

# Environment Policy Action Plan

## Version 3.1

This action plan has been developed to help stakeholders identify what actions they might like to see in Swanage Town Council’s Environment Policy Action Plan to meet the needs of the climate and ecological crisis that we are all currently facing.

The draft Environment Policy agreed by Council in March 2020 provided six distinct policy areas and, in the sections below, the actions have been categorised under each of these. Swanage Town Council have taken the approach of producing a short action plan with a small number of key actions that can be developed quickly. This is seen very much as an iterative action plan that can grow and develop as we better understand what is required to meet the challenges of the climate crisis.

## 1. Managing the Town Council in an environmentally sustainable manner

We shall ensure that sustainability is at the heart of how we manage the Town Council and its functions.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date
1.1	Consider options for renewable energy on the Town Council estate	Undertake research and produce report	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	Report produced detailing relevant options	Operations	An application has been made to SALIX for funding to deliver this.
1.2	Move to a fully renewable energy contract for the electric supply to the Town Council	Educating ourselves re. green options and undertaking a procurement exercise if required	Not yet known	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	New contract set up	Full Council	Work ongoing
1.3	Review the waste created by the Town Council and consider options to increase	Identify waste streams and review options	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	New waste contracts set up and new systems in place	Operations	Discuss at the Waste management Working Group – January 2021

	the amount recycled or reduce amount disposed						
1.4	Review vehicle & equipment needs and where possible move to electric machines	Equipment asset list to be reviewed to consider options	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Review undertaken	Operations	Operations Manager to ensure asset list of machines includes power source
1.5	Make climate impact a determinant in all grant giving.	Add section to grant application form	None	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Revised application form	Full Council	Being revised
1.6	Develop an environmental monitoring system for the Town Council's business which includes the tracking of carbon use	System to be set up and managed by officers	None	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	System set up	tbc	Currently being developed
1.7	Provide climate crisis training for all STC staff and councillors.	External providers or maybe an online course	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Course undertaken	Full Council	Budget provision has been made for this and looking to deliver between January and March 2021.

## 2. Managing our built environment sustainably

We are directly responsible for both historic and modern buildings and infrastructure which will be managed sustainably

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date
2.1	Undertake an energy audit of all Town Council buildings and identify ways to reduce energy consumption	Review options to procure a consultancy to undertake this work	£2,000	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	A report will be produced once complete	Operations	An application has been made to SALIX for funding to deliver this
2.2	Implement energy reduction measures as per report	The report will detail what can be done – measures will be variables of short/medium/long term and low/medium/high cost	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	Energy use will reduce and tracked by the 'environmental monitoring system'	Operations	An application has been made to SALIX for funding to deliver this
2.3	Ensure all new Town Council constructions have sustainability embedded into their design	Included within each specification	Not known	Immediate	All specifications will include sustainability criteria.	Operations	Ongoing

### 3. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

We are directly responsible for a wide range of natural environments and shall work to enhance these and look to support initiatives that enhance other natural areas within the town

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date
3.1	Undertake a 'bio-diversity' audit of all sites owned by the Town Council to assess their importance within the natural environment	Volunteers could be used from Sustainable Swanage or consultancy employed, depending on type of work required	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	A map will be produced demonstrating high, medium or low bio-diverse areas and should include ideas for improvements	Operations	Sustainable Swanage to identify top 3 sites and to consider ways to undertake this work alongside Operations Manager
3.2	Review options to reduce or eliminate pesticide use, including herbicides	Current use will be reviewed and proposals for alternatives considered	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2021	A weed management plan to be developed which shows a demonstratable reduction in pesticide use, including a current use audit	Operations	Consideration given to procurement of mechanical equipment to remove some weeds for 2020-21 (Enviro. budget)
3.3	Identify areas on Town Council land where trees can be planted	Areas identified and trees planted	Not yet known	On-going	Trees planted	Operations	STC procured 29 trees in Dec. 2020 and a further 20 were planted by Dorset Council in partnership with Sustainable Swanage
3.4	Work with partners to implement actions identified within the Green Infrastructure Strategy	Identify areas within Strategy that can be developed	Not yet known	Ongoing	Action Plan developed	tbc	Many areas are being undertaken (trees in car park, Rabling Road Green, Downs Nature Reserve)

3.5	Develop the 'Downs' as a Local Nature Reserve	Continue to work with Sustainable Swanage to deliver this	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Nature Reserve established	Operations	Hoping to send out customer survey in January. Council have agreed the Nature Reserve in principle.
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#### 4. Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice

We shall work with the community and other stakeholders to encourage environmental best practice

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date
4.1	Recommend that all new constructions in Swanage have sustainability at their heart	Include recommendation in all responses to planning applications	None	Ongoing	tbc	Planning	
4.2	Continue to support Sustainable Swanage to deliver community based environmental improvements	Through funding, oversight, and management staff time	£20,000 per annum	Ongoing	Successful projects being delivered	Full Council	Cost is included in budget proposal for 21-22
4.3	Develop partnership projects through Town Partnership/Chamber of Trade/National Trust and other relevant organisations	Through funding, monitoring, and staff time	Not yet known	Ongoing	Successful projects being delivered	Full Council	
4.4	Establishment of a Youth Council		None	Ongoing	Council in place	Full Council	

## 5. Protecting local infrastructure

By working with the community and stakeholders we shall strive to protect and enhance local infrastructure to retain a vibrant and sustainable town

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date
5.1	Support a Rights of Way survey to encourage walking in the area	Identify solution and work with partners or other stakeholders	£250	Summer 2021	Survey completed with areas for improvement identified. STC will present findings to Dorset Council for implementation, if necessary	Operations	A consultant has been appointed and work will start soon.
5.2	Support, where possible, the establishment of a community bus in Swanage	Review options around a community bus for Swanage	Not yet known	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	Options exist around improving the route of the Durlston Bus. But a true community bus needs to serve the whole community and could take some time to develop	Roads and Transport	Discussed at R+T on 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2020. Proposal to set up a community group to consider options around a bus
5.3	Campaign to ensure essential services are retained in Swanage in accordance with the Swanage Local Plan, to minimise travel requirements	By working with Dorset Council, and other relevant authorities, such as DCCG, and supporting community initiatives to maintain our services	None	Ongoing	By recording and reviewing the actions undertaken and reporting to full Council	Full Council	

## 6. Supporting Sustainable Tourism

We shall support the town's tourism economy through the promotion of sustainable tourism

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date
6.1	Develop a sustainable tourism vision	Work with stakeholders to develop a vision of what a sustainable destination might mean for Swanage	£0	31st March 2021	Report to Tourism Committee	Tourism	Initial discussion at Nov 20 meeting and bring to Feb 21 mtg.
6.2	Promote sustainable transport and walking around the town to reduce the need for visitors to use cars	Look at alternative forms of transport and promote these on website and digital media	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Customer feedback and uptake	Tourism	
6.3	All events held on Town Council land to be single use plastic free	No single use plastic will be permitted	£0	Nov 2021	No single use plastic in use	Tourism	
6.4	Enhance electric facilities on event fields and the market so that there is no longer any requirement for the use of fossil fuelled generators	Report produced detailing costs of upgrades to sites	Not yet known	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	Upgrades undertaken	Operations	Costs being considered
6.5	Enhance the supply of free drinking water solutions across the town	Produce signage for current drinking water taps to make them more obvious and consider if any	Budgeted in 2020-21	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Signage implemented	Tourism	Drinking water survey undertaken on STC land. Additional tap installed at Main Beach Car Park (outside toilets). Signage being worked on for all locations.

		further are required					
6.6	Work with event organisers to ensure that sustainability is embedded into their events	All event applications to detail what positive and negative impacts their events will have on the local environment	£0	Immediate	Event application form updated	Tourism	Application forms will be updated in January 2021

## Appendix 1

# Draft Swanage Town Council Environment Policy

Swanage Town Council is committed to the continued development of a sustainable community, balancing and integrating economic, social and environmental components. Developing a more sustainable community will benefit present-day residents and build a community able to meet the increasing environmental challenges that will be faced as climate change impacts locally.

Swanage Town Council reiterates the 'Climate Crisis' motion that it adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 which includes a recognition "that there is a serious climate crisis".

Swanage Town Council will ensure that environmental considerations are put at the heart of how we operate our functions and services and deal with stakeholders at all levels of our activities.

This policy covers premises directly managed by Swanage Town Council and includes council buildings, the beach, boat park and parks and gardens.

Our six policy aims are outlined below.

### **Managing the Town Council in an environmentally sustainable manner**

We shall ensure that sustainability is at the heart of how we manage the Town Council and its functions

### **Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice**

We shall work with the community and other stakeholders to encourage environmental best practice

### **Managing our built environment sustainably**

We are directly responsible for both historic and modern buildings and infrastructure which will be managed sustainably

### **Protecting local infrastructure**

By working with the community and stakeholders we shall strive to protect and enhance local infrastructure in order to retain a vibrant and sustainable town

### **Protecting and enhancing the natural environment**

We are directly responsible for a wide range of natural environments and shall work to enhance these and look to support initiatives that enhance other natural areas within the town

### **Supporting sustainable tourism**

We shall support the town's tourism economy through the promotion of sustainable tourism

Swanage Town Council will achieve this policy through working with the community and the establishment of an Environmental Action Plan. This policy will be reviewed by the Town Council at least annually.

February 2020

**Appendix 2**

**Swanage Town Council Carbon Footprint -  
January 2019 to December 2019**

Source	Emissions tCO2/yr	% Footprint
Electricity	177.0	86.4%
Gas	2.2	1.1%
LPG	0.0	0.0%
Oil	0.0	0.0%
Petrol	0.0	0.0%
Diesel	15.4	7.5%
Water	9.1	4.4%
Waste	1.2	0.6%

**Total: 204.9 tCO2e/yr**

