

Tywardreath and Par Parish Council

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION POLICY (EAP)

INTRODUCTION

The scale of the challenge presented by climate change is unprecedented. The warming climate due to human activity and emissions, coupled with rapid biodiversity and ecosystem loss, combines to severely impact all life on our planet. The impacts of climate change are already being felt all over the world, including:

- more extreme temperatures
- threats to wildlife, nature & bio-diversity
- loss of food sources
- rising sea levels
- rising costs

Everyone will need to take action against climate change: communities, businesses, schools, public sector partners, the voluntary sector and many more, not just as residents, but in our working lives too.

What does Climate Change mean locally?

- The summer of 2022 was the hottest ever recorded in England -summer temperatures could increase by up to 10⁰C if the current trajectory of global warming continues.
- Cornwall is particularly susceptible to flood risk from intense rainfall. Our coastal communities are at risk from storms, erosion and the effects of rising sea levels.
- Unpredictable and changing weather patterns may reduce crop yields and rising temperatures will threaten marine fishing as a food source.

Tywardreath & Par Parish Council (TPPC) believes that all governments (National, Regional and Local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown. Local governments should recognise this and not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for everyone to commit to carbon neutrality.

Cornwall Council states:

'The Council cannot provide all of the solutions, as combating climate change needs system wide change that involves communities, business, individuals and stakeholders across all sectors of the economy.'

'Our most powerful lever is partnership, and leadership where appropriate, enabling action and galvanizing a collective approach to tackling the most fundamental challenge of our time.'

TPPC believes that by working together, we can all help mitigate and adapt to the impact of Climate Change in the parish, and this document sets out our aspirations in relation to the support for and promotion of environmentally friendly initiatives.

AIMS

- To ensure that all policies and decisions of the council are informed and led by the impact they will have on securing a safer and better future for the parish within the context of a Climate Emergency.
- To engage with and listen to the community – individuals, community groups and businesses - in order to promote and support initiatives which are in line with the above aim.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The TPPC community has already demonstrated their support for environmental action in its widest sense. In March 2019, 22.6% of households responded to a comprehensive Questionnaire seeking their views as to their priorities in respect of the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). 99% of respondents agreed that the Parish's natural heritage assets should be protected. Almost all respondents (96%) supported the use of part of the StARR – St Austell Bay Resilient Regeneration - project funding to make local footpaths and pavements as accessible as possible and 85% of respondents agreed that flooding was a significant risk/problem in the parish. Numerous consultation events followed, and many suggestions were later translated into policies. The community suggested which areas should be put forward for Local Green Space designation; and the Tranquil Areas policy is a first for Cornwall.

All the policies were strongly influenced by the need for sustainability – social, economic and environmental – and 90.86% of those who voted in the referendum, voted in favour of the NDP which was adopted (made) in January 2021.

TPPC NDP outlines the community's vision for development in the parish up until 2030. NDP policies pre-empted many of the principles promoted by Nature Recovery. All the policies seek to protect the natural environment and ensure net bio-diversity gain. In particular, the 'Flood Risk Management' policies and the 'Environment and Heritage' policies detail development requirements which will support nature's recovery and provide wider environmental benefits.

This Environmental Action Plan (EAP) is a natural follow-on from the NDP which is a statutory planning document. The EAP is not subject to the same constraints as the NDP and can and will be amended as time goes on.

Blue Green (or Green Blue) is an underlying theme in TPPC's NDP. The term is associated with sustainability and positive health and wellbeing. Blue space covers everything related to water, both coastal and inland: sea, lakes, canals, rivers, wetlands. Green space includes parks, nature reserves, allotments, gardens, in effect any open, green areas. Beaches and the coastline are sometimes classified as Green space, sometimes as Blue space, depending on the publication.

TPPC will use its best endeavours to ensure all development in the parish meets the requirements set out in the relevant Tywardreath & Par NDP policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION POLICIES

Policy 1: Waste and Resources

TPPC will:

- Raise awareness of how we can all live more environmentally-friendly lives
- Promote upcycling and recycling
- Promote the swapping and sharing of items rather than sending them to landfill
- Continue to encourage local businesses and residents to use alternatives to plastics
- Encourage the installation of water refill stations and fountains to minimise use of plastic bottles
- Urge Cornwall Council and Government to enforce a higher level of resource recovery

Policy 2: Energy Uses and Sources

TPPC will:

- Encourage residents and local businesses to use energy more efficiently
- Raise awareness of how existing homes and businesses can be made more energy efficient
- Provide information on government grants and initiatives in respect of energy usage
- Explore options for local renewable energy sources
- Support local initiatives to reduce the parish's carbon footprint

Policy 3: A Sustainable Local Economy

TPPC will:

- Encourage the community to buy local
- Promote locally grown produce
- Promote the sharing of excess produce and food
- Support the local farming and horticultural economy in pursuing environmentally-friendly initiatives
- Support and promote the parish as a Blue Green ecotourism destination.
- Seek out and apply for external funding to support the above

Policy 4: Active travel and sustainable transport

TPPC will:

- Support initiatives to reduce local dependency on cars
- Ensure that footpaths and walkways are safe for pedestrians as far as is practicable
- Encourage walk to school and playgroup initiatives
- Make the outdoors environment as accessible to all wherever feasible
- Engage with the Cornwall Council and other organisations to create safe, joined up cycle routes
- Look to install Electric Vehicle charging points on TPPC owned land or property where appropriate and encourage local businesses to do the same
- Seek to improve access to public transport, e.g. train and bus services
- Research and apply for external funding in relation to the above

Policy 5: Environment and Land Use

TPPC will:

- Support the government's legally binding pledge to end nature decline by 2030
- Encourage the biodiversity of our flora and fauna
- Support the planting of trees in appropriate places
- Promote the seeding of wildflowers in verges
- Continue to manage and develop existing TPPC green assets; and create new green spaces, wildlife and community gardens as resources allow.
- Maintain TPPC's existing planters and create new ones where volunteer capacity permits
- Commit to zero use of weed-killers and promote environmentally-friendly weed control
- Highlight wildlife sites and walks
- Seek out and apply for external funding in relation to the above

Policy 6: Positive health and wellbeing, recreation and leisure

TPPC will:

- Promote and publicise local green and blue spaces, coastal footpaths and rural walks
- Make our outdoor, community spaces accessible to all wherever feasible
- Encourage positive mental health by supporting a range of activities
- Raise awareness of environmentally-friendly initiatives which also promote social interaction, e.g. garden sharing for people with more space than time to grow vegetables
- Publicise and support locally-based community groups which organise activities to improve and protect the environment, e.g. litter picks
- Encourage individuals, communities and local businesses to plant window boxes, planters and front gardens with pollinating flowers and herbs
- Seek out and apply for external funding to support and promote the above

TPPC ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

Short-term Objectives

Arrange and/or attend 2 community events and invite individuals to contribute ideas as to the actions TPPC could take to improve the environment locally

Adopted 6th July 2023