



# EARLS COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (2026)

---

### 1. Policy Statement

Earls Colne Parish Council aims to carry out its activities with environmental responsibility and efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity, whilst recognising competing land use pressures.

### 2. Context

The Council recognises the importance of addressing climate change and biodiversity loss and will have regard to the duty to conserve biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40).

### 3. Aims

The Council will minimise resource use, support sustainable procurement and encourage local biodiversity and climate initiatives.

### 4. Objectives

- Comply with environmental legislation
- Reduce waste and promote recycling
- Support biodiversity through land management
- Encourage sustainable transport
- Promote air and water quality
- Engage with developers on biodiversity net gain
- Encourage responsible contractor practices

### 5. Biodiversity Duty Compliance

In accordance with Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the Council will:

- Consider biodiversity impacts in all decision-making
- Take proportionate action to conserve and enhance biodiversity



- Review biodiversity actions annually
- Record actions taken to demonstrate compliance

This ensures the Council meets its statutory duty and aligns with best practice guidance.

## 6. Link to Risk Management

This policy links directly to the Council's Financial and Operational Risk Matrix. Environmental risks such as:

- Damage to natural assets
- Climate-related impacts
- Regulatory non-compliance

are identified, scored, and managed through the Risk Matrix. This ensures environmental considerations are integrated into the Council's overall governance, risk management, and reserves planning.

## 7. Implementation

The Council will integrate environmental considerations into decision-making, procurement, and asset management.

## 8. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)

Review Date: May 2027