

Sidmouth Town Council Environment Policy

Our Vision is the Sid Valley recognised as a clean, green, prosperous place to live and work - a model for sustainable living within a thriving natural environment. Our Environment Policy sets out how we will use our powers and influence to realise this vision.

Our work will be guided by the following principles:

We will:

- Work with local environmental and biodiversity groups where their objectives align with Sidmouth Town Council (STC) Policy.
- Engage actively with residents, businesses and visitors to encourage nature friendly practices.
- Develop annual climate, environmental and biodiversity plans with associated resource allocation.
- Learn from our work by monitoring, evaluating, reviewing and reporting.
- Monitor and work to reduce use of herbicides, pesticides, and other potentially environmentally damaging chemicals, on STC controlled land.
- Consider the welfare of animals in our activities and on land under our control.
- Align, where appropriate, with local, national and international initiatives on climate change and biodiversity and be guided by scientific evidence.

We will not on property in the ownership or trusteeship of STC permit the use of single-use plastics.

1. Natural Environment

- a. Enhance and protect designated green spaces and wildlife corridors, conservation areas, and views, as laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- b. Promote biodiversity within the Sid Valley.
- c. Encourage and normalise actions that support the natural environment.

2. Built Environment

- a. Support and encourage the creation of a sustainable built environment for both existing and new buildings, including through the planning process.
- b. Encourage use of public and shared transport, bicycles, and walking for both residents and visitors by provision, or promotion with others, of appropriate assets.
- c. Practise recovery, reuse, repair, remanufacturing and recycling in Sidmouth Town Council's activities and promote the same in the community.

3. Engagement

- a. Encourage environmental, climate and biodiversity awareness in the community.
- b. Support individual and organisational behaviour change and adoption of low environmental and climate impact practices.
- c. Recognise and highlight positive change that demonstrates progress by the community in achieving our environmental, climate and biodiversity objectives.

2024-2025 Proposed Annual plan

1. Support the Arboretum 14000 trees project (1a)
2. Support the Arboretum tree survey and recommended follow up actions (1a)
3. Support the River Sid Catchment Project (1a)
4. Encourage restoration of the health of the River Sid and nearby sea by engaging with, and holding to account, South West Water and other stakeholders (1a)
5. Support the Sid Valley Biodiversity group's activities to promote greater biodiversity (1b)
6. Provide coordination of local environmental and biodiversity groups to increase our collective effectiveness (1b)
7. Encourage plant-based food options in local hotels and restaurants alongside other sustainably produced local food (1c)
8. Request the Planning Working Group to consider how to create more sustainable housing (2a)
9. Work with DCC and EDDC to make walking and cycling safer and more attractive in the Sid Valley (2b)
10. Support CAPS with climate awareness sessions with public and organisations (3a)
11. Engage with schools and young people on environmental, climate and biodiversity awareness (3a)
12. Recognise and celebrate businesses and contractors engagement with environmental, climate and biodiversity enhancing achievements (3c)

Revised through 2024 and submitted for approval to full STC for 6th January November 2025