

Heighington Parish Council

Environmental Policy

Heighington Parish Council is committed to protecting and actively promoting the improvement of the local environment.

Heighington Parish Council will ensure that environmental priorities are integrated into the decisions it takes on all its services and in particular with regard to amenities and recreational areas within the limits of the Parish of Heighington which include:

- Jubilee Hall, High Street, Heighington
- Potterhanworth Road Sports Field and Pavilion
- Station Road Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Climate Emergency Strategy

The Parish Council will endeavour to work within the North Kesteven District Council Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. Climate Emergency meetings will be held publicly, and residents will be notified in advance to facilitate participation.

Energy

The Parish Council will endeavour to use the minimum quantities of energy possible in accordance with safe and efficient operation of its heating, lighting, plant and machinery.

- It will from time to time review its energy sources, energy using appliances and energy efficiency with a view to causing the least environmental impact.
- It will monitor consumption and eliminate excessive or unnecessary use.
- It will communicate to hirers and staff the means by which energy may be conserved e.g. ensuring lights and appliances are turned off after use.
- Heating will be kept to a minimum and the thermostat will be regularly checked to ensure that it is not set too high.
- New electrical goods purchased will be of the 'A' rating where available.

Transport

The Parish Council will encourage those using village amenities to walk, cycle and use public transport as alternatives to the private car. Where the private car is the most practicable form of transport, users will be encouraged to share lifts. Whenever possible, Councillors & Council staff should share lifts when attending training courses.

Pollution

The Parish Council will minimise and where possible eliminate all forms of pollution, using biodegradable chemicals where possible, and minimising the use of solvents. Users of Council property will be encouraged to avoid creating excessive noise and light pollution.

Water

The Parish Council will avoid waste and encourage the appropriate conservation, re-use and recycling of resources. It will re-use and recycle materials as far as possible. Where this is

impracticable, disposal will be by means which will have the least impact on the environment and conform to statutory requirements. It will reduce leakage and eliminate excessive or unnecessary use e.g. through using water saving devices. It will communicate to users and staff the need to conserve water.

Biodiversity

- We will endeavour to protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity.
- When possible, native, wildflower friendly species will be used for planting schemes.

Tree Strategy

The Parish Council has adopted the North Kesteven District Council Tree Strategy 2020. We pledge to increase trees on Council owned land by 10% by 2025 followed by an overall increase of 25% by 2035.

Recycling

The Parish Council will avoid waste and encourage the appropriate conservation, re-use and recycling of resources. It will re-use and recycle materials as far as possible. Where this is impracticable, disposal will be by means which will have the least impact on the environment and conform to statutory requirements. The Council will encourage staff and users to minimise waste and will promote separate disposal facilities for recycling and garden waste as provided by North Kesteven District Council.

The Parish Council will provide a Clothing Bank facility, based at the rear of Jubilee Hall, High Street as a means of reducing our village's environmental impact and raising funds for our local charities and Parish Council projects.

Purchasing

The Council will seek where possible to purchase from local or regional suppliers in order to maximise input to the local community and minimise carbon emissions from transport at the same time seeking best value.

Environmental Impact

The Parish Council will ensure that the potential environmental impact of any building projects will be assessed and minimised. This will include, where possible, methods of construction which make best use of resources; designs which result in low maintenance and high energy efficiency and the use of building material from sustainable sources. It will encourage volunteers, hirers and staff to use and operate its buildings correctly to conserve energy and minimise waste.

The Council will promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment and participation in environmental issues by raising user and staff awareness by information provision and open engagement with the local community.

Health and Well-Being

The Council will protect the health and well-being of all staff and users and seek to improve and safeguard the quality of all Parish Council assets.

Monitor

The Council will monitor, review and where possible improve performance with positive action on any areas of non-compliance.