



DEEPING ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Clerk: Julie Fortnum

Environment & Sustainability Policy

1. Introduction

Deeping St James is a place of outstanding natural beauty, rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage. The Parish includes a designated conservation area and is home to a river that is central to the local landscape and ecosystem. Deeping St James Parish Council recognise that it has many responsibilities, including:

- Consumer of goods and services,
- Educator and influencer of opinions,
- Public watchdog,
- Provider of services,
- Landowner,
- Employer.

The decisions made by the parish council affect the environment both directly and indirectly. This policy outlines our commitment to protecting and enhancing our environment for the benefit of current and future generations, through the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and to minimise environmental pollution in all our activities and through our influence over others.

2. Policy Aims

All activities Deeping St James Parish Council have any involvement in will aim to:

- Safeguard the natural beauty and biodiversity of the Parish.
- Protect and enhance the conservation area in line with statutory obligations.
- Maintain and improve the health of the river and its surroundings.
- Promote sustainable practices in all Parish Council activities.
- Comply with all environmental legislation and regulation.
- Minimise the consumption of all resources used in its operations, particularly in respect of the administration of its activities.
- Whenever possible, engage contractors and suppliers who maintain their own environmental policies, which are regularly reviewed, updated, and benchmarked against recognized, contemporary best practices.
- Create a comprehensive action plan outlining our environmental protection and sustainability initiatives, which we will review and monitor on an annual basis
- Work collaboratively with residents, landowners, local authorities, and environmental organisations.

3. Principles

Deeping St James Parish Council will integrate our principles into our daily operations, ensuring they become an intrinsic part of our culture.

- Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
- Regularly update and improve standards as understanding and knowledge develops.
- Recycle and reuse waste materials where possible.
- Dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.

- Encourage the responsible use of energy and power.
- Respect and protect natural resources by practising conservation and good management.
- Encourage contractors and suppliers to minimise their impact on the environment.
- Encourage its members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is always used and adhered to.
- Purchase products and services which are energy environmentally benign and sustainable where these are available competitively in terms of quality and price.
- The Council will aim to minimise the environmental impact in the use of land, treatment of the land and any building projects upon the land. It will seek to conserve and improve both the natural and built environment as appropriate, and to carry out environmental improvements to all areas within its ownership and control. Such improvements, once achieved, will be monitored, and promoted for maximum public enjoyment.

4. Key Commitments

4.1 River and Waterways

- Monitor and support biodiversity through habitat preservation and enhancement projects.
- Protect trees, hedgerows, and native plants, and encourage native planting schemes.
- Support initiatives that promote pollinator-friendly environments.

4.2 River and Waterways

- Work with relevant authorities to ensure the river is kept clean, free-flowing, and well-maintained.
- Encourage riparian landowners to adopt river-friendly land management.
- Promote community engagement in river clean-ups and monitoring.

4.3 Planning and Development

- Scrutinise all planning applications to ensure they align with conservation objectives and the Deepings Neighbourhood Plan.
- Resist developments that would harm protected areas, views, or biodiversity.
- Promote environmentally sensitive design in all new developments, including green spaces, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), and minimal environmental footprint.

4.4 Parish Council Operations

- Reduce carbon footprint by adopting energy-efficient practices and sustainable procurement.
- Minimise use of harmful chemicals in any maintenance work commissioned by the Council.
- Seek funding and partnerships to support environmental projects.

4.5 Community Engagement

- Educate and encourage residents to take part in environmental initiatives.
- Support local groups focused on conservation, wildlife, or environmental education.
- Organise or support events like litter picks, tree planting, or wildlife surveys.

5. Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to reflect new legislation, guidance, and local priorities. Progress will be reported at the Annual Parish Meeting and through Parish Council communications.

5.1 Document Control

The below document control includes a creator and reviewer to ensure accountability and accuracy, with the creator responsible for the initial content and the reviewer verifying its correctness and completeness. The version number, adoption date, and next review date are essential for tracking changes, confirming when the document was officially implemented, and scheduling future evaluations to maintain its relevance and effectiveness.

	Name	Signature	Date
Author	Councillor Owen Laws		24/04/2025
Reviewer			
Version No.	Summary of changes		Date
V1.0	Initial document		24/04/2025
V2.0	Adopted document		07/06/2025

5.2 Adoption Approval on behalf of council

Signed: *Julie Fortnum*

Name: Julie Fortnum

Position: Parish Clerk and RFO

Date: 17 June 2025

Next Review Date: June 2026