

OLD MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

All activities have some impact on the environment. Old Marston Parish Council (“OMPC”) recognises its responsibilities to minimise the impact its operations have on the environment to the benefit of OMPC and residents.

1. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to establish broad objectives to enable the development of activities or procedures that will minimise negative effects on the general environment and enhance and protect OMPC’s immediate environments.

2. Key Principles

- a. To strive to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local environment.
- b. To be mindful of the fact that OMPC’s actions have an impact on the environment when decision-making.
- c. Where relevant to build environmental considerations and sustainability into OMPC policies.
- d. To minimise environmental pollution and waste in OMPC activities and encourage the conservation, reuse, and appropriate recycling of resources within the Parish.
- e. To seek to protect and enhance the special landscape quality of the Parish and access to the countryside.
- f. To try and protect and enhance the quality of the built environment and heritage features.
- g. To aim to plant replacement trees for every tree that must be removed.
- h. To reduce the effect of adverse impacts, OMPC will aim to embrace the following objectives:
 - Minimise material consumption and consider the lifecycle impact of any purchase.
 - Reduce waste and re-use material wherever possible and to reduce the use of single-use plastic where possible.
 - Embrace recycling opportunities for re-used waste.
 - Minimise CO2 emissions produced by OMPC activities.
 - Minimise energy use and emissions to air.
 - Encourage suppliers to raise their environmental performance.
 - Encourage users of OMPC owned grounds and allotments to raise their environmental performance.
 - Conserving biodiversity on OMPC owned grounds and allotments and to manage the same to encourage wildlife and plant-life where appropriate.

3. Specific Environmental Actions

- a. **Energy Efficiency:** OMPC is committed to responsible energy management and will, where possible, promote energy efficiency through its operations by the following actions:
 - Increase awareness of energy efficiency amongst employees & Councillors.
 - Encourage energy conservation technology where applicable (including low energy light bulbs, low water use toilets);
- b. **Recycling and Conservation:** Where possible, OMPC will recycle, or re-use, any recyclable material.
- c. **Water Conservation:** Where possible conserve water on OMPC managed land and ensure taps are turned off from November to March.
- d. **Local Sourcing:** Where possible, OMPC will seek to minimise environmental damage caused through transportation of goods by sourcing materials locally. This also has the positive effect of supporting the local economy.

4. Purchasing

Where possible purchasing decisions will take account of both environmental and value for money factors.

5. General

It is OMPC who take responsibility for the implementation of the Environmental Policy.

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Adopted by OMPC on 7th June 2021.

To be reviewed 6th June 2022