



Horsmonden Parish Council Sustainability Policy

We support Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's overall vision to help everyone in Tunbridge Wells to 'Love Where They Live' and that the Council, and all those who work for it or are elected to govern it, will show Respect, Openness, Aspiration and Responsibility in all they say and do.

Through our actions and our behaviour, we aim to equally promote the three aspects of sustainable development: social; environment and economic whilst maintaining the character of the parish and without causing detriment to any aspect. We support the Borough Council's Five Year Plan to encourage investment and sustainable growth, and to enhance quality of life for all.

The key areas where the Parish Council can influence a sustainable outcome are:

- Through planning decisions within our boundary;
- Through the events that take place on our property; and
- Through the procurement of consumables, equipment and materials.

Planning

Whilst the final decision on all planning aspects is made by the Borough Council, it is possible for the Parish Council to recommend that all developments (large and small) are designed and built with sustainability in mind. Where possible, properties should include consideration to high sustainability targets in line with the Government's 25 year Environment Plan that aspires towards a low carbon lifestyle.

All domestic construction should be carried out to the principles of the Considerate Constructors Scheme and the Parish Council should liaise with the Borough and County Councils to ensure that their works follow suit.

Sustainable Event Management

Events that take place on our property will be requested to follow a sustainability code that reduces use of single use items, such as plastic cups and packaging, and promotes the use of re-usable or compostable items.

Procurement

We will ensure that all materials procured on behalf of the Parish Council have a regard to their environmental impact, and promote ethical and sustainable sourcing where possible. Materials shall be selected with their end of life disposal option being the most sustainable, with re-use being the more preferred option.

This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure continual improvement opportunities are identified, and that remains fit for purpose. The content and intent of this policy is applicable to, and will be communicated to all our employees and those representing the Council, and our supply chain. It will be shared, upon request, with other parties.