

Dursley Town Council Climate Change and Environmental issues mission statement

Background

Climate Change and environmental issues were addressed through various policies and committees as part of the work of Dursley Town Council (see Appendix A) and subsequently through a mission statement adopted in March 2021. We are now revising and updating this statement.

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

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 and provide evidence of how it is achieving this. This document will be updated on a regular basis to keep it up to date with opportunities. Our activities around this will be shared with the Town

Policies and decision-making

Dursley Town Council will :

- Consider climate change and environmental issues in all Council policies and decision-making and state how we have done this. Include an 'ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS' section on the 'officer report' templates.
- 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.

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).
Work with partners and our staff to deliver environmental benefits such as improved connectivity, species diversity and carbon sequestration on Council owned or managed land.
Implement our environmental plan in St Marks Churchyard and develop further plans for other areas as opportunities arise.
- Where appropriate, 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 three new trees.
- Work with allotment tenants to encourage pollinators and composting on the Council-owned allotment site.

Working with others

Dursley town Council will;

Ensure that it works with partners who have verifiable environmental statements that support our mission statement

Award Contracts to firms or organisations that meet the above criteria

Develop partnerships as required, to assist the Town Council in meeting its goals outlined in the mission statement. Avoid duplication or dissipation of effort and deliver our goals with others rather than by seeking to deliver activity by ourselves where we can do this

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. [These are risks from the environment, rather than risks to the environment such as pollution incidents, sewage outflows into the river etc]

Power, energy, utilities and other suppliers

Dursley Town Council will :

- Seek to 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. Duplicate this in our choice of other equipment .
 - 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.
 - Demonstrate the adoption of sustainable principals in the refurbishment of the Pavilion at the War Memorial Rec

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.

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 or hybrid one.
- Schedule the installation of an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point in the pavilion garage ready for the move over to an electric vehicle.

Consider the installation of further EV charging points at locations within the Town

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 March 2023, Councillors have to opt out to receive paper agendas. To assist using less paper, a projector will be used to supply views of the agenda and other documents at meetings of the TC and its committees
 - Reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill in Council offices and premises
- Report annually on how far these objectives have been met via an existing reporting mechanism

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)

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. It keeps oversight of this mission statement and supervises the delivery of our environmental land management on our managed sites

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.

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.