

SALEHURST & ROBERTSBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**ENVIRONMENT: POLICY AND STRATEGY****Background**

Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council, agreed at its meeting on 10th July 2023 to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency, thereby following both the national declaration and the declaration by Rother District Council, within which Salehurst & Robertsbridge sits.

Policy

Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its area of operation whilst endeavoring to ensure wider environmental impact does not occur as a result.

Strategy

As far as possible, subject to the resources, financial capabilities and legal powers and duties of the council, Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council will:-

1. consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and will endeavor to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes.
2. subject to the needs of road safety, manage the timing and extent of roadside verge cutting so as to encourage and protect wildlife and biodiversity.
3. consider the impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment.
4. seek to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy.
5. identify areas where trees could be planted on publicly-accessible land, and support the planting of trees thereon.
6. in commenting on planning applications, consider the wider environmental impact of the proposal.
7. in commenting on planning applications, request that the highest reasonable standards of building efficiency are required, above and beyond the minimum requirements of the building regulations.
8. press for the introduction of superfast broadband to the parish as a whole in order to minimise the need to travel for work and other services.
9. promote the provision of public electric vehicle charging points within the parish.
10. ensure safe walking and cycling routes are available and developed within the parish.
11. support local businesses, particularly those providing local employment and services.

12. support initiatives for community energy projects, including sustainable energy sources and energy reduction strategies.
13. support local initiatives aimed at climate change and/ or biodiversity protection or enhancement.
14. discourage external lighting wherever possible and consider joining with the “dark skies” movement.
15. regularly update and improve standards in light of increased understanding and knowledge.
16. respect and protect natural resources by practicing conservation and good management, including woodland management.
17. encourage Parish Council Member and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times.
18. work with other local community groups and organisations who can help the Council reduce its impact on the local environment.