**Bovey Tracey Town Council**

****

**Environmental Policy**

Bovey Tracey Town Council has declared a Climate and Ecology Emergency and is committed to supporting a sustainable community. The Council acknowledges that some of 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 commits to making a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment and to adhere to, and where possible exceed, all environmental regulations, laws, and codes of practice.

**1.0 Aims of the policy:**

 The aims of this Environmental Policy are:

* To promote the importance of the maintenance and protection of the natural 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.

**2.0 Achieving the aims:**

3.0 Energy & Water Consumption

 The Town Council will:

* Encourage members, staff, and hirers to ensure that electrical equipment and

 unnecessary lights are switched off when not in use.

* Encourage members, staff and hirers to close windows and external doors when heating is on.
* Encourage members, staff, and hirers to minimise the use of electric heaters,
* Encourage members, staff, allotment holders and hirers to use water efficiently on Council premises, and monitor usage across all sites, regularly looking for ways to minimise water and energy use
* Where possible utilise water-butts fed by down pipes as a non-drinking water source.
* Seek to utilise Green Energy Providers where feasible
* Work to maximise the efficiency of the Community Centre’s solar panels and batteries to reduce reliance on the grid.

4.0 Recycling

 The Town Council will:

* Encourage the circular economy through the principles of Repair, Reuse and Recycle.
* Recycle wastepaper, cardboard, plastics, glass and food waste from council premises.
* 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.
* Seek to source second-hand products/supplies where appropriate and feasible and/or consider hire rather than purchase where items are only infrequently used.

5.0 Litter & Dog Fouling

 The Town 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 to dispose of litter, including dog fouling, correctly,
* highlight the issues in areas that suffer from all forms of littering, including dog fouling.
* Working in partnership with the District Council’s Community Environment Warden

6.0 The Natural Environment

 The Town 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 and enhances biodiversity throughout the parish.
* Commit to developing a plan to reduce and stop altogether the use of pesticides/herbicides on all land management and horticultural activities.

7.0 Travel

 The Town Council will:

* Encourage members and officers to walk or cycle and 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 across the community.
* Promote the use of electronic vehicles, including supporting EV Infrastructure Improvements (e.g. Charging Points) where appropriate
* Ensure all Council vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard.

8.0 Awareness

 The Town Council will:

* Act as a voice for 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.
* Ensure that event organisers comply with the Council’s Green Events Policy.
* Request that Council Lessees’ strive towards compliance of green initiatives.

9.0 Climate Change

 The Town Council will strive to

* Make the necessary changes to reduce its carbon footprint.
* Work with Climate Action: Bovey & Heathfield to raise awareness of climate change in the community.
* Promote a Plastic Free community
* 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 arising from any changes in the environment (e.g., increasing or decreasing green spaces in the parish which may impact the ability for residents to exercise, enjoy nature or relax in an environmentally friendly manner).
* Support the local community food hub and community fridge and try to eliminate food waste.
* Support the local repair café.
* Support Teignbridge District Council in their goal for Devon’s carbon emissions to reduce to net-zero.
* Having declared a local climate emergency, continue to assess the carbon footprint of Bovey Tracey Town Council annually, with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2025.

**Review & Responsibility**

This internal policy and its application will be subject to review by the Planning & Environment Committee annually to ensure that the Council continues to achieve the aims and promotes continuous environmental improvement throughout the Council’s operations.