

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 13TH 2021

Item 10 - To receive and approve a Copythorne Parish Council Environmental Policy and provide update on the next steps

Background

Copythorne Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency at their April 13th 2021 meeting.

Also at the April 13th 2021 meeting, it was agreed that the Five Year Plan Advisory Committee would develop an Environmental Policy in collaboration with initiatives from both the NFDC and HCC as well as other local initiatives and central government drivers.

Environmental Policy

Please find attached (as Appendix A) the proposed Copythorne Parish Council Environmental Policy.

Next steps

David Rigby and myself attended a virtual presentation by the Greening Campaign on the 10th June 2021.

The Greening Campaign believes that local Councils such as Town and Parish Councils are the most important link to tackling Climate Change. The Greening Campaign is a structured approach which guides communities through a process.

It also shares best practice, so you have the best chance in moving your community towards being more sustainable.

There are 4 phases of the campaign:

Phase 1 Engagement and behaviour change by getting everyone in your community joining together to make significant changes to their lifestyle.

Phase 2 Acting together to protect your local environment, retrofit your homes, and support human health

Phase 3 Self Assessing to find out your strengths and weaknesses and make a vision for your sustainable community.

Phase 4 Adaption to a different climate by evaluating the risks climate change will bring to your community.

At each phase there is an information pack, online video support, training sessions and email support

The cost to join the Greening Campaign is £50.

Recommendations

- 1 Approve the Environmental Policy (already fully supported by the Five Year Plan Advisory Committee) as presented
- 2 Approve £50 spend from the Environmental Budget to join the Greening Campaign

Cllr. Jackie Rhodes

June 29th 2021

APPENDIX A

Copythorne Parish Council

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Policy Statement

Copythorne Parish Council recognises that its operations and activities have an impact on the environment. It aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment within its area of operation whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result. Many of the decisions and actions of the Council affect the environment either directly or indirectly. In recognition of this, the Council will seek to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and to minimise environmental pollution in its own activities and through its influence over others.

This policy statement affirms that Copythorne Parish Council is committed to the preservation of the environment.

Responsibilities

Each member and employee of the council will:

- Take responsibility for the implementation of the environmental policy.
- Encourage volunteers and members of other organisations to adopt good practices so as to improve the environmental performance of their organisation and improve its impact upon the environment.
- Share good practice with partners and the community
- Undertake training and education and to share that knowledge

Objectives

Copythorne Parish Council shall strive to:

- Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge
- Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible and provide facilities for recycling and composting where possible
- Minimise, where possible, the creation of waste, especially hazardous waste, and wherever possible recycle or reuse materials. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
- Encourage the responsible use of energy . Use renewable energy sources as far as possible.
- Respect and protect natural resources by practising conservation and good management.
- Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment.
- Purchase products and services which are energy environmentally benign and sustainable where these are available competitively in terms of quality and price.
- Encourage community-led initiatives where appropriate.
- Support initiatives that encourage sustainable transport, such as providing places for cycle parking, cycle paths, recharging points for electric cars.
- Respect and protect natural resources through conservation and good management.
- Where possible conserve water from buildings and check/protect external taps in winter.
- Encourage land owners to enhance biodiversity to encourage wildlife and plant-life where appropriate.
- Work with and support other parishes and local authorities to implement wider scale environmental initiatives.

Actions to Achieve the Objectives

Copythorne Parish Council shall:

- monitor and coordinate the environmental performance of the organisation
- conduct periodic environmental reviews and self-evaluation of its compliance with the environmental policy
- prepare; implement; and monitor action plans to improve performance
- support and encourage contractors; suppliers; and other associates to minimise their impact on the environment through the communication of its environmental policy
- actively seek to influence others to adopt good environmental management
- Actively seek the purchase of materials from and the appointment of local contractors whenever these are available and competitive in terms of quality and price.
- Establish a task force (reporting to the Five Year Plan Advisory Committee) to work on plans related to the above objectives.

- POLICY ENDS -