

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL'S POLICY ON CLIMATE, NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

(Adopted on 9th June 2020)

Taplow Parish Council has established Five Pillars to ensure that issues and opportunities relating to climate, nature and the environment are considered in the performance of its statutory powers and duties. Environmental initiatives will be a rolling agenda item in Parish Council meetings, enabling Councillors to discuss ideas and to inform decision-making. This approach will be reviewed each year at the Annual Council Meeting.

The Parish Council's approach will be balanced, proportionate and non-political. Taplow is a small parish with limited responsibilities, resources, funding and influence relative to Town, District and Unitary Councils. Parish Councillors are also volunteers who commit their time and energy to protecting the interests of our community across a wide range of areas.

Taplow Parish Council 's Five Pillars for Climate, Nature and the Environment

Taplow Parish Council is committed to:

- Reducing the carbon footprint of activities and infrastructure under its control, including the Village Hall, the Village Green, the Village Green Barn, Old Priory Gardens, and parish streetlights.
- Representing the interests of parishioners in matters relating to climate, nature and the environment, including planning and transport.
- Working with local community groups and adjacent councils to support initiatives relating to climate, nature and the environment.

To this end, the Parish Council will:

1. Energy:

- Continuously review the energy efficiency of Taplow Village Hall, including the procurement of renewable energy solutions.
- Maintain parish streetlights as well-directed lower energy LED lamps.

2. Planning:

- Consider the environmental impact of planning applications and use our voice to oppose high-carbon developments, encourage and promote more sustainable alternatives, protect the Green Belt, and promote biodiversity.
- Ensure that our Neighbourhood Plan considers sustainability and energy as key themes.
- Actively support planning applications for renewable energy.

3. Nature:

- Encourage tree planting, wilding, nature conservation, and biodiversity activities.
- Protect and promote footpaths and bridleways.
- Support local 'forest schools' in Old Priory Gardens for local primary schools.
- Encourage and support local litter-picking initiatives.

4. Transport:

- Champion better facilities for walking, cycling and public transport, alongside the reduction of fossil fuelled vehicles where possible.
- Support the shift to electric vehicles and the installation of EV charging points.
- Support clean air initiatives in the parish, including pollution monitoring.

5. **Community:**

- Promote local climate initiatives.
- Maintain a community fund that provides grants of up to £1,000 (subject to a total annual limit of £5,000) for projects within the parish that benefit the community and/or have a positive environmental impact.