

New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Statement

Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council recognises its responsibility to protect and enhance the natural environment within the parish for current and future generations. The parish benefits from significant areas of green space, valuable habitats, and community-led environmental initiatives which contribute to the wellbeing of residents, wildlife, and visitors.

The Council is committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner, promoting sustainability, supporting biodiversity, reducing its environmental impact, and working collaboratively with local organisations and volunteers to protect and improve our local environment.

Our Environmental Commitments

1. Protecting and Enhancing Green Spaces

Frankley Parish is fortunate to contain extensive areas of green space which provide important recreational opportunities, improve public health, contribute to biodiversity, and enhance the character of the area.

The Council will:

- Protect and promote the responsible use of green spaces throughout the parish.
- Support projects that enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience.
- Encourage the planting and maintenance of native trees, shrubs, and wildflower areas wherever appropriate.
- Consider environmental impacts when making decisions relating to land, development, and community projects.
- Promote public awareness of the environmental value of local green spaces.

2. Balaam Wood and Ancient Woodland Conservation

The Council recognises the importance of Balaam Wood as an area of ancient woodland and a significant environmental asset within the parish.

The Council will work closely with the Friends of Balaam Wood and other relevant stakeholders to:

- Support the protection and preservation of the woodland's ecological value.
- Promote responsible public access while protecting sensitive habitats.
- Encourage community participation in conservation and improvement activities.
- Support biodiversity monitoring and habitat management initiatives.
- Assist in raising awareness of the importance of ancient woodland habitats.

Through partnership working, the Council aims to ensure Balaam Wood remains a thriving natural environment for future generations.

3. Partnership Working and Community Environmental Action

The Council recognises that environmental improvement is best achieved through collaboration.

The Council will:

- Maintain and develop positive working relationships with local environmental groups, volunteers and community organisations.
- Support local initiatives that improve the local environment and encourage sustainable living.
- Work in partnership with Birmingham City Council and other organisations where opportunities arise to improve environmental outcomes.
- Promote community participation in environmental projects and clean-up activities.

Frankley Street Champions

The Council values the contribution made by Frankley Street Champions in improving and maintaining the local environment.

Where appropriate, the Council will enter into and maintain Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and partnership agreements with Frankley Street Champions to:

- Support litter-picking and environmental improvement activities.
- Encourage community stewardship of local spaces.
- Share information and coordinate initiatives that improve the appearance and cleanliness of the parish.
- Recognise and support volunteer contributions to environmental wellbeing.

4. Keeping Our Streets Clean

The Council is committed to maintaining a clean and welcoming environment for residents and visitors.

To support responsible dog ownership and improve public spaces, the Council will:

- Provide dog waste bags in designated locations where resources allow.

- Promote the proper disposal of dog waste.
- Encourage responsible pet ownership through education and awareness campaigns.
- Support initiatives aimed at reducing littering and fly-tipping.
- Work with relevant authorities and community groups to address environmental nuisance issues.

The Council will also encourage residents to take pride in their local environment and support community clean-up activities across the parish.

5. Sustainable Council Operations

As a local authority, the Council will seek to minimise the environmental impact of its own activities.

The Council will:

- Reduce paper use by promoting digital communication and electronic document management wherever practical.
- Minimise waste and maximise opportunities for recycling.
- Procure goods and services responsibly, considering environmental impacts where appropriate.
- Encourage the use of virtual meetings and electronic communication where suitable.
- Seek energy-efficient solutions in any facilities, equipment, or services under the Council's control.
- Consider environmental sustainability when planning events and community projects.

6. Climate Change and Sustainability

The Council acknowledges the challenges presented by climate change and recognises the role local councils can play in supporting environmental sustainability.

The Council will:

- Consider the environmental implications of decisions and projects.
- Support initiatives that reduce carbon emissions and improve environmental resilience.
- Encourage sustainable transport options where feasible.
- Promote activities that contribute to environmental education and awareness within the community.

7. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner if required by changes in legislation, local circumstances, or Council priorities.

The Council will monitor progress against the commitments within this policy and seek opportunities for continual environmental improvement.

Draft 15/7/26

Adopted by: Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council

Date Adopted: _____

Review Date: _____

Policy Owner: Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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