



North Hykeham Town Council

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

The Town Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by having adopted this environmental and sustainability policy

Aims

North Hykeham Town Council is committed to protecting the environment and the natural heritage of the town and recognises the importance and value of this environment and its contribution to quality of life for the town and 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 national government, other Parish Councils, North Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, 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 by:

- a. Reducing the use of resources.
- b. Re-using materials whenever possible and practicable.
- c. Recycling, where possible and practicable when waste is produced.
- d. Seeking to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.
- e. Providing information electronically as much as possible.
- f. Avoiding where possible and practicable the use of single-use plastic items.
- g. Minimise the environmental impact of travelling on Town Council business, where practicable and safe.

Procurement

When purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, the Town Council may give preference to:

- a. Local suppliers.
- b. Options that are environmentally friendly.
- c. Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials.
- d. Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Contractors and maintenance

The Town Council will require that people or businesses who carry out maintenance on Town Council owned or managed land, or in other areas on behalf of the Town Council do so where possible and practical:

- a. Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals.
- b. Minimise adverse impacts on air quality.
- c. Undertake the work in a manner that benefits wildlife and the environment.

- d. Use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species.

Decision Making

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

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

- a. Encourage a “Plastic Free Hykeham” where plastic free does not mean avoiding all use of plastic, but it refers to eliminating single-use plastics such as single use plastic bottles, plastic cups and plastic straws; by discouraging the use of single use plastics within the area and encouraging businesses to use alternatives.
- b. Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children.
- c. Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- d. Encourage reduction, re-use and recycling of resources within the town.
- e. Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve energy efficiency of developments, both new-build and changes, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- f. Encourage new-builds and changes to be nature friendly, located close to public transport and amenities, to provide electric vehicle charge points, and encourage the provision of cycle lanes.
- g. Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community’s quality of life.
- h. Ensure the nature conservation value of the Town Council’s parks, open spaces and surrounding landscape by encouraging maintenance and enhancements.
- i. Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood, as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife, and a support for animals and plants.
- j. Maintain the Public Rights of Way, where applicable, to foster and encourage biodiversity whilst still meeting the legal requirements to clear them to the required widths.