

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Policy approved and adopted at the meeting of the Parish Council held on 26th November 2025

An Exceptional Environmental Heritage to be Protected for Future Generations. The Catfield Parish Council (the Council) recognises that many of its inhabitants value its rural landscape as their greatest amenity in living in the village. It is also aware that Catfield is exceptionally lucky in being surrounded by some of the finest wetland sites with the highest level of environmental protection in the United Kingdom. Therefore, awareness and consideration of environmental issues and its environmental heritage will always be at the core of its deliberations.

Policy Statement

This policy statement affirms that the Council is committed to the preservation of the environment.

The Council recognises that it has many roles including:

- public watchdog particularly on planning matters
- opinion leader
- consumer of goods and services
- provider of services
- employer

In these roles the Council will:

- meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- raise the awareness of key decision makers
- ensure that the implications of health, social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the community are considered when making decisions.

Recycling

The Council will minimise waste in its activities and reuse waste materials where possible. It will provide facilities for recycling if not already done so by NNDC. It will dispose of all necessary waste through safe and responsible methods.

Energy Efficiency and Global Warming

The Council will encourage the sensible use of energy, by seeking to improve energy efficiency, to utilise safer energy sources and giving preference to renewable over finite energy resources wherever possible. The Council will also support Public Transport where practical.

Farming and the Public Good

The Council recognises that the landscape is a working agricultural landscape maintained by our farmers but considers that a wider responsibility to the Public Good (defined as the benefit or well-being of the public) is also relevant.

Avoidance of Damage to the Surrounding Fens

The Council recognises that the SSSI rated fens (Catfield, Sutton and Hickling Broad) which in close proximity surround the village are fed from a small groundwater catchment on which Catfield is located.

It understands that any threats of water pollution, either surface or groundwater, or reduction in water supply is potentially damaging to these SSSI's and needs to be monitored and fully investigated where development changes are proposed.

Litter and Dog Fouling

The Council will actively seek to discourage all forms of littering in particular Dog Fouling.

Dark Skies

The Council recognises the importance of preserving the ability for citizens to see a dark sky at night and will promote the adoption of dark sky friendly lighting and planning policies.

The Council will seek to:

- Ensure Access to Public footpaths, Bridlepaths, Byways and Staithes
- Increase the Amount of Publicly Accessible Green Space in the Village
- Promote Allotments and Environmentally friendly gardening and Biodiversity.



Adherence to Environmental Policy

It is the responsibility of the Clerk to notify and provide copies of this policy to contractors and councillors.