



Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish Council Environmental Policy

Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish Council (HK&SD PC) recognises its operations and activities on its open spaces and built premises have an impact on the environment.

It has a responsibility to minimise adverse impacts and maximise positive impacts and will be guided by the following principles in the making of all Council decisions.

- Reduce our use of resources and output of Carbon Dioxide and equivalents.
- Reuse as much as we can rather than waste it.
- Recycle as much as we can rather than throw it away.
- Protect the existing environment.
- Improve the environment to leave it in a better state for our successors.
- Inform the public about what we are doing and help enable them to play their part.

To achieve this HK&SD PC will:

1. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
2. Regularly update and improve policies in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
3. Prepare, implement and monitor environmental action plans for properties, open spaces and other assets.
4. Minimise the consumption of all resources used in operations and consider the lifecycle impact of purchases. In particular discourage the use of single-use plastic where possible.
5. Minimise and manage waste in HK&SD PC activities. Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible. Provide facilities for recycling and composting where possible. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods. (Press upper tier authorities and enforcement agencies to support our efforts to maintain a clean environment - streets and roadways).
6. Minimise energy use and emissions to air. Use renewable energy generated sources as far as possible. Recommend and employ energy conservation technology where applicable (including insulation, low-energy light bulbs, low water use toilets).
7. Work with and support other parishes and local authorities to implement wider scale environmental initiatives.
8. Encourage community-led initiatives and involve and inform the general public where appropriate.
9. Support initiatives that encourage sustainable transport such as providing cycle parking, cycle paths, recharging points for electric vehicles where practical.
10. Respect and protect natural resources through conservation and good land management.
11. Where possible conserve water from buildings and on allotments; check and protect external taps for leakage especially in winter.
12. Work and collaborate with external agencies to manage our river; flood management, overgrowth, cleanliness to maintain natural habitats for wildlife.
13. Encourage users of HK&SD PC owned grounds and allotments to enhance biodiversity to encourage wildlife and plant-life where appropriate whilst mitigating impact of weeds and disruptive growth.
14. Manage and maintain our trees. Maintain a tree planting programme (plant two for each one lost) and create and sow wild flower areas for pollinator protection and conservation.
15. Consumables should be as environmentally least damaging as possible. Products harmful to the environment are to be avoided where possible.

16. Where appropriate use contractors and suppliers who: (a): have an environmental policy which meets best practice and is updated regularly and (b): are local, thus minimising transportation impact whilst supporting the local economy.