

Blackwell Parish Council

Biodiversity and Climate Change Acknowledgement Statement

It is essential that the council helps to proactively facilitate the protection of our local environment, heritage and natural beauty. This needs to be delivered in a way that promotes sustainability and healthy living within the parish.

There are a number of ways that this can be achieved:

- Promote sustainable and energy efficient practices throughout the council
- Embed the principle of 'reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink' throughout the council
- Consider ways to protect and enhance our natural environment, stimulate biodiversity and nurture our wildlife and pollinators
- Promote behavioural change
- Working with partners, residents, community groups, schools and other councils
- Exploring new opportunities and technologies to reduce our carbon footprint
- For every decision, consider the impact on the environment

Actions that are already being taken:

Buildings:

- Ensuring that the heating is turned off after buildings have been vacated
- A system has been fitted to Newton Community Centre to enable staff to control the heating system remotely. This will be trialled properly to see if there is a significant reduction in heating bills once the new floor has been installed and the centre is open for hire again
- Whenever lights need replacing in full, they are changed to LED lighting.

Areas where improvements could be made:

- Recycling bins for the office and kitchens
- Encouraging users to avoid plastic plates cups and cutlery
- Looking at the environmental impact of suppliers

Outside Areas:

- Leaving grass clippings down
- Allowing organic materials to naturally mulch down in hedgerows and under trees
- Ensuring that the parish van is well maintained
- Through the Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre Charity, enabling the H.E.L.P. group to develop Royal Oak Meadow and promoting their activities in the parish newsletter
- Receiving regular updates from Friends of Doe Hill Country Park and promoting their activities in the parish newsletter
- The provision of allotments in partnership with the Allotment Association
- Reuses materials (such as gates and fences) from other projects where possible

Areas where improvements can be made:

- Composting waste where possible
- Consider converting unused grass and wasteland areas into wildflower zones
- Look for natural options when artificial surfaces and equipment need to be replaced
- Consider habitats for wildlife

Other areas where improvements can be made:

- Look for funding opportunities for projects that encourage biodiversity in the parish
- Regular articles in the parish newsletter promoting biodiversity
- Engage with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to find out what they are doing, advice they offer and participate in relevant projects
- Reposting climate change relevant information from other local councils on social media
- Writing and adopting a full biodiversity policy