish Council.

In the context of the above, Marden Parish Council, through the Amenities Committee, will utilise the Environmental Sub-Group to specifically consider the following:

- The impact that the operation of the Parish Council and the operating of its assets has on the environment;
- The impact that the goods and services the Parish Council procures, including the environmental impacts, and commitments of its suppliers, has on the environment, where such an assessment is appropriate;
- Where possible and appropriate, to consider the replacement of environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives;
- Opportunities to seek enhancements to the local environment and biodiversity;
- Seek opportunities to improve the sustainability of the wider Marden Parish community.

Aims

The aim of the Parish Council is to seek that all of the activities of the Parish Council are:

- Considerate of the consumption of resources; particularly in respect of the buildings and equipment it uses;

Office Opening Times:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays 10am - 12 noon

Email: clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk

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- Consistent with the aim of reducing the environmental impact of the Council through consideration of the impact of its suppliers on the environment, and where possible and appropriate, give weight to the consideration of the environmental impact of its suppliers in choosing suitable suppliers for the Parish Council.

The Parish Council will also:

- Seek opportunities to promote biodiversity and environmental enhancements, utilising initiatives at both a 'grass-roots' level, and through the adoption of wider initiatives;
- Seek opportunities to promote sustainable activities amongst the wider community within the Parish.

The Parish Council will utilise the Environmental Sub-Group to monitor and promote these aims, in line with the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Group.

Principles

Marden Parish Council will:

- Commit to the principles of stewardship, inclusivity, integrity, transparency, and leading by example in the field of sustainability;
- Promote walking, cycling, and public transport to visitors and residents;
- Encourage use of local and sustainable products and services;
- Respect and protect natural resources by practising conservation and good management by recycling and reusing waste materials where possible;
- Encouraging third parties to recycle and reuse waste materials where possible;
- Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing;
- Commit to the prevention of pollution, and compliance with relevant legislation and other requirements such as utilising services of sympathetic contractors;
- Avoid wildlife disturbance as a direct or indirect result of its actions;
- Send minimum organic waste to landfill;
- Encourage the strengthening of native wildlife habitats through the use of suitable plants building solutions where it engages in relevant projects;
- Encourage its Councillors and Employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times.

Review

This document was produced by the Environmental Sub-Group of the Amenities Committee of Marden Parish Council.

The Amenities Committee shall monitor, review and amend this Policy document where necessary, periodically.

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