



Beverley Town Council

Environment and Sustainability Policy

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1. Overview

Beverley Town Council (BTC) recognises its responsibility to the environment, then need to adopt sustainable practices and to reduce its carbon footprint. It therefore commits to ensuring it embraces and monitors these issues as an integral part of its operational and strategic responsibilities and that all decisions are made having considered their impact on the environment. The natural environment provides us with the essential services that we need for life, including air, water and food and Beverley Town Council undertakes to ensure it looks to change any practice or behaviours which it believes may have a detrimental effect on the environment. Scientists have demonstrated that current human behaviour is leading to climate change, which is already affecting weather systems, rising sea-levels and causing species decline and it is therefore incumbent on everyone to adopt lifestyle changes to stop or mitigate further damage. As a local Council, BTC recognises it can show leadership in such an important issue.

2. Aims

- (a)** Make regard to climate change and protecting the environment a key responsibility of the council, with all actions adopted and monitored to reduce their impact on the world.
- (b)** To promote sustainable practices and regard for the environment as key drivers for maintaining and improving the quality of life for Beverley's residents and visitors.
- (c)** Comply with and exceed, where possible, all regulatory requirements.
- (d)** Increase employee and councillor awareness of climate change and best practice to reduce and mitigate it.
- (e)** Continually monitor to improve environmental performance e.g. through monitoring the council's carbon footprint.

3. Values

- (a)** Create a clean, green and pleasant town in which to live, work and play.
- (b)** Conserve energy where possible and use from renewable sources where energy must be consumed.
- (c)** Adopt the 5 R's as a mantra - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose, Repair.

- (d) Secure goods and services from companies with a sustainable, ethical ethos. Beverley is a Fair Trade town so items bought by the Council such as tea, coffee, sugar etc should be fairly-traded.
- (e) Conserve water.
- (f) Ban the use of harmful chemicals for cleaning and gardening by the council, council employees and for council-run operations. The harm which many chemicals cause to the environment can be researched at www.ethicalconsumer.co.uk and eco-friendly alternatives purchased.
- (g) Encourage natural flora and fauna to flourish and support gardeners and growers using organic methods.
- (h) Encourage and support local people and organisations involved in making Beverley cleaner and greener.

4. Principles

- (a) Beverley Town Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the well-being of local people, the natural and built environments within the boundaries of Beverley wherever its delegated powers allow.
- (b) Beverley Town Council is fully supportive of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC), its parent authority, in its declaration of a Climate Emergency and, as such, is aligned to any initiatives adopted by ERYC.
- (c) Beverley Town Council is committed to the principle of sustainability, avoiding unnecessary energy, water and natural materials use in order to maintain ecological balance.

5. Conservation

- (a) BTC supports the conservation of natural and man-made environments including trees, parks, hedgerows, woodlands, community gardens, common land, ponds, streams, the Beck and rivers. It promotes the planting of trees and plants, especially those which contribute food for insects and humans.
- (b) BTC seeks to engage with and inform residents of the biodiverse habitats which exist in and around Beverley and how they may use them sustainably.
- (c) BTC seeks to ban the use of pesticides and herbicides on all land management and horticultural activities in Beverley, including glyphosate and neonicotinoids.

- (d) Encourage the celebration of 'pavement plants' which contribute to biodiversity and provide food and shelter for insects, especially pollinators.
- (e) Use water sensibly as necessary to ensure trees and plants thrive and survive.

6. Built Environment

- (a) BTC will encourage ERYC to ensure all planning applications include environmentally-friendly practices which promote biodiversity and enhance habitats.
- (b) BTC will encourage businesses and home-owners to increase planting, especially of trees and shrubs to increase CO2 absorption to help mitigate climate change

7. Paper and Office Supplies

- (a) BTC aims to minimise the use of paper in the office, encouraging the use of e-mail rather than Royal mail and for documentation to be accessed on-line rather than by hard copy.
- (b) It seeks to buy recycled and recyclable products such as paper and drinking cups.
- (c) It seeks to reuse and recycle as many products as possible.
- (d) It will evaluate the environmental impact of the equipment and supplies it purchases and favour the more environmentally-friendly and efficient products where possible

8. Energy and Water

- a. In order to reduce the amount of energy used by the council, lighting and electrical equipment will be turned off when not in use.
- b. Heating will be adjusted with energy consumption in mind to ensure the office environment is of optimum temperature for productivity and windows closed if the heating is on (Covid-permitting).
- c. Energy consumption is taken into account when purchasing new equipment.
- d. Water is used efficiently and sparingly by office staff.
- e. Water is used appropriately to enhance the natural environment.

9. Support

- (a)** BTC will help create a network of support for local communities and organisations to enhance and cultivate the natural and built environment to improve well-being.
- (b)** It will help create a town which is as attractive to locals as visitors, highlighting areas of special interest with innovative methods, such as planting, eco-friendly lighting and/or interpretery boards.
- (c)** It will act as a voice for local environmental concerns to ensure everyone is aligned in their bid to tackle climate change and improve well-being.

This Environment and Sustainability Policy was adopted by Full Council on

Date: MONDAY 7th JUNE 2021

Signed: 

Council Chairman

Date: 07/06/21

Signed: 

Town Clerk

Date: 07/06/21