

DEBENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Debenham Parish Council (the Council) recognises that climate change is a major risk to national and local well-being. It will work with national government and with Suffolk County Council and Mid-Suffolk District Council in support of their ambitions to address climate change.

Aims and Objectives

The Council aims, to the extent its own activities produce climate-changing emissions, to reduce these with the objective of reaching “net-zero by 2030

The Council aims, through its own activities and to the extent its powers allow, to preserve and enhance the Parish’s ecological wellbeing, biodiversity and landscape; and also aims to engage with and encourage residents, local organisations and businesses to the same end.

Implementation

The Council will continue to comply with national environmental legislation and regulations

The Council will, in any decisions it makes, consider climate and environmental issues, as set out in the Annex to this policy and how its decisions and actions help promote positive climate and environmental results.

In particular, the Council will:

- In making a budget, consider how to maximise environmental benefits from spending
- Maximise the advantage to be gained from grants or awards to further environmental objectives
- Take account of environmental issues in procurement of goods, services, works and utilities
- Consider and make representations about environmental issues when commenting on planning applications
- Control and manage property and land for which it has responsibility in a way which takes account of climate and environmental issues and encourage the same for land premises and property within the Parish in which it is interested.

The Council will work with other parishes and with initiatives such as the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership on these issues

Engagement

The Council will encourage the use of land premises and property within the Parish to further environmental/climate aims

The Council will encourage and support environmental action by local residents, organisations and businesses.

Evaluation and Review

The Council will regularly evaluate and review how its actions and decisions have reflected climate and environmental policy issues and aims

Annex

Key Environment/Climate issues and actions to be considered by the Council and Community

Climate change: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Reduce the consumption of electricity, promote an increase in energy efficiency by the use of technologies such as heat pumps, solar panels, improved insulation and other sustainable methods and promote a switch away from oil, LPG and natural gas use.

Biodiversity: Promote and support biodiversity

Transport: Move to environmentally friendly modes of transport

Waste: Reduce, reuse or recycle Waste.

Planning: Environmental improvements in new developments

Education: Training and education on climate and environmental policies for supporting staff and councillors. Awareness of environmental issues in the wider community.

Collaboration: Promotion of environmental projects and activities through collaboration with Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, other agencies and organisations to facilitate the community acting as a group or small groups to improve the environmental wellbeing of the parish and maximise the environmental, economic and social benefits of public land

Reviewed on 20th April 2026.

To be reviewed: March 2027