

BUDE-STRATTON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bude-Stratton Town Council [herein referred to as the Council] is committed to supporting the creation of a sustainable community. The Council acknowledges that our activities may have an adverse impact on the environment and that we can take steps to minimise those impacts.
- 1.2 The Council will ensure compliance with all environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice, and will aim to exceed these wherever practical.
- 1.3 The Council recognises the importance of a wide range of vibrant natural habitats and clean bathing waters - to the economy of Bude-Stratton, through tourism and their potential to improve health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
- 1.4 The Council will actively seek opportunities to improve the environment and enhance biodiversity of Bude-Stratton. This will include support for initiatives aimed at increasing the environmental awareness of residents and visitors

2. AIM OF POLICY

- 2.1 The aims of the Council's Environmental Policy are:
 - 2.1.1 To promote the importance and value of a diverse environment and its contribution to the quality of life for the community of Bude-Stratton;
 - 2.1.2 To promote a sense of community and support residents and tourists in their enjoyment of our local environment;
 - 2.1.3 To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment.

3. ENERGY USE & MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 The Council is committed to responsible energy use and will promote energy efficiency throughout its operation. The Council will encourage others (i.e. schools, businesses, individuals) to adopt the same standards and will support projects that aim to do so. Examples of which are:
 - 3.1.1 Encouraging staff to ensure that electrical equipment and unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use;
 - 3.1.2 Encouraging staff to close windows and external doors when heating is on;
 - 3.1.3 Encouraging staff to minimise the use of electric heaters and dehumidifiers;
 - 3.1.4 Ensure staff and members minimise vehicle miles driven on council business;
 - 3.1.5 Consider the installation of solar photovoltaic cells on Council buildings.

4. WATER USE & MANAGEMENT

4.1 The Town Council recognises clean water as a valuable resource and will promote efficient use of water throughout its operation. The Council recognises the negative impacts caused by improper management of waste water – including surface water runoff. As such the Council will take steps to reduce run off from its premises and encourage infiltration and storage through the use of permeable surfacing and rainwater harvesting where possible. The Council will encourage others to adopt similar water efficient practices and support projects that aim to do so. Examples of which are:

4.1.1 Encouraging staff and those operating from Council owned land to use water efficiently;

4.1.2 Where possible utilise water butts fed by down pipes as a non-drinking water source;

4.1.3 Rainwater harvesting systems used on Council owned buildings;

4.1.4 Yellow Fish project – an initiative where yellow fish are painted next to surface water drains to highlight that they drain direct to rivers or the sea.

5. RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT

5.1 The Council will:

5.1.1 Encourage the recycling of wastepaper and cardboard at all operations and where possible plastics and glass;

5.1.2 Use composting facilities at relevant operated amenities including cemeteries; where practical;

5.1.3 Promote and encourage recycling across the Town;

5.1.4 Use recycled paper products where feasible;

5.1.5 Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of waste paper;

5.1.6 Utilise electronic communications wherever possible;

5.1.7 Endeavour to end the use of avoidable 'single use' plastics in and on Council property and seek to influence others to do the same;

5.1.8 Develop a hierarchy of best practice, particularly for outdoor events and include wording on the standard booking form to encourage hirers to minimise or phase out the use of 'single use plastics';

5.1.9 Observe its duty of care conscientiously with all its waste contracts;

5.1.10 Actively seek to minimise all forms of pollution generated from council operations and prevent where possible.

6. CONSERVATION & THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

6.1 The Council will:

- 6.1.1 Seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of the natural environment of Bude-Stratton and its open spaces;
- 6.1.2 Support the conservation of natural habitats including, but not limited to trees, woodland, hedgerows, ponds, streams, downs, grassland, rivers, inter-tidal zones, beaches, dunes and wetlands;
- 6.1.3 Consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities but particularly with regard to the management of its land, and where possible land adjacent to sensitive habitats;
- 6.1.4 Seek to manage its green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity – including enhancing connectivity between areas of biodiversity by preserving and creating ‘green highways’ within the Town;
- 6.1.5 Seek to engage with and inform residents and visitors of the biodiverse habitats that exist and how they may use them sustainably;
- 6.1.6 Acknowledge the importance of the wider environment (Strat-Neet and Flex Brook catchments) and the impact of land use on rivers and therefore on beach water quality. Work with neighbouring parishes to protect and enhance the wider catchment;
- 6.1.7 Commit to develop a plan to reduce and eventually stop altogether the use of pesticides/herbicides on all land management and horticultural activities;
- 6.1.8 Implement a ban of mass balloon and sky lantern releases from BSTC owned property;
- 6.1.9 Consider a levy on mobile traders of items such as helium balloons, plastic toys, takeaways etc. on council land, with the proceeds to go to community groups acting locally;
- 6.1.10 Support the principle of allotment provision and canvass for demand from residents;
- 6.1.11 Investigate the creation of a map of ‘green spaces’ within Bude-Stratton Town Council boundary to show ‘natural capital assets’ including details of ownership, any existing designations and management regimes;
- 6.1.12 Give due consideration to ‘dark skies’ when replacing or planning new lighting, especially in areas such as the dunes, marshes and downs to minimise unnecessary light pollution.
- 6.1.13 Bude Green 5 To be considered wherever appropriate:
 - Rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling be incorporated
 - PV Generation with Diverter linked to an electric car charging point be incorporated
 - Local sustainable building materials be used where possible
 - Any hard standing to be of permeable materials
 - Renewable source of heating ie: ground source heat pump be used

7. AWARENESS, LOBBYING & PARTNERSHIPS

- 7.1 The Town Council will:

- 7.1.1 In all relevant communications promote awareness of, and information on environmental issues within the community;
- 7.1.2 Act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems;
- 7.1.3 Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy;
- 7.1.4 Work with partners to minimise the effects of noise and light pollution on the Town;
- 7.1.5 Support in principle groups and organisations that seek to promote sustainable environmental practices and increased environmental awareness within the Town;
- 7.1.6 Provide necessary training and development opportunities for council staff such that they can fulfil the objectives of this policy – particularly with regards to management of green spaces and sensitive habitats.

8. SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

- 8.1 The Town Council will:
 - 8.1.1 Seek to minimise environmental damage caused through the transportation of goods by sourcing materials and services locally wherever practicable;
 - 8.1.2 All catering, including tea/coffee in offices should, where practicable, be sourced from local, organic, fair trade or other recognised certification schemes;
 - 8.1.3 Any timber or similar products used by the Council should be from (Forest Stewardship Council) FSC certified sources;
 - 8.1.4 Investigate measures to support local traders in order to retain a vibrant high street and thereby reduce the need for travel to larger, distant towns and 'out-of-town' shopping centres;
 - 8.1.5 Contracts requiring formal tender responses should include sustainability criteria as part of the assessment matrix.

9. SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

- 9.1 The Council will:
 - 9.1.1 Encourage members and officers to car-share where possible when a car journey must be made on Council business;
 - 9.1.2 Promote, and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport;
 - 9.1.3 Ensure all Council vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard;
 - 9.1.4 Support initiatives to improve sustainable local transport options, including Connect Bude (campaign to reconnect Bude and Holsworthy to the National Rail Network);
 - 9.1.5 Continue to lobby Cornwall Council to ensure integrated public transport.

9.1.6 Develop an electric vehicle policy and consider the installation of EV charging points

10. REVIEW

10.1 This policy and its application will be subject to annual review to ensure that it continues to reflect the aims and objectives of the Council and promotes continuous environmental improvement throughout the Council's operations.