



Royston Town Council
Environmental Policy
Adopted by Full Council 18th January 2021 - Minute number: 140/21
Review date: January 2023

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the impact that Royston Town Council (RTC) has on our environment and to ensure that the council acts as an example of good practice within our local community. For anyone requiring further detail, examples are in the appendices to this policy.

- To make a positive contribution to, protect and enhance the local and global environment.
- To build environmental considerations and sustainability into RTC policies.
- To minimise environmental pollution and waste in RTC activities and encourage the conservation, re-use and recycling of resources.
- In addition, RTC will embrace the following objectives:
 - Minimise material consumption (and consider the lifecycle impact of any purchase)
 - Reduce use of single-use plastic (where alternatives are available);
 - Consider implications of energy use and emissions to air;
 - Bear in mind environmental credentials of suppliers when purchasing;
 - Support users of RTC allotments to continue to perform well environmentally and where possible, to improve;
 - Manage and maintain biodiversity at Stile and Green Walk Plantations to encourage wildlife and plant-life where appropriate.
 - For the proven capture of CO₂, RTC should at every opportunity promote the planting of trees and plant trees itself where appropriate.

Specific environmental actions include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- RTC is committed to responsible energy management (see Appendix 1 for examples).
- RTC will encourage and, where possible, support allotment holders in reducing water use.
- Water use reduction and recycling methods will be considered in all other areas.
- Environmental impact will always be considered in the use of cleaning materials (Appendix 2).
- When considering office related expenditure, impact on the environment will be the primary driver in decision making (Appendix 3).
- RTC will endeavour to buy locally to support the local economy and reduce environmental impact.
- Biodiversity will be encouraged and be at the forefront in all decision making in respect of matters relating to plants and animals (Appendix 4).
- Members to consider environmental issues in Planning Committee deliberations (Appendix 5).

Appendices

The following appendices contain examples for guidance and should not be considered exhaustive.

Appendix 1 – Energy efficiency

- Regularly review the cost of current energy providers taking into account green energy providers.
- Switch to low energy lightbulbs in all fittings as reasonable.
- Staff, visitors and hirers to be made aware of relevant parts of the RTC environmental policy at time of booking.
- Where opportunity arises in the future, the viability of installing renewable energy generation/storage on council-owned and occupied properties should be considered.

Appendix 2 – Cleaning materials

- Cleaning fluids, polishes and glues etc. should be as environmentally least damaging as possible.
- A review of the cleaning materials used should be carried out on a regular basis.
- Options to be considered include recyclable or refillable containers.

Appendix 3 – Office equipment

- RTC will consider the environmental impact of disposing of end-of-life office and other equipment.
- Paper use will be minimised in the office and for council meetings. Recycled paper to be considered when purchasing.
- In future, all meetings including council meetings will seek to reduce paperwork, by providing downloadable and/or visually presented alternatives where possible.

Appendix 4 – Biodiversity

- Encourage allotment holders to embrace biodiversity.
- Support and promote the planting of wildflowers in Royston.
- Install and, as far as is possible, maintain bat and bird boxes in all suitable sites on RTC properties.
- Survey biodiversity in the plantations/allotments regularly to ascertain if measures are effective on the plantations and continue to be effective on the allotments.
- RTC will promote eco-issues and focus on biodiversity around us. A prize may be offered annually for schools taking part in sustainability or biodiversity projects.
- The considerable contribution made by allotment holders towards diversity should be recognised publicly by RTC.

Appendix 5 – Council decision making

- Planting, green space, cycle and footpaths.
- Electric vehicle charging.
- Provision of land for allotment space should be considered on all suitable larger applications to assist RTC in its statutory duty to provide these and further biodiversity.