



## **STURMER PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

### **Introduction**

The vision and purpose of this policy is to ensure that Sturmer is a village within which an inclusive active community life of its' inhabitants is enabled within a high-value and cared for landscape setting. The business of the Parish Council will be conducted within a transparent, sustainable and environmentally friendly framework consistent with best value for its' tax payers.

### **Procurement**

The Parish Council will pursue a sustainable procurement policy and seek to ensure that our suppliers and contractors operate in an environmentally appropriate manner with respect to materials used and transport. The Parish Council will use locally sourced supplies and business, where possible.

### **Parish Council Land Holdings**

The Parish Council will exercise the highest possible stewardship of its' land holdings with respect to the following management techniques:

#### **1) Trees**

We will not

- fell a tree without a felling licence if a licence is required
- cut down, wilfully damage or destroy, uproot, top or lop any tree protected by a TPO without written consent from our Braintree District Council
- cut or trim a tree between 1 March and 31 August (inclusive) each year, except where the tree:
  - overhangs a highway, or any other road or footpath, endangering or obstructing vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders
  - obstructs or interferes with the view of drivers of vehicles or the light from a public lamp
  - is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted, and is a risk to human safety
  - is in an orchard

- All trees on Parish Council land will be the subject of a rolling 3 yearly inspection as to their safety and the safety of the public.

## 2) Hedges

No hedges will be cut or trimmed between 1 March and 31 August unless:

- the hedgerow overhangs a highway, road or footpath over which there is a public or private right of way and the overhanging hedgerow obstructs the passage of, or is a danger to, vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders
- the hedgerow is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted because of its condition, it or part of it, is likely to cause danger by falling on to a highway, road or footpath; or obstructs the view of drivers or the light from a public lamp

## 3) Watercourses

No manufactured fertilizer or pesticide will be used within 2 metres of an open watercourse or drainage ditch. No organic manure to be used within 10 metres of an open watercourse or drainage ditch.

## 4) Non-native Invasive Plants

The Parish Council will seek to ensure the eradication of any non-native invasive plants from its' property and will act to prevent their spread onto neighbouring sites.

### **Community Engagement**

Sturmer Parish Council will seek to raise awareness of environmental issues with the residents of the village and will act as a role model for best practice. The Parish Council will be a strong advocate in support of waste minimisation, material recycling, energy efficiency and water conservation to combat the effects of climate change.

### **Conclusion**

In light of policy changes from Central Government the Parish Council intends to review their environmental policy annually.