

## **Brixton Parish Council Environmental Policy**



Brixton Parish Council acknowledges its privileged role as guardian of the environment for its community with landscapes heavily dominated by the ecologically important South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Special Scientific Area of Conservation. This policy has been written in response to the global Climate Emergency.

**In all its involvement Brixton Parish Council will aspire to increase positive environmental impacts by:**

- Reducing its carbon and environmental footprint to ensure its impact is kept to a minimum.
- Encouraging renewable energy schemes that the community can benefit from.
- Ensuring any existing community assets are as energy efficient as possible and any new assets are constructed to the highest energy savings ratings.
- Increasing movement around the parish by sustainable means such as public transport, walking and cycling by influencing new development.
- Minimising environmental pollution and waste in all of its own activities and encourage the conservation, reuse and appropriate recycling of resources.
- Working in partnership with other organisations and landowners to maintain and improve the health of the South Hams both ecologically and physically.
- Progressively building environmental concerns and sustainability into all its policies.
- Promoting understanding and participation in environmental issues throughout the Parish through education, information and consultation.
- Ensuring all new buildings have clean affordable energy
- Decreasing polluting transport and movement around the parish

In order to achieve this, the Parish Council will work in partnership with other parish councils, the local authority and other statutory agencies in the context of the Climate Emergency having signed up to Devon's Climate Declaration, and to celebrate the existing achievements of protecting the environment.

Maintain the Brixton Parish Environment Working Group to implement the actions listed below:

- ✓ Ensuring that BPC is represented on other environmental community groups - Sustainable South Hams, Yealm Climate Change Action Network, Yealm Estuary to Moor (YEM) and River Yealm Water Quality Working Group etc

- ✓ Ensuring that any community assets are considered for hosting basic recycling facilities if necessary
- ✓ Encourage and support the patrons of any community buildings to identify areas that energy can be saved or generated with renewables.
- ✓ Assess all planning applications against the criteria for renewable and affordable clean energy. To ensure all surface water for any new development is dealt with by a sustainable urban drainage systems/plan
- ✓ Reporting activities that are suspected to be causing environmental harm (air, water and noise pollution) to the relevant regulatory body.
- ✓ Contribute to the review of local environmental indicators, such as water quality and waste recycling.
- ✓ Becoming a Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Community, by encouraging our plastic free allies (local businesses, Brixton St. Marys School and the community as a whole) to avoid using single use plastic and reduce their consumption of other plastics and ensuring it is disposed of responsibly.
- ✓ Continuing to spread the sense of pride in our community by organising monthly village cleans.
- ✓ Improve bio-diversity including by encouraging pollinating insects by designating set areas of wildflowers and consider verges and other appropriate public land suitable for reducing maintenance to increase these natural feeding areas.
- ✓ Engaging with householders, businesses and the wider community e.g. school & churches, Brixton Composters, Brixton Feoffee Trust to improve the environment and biodiversity e.g. increasing rainwater storage facilities, providing suitable conditions for pollinating insects, or garden areas suitable for wildlife
- ✓ Promoting tree planting wherever possible and take steps to protect existing trees, woodland and hedgerows.
- ✓ Contributing to the improvement of the mental and physical well being of parishioners through access to green spaces.
- ✓ Ensure that BPC procurement policies follow 'Green Agenda'

Policy adopted by Brixton Parish Council - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Policy updated at the meeting of Brixton Parish Council - 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Reviewed by Brixton Parish Environment Working Group – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Updated at BPC meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk to Brixton Parish Council