

Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council

Environmental Policy

Policy Statement

Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council is committed to preserving, protecting and improving the environment by adopting an Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Aims

Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Parish 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 villages and wider community. In carrying out its own activities the Parish Council will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting the local and wider environment.

Council Activities

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

Minimise waste and pollution;

- (i) Reducing the use of resources
- (ii) Re-using materials where possible
- (iii) Provide information electronically as much as possible
- (iv) Recycling when waste is produced
- (v) 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 Parish Council will give preference to:

- (i) Local suppliers
- (ii) Options that are environmentally friendly
- (iii) Products that have been manufactured from re-cycled materials

Contractors and maintenance

The Parish Council will require that contractors, Councillors and volunteers who carry out maintenance on Parish-managed land, or on other areas of the Parish at the instigation of Council officers:

- (i) Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- (ii) Minimise adverse impacts on air quality
- (iii) Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
- (iv) Where practicable use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species
- (v) The Council, as a public body is required to secure good value for money when spending public funds. Purchasing decisions will consider both value for money and environmental factors
- (vi) Financial Regulations must be observed in conjunction with the Councils Standing Orders and any individual financial regulations relating to contracts
- (vii) All contracts shall comply with the Councils Financial Regulations and no exceptions shall be made except in an emergency

Decision Making

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

- (i) The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport when practicable
- (ii) The need to reduce, re-use and recycle to protect resources
- (iii) The need to avoid adverse impacts on air quality
- (iv) The need to conserve and improve natural habitats
- (v) The need to protect vulnerable and protected species
- (vi) The need to conserve the natural beauty of its woodlands and surrounding landscape

Trees

In maintaining our trees, we will

- (i) Organise regular tree inspections
- (ii) Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees
- (iii) Remove dangerous and damaged limbs
- (iv) Endeavor to replace large specimen trees with a similar species

General

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

- (i) Discourage the use of single use plastics within the parish
- (ii) Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children
- (iii) Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- (iv) Encourage reduction, re-use and recycling of resources within the Parish
- (v) Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve energy efficiency of developments, new-builds, extensions and renovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- (vi) Support local initiatives to protect the environment
- (vii) Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life
- (viii) Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood, as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife, and a support for animals and plants
- (ix) Liaise with Suffolk County Council to maintain the Public Rights of Way (PROW) to foster and encourage biodiversity whilst still meeting the legal requirements to clear them to the required widths
- (x) Encourage the provision of cycle lanes and footpaths
- (xi) Encourage any person or organisation carrying out works in the Parish to do so in line with this policy

Adopted September 2022

Next Review date September 2023