

NEWTON & NOSS PARISH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Newton & Noss Parish Council is committed to protecting the environment and the natural heritage of the Parish, whilst recognising the need for sustainable development and the provision of quality public amenities and services.

In conjunction with businesses, community groups, other agencies and the general public, the Parish Council aims to help meet the needs of today's society without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

The Parish Council has special responsibilities towards the Special Area of Conservation within the Yealm Estuary and it is legally obliged to consider whether any of its functions may affect the site's special interest features, and to change how it carries out its functions so as to avoid damaging impacts.

In carrying out its own activities, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will strive to make a positive contribution to protecting and enhancing the local and global environment by:

- minimising waste and pollution,
- following a hierarchy of reducing, re-using and recycling,
- seeking to eliminate the unnecessary use of energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions,
- providing information electronically, where appropriate,
- avoiding using single use plastic items.

When purchasing services and goods, where practical and economical, the Parish Council will give preference to:

- local suppliers who pay at minimum the Living Wage,
- options which are environmentally friendly and/or Fair Trade,
- products which have been manufactured from recycled materials,
- products which can be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The Parish Council will require that contractors and Councillors who carry out maintenance on Parish owned land:

- minimise the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals,
- undertake their work in a manner that benefits wildlife and the environment where practical,
- use native, wildflower friendly species, for planting schemes where appropriate,
- adhere to the Parish Council's environmental policy when working for the Parish Council.

In its decision making the Parish Council will take careful consideration of:

- the importance of walking, cycling and public transport,
- the need to conserve and improve natural habitats,
- the need to protect vulnerable and protected species¹,
- the need to conserve the natural beauty of the estuary and surrounding landscape.

In addition, where the Parish Council has the opportunity, in a way that is both practical and economical, it will:

¹ The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states that "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity."

- encourage the protection and enhancement of the unique character, beauty, heritage and biodiversity within the Parish,
- ensure the character and quality of the estuary and the Parish's natural beauty and heritage are not compromised by inappropriate development,
- ensure the nature conservation value of the estuary and surrounding landscape is maintained and enhanced,
- encourage the protection of the integrity of internationally and nationally important biodiversity sites and sites of geological and geomorphological importance within the Parish,
- highlight the importance and value of our local environment and its contribution to our community's quality of life,
- encourage local action in support of the environment,
- protect and sustain viable, healthy fisheries within the estuary, in particular the Bass Nursery,
- improve the consistency of water quality to maintain a healthy estuarine ecosystem and support sustainable fisheries,
- encourage the management of mooring and navigation activities in a sustainable manner with due regard to the estuary environment, including the Conservation Objectives of the Special Area of Conservation,
- discourage all forms of littering², particularly dog fouling and single use plastics,
- encourage the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources,
- encourage the reduction, reuse and recycling of resources within the Parish,
- encourage the use of materials and systems which improve energy efficiency of developments,
- support and encourage actions and initiatives to bring land into proactive conservation management,
- recognise the importance of hedgerows as an essential corridor for the movement of wildlife which may support many animals and plants.

Newton & Noss Parish Council reviewed and adopted this policy on 9 June 2016.

² It is an offence to drop or leave litter under section 87 of the [Environmental Protection Act 1990](#) (EPA 1990) on all types of land, including land covered by water. Therefore, fixed penalty notices may be issued to someone caught dropping litter. Alternatively, the person may be prosecuted and face a fine of up to £2,500.