

Environmental Ambitions

The Council adopted its environmental ambitions on 24 June 2019. Its ambitions state that:

1. To reduce single use plastics
2. To use local suppliers wherever possible
3. To minimise waste and increase recycling
4. To encourage social and environmental responsibility
5. When technology is available, to carefully consider the appropriateness or otherwise of investing in new equipment that will make viable positive differences to the way the Town Council operates
6. To include an increased weighting on greening issues when inviting companies to tender for Town Council work.
7. To encourage the parish to shop local, in the common interests of the vitality of the High Street and the local economy beyond
8. To encourage the parish to drink more water
9. To continue to use appropriate materials as part of an ongoing maintenance schedule

What we already do or have done

Central Services

- Waste paper to be securely shredded and recycled where possible
- Cardboard waste from packaging to be recycled
- Printer toner to be recycled where possible
- End of life electronic and electrical equipment to be disposed of in accordance with WEEE Regulations
- Consider environmental implications of choices of technology and operational practices
- Register the White House as a water refill station
- Continue to aim towards 100% paperless council and committee meetings
- Reduced energy use in White House through changing to LED lighting.
- Plastic water cups replaced with cardboard

Staffing

- Encourage sustainable transport to work (e.g. Cycle to Work scheme)
- Encourage recycling
- Encourage switching all equipment off when not actively in use
- Consider the environmental credentials of suppliers when seeking quotes for goods and services

- Consider including environmental credentials of suppliers as an assessment criteria for tenders
- Use local suppliers where possible
- Discourage use of single-use plastics
- Adopt paperless practices where possible; minimise printing

Parks, Open Space, Cemeteries & Allotments

- All floral displays have been peat free since the end of 2017.
- Minimal use of herbicides and pesticides since 2018, with a self-imposed ban on the use of some chemicals.
- Adopted the green wheel strategy which seeks to encourage continuing investment (£106 funding) in the cycling network
- Continue to trial electric vehicles in view of a potential future purchase. To date, the vehicles tested have not been capable of meeting the demands required of them.
- Successfully planted XXX British grown trees, having secured funding for the Tree for Leighton-Linslade project.

Communications

- Ongoing campaigns regarding litter and dog waste disposal
- Periodic posts about environmental ambitions
- Waste management statistics reported and to be reported at least once a year.
- Ongoing “shop local” campaign.
- Promoting sign-up to digital copies of About Town.

Finance

- Increasing online / digital payment methods
- Increasing use of paperless purchase orders
- Increasing paperless sending of sales invoices and remittances.

Waste management

- Key statistics from new contract have been shared and will be provided at least annually.

Community events

- Consider environmental credentials of suppliers as far as practicable.
- Approach has changed from ‘encouraging’ to ‘implementing’ change in line with environmental policies with no single use of plastic, use of biodegradable compostable serving trays only, no plastic cutlery etc. and incorporated into event terms and conditions.
- Provide recycling facilities at events where practicable.

- Public messaging to include promotion of sustainable transport to events, i.e. walking and cycling where possible, and car sharing for drivers.
- Partnering up with Fairtrade Leighton-Linslade to deliver The Big Green Week, 18th to 26th September 2021 – towards residents sending climate change messages to world leader for the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November 2021.

Market

- Created market web page communicating environmental themes including market waste statistics.
- Market day street cleansing of market related litter.
- Regular social media promotion to customers advising that traders already use recycled jars, containers, for their produce.
- Regular encouragement through social media for customers to bring their own containers when purchasing market products.
- Continual 'Shop local' at the market messaging.
- Advisory newsletters to traders and customers on new plastic bag charging rules.
- Trialled public interest in recycling of crisp packets (recycling company no longer providing this service).

Town centre

- Ongoing campaign to encourage residents to shop local: KeepingItLocalLB
- Supporting digital platform for town centre and town shop-based business to use and encourage residents to use the platform.
- Supporting digital platform for independent businesses and services to promote their businesses and encouraging residents to use the platform.
- Environmentally friendly option agreed for pigeon population management.
- Introduced a green weighting to the Christmas Lights contract.
- Promotion of using reusable shopping bags through town centre brand awareness bags made of recycled materials.
- Re-use of town bunting and flags where possible.
- Partnering with Greensand Trust and local Charitable Trust on the Greensand Country gateway project that incorporates a water bottle refill station – using donated and grant funds to lever in addition funding to secure the filling station.

TACTIC

- Reduced energy use by changing to LED lighting.

Partnership

- Through the Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group, contribute towards and promote activities such as the development of the Green Wheel, increased cycling, canal and river clearance, biodiversity.

- Share messages from partners such as Central Bedfordshire Council (countryside access, sustainable transport, waste services) and the Greensand Trust.