



Chorleywood Parish Council

Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

As adopted 5 December 2023 (Minute 23/70 Full Council refers)

1. Make changes to the Parish Council's own premises, people and services we deliver

- **Water Efficiency** – be aware of the water usage in Parish Council owned premises and land (Halls, Office, Allotments) and consider appropriate water resource-saving ideas. It is acknowledged that a grant from the Chiltern Society's River Chess Smarter Water Catchment Project has enabled the Parish Council to install a rainwater collection system at the Parish Council offices. Wherever possible, the intention is to use the rainwater collected to water the Main and Parade beds scheme in the centre of Chorleywood Village, the various planters around the village and the planting in the Lawn Cemetery.
- **Resource Efficiency** – reduce waste in the Parish Council office, and from the village halls and the Common by volume. Increase the level of recycling and composting. As a consequence, the level of waste being sent to landfill can be reduced significantly, with an eventual goal of no waste sent to landfill by 2030. It is noted that the Four-Year Vision regarding the Village Halls reflects these objectives already.
- **Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Transport**
Seek to reduce fossil fuel-based mileage by Parish Council vehicles. Increase the use of electric vehicles used by the Parish Council and aim to replace any vehicles which have reached the end of their life with electric ones. Aim to replace any machinery or equipment which has reached the end of its life with rechargeable electric ones. Install electric charging points at the Parish Council office. Increase the percentage of renewable energy used by the Parish Council and investigate the possibility and viability of installing renewable technologies (e.g. solar panels, heat pumps).
It is acknowledged that it is unlikely the Parish Council will be able to replace all its vehicles with electric ones unless the technology involved significantly improves. It may be able to make progress with replacing power tools e.g. strimmers, hedge trimmers and the like.
- **Sustainable Procurement** – all contracts, programmes or one-off expenditure should have a carbon and environmental impact assessment to inform the decision-making process subject to, and in accordance with, the Sustainable Purchasing and Procurement Policy which is yet to be adopted.

2. Using our powers and influence to improve the environment we live in

- **Biodiversity** –continue to improve habitats for wildlife on Parish Council land eg by managing the Common in accordance with the Greenspace Action

Plan. It is acknowledged that the Council's ownership of green space is limited to the Common, Grovewood and the Lawn Cemetery. The Closed Churchyard is managed and maintained with biodiversity in mind. Delivery of the Main and Parade beds planting scheme has arguably increased biodiversity in the centre of the village as the scheme is designed to attract pollinators; this is on Hertfordshire County Council Highways land.

- **Air Quality** – The Parish Council can work to improve air quality by managing and maintaining its significant tree portfolio responsibly and sustainably and in accordance with the Open Spaces Committee's Tree Inspection and Maintenance Policy, which has recently been adopted. It is acknowledged that the Parish Council's ability to plant trees is limited by its land ownership.
- **Planning Applications** – Check adherence of planning applications to Local Development Plan Sustainability Objectives. Ensure climate change risk assessments (flood risk, storm damage) of new developments are carried out. Collect and retain data on planning applications which the Parish Council considers negatively impacts the environment around Chorleywood. It is noted that the Planning Committee has recently produced a sustainability checklist to enable the Parish Council to assess planning applications against sustainability objectives.

3. Education and awareness initiatives for the Parish Council and the Community we serve

- Provide training to Parish Councillors and employees on climate change and sustainability awareness in Parish Council activities. It is noted that such training materials are already being circulated such as the recent email relating to Groundworks workshops on carbon literacy.
- Promote walking and cycling in Chorleywood. It is noted that cycling on the Common is contrary to the byelaws, officers are looking at the options for providing cycle racks enabling visitors to cycle to the Common and leave their bicycles securely whilst continuing on foot to enjoy it.
- Encourage sustainable activities in the Community such as the continued development of the Community Garden in Dog Kennel Lane and promote and support sustainability events and reuse and recycle initiatives.
- Investigate holding a public screening of the 2017 documentary 'Tomorrow' which showcases alternative and creative ways of viewing agriculture, economics, energy and education, possibly in conjunction with Chorleywood Film Club.

Sources:

Chorleywood Parish Council – Sustainability Checklist 2022/23

Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy 2020 - <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/Media-library/Documents/About-the-council/data-and-information/Sustainable-Hertfordshire-Strategy-2020.pdf>

East Hertfordshire Sustainability Action Plan - <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/about-east-herts-0/environmental-sustainability/environmental-sustainability-action-plan>

20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/reports/20-actions-parish-and-town-councils-can-take-climate-and-nature-emergency>

2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) Three Rivers District Council
https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/assets/documents/Three_Rivers/FINAL_TRDC_ASR_2021_amended_08.10.21.pdf

Three Rivers District Local Plan: Issues and Options <file:///C:/Users/LouisePrice/Downloads/issues-and-options-sustainability-appraisal-july-2017.pdf>