

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

RESPONSIBILITY: Full Council

GRADE: Two – Medium

DATE ADOPTED: July 2021

REVIEW DATE: Every 3 years

AMENDMENTS:

## 1. Introduction

Welshpool Town Council recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal regulatory requirements. It is committed to reducing its environmental impact and continually improving its environmental performance as an integral part of strategy and operating methods, with an annual review. It will encourage the public, suppliers and stakeholders to do the same. This policy will specifically refer to, but is not limited to: paper, energy, water, transport, maintenance, cleaning, monitoring and culture.

## 2. Aims of Policy

- 2.1 To incorporate environmental factors into Council decision making
- 2.2 To enable the Council to carry out its work effectively whilst minimising or eliminating its adverse impact on our environment
- 2.3 To promote the importance and values of a biodiverse environment and its contribution to the quality of life of the community of Welshpool
- 2.4 Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts
- 2.5 Comply with and exceed, where possible, all regulatory requirements
- 2.6 To promote a sense of community, support residents and visitors in their enjoyment of our local environment
- 2.7 Increase employee awareness and training
- 2.8 Continually improve and monitor environmental performance

## 3. Values

- 3.1 Striving to create a clean and pleasant town in which to live, work and play
- 3.2 Conserving energy and, where appropriate, using renewable energy sources
- 3.3 Reducing waste by avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic cups), re-using and recycling
- 3.4 Securing local goods and services from organisations with a sustainable ethos and/ or Fairtrade/ Organic accreditation where practicable
- 3.5 Conserving water
- 3.6 Minimising the use of harmful chemicals in cleaning and gardening materials, and office supplies
- 3.7 Encouraging natural flora and fauna to flourish
- 3.8 Encouraging and supporting local people/ organisations/businesses to be involved in the community.

## 4 Background / principles

- 4.1 Welshpool Town Council is committed to doing all, in and around Welshpool, within its powers and resources to protect and enhance the well-being of local people and all that comprises the natural and built environment.

- 4.2 The Council is committed to the principle of sustainable development; this means avoiding unnecessary energy use or waste and restricting its use of resources to avoid contributing to climate change or other ongoing damage to ourselves or our environment. Accordingly, it will at all times seek maximum sustainability in all its dealings affecting the environment.
- 5 Conservation and the natural environment
  - 5.1 The Council will support the conservation of natural habitats including, but not limited to, trees, woodland, parks, hedgerows, ponds and streams
  - 5.2 It will seek to protect and where possible enhance the quality of the natural environment of Welshpool and its open spaces
  - 5.3 It will seek to engage with and inform residents and visitors of the biodiverse habitats that exist and how they may use them sustainably
  - 5.4 It will commit to develop a plan to reduce and eventually stop altogether the use of pesticides/herbicides on all land management and horticultural activities
  - 5.5 It will implement a ban of all balloon and sky lanterns releases from Welshpool Town Council owned property
  - 5.6 It will give due consideration to 'dark skies' when replacing new lighting to minimise unnecessary light pollution
- 6 Natural and built environment
  - 6.1 The Council will take such action as is within its power and resources, to support and encourage sustainability in all forms of development and in its planning recommendations, where necessary seeking environmental assurances beyond the requirements of the Local Development Plan, and other relevant legislations
  - 6.2 The Council will manage its land and activities using environmentally friendly practices that promote biodiversity and enhance habitats
- 7 Trees
  - 7.1 The Council commits to develop a tree policy that encourages the appropriate planting and management of trees to help provide a biodiverse environment for people to enjoy and celebrate
- 8 Paper and office supplies
  - 8.1 The Council aims to minimise the use of paper in the office
  - 8.2 It seeks to buy recycled and recyclable paper products
  - 8.3 It seeks to reuse and recycle all paper where possible
  - 8.4 It will evaluate the need and environmental impact of products it purchases
  - 8.5 It will favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products where possible
  - 8.6 It will reuse and recycle everything, where possible to do so

## 9 Energy and Water

- 9.1 The Council will reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible
- 9.2 Lights and electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use
- 9.3 Heating will be adjusted with energy consumption in mind where possible and windows will be closed while heating is on
- 9.4 It will not allow the use of dehumidifiers or electrical heaters except in extraordinary circumstances
- 9.5 Energy consumption and efficiency will be taken into account when purchasing new equipment
- 9.6 It will encourage staff and those operating from Welshpool Town Council property to use water and electricity efficiently
- 9.7 It will minimise energy use in all activities and buildings.

## 10 Travel and pollution

- 10.1 The Council will encourage Councillors and staff to minimise vehicle miles driven, and to car-share, where possible on Council business
- 10.2 It will promote and support the use of cycling, footpaths and public transport
- 10.3 It will promote the use of travel alternatives such as emails, phone conferencing and webinars
- 10.4 It will actively seek to minimise all forms of pollution generated from Welshpool Town Council operations, and prevent such pollution where possible

## 11 Cleaning, maintenance, recycling and waste

- 11.1 Cleaning materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible
- 11.2 The Council will manage unavoidable waste and use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste
- 11.3 It will encourage the recycling of wastepaper and cardboard at all premises and where possible, plastics, glass and cans
- 11.4 It will promote and encourage recycling across the town
- 11.5 It will reduce printing where possible to minimise the amount of paper and ink used
- 11.6 It will utilise electronic communications wherever possible
- 11.7 It will endeavour to end the use of avoidable 'single use' plastics in and on Welshpool Town Council property and seek to influence other to do the same
- 11.8 It will develop a hierarchy of best practice, particularly for outdoor events, including wording on the standard booking forms to encourage hirers to minimise or phase out the use of single use plastics

## 12 Sustainable procurement

- 12.1 The Council will seek to minimise environmental damage caused through the transport of goods by sourcing materials and services locally wherever practicable
- 12.2 Any timber or similar products used by the Council will be from recycled or FSC certified sources
- 12.3 The Council will investigate measures to support local traders in order to retain a vibrant high street and thereby reduce the need to travel to larger, distant towns and 'out-of-town' shopping centres
- 12.4 Contracts requiring formal tender responses should include sustainability criteria as part of the assessment matrix

## 13 Culture

- 13.1 The Council will involve staff in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improvement performance
- 13.2 It will provide staff with relevant environmental training
- 13.3 It will work with the public, suppliers and contractors to improve their environmental performance, where possible

## 14 Setting the example

- 14.1 The Council will inform and encourage all Councillors and staff to promote awareness of these practices and to lead by example in supporting activities that are not harmful to the environment
- 14.2 It will ensure all Welshpool Town Council decisions take into account environmental impact and wellbeing of future generations.

## 15 Supporting

- 15.1 The Council will create and support a culture of participation, learning and initiatives for residents of Welshpool, to meet these ends.
- 15.2 In all relevant communications the Council will promote awareness of, and information on environmental issues within the community
- 15.3 It will act as a voice for communicating local environmental concerns to the Local Authority and other bodies
- 15.4 It will ensure that all individuals involved in the Town Council are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy
- 15.5 It will work with partners to minimise the effects of noise and light pollution of the town
- 15.6 It will seek training and development opportunities for Councillors and staff, such that they can fulfil the objectives of this policy, particularly with regards to management of green spaces and sensitive habitats