

Environment Policy

DPC recognise the existence of Climate Change. We will work with the community and community organisations (such as the Climate Change Action Group, Sport in Desford, the Primary School and Bosworth Academy) to support local initiatives that will contribute to and enhance all aspects, including transport, the built environment, the natural environment, ecology and renewable energy.

DPC are committed to reducing their own carbon footprint and to encourage residents and businesses to do likewise. Infrastructure controlled by the Parish Council includes the 3 Recreation Grounds and several other open spaces, the Strict Baptist Graveyard, the Allotments, the Cemetery and Cemetery Hut, Botcheston Village Hall and 19 street lights. Desford in Bloom agree to follow the recommendations in this policy.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies which are reflected in this policy.

There are 4 priority areas for action:

Energy: See *Community Actions in Appendix*

- Promote the improvement of energy efficiency of existing buildings and request zero carbon new builds
- Provide design briefs for development sites, encouraging renewable energy and sustainable design such as photovoltaic cells and ground heat source pumps (NP Policy H6) <https://www.desfordparishcouncil.co.uk/uploads/desford-neighbourhood-plan-submission-version-december-2019.pdf>
- Support local sites for renewable energy generation, including PV solar panels or wind turbines, provided there is no harm to landscape character, biodiversity or heritage assets (NP Policy ENV7)
- Where practicable, we will convert streetlights to lower energy LED lamps
- Install insulation and low energy lighting in buildings owned by the Council and review the efficiency of heating systems
- Encourage residents to switch to a 100% green energy supplier

Environment: manage land to enhance nature and biodiversity. See *Community Actions in Appendix*

- Designate sites for tree planting in collaboration with landowners
- Designate sites for nature conservation where appropriate
- Ensure that any future development takes note of the scoring of fields and open spaces in the Environmental Inventory (NP Policy ENV2, ENV3 & Appendix E) <https://www.desfordparishcouncil.co.uk/uploads/appendix-e-environmental-inventory.pdf>
- Maintain the open spaces the Parish Council are responsible for and create new ones if the opportunity arises
- Regularly review the provision of land for allotments
- Encourage residents to reduce the use of pesticides
- Promote the growing and buying of local and seasonal food
- Make use of opportunities to promote ethically produced food and seasonal cooking
- Install water butts on council owned properties and encourage residents and businesses to do likewise

- Encourage green roofs and walls
- Encourage residents to plant pollinator friendly plants in their gardens/allotments (provide a suggested list)

Transport: A major shift to public transport, walking and cycling to reduce emissions. See *Community Actions in Appendix*.

- Lobby providers when bus services are threatened
- Support the campaign to re-open the Ivanhoe Line (NP Policy T2)
- Identify and ask the County Council to improve safe walking and cycling routes and seek opportunities to create new walking and cycling routes to provide a more extensive network (NP Policy T1 & T3)
- Support electric car charging facilities for the community, such as at Sport in Desford
- Encourage local businesses to install car charging facilities (NP Policy T4)
- Require developers to provide 7KW cabling to an appropriate point in new buildings, to facilitate subsequent installation of an electric car charging point
- Encourage organisations to operate car sharing schemes
- Through the planning system, encourage better local service provision and support local employment, so that car journeys are reduced
- Support home working and a co-working hub (NP Policy E3)

Waste:

- Encourage the setting up of a Share & Repair Cafe scheme
- Reduce the amount of paper used for Council business by the use of a projector at meetings
- Encourage councillors and employees to “think before they print”
- Use the newsletters, website and facebook to promote recycling and provide information on disposal of items which cannot be put in the blue bin
- Promote the minimisation of single use plastic

Appendix: Community Actions from Neighbourhood Plan

Community Action ENV1: Important Open Spaces: The Parish Council will actively work with HBBC to secure the designation of the sites listed in the supporting information as Open Space, Sports & Recreation Sites

The authorities and owners responsible for the above open spaces will collaborate closely, to ensure better, more effective coordination of site management and enhancement.

Community Action ENV2: Biodiversity: The Parish Council will, when practicable, encourage community groups, landowners, funders and other organisations to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the parish by creating and/or managing habitat sites (eg. wildflower meadows, woodland, wetland) on suitable parcels of land. The Parish Council will work constructively with other organisations to seek to consider the possibility of installing major solar facilities.

Community Action ENV3: The Parish Council, community and other relevant organisations and individuals will:

- Work constructively with Griffen to look at the possibility of installing a major solar facility on the roof of the 4 buildings on the southern edge of Desford village. If possible, also introduce a Community Energy dimension into this proposal so that a portion of the generation is used within the Parish
- Encourage further domestic solar arrays to increase local electricity generation within the Parish
- Look to setting up a Community Energy Group within the Parish to explore ways of using more local generation within the Parish
- Welcome proposals for battery installations (such as the 81KWp battery at Sport in Desford) to store energy to mitigate the inherent intermittency of wind and solar generation
- Welcome or facilitate electric car charging points at strategic points in the Parish (such as the 2 car charging points at Sport in Desford) to support the national move to electric cars
- The Parish Council will pursue the potential for recycling facilities to be made available in the Parish

Community Action F1: Desford Parish Council in conjunction with relevant bodies will:

- a) Work with Sport in Desford to identify extra land for sport and recreation within the parish, with a view to purchase and to develop for further sports and recreation
- b) Strive to achieve enhancements to the present network of walking routes in the Parish including the provision of kissing gates to replace stiles wherever possible and to provide new cycle paths to link in with existing local cycle networks
- c) Work with Leicestershire Highways to maintain and where possible improve the bus service through Desford