



SHEPTON MALLETT TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Policy Reference Number: 1921

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

RESPONSIBILITY: Full Council

GRADE: Two – Medium

DATE ADOPTED: 10th September 2019

REVIEW DATE: Every 3 years – August 2022

AMENDMENTS:

1.0 Introduction

Shepton Mallet Town Council recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal regulatory requirements. It is committed to reducing its environmental impact and continually improving its environmental performance as an integral part of strategy and operating methods, with an annual review. It will encourage the public, suppliers and stakeholders to do the same. This policy will specifically refer to, but is not limited to: paper, energy, water, transport, maintenance, cleaning, monitoring and culture.

2.0 Aims of Policy

- 2.1 Incorporate environmental factors into council decision making
- 2.2 To carry out its work in an effective way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment
- 2.3 To promote the importance and values of a diverse environment and its contribution to the quality of life for the community of Shepton Mallet
- 2.4 Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts
- 2.5 Comply with all and exceed, where possible, all regulatory requirements
- 2.6 To promote a sense of community and support residents and visitors in their enjoyment of our local environment
- 2.7 Increase employee awareness and training
- 2.8 Continually improve and monitor environmental performance

3.0 Values

- 3.1 Striving to create a clean and pleasant town in which to live, work and play
- 3.2 Conserving energy and, where appropriate, using renewable energy sources
- 3.3 Reducing waste by avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic cups), re-using and recycling
- 3.4 Securing local goods and services from organisations with a sustainable ethos and/ or Fairtrade/ Organic accreditation where practicable
- 3.5 Conserving water
- 3.6 Minimising the use of harmful chemicals in the cleaning and gardening materials, and office supplies
- 3.7 Encouraging natural flora and fauna to flourish
- 3.8 Encouraging and supporting local people/ organisations/businesses involved the community.

4.0 Background / principles

- 4.1 Shepton Mallet Town Council is committed to doing all, in and around Shepton Mallet, within its powers and resources to protect and enhance the well-being of local people and all that comprises the natural and built world (our environment)
- 4.2 It is also committed to the principle of sustainability. This means avoiding unnecessary energy use or waste and restricting its use of resources to avoid contributing to climate change or other ongoing damage to ourselves or our environment. Accordingly, it will at all times seek maximum sustainability in all its dealing affecting the environment.

5.0 Conservation and the natural environment

- 5.1 Support the conservation of natural habitats including, but not limited to, trees, woodland, parks, hedgerows, ponds and streams
- 5.2 Seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of the natural environment of Shepton Mallet and its open spaces
- 5.3 Seek to engage with and inform residents and visitors of the biodiverse habitats that exist and how they may use them sustainably
- 5.4 Commit to develop a plan to reduce and eventually stop altogether the use of pesticides/herbicides on all land management and horticultural activities
- 5.5 Implement a ban of all balloon and sky lanterns releases from Shepton Mallet town council owned property
- 5.6 Investigate the creation of map of 'green spaces' with Shepton Mallet Town Council boundary to show 'natural capital assets' including details of ownership, any existing designations and management regimes
- 5.7 Give due consideration to 'dark skies' when replacing new lighting to minimise unnecessary light pollution

6.0 Natural and built environment

- 6.1 It will take such action as is within its power and resources to support and encourage sustainability in all forms of development and in its planning recommendations, where necessary seeking environmental assurances beyond the requirements of Shepton Mallet Neighbourhood Plan and other relevant legislations
- 6.2 It will manage its land and activities using environmentally friendly practices that promote biodiversity and enhance habitats

7.0 Trees

- 7.1 To commit to develop a tree policy that encourages the planting of trees and woodlands to provide an environment for people to enjoy, manage and celebrate

8.0 Paper and office Supplies

- 8.1 Shepton Mallet Town Council aims to minimise the use of paper in the office
- 8.2 It seeks to buy recycled and recyclable paper products
- 8.3 It seeks to reuse and recycle all paper where possible
- 8.4 It will evaluate the need and environmental impact of products it purchases
- 8.5 It will favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products where possible
- 8.6 It will reuse and recycle everything it is able to

9.0 Energy and Water

- 9.1 It will reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible
- 9.2 Lights and electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use
- 9.3 Heating will be adjusted with energy consumption in mind and windows to be closed while heating is on
- 9.4 It will encourage staff to minimise the use of electrical heaters and dehumidifiers
- 9.5 Energy consumption and efficiency will be taken into account when purchasing new products
- 9.6 It will encourage staff and those operating from Shepton Mallet Town Council land to use water efficiently

9.7 It will minimise energy use in all activities and buildings.

10.0 Travel and pollution

- 10.1 It will encourage councillors and staff to minimise vehicle miles driven, and to car-share, where possible on council business
- 10.2 It will promote and support the use of cycling, footpaths and public transport
- 10.3 It will promote the use of travel alternatives such as emails, phone conferencing and webinars
- 10.4 It will actively seek to minimise all forms of pollution generated from Shepton Mallet Town Council operations and prevent where possible

11.0 Cleaning, maintenance, recycling and waste

- 11.1 Cleaning materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible
- 11.2 It will manage unavoidable waste and use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste
- 11.3 It will encourage the recycling of wastepaper and cardboard at all operations and where possible; plastics, glass and cans
- 11.4 It will promote and encourage recycling across the town
- 11.5 It will minimise the amount of printing to minimise the amount of waste paper
- 11.6 It will utilise electronic communications wherever possible
- 11.7 It will endeavour to end the use of avoidable 'single use' plastics in and on Shepton Mallet Town council property and seek to influence other to do the same
- 11.8 It will develop a hierarchy of best practice, particularly for outdoor events and including wording on the standard booking forms to encourage hires to minimise or phase out the use of single use plastics

12.0 Sustainable procurement

- 12.1 It will seek to minimise environmental damage caused through the transportation of goods by sourcing materials and services locally wherever practicable
- 12.2 Any timber or similar products used by the town council should be from FSC certified sources
- 12.3 It will investigate measures to support local traders in order to retain a vibrant high street and thereby reduce the need to travel to larger, distant towns and 'out-of-town' shopping centres
- 12.4 Contracts requiring formal tender responses should include sustainability criteria as part of the assessment matrix

13.0 Culture

- 13.1 It will involve staff in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improvement performance
- 13.2 It will provide staff with relevant environmental training
- 13.3 It will work with the public, suppliers and contractors to improve their environmental performance, where possible

14.0 Setting the example

- 14.1 It will inform and encourage all Councillors and staff to promote awareness on these practices and to lead by example in supporting environmentally friendly activities

14.2 It will ensure all Shepton Mallet Town Council decisions take into account environmental impact and wellbeing.

15.0 Supporting

15.1 It will create and support a culture of participation, and support learning and initiatives for residents of Shepton Mallet, towards these ends.

15.2 In all relevant communications promote awareness of, and information on environmental issues within the community

15.3 It will act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems

15.4 It will ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy

15.5 It will work with partners to minimise the effects of noise and light pollution of the town

15.6 It will support in principle groups and organisations that seek to promote

15.7 It will seek out training and development opportunities for councillors and staff, such that they can fulfil the objectives of this policy, particularly with regards to management of green spaces and sensitive habitats