



# St Stephen in Brannel Parish Council

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## Environmental Policy<sup>1</sup>

St Stephen in Brannel Parish Council is committed to supporting a sustainable community. The Council acknowledges that its activities may have an adverse impact on the environment and that there are steps that can be taken to minimise those impacts.

The Council commit to making a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment and where possible exceed, all environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice.

### **Aims of the policy**

The aims of this Environmental Policy are:

- To promote the importance of a quality environment and its contribution to the quality of life for the community;
- To support the community in its enjoyment of our local environment;
- To carry out Council work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment.

### **Archiving the aims**

#### Energy & Water Consumption

The Parish Council will:

- Encouraging members, staff and hirers to ensure that electrical equipment and unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use;
- Encouraging members, staff and hirers to close windows and external doors when heating is on;
- Encouraging members, staff and hirers to minimise the use of electric heaters;
- Encouraging members, staff, allotment holders and hirers to use water efficiently on Council premises;
- Where possible utilise water butts fed by down pipes as a non-drinking water source;

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by Full Council at the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 under minutes number FPC57/20. Due for review in March 2023

### Recycling

St Stephen in Brannel Parish Council will:

- Encourage the recycling of wastepaper, cardboard, plastics and glass;
- Promote and encourage recycling across the Parish;
- Purchase recycled material products e.g. paper where feasible;
- Minimise the amount of printing;
- Use electronic communications wherever possible;
- Use composting facilities at relevant sites including allotments and cemeteries.

### Litter & Dog Fouling

St Stephen in Brannel Parish Council will actively seek to reduce and discourage all forms of littering, including dog fouling, within the Parish. This will be achieved through:

- the provision of adequate numbers of appropriately placed waste bins;
- ensuring Council owned waste bins are emptied regularly;
- encouraging members of the public dispose of litter, including dog fouling, correctly;
- highlight the issues in areas that suffer from all forms of littering, including dog fouling.

### The Natural Environment

The Parish Council will:

- Seek to protect the natural environment of the Parish and its open spaces;
- Support the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams;
- Consider the conservation aspects when responding to planning applications;
- Seek to manage its green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects the environment;
- Commit to developing a plan to reduce and eventually stop altogether the use of pesticides/herbicides on all land management and horticultural activities.

### Travel

The Parish Council will:

- Encourage members and officers to car-share where possible when a car journey must be made on Council business;
- Promote, and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport;
- Ensure all Council vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard.

### Awareness

St Stephen in Brannel Parish will:

- Act as a voice for the local environmental concerns to those agencies given the statutory powers to tackle problems;
- Ensure that all individuals involved in the Council are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this policy;
- Work with and support other organisations in the implementation of this policy

### Climate Change

The Parish Council will:

- Make the necessary changes to reduce its carbon footprint;
- Support local farmers and businesses;
- Promote biodiversity by introducing wildlife areas;
- Promote biodiversity by planting trees;
- Consider longer-term impacts on health, including mental health;
- Support Cornwall Council in their goal for Cornwall to reach carbon neutrality by 2030; and
- Investigate the creation of a local food hub.

### **Review & Responsibility**

This policy and its application will be subject to review by the Development & Environment Committee to ensure that Council continue to achieve the aims and promotes continuous environmental improvement throughout the Council's operations