

EXMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Exminster Parish Council is committed to the preservation of the natural environment. In conjunction with businesses, community groups, other agencies and the general public, the Parish Council aims to help meet the needs of today's society without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

POLICY

In carrying out its own activities, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment by:

- minimising waste and pollution
- following a hierarchy of reducing, re-using and recycling
- seeking to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- providing information electronically, where appropriate
- avoiding using single use plastic items.

DECISION MAKING

In its decision making the Parish Council will give careful consideration to:

- the importance of walking, cycling and public transport
- the need to conserve and improve natural habitats
- the need to protect vulnerable and protected species¹

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACHES

Where the Parish Council has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economical, it will:

- encourage the protection of the integrity of internationally and nationally important biodiversity sites within the Parish
- encourage the protection and enhancement of the character, beauty, heritage and biodiversity within the Parish
- highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life

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- encourage local action in support of the environment
- discourage all forms of littering², particularly dog fouling and single use plastics
- encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- encourage the reduction, reuse and recycling of resources within the Parish
- encourage the use of materials and systems which improve the energy efficiency of developments
- support and encourage actions and initiatives to bring land into proactive conservation management
- recognise the importance of hedgerows as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife which may support many animals and plants
- work with other agencies on environmental matters relevant to the Parish

PURCHASING

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

- options which are environmentally friendly
- products which have been manufactured from recycled or reclaimed materials,
- products which can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

CONTRACTORS

The Parish Council will require that contractors and Councillors who carry out maintenance and other work on Parish owned land:

- minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- undertake their work in a manner that benefits wildlife and the environment wherever practical
- use native, wildlife friendly species, for planting schemes wherever appropriate
- adhere to the Parish Council's environmental policy when working for and with the Parish Council.

LEASEHOLDERS

Leaseholders holding any type of lease from the Parish Council are required to adhere to the Council's Environmental Policy. Wherever possible and economical, leaseholders should promote environmental approaches in their own activities and when working with contractors or purchasing goods and services.

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PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Councillors are encouraged to be continually mindful of the Environmental Policy when carrying out the duties of the Council
- Volunteers and members of other organisations are encouraged to adopt good practices to improve the environmental performance of their organisation and improve its impact.

¹ The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states that “Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.”

² It is an offence to drop or leave litter under section 87 of the [Environmental Protection Act 1990](#) (EPA 1990) on all types of land, including land covered by water. Therefore, fixed penalty notices may be issued to someone caught dropping litter. Alternatively, the person may be prosecuted and face a fine of up to £2,500.

You can be fined if your dog is out of control in a public place or you do not pick up after it. In addition Teignbridge District Council have introduced a Public Space Protection Order, the rules of which are explained on the TDC website here: <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-wellbeing/dogs/dog-pspo/>