

Update on Environmental and Waste Management

March 2021 - Review the Council's Waste Management Policy: There is currently no legal requirement for local authorities to comply with environmental saving initiatives. However, Edenbridge Town Council has had a recycling policy since 2006 and this has been reviewed annually (copy of the policy is here). For information, the Town Council does already operate an environmentally awareness programme in line with its policy.

Edenbridge Town Council has already:

- Solar panels installed on two buildings, cemetery depot and sports pavilion (these are on non-conservation buildings)
- Recently banned bonfires on both of the allotment sites
- Have a recycling policy in the Town Council policy book (attached)
- The office and grounds team adhere to the policy where humanly possible
- Use only weed control that is amenity approved for the sports pitches
- Have supported the community planting scheme;
- In 2000 planted new Millennium Wood (2000 whips) at Mowshurst
- Maintain and replant the Town Council wealth of trees (approx. 550); review planting programmes (to go to Open Spaces in March)
- Mulch mow with the exception of the cemetery
- Considered an electric vehicle when replacing the grounds staff van, but there was not sufficient commercial range of vehicles yet for this Council's purposes
- When the High Street was revamped in 2008, parking cycle hoops were included as part of the street furniture where there was space (hoops already in Market Yard previously)
- Added cycle hoops to the rear of skate ramps
- Wood-chip where we can and reuse
- To reduce strimming and the use of fuel, amenity approved weed-killer is used sparingly at around posts
- In the process of swapping lights in buildings to LED
- Streetlights replacement programme with LED
- Part night lighting where appropriate
- Use water butts where we can
- Buy locally where possible (but mindful of obtaining best value and procurement procedures)
-

At the full Council meeting 9 March 2020 the Council's current policy and what additional measures it could take.

Extract from the minutes:

Members noted this had been a request from the Annual Town Meeting. Referring to the Clerk's report which included a list of environmental actions that the Council already implemented, Members agreed that it already did do a lot towards sustainable and environmental saving initiatives, and that these should be better promoted. Cllr Aldridge had looked at other councils' policies and agreed the Town Council was already doing a lot of what was being suggested by organisations such as Friends of the Earth. He and Cllr Layland proposed the Council could consider an accredited scheme such as the ISO4001 which helps to identify a formal response to the council's activities. Members noted

KCC had an accreditation scheme which the Town Council had previously received recognition for its waste management policy and environmental actions. Members,

Resolved:

- to investigate the possibility of enrolling the Town Council to work to achieve the ISO4001 accreditation
- to review and update its policy
- to issue a press release saying, *in response to the climate change crisis this council has already done a lot of the recommended initiatives and will be looking at updating its policy*