

## **Ware Town Council**

### **Environmental Policy**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Ware Town Council is committed to the creation of a sustainable community, balancing and integrating economic, social and environmental components. Developing a more sustainable community will benefit present-day residents and businesses, as well as future generations.
- 1.2 Ware Town Council will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and will strive to surpass those regulations. Where practical we will aim to eliminate or minimise the adverse environmental impacts and prevent pollution.

#### **2. Aim**

- 2.1 These guidelines aim to provide Councillors and employees with information to carry out work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impacts on our environment. To support our community in its enjoyment of our local environment and to promote the importance of protecting the environment for Ware residents.

#### **3. Definition**

- 3.1 Climate change is a large-scale change in global or regional climate patterns, predominantly caused by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gasses to the Earth's atmosphere. These phenomena include the increased temperature trends described by global warming but also include changes such as: sea level rise, ice mass loss, shifts in flower/plant blooming and extreme weather events.

#### **4. Awareness and Commitment**

- 4.1 Our policy towards the environment will be readily available and promoted to visitors. We will endeavour to ensure staff and visitors are familiar with and implement our environmental commitment and objectives.
- 4.2 Ware Town Council's environmental policy will be available to view on our website, in the terms and conditions of our contracts for hirers of the facilities and in the visitor's sign in book.
- 4.3 We will communicate the environmental policy and train our staff to ensure its effective implementation. Prepare, implement and monitor action plans to improve performance. Including reviewing actions and reporting annually to the Annual Town Meeting.

4.4 We will include aims for sustainability and environmentally friendly practices in our Business Plan.

## 5. **Transport and Equipment**

5.1 Ware Town Council will endeavour to reduce the impact on the environment where ever possible for transport.

5.2 We will eliminate unnecessary and inefficient use of Ware Town Council owned vehicles and wherever possible, any other vehicles associated with Ware Town Council. Car pooling will be recommended when possible.

5.3 When purchasing new vehicles and equipment energy efficient and environmentally friendly options such as electric fuelled vehicles will be considered; to reduce the number of Ware Town Council vehicles that rely on fossil fuels.

5.4 To avoid unnecessary travel and encourage staff and visitors to use alternate methods of travel, such as: public transport, or cycling or walking.

5.5 We will support and encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impacts on the environment.

## 6. **Energy & Water Consumption**

6.1 Ware Town Council accepts a share of the UK's commitment to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by attaining greater efficiency in total energy consumption. We will monitor our energy use and improve upon energy efficiency within our buildings by adopting energy saving measures, e.g. purchasing electrical equipment with good energy ratings.

6.2 We will make every effort to use water efficiently and avoid pollutants entering the drainage system. Including purchasing only environmentally friendly cleaning products.

6.3 Ware Town Council will increase awareness of energy efficiency amongst employees and encourage energy saving behaviours. For example: fully turning off computers and monitors over night to avoid energy wastage. We will maximise the use of electronic communication and information storage as an alternative to paper.

6.4 In the Council's parks and green spaces planting schemes and technology that minimise the need for watering will be used. We will continue to implement water-saving measures on our allotments.

## 7. **Waste Generation & Management**

7.1 Ware Town Council will try to minimise the production of waste and pollution; including unnecessary packaging and single use plastic. Ware Town Council

will implement measures to reduce the volume of waste generated and increase the proportion of that waste which is recycled.

- 7.2 Ware Town Council will compost organic waste and utilise used, reclaimed or recycled materials wherever appropriate and possible.
- 7.3 We will minimise our waste production wherever possible, by reducing repairing and reusing resources and by recycling the waste. Rubbish will be disposed of safely, following the correct procedures and only licensed contractors will be used to deal hazardous waste.
- 7.4 We will incorporate the possibility of pollution in our risk assessment procedure and will use this system to minimise the risks and implement mitigation strategies.

## 8. **Biodiversity and Green Spaces**

- 8.1 Ware Town Council will, wherever possible, consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities, but particularly with regard to land management.
- 8.2 We will seek to manage green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity. This includes the management of invasive plants on our land and using planting schemes that exclude species known to be invasive in Hertfordshire.
- 8.3 We will protect and, where possible, enhance the quality of Wares natural environment and open spaces. We aim to make open space accessible wherever possible.
- 8.4 We will continue to promote the use of allotments as a source of local food, helping to reduce the food miles consumed by Ware residents.