



Sarratt Parish Council

Policies and Procedures: Environment

This is the statement of general policy and arrangements for the stewardship of the local environment adopted by Sarratt Parish Council (SPC).

SPC as the registered owner is responsible for some 11 hectares (50 acres) of commons, woodlands, greens, ponds, and allotments and has Custodian Trustee responsibilities to assist the Management Trustees in managing and maintaining a pavilion, play area and sports recreation field (King George V Playing Fields).

SPC in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council is responsible for both maintaining access and improving accessibility to some 35 miles of Rights of Way, footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes.

Agreed SPC strategies and maintenance schedules are regularly reviewed and where required updated to ensure SPC land, associated assets and Rights of Way are cared for in a cost-effective manner that benefits wildlife and the environment as well as for the safe enjoyment of the community and visitors to the Parish. SPC has in place a 5-year Land Management Plan and a 10-year Woodland Management Plan and works with other agencies and the Forestry Commission to plan for and apply to obtain Woodland Management Grants.

SPC is supported by the valuable contribution of the local Wildlife Volunteer group, a voluntary litter picking group, the Sustainable Sarratt group, the Parish Warden and bridleway associations, plus external agencies and contractors in maintaining and managing our environment and assets.

SPC will work with and assist Hertfordshire County Council and Three Rivers District Council to implement the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2017/8 – 2027/28. The objective being to identify changes and improvements to local rights of way networks to meet the Government's aims of better and safer provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians (horse riders and horse and carriage drivers) and people with disabilities.

SPC receives advice from environmental bodies, recognised local experts and our local volunteers who organise regular work parties to actively manage and protect the flora and fauna in the Parish.

SPC will, where relevant:

- Incorporate environmental considerations and sustainability into all our policies.
- Encourage the conservation, re-use and appropriate recycling of resources within the Parish.
- Minimise environmental pollution and waste in our activities.
- Seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy within the Parish.
- Promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Use our influence in planning matters to protect the local environment.

SPC is able to influence and protect the local environment and will work to align with and support the policies of Three Rivers District Council on promoting:

- The improvement of reducing and recycling of household and commercial waste.
- Support the community in obtaining information and guidance to adopt energy conservation and climate change options.
- Seeking to improve and implement sustainable transport options and requirements.
- The prevention and reporting of fly tipping.
- Communication through improved broadband speeds mobile phone reception.

When requesting quotations for work and engaging contractors working for the Council, SPC will ensure that the conservation, re-use, and appropriate recycling of resources is recognised as a basic requirement and conforms with the financial policies of the Council.

Prior to awarding a contract or tender an assessment will be made to ensure to operational practices or road journeys minimise greenhouse gas emissions and reduces the carbon footprint.

Reviewed and adopted: 9 April 2024