

West Winch Parish Council Environment and Sustainability Policy

The Parish Council will promote a high-quality social, built and natural environment in the Parish that is vibrant, safe, healthy and inclusive.

The Parish Council is firmly committed to keeping West Winch Parish a very special place through its own activities and through co-operation and consultation with others.

Together with the neighbouring parish the Parish Council has an adopted Neighbourhood Plan which aims to support the development of high quality sustainable and successful new neighbourhoods whilst nurturing and enhancing the lives of existing residents of the parish.

In all its involvement the Parish Council will seek to:

- Continue to protect and enhance the special landscape of the Parish and to enhance the quality of the built and heritage features
- promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- protect the valued green spaces in the Parish, including Common Land, and opportunities for recreation including sports and children's play
- minimize environmental pollution and waste in all its own activities and encourage the conservation, reuse, and appropriate recycling of resources
- seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy
- reduce car use by satisfying local needs using local resources and encouraging walking, cycling and public transport
- work in partnership with other organisations to promote the health of West Winch Parish both ecologically and physically
- progressively build environmental concerns and sustainability into all its policies
- promote social enterprise in the parish

In order to achieve this, the Parish Council will:

- adopt practices that minimize the effects the Council has on the environment e.g. reduce, reuse, recycle
- involve the local community and local groups and encourage local action in support of the environment
- Ensure the nature conservation value of the Parish's Commons, and surrounding landscape by encouraging maintenance and enhancements.
- Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children

Procurement

When purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will give preference to:

- Local suppliers
- Options that are environmentally friendly
- Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials
- Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- Minimise adverse impacts on air quality
- Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
- Where practicable use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species.