

LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



Adopted at Full Council on: 12.12.2023

Minute Reference:

Policy Review Date: 1.12.2024

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Lavant Parish Council recognises that a healthy environment is fundamental to the prosperity and wellbeing of our local community, and we aim to make a positive contribution towards protecting and enhancing the local and global environment.

1.2 The Council acknowledges that whilst some of our activities may have adverse effects on the environment, we can take steps to minimise their impact.

1.2 Lavant Parish Council is fully committed to environmental stewardship through:

- Promoting biodiversity
- Taking steps to address climate change
- Minimising waste and tackling pollution

1.3 The Council will comply with and, where possible, exceed all environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice, as applicable.

1.4 Lavant Parish Council recognises that sustainability should be central to its decision making and will manage all aspects of its operations that impact on the environment. Updates to the Lavant Neighbourhood plan or any Parish Plan will be in line with our environmental policy.

2. AIMS OF THE POLICY

The aims of the Lavant Parish Council Environmental Policy are:

- To show environmental responsibility across Parish activities and assets for the benefit of the local community.
- To increase awareness of environmental concerns within the parish
- To promote the importance and value of a quality environment, and to support local people in their enjoyment of it.
- To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment.
- To promote the development of a Circular Economy. *[A circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible].*

The Parish Council will specifically consider:

- The impact that the execution of its activities and the operation of its assets has on the environment
- The impact that the goods and services it procures has on the environment, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers
- Where possible and appropriate replacing environmentally inefficient assets with environmentally friendly alternatives
- Working with and encouraging users of Council property to be aware of the environmental aspects of using and maintaining the sites.

3. POLICIES

(i) Climate Change

Lavant Parish Council will investigate how we might go about attaining carbon neutral status. In line with the latest research, we will set out plans for immediate and long-term actions to reach this goal which will include:

- Investigating electric car charging points
- Introducing natural climate change solutions (such as tree planting) on Council assets
- Keeping under review how the Council's energy consumption can be reduced and the best use of alternative sources of energy.

(ii) Nature and Wildlife

The Parish Council is committed to increasing opportunities for nature to thrive on the assets it owns or manages. This will be achieved by:

- Protecting and enhancing the quality and extent of the natural environment in Lavant
- Supporting the conservation of rivers, ponds and other waterways
- Planting and conserving native species of trees and hedgerows, and encouraging wildflower meadows and wildlife habitats
- Managing Council assets (including public rights of way, open spaces, play areas, playing fields, and verges) in a manner that protects and increases biodiversity
- Where necessary, commissioning official reports to compile data and evidence for biodiversity.

(iii) Pesticide Use

The Parish Council is committed to minimising the use of herbicides and pesticides on assets we own or manage (with the exception of use for the control of Schedule 9 plants under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, such as Japanese Knotweed, or where it is used to reduce material risks to asset integrity).

(iv) Sustainable Travel

The Parish Council will:

- Encourage members and officers to car-share or meet online when possible
- Promote and support cycling, walking and the use of public transport
- Ensure all Council vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard
- Pursue the use of electric powered vehicles where this is a workable alternative.

(v) Water Management

The Parish Council is committed to responsible water management and conservation throughout its operations, and will encourage staff, allotment holders and hirers to use water efficiently on Council Premises.

(vi) Waste & Recycling

The Parish Council will:

- Keep waste to a minimum by preventing, reusing, recycling or recovering waste
- Ensure waste is sorted, stored and disposed of appropriately

- Cease the use of single-use plastics on Council premises and events
- Recycle all recyclable waste generated at Council premises and events
- Promote and encourage recycling across the Parish and ensure the provision community recycling facilities
- Reduce the production of non-recyclable resources such as laminated or plastic based publicity material
- Minimise pollution and prevent where possible (including light, noise, solids, liquids and chemicals).

(vii) Heritage and Development

As a rural village supporting and promoting native species, we will ensure that our planning and developmental policies are sensitive to the context of a rural village. The Parish Council will:

- Be assiduous in alerting planning authorities to proposals that might have a negative environmental impact
- Safeguard the preservation and maintenance of important and listed buildings.

(viii) Responsible & Sustainable Procurement

The Parish Council will:

- Source materials and services locally wherever possible
- Ensure that timber, or similar products, used by the Council will be from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified sources
- Encourage the use of eco-friendly consumables (such as cleaning products and inks) on Council premises
- Seek, wherever possible, to use contractors and suppliers who have an environmental policy in line with our own
- Develop policies that encourage the development of a Circular Economy in the Parish.

(ix) Encouraging Environmental Awareness

The Parish Council will:

- Promote awareness of, and information about, environmental issues within the community
- Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation, including contractors, are aware of their responsibilities in implementing our environmental policy
- Establish and develop links with organisations with experience and expertise in environmental issues.