

## **Environment Policy**

### **1.0 Aim**

1.1 At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Burntwood Town Council formally recognised the current climate emergency and made the following commitment:

“This Council recognises that the planet and all its inhabitants are facing a climate emergency, including Burntwood and its residents. Along with national Governments and many other local authorities, we commit to promoting and supporting actions across our town to mitigate the impacts of climate change and considering the implications of our Council decisions on climate change”

### **2.0 Environment Policy**

2.1 This Policy sets out a range of actions that Town Council will undertake to directly mitigate the environmental impact of its own actions and to influence the actions of residents, local businesses and public services working in Burntwood. The key areas of are in respect of:

- Decision making. The Town Council will ensure its councillors are fully aware of the relevant environmental issues so that they can have an opportunity consider the environmental implications of proposed policies and projects
- Management of premises. The Town Council will seek to reduce the carbon emissions resulting from its use of the Old Mining College and any other buildings in the future. Particular attention will be given to in the short term to considering the use of electricity only from renewable sources, increased building insulation and reduced waste. With regard to buildings outside of the Town Council’s direct control the Council will seek to work with other agencies and organisations to promote best practice and provide information on funding opportunities available to local residents and businesses to carry out environmental mitigation measures
- Management of Land. The Town Council will ensure that the management of Burntwood Cemetery, Coulter Lane Burial Ground and any other public space in the future will where possible follow best environmental practice using products and practices that minimise any impact on the environment
- Procurement. The Town Council whilst maintaining its commitment to secure good value in respect of the expenditure it undertakes on behalf of the community will also use its procurement processes to ensure that the environmental impact of the

contracts that it awards is also taken into account including asking for a company's stated environmental policies where appropriate.

- New development. As a consultee in the planning process the Town Council will seek to ensure that, where appropriate, planning applications are supported by a sustainability statement. It will also seek to prioritise the Community Investment Levy to support public transport, cycling and walking schemes that reduce carbon omissions

2.2 The specific actions that the Town Council will undertake are set out in Table 1.

### **3.0 Monitoring and Evaluation**

3.1 The Town Council will monitor and evaluate progress in implementing its Environment Policy the production of quarterly monitoring reports to be reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At the end of each municipal year a detailed report evaluating progress and outlining actions for the coming year will be submitted to the Planning and development Committee.



# Table 1 Burntwood Town Council Environment Policy Action Plan 2021 to 2023

Policy Area	Proposed Action	Planned Timescale	Estimated Cost	Progress
<b>Decision Making</b>	Raise awareness of councillors of environmental issues by proving briefing notes and presentations from specialists	Start May 2021 onwards		
	Amend format of committee reports to include a specific heading for discussing 'environmental impacts' of policies and plans	May 2021		
	Engage with other agencies and organisations to share good practice i.e. continued membership of the Cooperative Councils Innovations Network	Ongoing		
	Provide appropriate councillor and staff training and development	Ongoing		
	Inform Town Council decision making by developing links with interest groups within the community for example young people	May 2021 to September 2021		
<b>Management of Premises</b>	Commission an environmental audit of the current management arrangements to baseline carbon emissions and assess	May 2021 to October 2021		

	the value of potential improvements i.e. switching electrify supply to green supplier and loft insulation			
	Agree an Action Plan to introduce measures to improve the environmental performance of the Old Mining College	December 2021		
	Undertake an environmental audit of any new premises and produce an environmental improvement plan	As and when required		
	Introduce environmental performance as a discussion item at future tenant's meetings	May 2021 onwards		
	Explore the scope to include environmental performance targets in tenants' leases	April 2022 to September 2022		
<b>Management of Land</b>	Commission an environmental audit of the current management arrangements to baseline carbon emissions and assess the value of potential improvements i.e. composting of green waste and use of chemicals	May 2021 to October 2021		
	Agree an Action Plan to introduce measures to improve the environmental performance of the Town Council's land management	December 2020		
	Undertake an environmental audit of any new sites it takes on and produce an environmental improvement plan	As and when required		

<b>Procurement</b>	All contracts will have the potential to include environmental improvement targets where appropriate	May 2021 onwards		
	The Town Council will where practicable avoid buying products that have poor environmental performance ratings	May 2021		
<b>New Development</b>	The Town Council as part of its consideration of planning applications will check that where required a fully detailed sustainability plan is provided. If not, it will consider making an objection to the proposed development.	May 2021		
	The Town Council will develop a town strategy for the allocation of CIL to prioritise the allocation of funding on public transport, cycleway and footpath schemes	June 2021		