

## Sustainability Policy

### Purpose

To promote and ensure appropriate consideration is given to the environment whilst Gilberdyke Parish Council and its employees or contractors are conducting its business and activities. In order to do this, Gilberdyke Parish Council needs to take responsibility for its actions and need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

### Scope

This policy is intended to cover all employees, contractors, those receiving grant funding from Gilberdyke Parish Council, and users of Gilberdyke Parish Council resources. This document also applies to those with delegated authority to purchase materials and/or goods from suppliers and to instruct/employ contractors to undertake various types of work with or on behalf of the Council, as these activities can have a direct impact on the environment.

### Policy Statement

Gilberdyke Parish Council is committed to protecting and maintaining the quality of the environment by managing its land and properties and carrying out its services in an environmentally sensitive way where this is practicable.

Gilberdyke Parish Council recognises the growing importance of environmental considerations and will, wherever practicable, promote the concept of sustainable development, namely meeting the needs of today's society without compromising future generation's ability to meet their own needs.

Gilberdyke Parish Council believes it has a responsibility to care for and protect the environment in which it operates. Gilberdyke Parish Council is fully committed to improving environmental performance across all of its activities, and will encourage our delivery partners and members of the wider community to join us in this effort.

Gilberdyke Parish Council recognises its key impacts to be in the areas of:

- energy use
- raw material use
- waste generation
- emissions to air/water
- water use
- transport
- procurement

Gilberdyke Parish Council will strive to:

- Adopt the highest environmental standards in all areas of operation, meeting and exceeding all relevant legislative requirements.
- Assess its activities and identify areas where it can minimise impacts.
- Minimise waste through careful and efficient use of all materials and energy.
- Purchase sustainable products wherever feasible (e.g. recycled, FSC or low environmental impact products and energy from renewable sources).
- Publicise its environmental position.
- Ensure contractors use good environmental practice and encourage involvement in environmental action.
- Reduce risks from environmental, health or safety hazards for parishioners.
- Adopt an environmentally sound transport strategy.
- Aim to include environmental and ethical considerations in purchasing decisions where appropriate.
- Assist in developing solutions to environmental problems.
- Continually assess the environmental impact of all our operations.

## Energy

Gilberdyke Parish Council will aim to reduce the amount of energy and water it uses and, where possible, use energy from sustainable sources.

## Paper

Gilberdyke Parish Council will reduce the amount of paper it uses by:

- Writing and printing on both sides of the paper whenever possible
- Sending information electronically where appropriate
- Purchasing paper that is environmentally friendly

Any paper that cannot be re-used will be recycled.

## Purchasing & Contracts

Where possible and practicable, Gilberdyke Parish Council will purchase its goods and services from local suppliers who share the Council's policy. The Council will purchase and use products that have been manufactured from recycled materials and can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way, and use contractors who share the Council's environmental objectives or, when working for the Council, adopt equivalent environmental standards.

## Waste Disposal

Gilberdyke Parish Council, and its contractors, will aim to reduce the amount of waste produced and where practicable recycle/re-use in order to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill. All forms of green waste that are collected will be recycled, where practicable, for use in Council maintained areas.

Gilberdyke Parish Council fully supports East Riding of Yorkshire Council's recycling efforts and will support and promote recycling facilities within the Parish.

## Management & Maintenance

Gilberdyke Parish Council, and its contractors, will:

- Minimise the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides.
- Assess chemicals used, ensuring there is appropriate safe disposal
- Compost and shred green waste, rather than burning

## Transport

Gilberdyke Parish Council will liaise with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and other relevant bodies to encourage the use of, and improvements to, public transport infrastructure. This includes schemes aimed at increasing the number of people who walk or cycle, and the maintenance and improvement of public footpaths for all users.

## Litter & Dog Fouling

Gilberdyke Parish Council will actively seek to discourage all forms of littering and, in particular, dog fouling. Any incidents brought to the Council's attention will be investigated and reported to the relevant authorities including the Police and East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Dog Warden.

## Natural Environment, Historic Sites and Place of Cultural Importance

Gilberdyke Parish Council will work to protect, enhance and preserve the natural environment, historic sites and places of cultural importance within the Parish for the enjoyment of both current and future generations.

## Building & Development

Gilberdyke Parish Council's approach to managing the impact of development on the local environment is demonstrated by the existence of a specialist Planning Committee, whose role is to both examine specific planning applications and take a long-term strategic view of development within the Parish.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly and amended as necessary.