

SAMPFORD COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. Executive Summary

Sampfords Courtenay Village Hall Committee recognises that its operations have an effect on the local, regional and global environment. Its whole approach is to bring about change in society, in communities, in groups and in individuals and this should include positive change around any impact we have on environmental issues.

As a consequence, Sampfords Courtenay Village Hall is committed to continuous improvements in environmental performance and the prevention of pollution. Environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice will be regarded as setting the minimum standards of environmental performance.

2. Objectives

At Sampfords Courtenay Village Hall we will:

- 2.1 use nature (natural) resources prudently and minimise the generation of wastes;
- 2.2 contribute to the protection and improvement of the built, historic and natural environment;
- 2.3 enable the community to increase their awareness and understanding of environmental issues and to acquire skills for environmentally responsible behaviour and action;
- 2.4 monitor, evaluate and constantly seek ways of improving our environmental performance.

3. Best Practice

This policy will ensure that it:

- 3.1 is appropriate to the nature and environmental impacts of our activities/services;
- 3.2 includes a commitment to continuous improvement;
- 3.3 includes a commitment to comply with relevant legislation;
- 3.4 is communicated to all employees, volunteers and hall users where appropriate.

4. Responsibility for Products

Wherever possible the organisation will consider the environmental impacts of the products it uses or purchases.

We will endeavour to conserve resources through efficient use and careful planning. This shall include a reduction in our energy and water usage.

5. Waste Management

A primary part of the organisation's environmental strategy is sustainable waste management and as such we recognise our responsibilities to recycle materials wherever possible. We will minimise waste, and will dispose of all waste through safe and responsible methods.

6. Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Policy and accompanying guidelines will be disseminated to all current staff and volunteers and will also be included as part of the induction of new staff and volunteers. The Policy Statement will be displayed at selected areas in the Hall.

In terms of actions, we encourage all users/hirers of the hall to:

- make the most efficient use of energy;
- encourage those using the hall to walk, cycle and use public or communal transport as alternatives to the private car;
- minimise and where possible eliminate all forms of pollution;
- minimise noise pollution;
- use the minimum quantities of water possible;
- avoid waste and encourage the appropriate conservation, re-use and recycling of resources;
- ensure that the potential environmental impact of any building/maintenance projects will be assessed and minimised;
- promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment and participation in environmental issues;
- where possible, purchase from local or regional suppliers, in order to maximise input to the local community and minimise carbon emissions from transport;
- protect the health and well-being of all users and visitors and improve and safeguard the quality of Sampford Courtenay Village Hall.

The original Village Hall, built in Victorian times, is very environmentally unfriendly. It has poor insulation and has few opportunities to improve its carbon footprint. By contrast the new roof project provides for a more sustainable future for the building suited to the 21st century and requiring less maintenance. The project design for the roof and future maintenance has the following elements:

- high quality insulated roof provides economic sustainability for the building and the project aims to minimise environmental damage in its operation;
- the design brief requires a low energy strategy, which includes high levels of insulation;
- materials of construction locally sourced where possible and selection criteria to aim for low embodied energy wherever practicable;
- natural materials such as sheep's wool or recycled newspaper insulation to be included in preference to petro-chemical based and high embodied energy products;
- all future light fittings to be LED, reducing electrical load/usage;
- building design to utilise natural ventilation;
- design to minimise heat loss through unwanted air leakage;
- aim to reduce running costs to a minimum;
- permeable surfaces to car parking if practicable;
- the addition of photovoltaic panels is being considered;
- rainwater harvesting is also being considered.

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