

## **Scarning Parish Council Environmental Policy**

### **1. Policy Statement**

The Parish Council is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an environmental and sustainability policy.

### **2. Aims**

#### **2.1 Council Activities**

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

- Re-use and recycle
- Improving utility consumption by investing in energy efficient technology (for instance, low power street lighting)
- Provide information electronically as much as possible
- Minimise the environmental impact of travelling on Council business, where practical, by walking, cycling, or sharing the use of transport
- Encourage its members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times
- Encourage developers toward Biodiversity Net Gain on new developments
- Adopt a Biodiversity Plan
- Encourage wildlife such as birds, bats, bees and insects through the use of suitable plants including perennials and self-seeding annuals
- Encourage wildlife such as birds, bats, bees and insects through the installation of bird boxes, bat boxes and bug boxes
- Encourage the planting of trees on Council owned land and elsewhere, where applicable
- Encourage the good maintenance of the County Wildlife Site (Scarning Water Meadows)
- Improve ecological networks

#### **2.2 Decision Making**

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

- The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transportation whenever practical
- The need to reduce, re-use and recycle
- The need to conserve and improve natural habitats
- The need to protect vulnerable and protected species
- The need to conserve woodlands, Common land and surrounding landscape

## 2.3 Contractors and Volunteers

The Parish Council will aim to ensure that contractors and volunteers who carry out maintenance or other activities on Council owned land and elsewhere, where applicable:-

- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- Undertake the work in a manner which, wherever practical, benefits wildlife and the environment
- Where practical use native, wildflower and bee/insect friendly species

## 3 General

3.1 Whenever it has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economical, the Parish Council will:-

- Plan for the long term for the benefit of future generations
- Encourage new builds to be environmentally friendly
- Encourage residents to walk, cycle and use public transport
- Encourage the provision of electric vehicle charging points
- Encourage the provision of cycle paths
- Encourage local action in support of the environment
- Highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life
- Recognise the importance of trees, hedgerows and deadwood as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife and as support for animals and plants
- Encourage the maintenance of Public Rights of Way
- Discourage all forms of littering

Approved: May 2024.

To be reviewed: May 2025.