

# Environmental Policy Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall

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The Syleham and Wingfield Village Hall Management Committee (SWVHMC) is committed to preserving and protecting the environment by adopting an environmental and sustainability policy.

## Aims

SWVHMC is committed to protecting the environment and the natural heritage of the villages and recognises the importance and value of this environment and its contribution to quality of life for the villagers and wider community.

In carrying out its own activities the SWVHMC will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting the local and wider environment.

In conjunction with other organisations, local council, local businesses, community groups, schools and the public, the SWVHMC aims to help meet the needs of today's society without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

## Village Hall activities

In carrying out its own activities, where practical and economical, the SWVHMC will:

Minimise waste and pollution:

- a. Reducing the use of resources
- b. Re-using materials whenever possible
- c. Recycling when waste is produced
- d. Seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.
- e. Provide information electronically as much as possible.
- f. Avoid and advocate against the use of single-use plastic items.
- g. Minimise the environmental impact of travelling on village hall business, where practicable and safe, by, walking, cycling, car sharing or the use of public transport.
- h. Encourage recycling in the wider community by the provision of recycling facilities on site. The village Hall provides a recycling point in it's car park and holds regular scrap metal recycling provision.

## **Procurement**

When purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, the SWVHMC will give preference to:

- a. Local suppliers
- b. Options that are environmentally friendly
- c. Products that have been manufactured from recycled materials
- d. Products that can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

## **Contractors and maintenance**

The SWVHMC will require that contractors, committee members and volunteers who carry out maintenance on SWVHMC managed land.

- a. Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals
- b. Minimise adverse impacts on air quality
- c. Undertake the work in a manner that, where practicable, benefits wildlife and the environment
- d. Where practicable use locally sourced plants grown in the UK. In appropriate locations encourage the use of native, wildflower and bee friendly species.

## **Decision Making**

In its decision making the SWVHMC will take careful consideration of:

- a. The importance of encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport when practicable.
- b. The need to reduce, re-use and recycle to protect resources
- c. The need to avoid adverse impacts on air quality, water and land
- d. The need to conserve and improve natural habitats
- e. The need to protect vulnerable and protected species

## **General**

Where the SWVHMC has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economic, it will:

- a. Encourage a 'Plastic Free Village Hall' by discouraging the use of single use plastics within the hall.

- b. Discourage all forms of littering, particularly dog fouling, including around open areas used by families and children
- c. Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- d. Encourage reduction, re-use and recycling.
- e. Encourage the use of materials and systems that improve energy efficiency of developments, both new-build and changes, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- f. Encourage any changes to be nature and environmentally friendly.
- g. Ensure the nature conservation value of the SWVHMC property, J's meadow, and surrounding landscape by encouraging maintenance and enhancements.
- h. Encourage any person or organisation carrying out works for the SWVHMC to do so in line with this policy.

**Date of policy:** January 2024

**Policy effective from:** January 2024

**Date for next review:** December 2025