

Lane End Parish Council Environmental Sustainability Policy

Adopted at the Full Parish Council Meeting on Monday 4th July 2022

Context

Lane End Parish Council is a medium size parish with a population of 3700 residents. It consists of five "Ends". Moor, Wheeler, Bolter, Cadmore and Lane. The first four are essentially rural in character the last is primarily urban housing three fifths of the parishes residents.

The parish includes seven areas of common land within its boundaries. Moor End, Moor, Ditchfield, Wheeler Handleton, Bolter End and Cadmore End Common (some of which come under the management of Buckinghamshire Council). The Parish Council own the first three of these. Any environmental policy must affect every aspect of daily life. It is nevertheless, a fact that it is on parish owned land we can have the most positive and visible environmental impact. Indeed, it is worth stating that Moor End Common is a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) comprising rare flora and fauna.

Policy Statement

Lane End Parish Council is committed to preserving and protecting the local environment by adopting an Environmental Sustainability Policy that recognises the importance and value the environment contributes to the quality of life for villagers and future generations.

To achieve this goal Lane End Parish Council will consider environmentally sustainable principals in its day-to-day operations, and within its statutory powers meet all relevant environmental legislation.

Form an Environmental Sustainability Working Group comprising of The Clerk, one Councilor and a non-voting lay member who will annually review the policy considering new standards and updated knowledge. Reporting back to Council bi- annually.

Principles

Where practical and within its financial capabilities the Parish Council will support both locally agreed and Unitary Authority environmental sustainability initiatives.

1. The Parish Council will:
 - Seek wherever financially feasible to use contractors and suppliers who are local and comply with the parish's environmental sustainability goals.
 - Aim to use products where possible that are manufactured from recycled materials, which can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.
 - Explore opportunities for community involvement in green energy and home insulation programs
 - Encourage recycling where possible to reduce waste to land fill.
2. In all its involvements the Parish Council will seek to lead by example in the field of environmental sustainability by and not limited to:
 - Ensuring the natural conservation value of the Parish owned land including sites of special scientific interest by encouraging maintenance and enhancement activities.
 - Consider the use of vacant Parish land for carbon capture schemes such as tree planting and community orchard, community, and group allotment schemes.
3. Encourage biodiversity initiatives to support birds and insect populations via:
 - The use of suitable UK grown flora such as native wildflower bee friendly species for Parish planting schemes.
 - Eliminate or minimise where feasible the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals on Parish land.
 - Continue to transition to low power street lighting to reduce light pollution.
 - Where relevant investigate the need for a water management system to maintain parish planting schemes and pond management.
4. Minimise the adverse impacts on air quality:
 - Continue to lobby for better public transport options and maintain and advertise local foot paths to reduce car usage.