TATWORTH AND FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Environmental Policy

Adopted on 5th November 2026
Minute No 205/26

1. Policy Statement

Tatworth & Forton Parish Council recognises that its decisions, activities and services can affect the environment both directly and indirectly. The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment, reducing its environmental impact, promoting biodiversity, conserving natural resources, and supporting sustainable practices throughout the parish.

In carrying out its responsibilities as a local authority, employer, landowner, purchaser of goods and services, service provider, and community leader, the Council will seek to minimise environmental harm and encourage sustainable behaviour within the community.

---

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for incorporating environmental considerations into the Council's decision-making processes and day-to-day activities. The Council recognises its responsibility to contribute positively to the protection of the environment for current and future generations.

---

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Parish Council activities and services.
- All Parish Council-owned or managed land and assets.
- Councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors acting on behalf of the Council.
- Procurement and purchasing decisions made by the Council.

---

4. Environmental Commitments

4.1 Leadership and Decision-Making

The Council will:

- Consider environmental impacts when developing policies, strategies, projects and activities.
- Seek to minimise any adverse environmental effects arising from Council decisions.
- Demonstrate environmental responsibility through its own actions and encourage others within the community to do likewise.
- Work in partnership with local organisations, community groups and other public bodies to promote environmental sustainability.

4.2 Climate Change and Sustainability

The Council will:

- Consider the potential impact of climate change when making decisions and developing projects.
- Support measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve environmental resilience where practicable.
- Encourage sustainable practices that contribute to the long-term wellbeing of the parish.

4.3 Biodiversity and Conservation

The Council will:

- Protect and enhance biodiversity on land within its ownership, management or influence.
- Seek to conserve native habitats, trees, hedgerows and other landscape features of environmental value.
- Encourage the creation and maintenance of wildlife-friendly areas where appropriate.
- Consider opportunities to improve habitats for pollinators and other wildlife.

4.4 Land and Property Management

The Council will:

- Manage its land and property in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Seek to minimise environmental impact arising from maintenance works, development projects or improvements.
- Promote the conservation and enhancement of both the natural and built environment.
- Monitor environmental improvements undertaken on Council land and encourage their appropriate public enjoyment and appreciation.

4.5 Waste and Resource Management

The Council will:

- Seek to minimise waste generated through its operations.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle materials wherever practical.
- Promote efficient use of resources, including paper, water and energy.
- Encourage electronic communication and digital working practices where appropriate to reduce resource consumption.

4.6 Sustainable Procurement

The Council will:

- Seek to procure goods and services that are environmentally sustainable and represent value for money.
- Give consideration, where appropriate, to energy efficiency, environmental performance, durability, recyclability and responsible sourcing when purchasing goods and services.
- Support the use of local suppliers and contractors where this is practical and consistent with procurement requirements.

4.7 Transport

The Council will:

- Encourage the use of sustainable travel options where practical.
- Promote the use of public transport, walking, cycling and car sharing for Council business whenever feasible.
- Seek opportunities to reduce unnecessary travel through effective planning and communication methods.

4.8 Awareness and Community Engagement

The Council will:

- Promote environmental awareness among councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors.
- Raise awareness of environmental issues within the parish wherever appropriate.
- Support and encourage local environmental initiatives and community-led projects that align with the objectives of this policy.
- Act as a voice for environmental improvement by drawing attention to relevant issues affecting the parish.

4.9 Advocacy

The Council will:

- Engage constructively with local, regional and national authorities on matters affecting the environment.
- Support policies, initiatives and legislation that contribute to environmental protection, sustainability and biodiversity enhancement.

---

5. Monitoring and Review

The Council will review this policy every three years, or sooner if there are significant changes in legislation, national guidance or local circumstances.

Responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy rests with the Parish Council.

This version is suitable for formal adoption by the Parish Council and reflects current local government good practice, including commitments relating to biodiversity, climate change, sustainable procurement and environmental stewardship.