

Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council

Environmental Policy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 As a society which aims to continue without catastrophic environmental collapse, Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council must live and develop in a sustainable way.

1.2 The Brundtland Commission, formerly the World Commission on Environment and Development used the following definition:

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

This must be taken seriously. A society which does not live in a sustainable way cannot live indefinitely.

1.3 Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council recognise that we all depend upon our environment to provide all our basic needs, and that the environment is the ultimate source of our economic prosperity.

1.4 Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council acknowledge that if we damage the environment, we damage ourselves, and contribute to the suffering of others, as Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council, as future human generations, and those of other species.

1.5 As a Parish Council, we acknowledge that we do not have the resources to deliver a sustainable society. Nonetheless, Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council should work towards this objective. The protection and enhancement of the local environment is not something the Parish Council can achieve alone, however. Everyone can help: at home, at work, at school, or at leisure. Improving the quality of our environment benefits everyone, as well as other species and ecosystems.

2.0 Strategic Aim

2.1 Because of the area Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council serve, our overarching aim is safeguarding the environment in our parish. As a provider of services, the Parish Council will seek to ensure that our policies, procedures and working practices minimise the harm Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council do to the environment. This is why the Parish Council has developed this Environmental Policy.

2.2 A key element of the policy is to contribute to tackling the Global Climate Crisis by reducing the use of fossil carbon in the parish, particularly fossil fuels.

2.3 Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council are committed to reducing the environmental impact of Parish Council activities on the local environment, and to facilitating the efforts of parishioners to reduce their environmental impacts.

2.4 Our commitment arises not only from an awareness of potential threats to the environment, but also from a desire to improve quality of life for everybody in the local community.

3.0 How Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council will achieve our aim

3.1 Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council will maintain and continuously improve the quality of the local environment by:

- Minimising any adverse environmental impacts and preventing pollution resulting from our own activities.
- Using the influence of the Parish Council to bring about positive environmental change in the parish and globally.
- Working in partnership with others to promote environmental enhancement. This should include all parishioners, community groups, other Parish Councils, Erewash Borough Council, and Derbyshire County Council.
- Promoting environmentally responsible behaviour throughout the Parish.
- Complying with relevant environmental regulatory requirements.
- Incorporating the implementation of this policy into the Parish Council's Strategic Plan.

3.2 In all our activities Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council will seek to:

- Minimise energy use.
- Minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
- Minimise water use in delivering services.
- Promote sound waste management practices by minimising our own waste production (reducing the consumption and use of materials e.g. single use plastics) and reusing and recycling materials wherever possible.
- Purchase products and services which do the least damage to the environment wherever possible.
- Avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides in all work undertaken by the council and its contractors, and discourage their use elsewhere.
- Work with others to protect and enhance the diversity of the natural environment (habitats and species), while encouraging community awareness and participation.
- Raise awareness, inform, and encourage participation in environmental improvement throughout the whole parish community.

4.0 Other Documentation

4.1 This document informs the Environmental section of the Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council Strategic Plan, which describes how this policy will be implemented.