

Warboys Parish Council

Climate and Environment Strategy

CONTEXT

Warboys Parish Council acknowledges that a climate emergency has been declared nationally. Of local significance, Cambridgeshire County Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and though Huntingdonshire District Council, within which Warboys sits, has yet to declare a climate emergency, its Environment and Climate Strategy is currently being renewed and is due in late 2022. Warboys Parish Council's Climate and Environment Strategy sets out how Warboys Parish Council will consider the environment and climate change as an organisation (its activities and property) and within the wider parish.

STRATEGY STATEMENT

Warboys Parish Council recognises that it has many roles including:

- Consumer of goods and services
- Opinion leader
- Public watchdog
- Provider of services
- Landowner
- Employer

Many of the decisions and actions of the Parish 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 all of its own activities and through its influence over others.

The Council will strive to

- Raise the awareness of key decision makers
- Ensure that the implications of health, social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the community are considered within policies, decisions and activities
- Undertake training and education
- Share good practice with partners in the community

AIMS

In all its activities the Parish Council will aim to;

1. Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the buildings and equipment it uses and the administration of its activities.
2. Seek, where possible, to use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, updated, and measured against recognised, best practice examples.

In its engagement with the wider Parish, the Parish Council will aim to:

3. Work with local businesses and community groups to encourage positive change and consideration of the environment by providing support and education.
4. Where possible, affordable and commensurate with Parish Council powers and duties, support local initiatives aimed at climate change and or, biodiversity protection or enhancement.

PRINCIPLES

Warboys Parish Council will strive to work to the following set of principles;

1. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
2. Regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
3. Avoid the creation of unnecessary waste by adhering to a policy of considered, strategic purchasing.
4. Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible.
5. Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.
6. Encourage the responsible use of energy, by seeking to improve energy efficiency, to utilise safer energy sources and giving preference to renewable over finite energy resources wherever possible.
7. Seek to support and promote renewable energy projects within the parish.
8. Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment.
9. Purchase products and services which are energy environmentally benign and sustainable, where these are available competitively in terms of quality and price.
10. Encourage the use of public transport and the minimisation of car journeys wherever reasonable and practicable

11. Conserve and improve the natural environment by practicing conservation, good management and carrying out environmental improvements to land within the Council's ownership and control.

GENERAL

Each Member and employee of the council will

- Take responsibility for the implementation of the Climate and Environment Strategy and its Action Plan, ensuring that the best environmental practices are used and adhered to at all times.
- Encourage volunteers and members of other organisations to adopt good practices to minimise their impact on the environment.

Adopted: May 2022

Review: Two years