



# Kidsgrove Town Council

## Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Responsible Officer:	Town Clerk
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## **Policy Statement**

The Town Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an Environmental and Sustainability Policy. In all decisions taken by Kidsgrove Town Council Staff and Councillors the environmental impact will be taken into account, and a green or greener option will be adopted unless there is a significant or justifiable reason not to do so.

## **Aims**

Kidsgrove Town Council is committed to protecting the environment and the natural heritage of the Parish and recognises the importance and value of this environment and its contribution to quality of life for the wider community.

In carrying out its own activities the Town Council will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting the local and wider environment.

In conjunction with other Councils, local businesses, community groups, schools and the public, the Town Council aims to help meet the needs of today's society without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

## **Council activities**

In carrying out its own activities, where practical and economical, the Town Council will:

- Minimise waste and pollution
- Reduce the use of resources
- Re-use materials whenever possible
- Recycle when waste is produced
- Seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions
- Provide information electronically as much as possible
- Avoid and advocate against the use of single-use plastic items
- Minimise the environmental impact of travelling on Council business, where practicable and safe, by, walking, cycling, car sharing or the use of public transport

## **Procurement**

When purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, the Town 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
- Products manufactured and sourced in the United Kingdom where possible.

### **Contractors and maintenance**

The Town Council will require that contractors, Councillors and volunteers who carry out maintenance, at the instigation of Council officers:

- 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

### **Biodiversity and Green Spaces**

The Town Council will aim to ensure that the following is adhered to:

- Protect and enhance the quality of Knutsford's natural environment and open spaces
- Support the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams
- Manage green spaces to promote and protect biodiversity
- Minimise the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides
- Ensure its planning schemes are predominantly pollinator friendly perennial flowers

### **Awareness, Lobbying and Partnerships:**

The Town Council will strive the following:

- Encourage partner organisations to meet these environmental objectives
- Promote the awareness of environmental issues within the community
- Support and initiate projects which contribute towards meeting these environmental objectives across the wider community

### **Decision Making**

In its decision making the Town Council will take careful consideration of:

- The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport when practicable
- The need to reduce, re-use and recycle to protect resources
- The need to avoid adverse impacts on air quality
- The need to conserve and improve natural habitats
- The need to protect vulnerable and protected species

- The need to conserve the natural beauty of its woodlands and surrounding landscape

### **General**

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

- Encourage a 'Plastic Free Kimberley Town' by discouraging the use of single use plastics and encouraging businesses to use alternatives
- Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- Encourage reduction, re-use and recycling of resources
- Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve energy efficiency of developments, both new-build and changes, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood, as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife, and a support for animals and plants
- Encourage local activities in support of the environment
- Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life
- Ensure the nature conservation value by encouraging maintenance and enhancements
- Encourage any person or organisation carrying out works to do so in line with the points made above

### **NOTE:**

Plastic free does not mean avoiding all use of plastic; it refers to eliminating single-use plastics such as single use plastic bottles, plastic cups and straws.