

# **Slapton Parish Council**

## **Climate and Environmental Emergency Statement**

### **Slapton Parish Council declares a “Climate and Environmental Emergency”**

**Purpose:** The reason why a Parish Council should declare an emergency is to show leadership to the community.

It also helps us to comment more authoritatively on planning proposals such as ensuring that new builds and extensions are environmentally sustainable not only in terms of reducing or eliminating the use of fossil fuels, but also in relation to the whole environmental impact of the planning, building and use of the property and land.

In practical terms this might mean;

- Ensuring that more homes have external electrical chargers for electric vehicles, all roofs (where appropriate) are fitted with photovoltaic cells,
- We encourage and support community initiatives for environmentally sustainable activities
- We show leadership in the way in which we conduct Parish Business and in operating our own assets

### **To this end, the Parish Council aims to encourage and support the community of Slapton to:**

- Contribute to carbon reductions targets set by government and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- Become more environmentally sustainable in all aspects of rural life.

### **Therefore, we will take positive actions including, but not exclusively, the following:**

- We will endeavour to car share / use public transport whenever possible while on council business.
- We will investigate the feasibility of installing an electric vehicle charging point in the village.
- We will consider the carbon footprint of any catering/hospitality we offer as part of our events.
- We will investigate the feasibility of changing to a green business bank account.
- We will encourage the recipients of Parish Council emails to save paper and not print off our emails.

- We will support and innovate in the creation of new and existing wildlife habitats (for example, wildlife verges, tree planting, wildlife-friendly / green gardening) to encourage biodiversity.
- We will aim to promote the ethos of “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”.
- We will support, promote and innovate village wide and individual recycling initiatives e.g. recycling plastics including hard to recycle plastics such as garden plastics, crisp packets etc. We will also look at green waste recycling such as composting leaves/grass mowings from village roads, and moss walls. We will promote existing local recycling facilities.
- We will work alongside local experts e.g. FSC / AONB to continue to develop these policies.
- We will work with other local authority organisations such as neighbouring parish and town councils, District and County councils, D/NALC (Devon/National Association of Local Councils) and appropriate government departments to determine and implement best practice.
- We will promote our NNR and local wild/green spaces.
- We will promote all this work in the Slapton Lines magazine.
- We will promote SHDC's and other local/national recycling initiatives/ advice.
- We aim to support existing beach cleans and offer a parish council led beach and/or village litter clean. We plan to promote “#2-minute beach cleans”.
- We will investigate the feasibility of becoming a Plastic-Free Community (Surfers Against Sewage).

**We will review this policy one year from its adoption.**