

Dalbury Lees Parish Council

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CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT AND STRATEGY

Adopted

Minute reference

Next review due

1: Statement

Dalbury Lees Parish Council recognises that climate change, biodiversity loss and the degradation of the natural environment are significant challenges which require action at national, local and individual level.

As a small parish council with no buildings and a limited range of assets, the Council recognises that its own direct carbon footprint and its ability to deliver large-scale projects are limited. Nevertheless, the Council can make a positive contribution through the way it conducts its own activities, manages the land for which it is responsible, comments on planning proposals, works with other organisations and provides information and encouragement to residents.

The Council will therefore seek, within its powers and resources, to:

- reduce the environmental impact of its own activities;
- protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural character of the parish;
- consider climate change, adaptation and biodiversity when making relevant decisions;
- manage its allotment in an environmentally responsible manner;
- take account of climate change, sustainable development and biodiversity when commenting on planning applications;
- encourage practical and proportionate environmental action within the community;
- work with South Derbyshire District Council, Derbyshire County Council, neighbouring parish councils, landowners and other organisations where joint action may achieve more than the Parish Council could achieve alone; and
- keep this Action Plan under review and develop it as suitable opportunities arise.

The Council will apply the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink wherever reasonably practicable.

The Council recognises that climate action includes not only reducing greenhouse gas emissions but also adapting to the effects of a changing climate and supporting the recovery of nature.

2. Climate Change Action Plan

Area	Action	Timescale / Review
Council operations	Use electronic documents, agendas and correspondence wherever practical, while continuing to meet statutory publication requirements. Avoid unnecessary printing and use recycled or sustainably sourced paper where printing is necessary.	Ongoing
Council operations	Consider environmental impact alongside cost, quality and suitability when procuring goods and services. Where practical, favour durable, repairable and reusable products and local suppliers.	Ongoing
Travel	Avoid unnecessary journeys connected with Council business and encourage walking, cycling, car sharing or use of public transport where reasonably practicable.	Ongoing
Meetings	Arrange Council activity in a way which avoids unnecessary travel and make appropriate use of electronic communication between meetings.	Ongoing
Allotment	Manage the Council's allotment with consideration for soil health, wildlife and sustainable food production.	Ongoing
Allotment	Encourage composting, water conservation and the collection of rainwater where practicable and appropriate.	Ongoing
Allotment	Avoid or minimise the Council's own use of pesticides and herbicides wherever suitable alternatives are available.	Ongoing
Allotment	Consider opportunities for wildlife-friendly planting, pollinator habitat and other small-scale biodiversity improvements where these are compatible with the primary use of the allotment.	Annual review
Biodiversity	Have regard to opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity when exercising Council functions and making decisions.	Ongoing
Trees, hedgerows and habitats	Support appropriate protection, restoration and planting of native trees, hedgerows and other habitats within the parish, working with landowners and relevant authorities where necessary.	As opportunities arise
Verges and public land	Where concerns or opportunities arise, engage with the relevant highway or land authority regarding environmentally sensitive management of verges and other public land.	As opportunities arise
Planning	When responding to planning applications, consider relevant issues including energy efficiency, sustainable construction, renewable energy, sustainable transport, flood risk, water management, protection of trees and habitats and biodiversity net gain.	Each relevant application
Planning	Where biodiversity net gain applies, consider whether proposed measures provide meaningful and appropriately located habitat enhancement and whether important existing habitats have been adequately recognised.	Each relevant application
Climate adaptation	Consider the potential effects of flooding, extreme heat, drought and severe weather when commenting on relevant proposals or considering Council projects.	Ongoing
Community information	Use the Council's website, noticeboard and other suitable channels to share useful information about local environmental schemes, grants, consultations and initiatives.	As appropriate
Community initiatives	Support realistic community-led environmental projects where there is local interest and where the Council has the legal power and resources to assist.	As opportunities arise
Partnership working	Maintain links with the District and County Councils, neighbouring parishes and relevant community or environmental organisations and consider participating in suitable joint initiatives.	Ongoing
Review	Review this Statement and Action Plan at least annually, record completed actions and add achievable new actions where appropriate.	Annually

3. Planning considerations

When commenting on planning applications, the Council will consider environmental matters only where they are relevant to the proposal and material to the planning process. Matters which may be considered include:

- energy-efficient design and reduction of unnecessary energy demand;
- renewable and low-carbon energy;
- reuse of materials and reduction of construction waste;
- access by walking, cycling and public transport;
- provision for electric vehicles where appropriate;
- retention of existing trees, hedgerows and habitats;
- appropriate native planting and habitat creation;
- biodiversity net gain;
- surface-water drainage and flood risk;
- water efficiency;
- external lighting and its impact on wildlife; and
- the long-term management of landscaping and biodiversity measures.

4. Delivering the Plan

Dalbury Lees Parish Council recognises that it has limited staffing, funding and direct control over land and infrastructure. The Action Plan is therefore intended to be practical and proportionate, rather than a commitment to undertake projects beyond the Council's resources.

Where appropriate, the Council will seek to enable or support action by residents, community organisations, landowners and other public authorities rather than attempting to deliver every project itself.

Progress against the Action Plan will be considered as part of its annual review, although individual matters may be brought to Council at any time where action or a decision is required.