

Thame Town Council

Environmental Policy

1. Background / Principles

- 1.1. This environmental policy applies to all aspects of the work of Thame Town Council.
- 1.2. Thame Town Council will use its available powers and resources to protect and enhance the well-being of local people and all that comprises the natural and built world (our environment). Accordingly, we will at all times seek maximum sustainability in all our dealings affecting the environment.
- 1.3. Environmental wellbeing will be considered with all other factors such as social wellbeing, public safety, prevention of crime and disorder, equality provision etc. in all that the Town Council does.

2. Commitments

Thame Town Council commits to:

- 2.1 **Green Living Plan (GLP)** – Continue to implement the GLP adopted in 2020 in a time frame appropriate to the challenges faced, including the review and continued development of the GLP on an ongoing basis. As required by the existing and next Thame Neighbourhood Plan (TNP).
- 2.2 **Decision-making** – Ensure all Thame Town Council decisions take into account environmental impact and wellbeing.
- 2.3 **Procurement** – Ensure that all procurement decisions contain weightings for sustainability where applicable, consider embodied energy, eventual disposal by recycling and avoid (or, where impracticable, seek to reduce) use of any unsustainable materials.
- 2.4 **Development / Planning** – Take such action as is within our power and resources to support and encourage sustainability in all forms of development and in our planning recommendations, where appropriate seek environmental assurances beyond the requirements of relevant legislation. Thame Town Council will expect any revision to the TNP to have higher building standards than the existing TNP.
- 2.5 **Council estate and facilities** – Manage our land and activities using environmentally-friendly practices that promote biodiversity and enhance habitats, in line with already documented policies and procedures.
- 2.6 **Energy generally** – Minimise energy use in all activities and buildings. Maximise the use of renewable energy and minimise waste, pollution and use of fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources. Equally contractors must comply where applicable.
- 2.7 **Climate Change, Pollution and carbon neutrality:** Work with other relevant Thame based organisations, and particularly Thame Green Living and the GLP to encourage ‘Carbon Neutrality’ and reduce pollution in the air, water, the ground

and from other sources within the Thame/ Moreton area by no later than such date as may be determined by the government or otherwise be practicable locally.

- 2.8 Biodiversity gain** – Seek to increase biodiversity on the land that we own in a way that is sensitive to the current and ongoing use of the land.
- 2.9 Awareness and information** – Work in conjunction with relevant partners to inform, encourage and promote environmental information across the Council and community. To train Officers and contractors to respond appropriately to feedback and utilise the process as an aid to progress and an evolving consensus.
- 2.10 Monitoring and reviewing** – Establish and implement suitable practices and checks to monitor compliance with these objectives / commitments and improve our environmental performance.
- 2.11 Resources** – Make available reasonable budget and staffing resources to facilitate local environmental initiatives and support relevant volunteer community groups and local organisations furthering those initiatives.
- 2.12 Other authorities** – Promote Thame’s environmental awareness and initiatives with the district and county councils, nearby parish councils and other official and unofficial bodies. Share best practice with (and learn from) other Town and Parish Councils and relevant national bodies. Plus follow any specific guidance issued by Central Government for Town and Parish Councils, following Central Government’s declaration of a Climate Emergency.