

Dursley Town Council

Climate Change and Environmental issues mission statement

Background

Climate Change and environmental issues have until now been addressed through various policies and committees as part of the work of Dursley Town Council (see Appendix A).

At the Dursley Town Council meeting on 1 October 2019, councillors agreed to appoint Environmental Councillor representatives (Cllrs Thomas and Reynolds) to attend meetings relating to climate change and other environmental matters.

At the Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 10 December 2019, the Committee agreed to ask Councillors Thomas and Reynolds to draft a mission statement on climate change and environmental matters. The first draft of the Mission Statement was considered at the Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 11th February 2020 and later at the Green Spaces Committee meeting on 21st July 2020, amendments were suggested at both.

The Statement was approved by the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee in February 2021 and adopted by Council in March 2021.

Mission statement

This document outlines areas where Dursley Town Council can set a good example in its practices in areas relating to climate change, the environment and sustainable development.

Power, energy, utilities and other suppliers

Dursley Town Council will :

- Reduce energy used in Council offices and premises.
- Consider renewable energy suppliers for power and energy in Council offices and premises when reviewing contracts.
- When relevant improvement works are programmed to Council owned premises, replace lights with LED ones where practically possible.
- Encourage Gloucestershire County Council to implement street lighting that is well-designed and utilises LED lights.
- Use LED street lighting in the Council's Long Street Car Park.

Waste management

Dursley Town Council will :

- Remove or minimise the use of single-use plastic in Council offices and premises, using alternatives where they exist and it is practically possible to do so.
- Remove or minimise the use of single-use plastics at Council meetings, including the Annual Assembly, using alternatives where they exist and it is practically possible to do so.
- Encourage stall holders and groups at Council run events to use alternatives to single-use plastic.
- Monitor and reduce the use of paper in Council offices and premises.
- Operate an automatic electronic agenda system for all Council meetings by the end of 2020, Councillors have to opt out to receive paper agendas.
- Monitor and reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill in Council offices and premises.

Transport

Dursley Town Council will :

- Reduce car use by promoting car-sharing, cycling, walking and bus services through Council activities and plans (e.g. the Dursley Neighbourhood Development Plan, supporting the Green Way Project and local high street/shop local campaigns).
- At the end of its useful life, replace the Council vehicle with a suitable electric one.
- Schedule the installation of an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point in the pavilion garage ready for the move over to an electric vehicle.

Land use

Dursley Town Council will :

- Protect existing local green spaces, the green belt and locally designated nature sites through Council activities and plans (e.g. the Dursley Neighbourhood Development Plan).
- Increase tree cover on Council-owned land and ensure existing trees are properly managed and protected.
- When a Council managed tree is lost, replace with a new tree.
- Manage Council-owned land and verges to increase biodiversity and reduce carbon pollution; reducing pesticide use and increasing the planting of wildflowers where possible.
- Work with allotment tenants to encourage pollinators and composting on the Council-owned allotment site.

Buildings, carbon footprint

Dursley Town Council will :

- Ensure any council-owned buildings have high levels of insulation.
- Monitor and improve the energy and water efficiency of council-owned buildings.
- Ensure that opportunities to improve our facilities (e.g. improve energy efficiency, install charging points/solar panels) are taken up.

Planning, supporting sustainable development

Dursley Town Council will :

- Consider the environmental impacts of developments and promote and encourage sustainability and energy efficiency when reviewing and commenting on planning applications.
- Consider the environmental impacts of developments and promote and encourage sustainability and energy efficiency when reviewing and commenting on the Dursley Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Local Plan, the Local Transport Plan and similar strategic/policy documents.
- Ensure the Emergency Plan covers potential environmental risks e.g. extreme weather conditions such as flooding, heatwave, heavy snow.

Policies and decision-making

Dursley Town Council will :

- Consider funding local environmental, climate change and nature restoration projects via mechanisms such as Section 106 agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy and the grants programme etc.
- Consider climate change and environmental issues in all Council policies and decision-making, including an 'ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS' section on the officer report template.

Appendix A

Neighbourhood Development Plan

One of the key aims of Dursley's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is to contribute to the environmental, social and economic sustainability of Dursley. The full text of the NDP is here:

<https://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk/uploads/dursley-ndp-v36-updated-021018.pdf>

An assessment of the contribution to sustainable development in Dursley's NDP is here:

[https://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk/uploads/dursley-ndp-\(final\)-sa-matrix-may-a-2018.pdf](https://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk/uploads/dursley-ndp-(final)-sa-matrix-may-a-2018.pdf)

Planning Committee

Dursley Town Council's Planning Committee meets monthly to discuss and comment on planning issues affecting the town. These applications include the development of new dwellings, change of use, extensions, works to listed buildings and trees. The Committee also comment and make representations on more strategic plans such as the Stroud District Local Plan, the Dursley's Neighbourhood Development Plan and Local Transport Plan.

Green Spaces Committee

Dursley Town Council's Green Spaces Committee manages and maintains several green spaces in Dursley: the War Memorial Recreation Ground, Highfields Play Area, Kingshill House Play Park, Kingshill Cemetery, St Mark's Burial Ground, and the Kingshill allotments. The Committee also makes sure that trees on Council land are maintained.

Town Improvements Committee

Dursley Town Council's Town Improvements Committee is responsible for public amenities within the town, e.g. bus shelters, benches, flower tubs, and works closely with both district and county councils to maintain facilities in the town centre., deals with all public transport matters in the town, and ensures that the litter situation in the town is checked, liaising with Stroud District Council as required.