

## Gurnard Parish Council

### Environmental & Biodiversity Policy

#### Our Aim:

Gurnard Parish Council (the Council) cares for the environment through its own practices and by encouraging others: individual residents, local businesses, clubs and groups and visitors, to do so too. The Council supports the aim of the IOW Biosphere Reserve to foster harmony between people and nature for sustainable development. The Council will endeavour to be as conscientious as possible about conserving and improving biodiversity in the Parish.

#### Policy

The Council will communicate this policy to its community through typical channels such as normal meetings, working parties, GPC website, newsletters and, appropriately local, social media. It will ensure suppliers and contractors are aware of this environmental policy by highlighting its whereabouts on the Council website or by providing them with a copy when we ask for evidence of their public liability insurance and, if applicable, their own Environmental Policy.

#### Part 1. Council Business, Office and Administration

KEY WORDS: **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**

The Council will keep aware of the environmental regulations that apply to its business and ensure that its legal obligations are met.

The Council will operate suitable procedures and systems in order to reduce the amount of office waste going to landfill by encouraging the careful use of resources and effective recycling and be mindful of ways to limit its environmental impact.

The Council will encourage Contractors to use environmentally safe practices.

It will encourage suggestions of ways to reduce its environmental impact.

#### Specific Actions Exemplars:

- *Encourage businesses and community groups to carry out energy audits of premises and take appropriate action*
- *Encourage the routine servicing and maintenance of equipment & plant to ensure efficient operation*
- *Source materials and services locally where possible*
- *Consider the durability and end of life disposal implications of products before purchasing.*
- *Maximise energy efficiency e.g. through use of low energy light bulbs and insulation of pipes, walls and roofs when possible*
- *Encourage the turning off of machinery, electrical appliances and lights when not in use*
- *Encourage assessment of chemicals used (e.g. cleaning/gardening) and their appropriate, safe disposal*
- *Use recycled materials where appropriate and use environmentally friendly companies*
- *Purchase paper carefully (from sustainable sources etc)*
- *Only print/photocopy when necessary and recycle waste paper, use email or telephone as a preference to the postal service*
- *Use both sides of paper whenever possible*
- *Use the minimum number of promotional leaflets as is necessary and return or recycle those that are not used*
- *Encourage the recycling of used ink cartridges and old mobile phones*
- *Minimise travel and encourage use of public transport or car sharing*

## **Part 2. Parish Community**

KEY WORD: **CONSULT, SUPPORT**

The Council will promote diversity in the community and try to maintain a thriving, economically and environmentally sustainable community where residents can enjoy their quality of life

### **Specific Exemplars**

- *Support local shop and businesses*
- *Consider planning applications and make recommendations in light of local need*
- *Publicize (government) schemes to help residents make homes more sustainable*
- *Support diverse amenities suited to a variety of age groups and interests*

## **Part 3. Wider Community and Parish Environment**

KEY WORDS: **ENCOURAGE, ENGAGE**

The Council will encourage measures to care for the environment in the wider parish. The Council will endeavour to keep up to date with local initiatives and groups, to liaise with other local councils, to be informed by IWC, national government and by utility companies and other businesses where support for the environment is offered.

### **Specific Actions Exemplars:**

- *Consider how planning decisions impact on the environment*
- *Encourage using sustainable energy sources*
- *Encourage mapping the Parish: could include SINCs, mature trees (request TPOs as appropriate), footpaths, various habitats and known flora and fauna.*
- *Support local groups such as Gurnard in Bloom and promote other voluntary commitment*
- *Actively promote a Tree Warden Network which is affiliated to the Tree Council*
- *Advertise those areas where residents can take action or inform the relevant authorities for themselves*
- *Create working groups /sub-committees as necessary to manage specific issues.*
- *Have a named councillor attend the IWC Environment and Sustainability Forum*
- *Consider up-dates from such national bodies (charities) as CPRE and local groups such as Together for Mission Zero*
- *Encourage initiatives such as Southern Water's Pathfinder Scheme.*
- *Encourage the finding of ways to reduce water consumption and checking for leaks*
- *Promote and use local recycling initiatives and encourage the use of recycling facilities at Lynbottom*
- *Encouraging the recycling of Christmas cards and Christmas Trees*
- *Encourage using home recycling facilities effectively*
- *Encourage the disposing of waste properly to prevent pollution or harm and provide information which supports this.*
- *Hold regular litter picks*

## **Part 4. Biodiversity**

KEY WORDS: **PROTECT, IMPROVE**

The Council will promote biodiversity and work towards compliance in all of its actions within Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

### **Specific Actions Exemplars**

- *Have regard for the [adverse] impact of planning and development proposals on biodiversity*
- *Consider the development of a Local Action Plan for Nature*

- *Plant trees and improve hedgerows and encourage the use of indigenous species as much as possible*
- *Review ground maintenance regimes to improve biodiversity*
- *Minimise use of harmful pesticides*
- *Create, enhance and protect wildlife habitats*
- *Minimise use of peat based composts*
- *Promote the composting of waste where possible, the composting and shredding of garden waste, and controlled burning only when necessary*

Adopted by Gurnard Parish Council July 2010, reviewed September 2013, reviewed September 2014, reviewed September 2015, reviewed and amended September 2016, reviewed no amendments required September 2017, reviewed and no amendments required September 2018. Reviewed 9 September 2020. Reviewed 8 September 2021 Reviewed and updated April 2023

### **Notes:**

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, is also referred to as the NERC Act (2006) Section 40 of the NERC Act **places a duty to conserve biodiversity on public authorities in England.** It requires local authorities and government departments to have regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity in a manner that is consistent with the exercise of their normal functions such as policy and decision-making.

#### **What is biodiversity and why is it important?**

Biodiversity is the whole variety of life on Earth, all species of plants and animals, their genetic variation and the habitats and ecosystems they are part of. It includes not just the rare or the threatened but also the wildlife that is familiar to us in the places where we live and work.

Biodiversity is important for its own sake, along with the many benefits we derive from the natural environment – products like food, fibre, wood and water; services like pollination, nutrient cycling, soil formation, water purification, flood defence and opportunities for reflection and recreation – all are critical for our wellbeing and survival and for achieving sustainable communities and quality of life for all.

#### **Biodiversity is in decline, why?**

The abundance and distribution of the UK's species has, on average, declined [sharply] since 1970 (State of Nature Report 2019). 75 percent of the land based environment and 66 percent of the marine based environment have been significantly altered by human activities (IPBES).

The first state of Nature Report was published in 2013 and was followed by the State of Nature 2016 and 2019. The most recent report is the [Living Planet Report 2022 | WWF](#)

### **WDVTA and the Tree Warden Scheme**



The Tree Council leads an action programme which empowers communities to manage and look after trees in their neighbourhoods. The programme supports the formation of networks of volunteer tree wardens whose aim is to protect and care for their communities' trees. Training, support and development is available.