

Toller Porcorum Parish Council Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

Toller Porcorum Parish Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an environmental and sustainability policy to cover the assets and responsibilities of the parish.

Aims

Toller Porcorum Parish Council is committed to protecting the environment including foot/bridle paths and the natural heritage of the Parish and surrounding areas, recognising the importance and value of the area and its contribution to quality of life for villagers, visitors 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 damage in all its forms in all its own activities and through its influence over others.

It will strive to do this by:

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 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 travelling on Council business, where practicable and safe, by, walking, cycling, car sharing or the use of public transport.
- h. Holding meetings by on-line mechanisms such as “webinars” where possible

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, or on other areas of the Parish at the instigation of Council officer:

- a) Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- b) Minimise adverse impacts on air quality
- c) Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
- d) 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:

Toller Porcorum Parish Council Environmental and Sustainability Policy

- a) The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport where practicable.
- b) The need to reduce, re-use and recycle to protect resources.
- c) The need to avoid adverse impacts on air quality.
- d) The need to conserve and improve natural habitats.
- e) The need to protect vulnerable and protected species.
- f) The need to conserve the natural beauty of its woodlands, and surrounding landscape.

Trees

In any future maintenance of trees, the Parish Council will:

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

If works are required, this will be programmed as necessary.

General

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

- a) Discourage the use of single use plastics within the parish.
- b) Discourage all forms of littering.
- c) Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- d) Encourage reduction, re-use and recycling of resources within the Parish.
- e) Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve energy efficiency of developments, new-builds, extensions and renovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- f) Encourage new-builds, extensions and renovations to be environmentally nature friendly.
- g) Encourage local action in support of the environment.
- h) Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life.
- i) Encourage the growth of the nature conservation value of the trial way (old Maiden Newton to West Bay Branch Line) and surrounding landscape where it passes through the Parish by encouraging maintenance and enhancements.
- j) Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood, as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife, and a support for animals and plants.
- k) Promoting the maintenance the Public Rights of Way (PROW) to foster and encourage biodiversity, physical and mental wellbeing.
- l) Encourage the provision of further cycle lanes and footpaths.
- m) Encourage any person or organisation carrying out works in the Parish to do so in line with this policy.

Approved 8th March 2023