

## Sidmouth Town Council Environment Policy (Draft)

*Vision Group for Sidmouth notes and links: 30 September 2019*

Sidmouth Town Council is committed to transforming Sidmouth into a cleaner and greener town and a more prosperous place to live and work. We commit to making Sidmouth a low carbon town and a healthy and active town - with a high quality built and natural environment.

Our Environmental Policy supports these goals. Through it, we will use our powers and influence to protect and enhance the environment, and make continual improvement in our own environmental performance, as set out below.

### Natural **and Built** Environment

- Protect, and where possible enhance, the designated green spaces and corridors, conservation areas, and views, as laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan
  - > **Exeter Wild City:** [www.devonwildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/our-projects/exeter-wild-city](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/our-projects/exeter-wild-city)
  - > **Urban Fruit Projects:** [www.transitionculture.org/2008/05/07/update-on-the-totnes-the-nut-tree-capital-of-britain-project/](http://www.transitionculture.org/2008/05/07/update-on-the-totnes-the-nut-tree-capital-of-britain-project/)
  - > **National Park:** [visionforsidmouth.org/dorset-east-devon-aonbs-strong-candidates-for-new-national-park/](http://visionforsidmouth.org/dorset-east-devon-aonbs-strong-candidates-for-new-national-park/)
- Support and encourage the creation of a sustainable built environment through the planning process
  - > **Retrofitfirst:** [visionforsidmouth.org/knowledge-relocation-project-prioritise-retrofitting-existing-buildings-over-demolition-and-rebuild/](http://visionforsidmouth.org/knowledge-relocation-project-prioritise-retrofitting-existing-buildings-over-demolition-and-rebuild/)
  - > **Promote current employment sites:** [visionforsidmouth.org/alexandria-industrial-estate-as-an-alternative-to-the-controversial-sidford-business-park/](http://visionforsidmouth.org/alexandria-industrial-estate-as-an-alternative-to-the-controversial-sidford-business-park/) **and** [futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2018/10/sidford-business-park-other-sites-are.html](http://futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2018/10/sidford-business-park-other-sites-are.html)
- Consider impact on biodiversity and sustainability of the management and use of the Sidmouth Town Council estate

### Low Carbon Town

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Sidmouth Town Council activities year on year until carbon neutrality is achieved and promote the same in the community
  - > **Energy Descent Plan:** [futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2019/04/climate-change-and-east-devon-in-what.html](http://futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2019/04/climate-change-and-east-devon-in-what.html)
- Support the appropriate generation and use of renewable and low carbon energy
  - > **Community Energy:** <https://futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2015/02/from-dirty-energy-to-sustainable-energy.html>
- Encourage use of public and shared transport, bicycles, and walking for both residents and visitors by provision, or promotion with others, of appropriate assets
  - > **Transport Strategy for Exeter:** [visionforsidmouth.org/exeter-transport-strategy-slowly-emerging/](http://visionforsidmouth.org/exeter-transport-strategy-slowly-emerging/)

## Sustainability

- Practice recovery, reuse, repair, remanufacturing and recycling in Sidmouth Town Council's activities and promote the same in the community  
> Sarah of Exmouth: [futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2019/03/refuse-reduce-reuse-repair-rot-recycle.html](https://futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2019/03/refuse-reduce-reuse-repair-rot-recycle.html)
- Preferentially engage local contractors who demonstrate alignment to the Sidmouth Town Council's Environmental Policy  
> Preston model: [futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2018/11/preston-post-brexit-city-co-operatives.html](https://futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2018/11/preston-post-brexit-city-co-operatives.html)
- Consider the impact of future climate change, such as sea level rise, intensity of storms, and drought, on all decisions:  
> Councillors' Climate Workbook: [www.local.gov.uk/councillor-workbook-acting-climate-change](http://www.local.gov.uk/councillor-workbook-acting-climate-change)

## Engagement

- Inform and engage Sidmouth's residents and businesses of the Council's environmental activities, and respond and react to feedback
- Support individual, business, charity, and event organiser behaviour change and adoption of low environmental impact practices
- Set biannual targets and report on progress, undertaking periodic audits of the Sidmouth Town Council's environmental management system.

### > Dangers of Disengagement:

*Nagging people isn't the answer... Instead, the key is to make it easier for people to do the right thing and harder to do the wrong thing.* [eastdevonwatch.org/2019/09/29/best-places-for-a-car-free-commute-in-britain-from-bristol-to-liverpool-newcastle-and-nottingham/](https://eastdevonwatch.org/2019/09/29/best-places-for-a-car-free-commute-in-britain-from-bristol-to-liverpool-newcastle-and-nottingham/)

*Splash wall:* [visionforsidmouth.org/raising-the-splash-wall-on-sidmouths-esplanade-debate/](https://visionforsidmouth.org/raising-the-splash-wall-on-sidmouths-esplanade-debate/) and [visionforsidmouth.org/raising-the-splash-wall-on-sidmouths-esplanade-reaction/](https://visionforsidmouth.org/raising-the-splash-wall-on-sidmouths-esplanade-reaction/)

*Car park charges:* [visionforsidmouth.org/raising-car-parking-charges-and-threatening-the-viability-of-small-businesses/](https://visionforsidmouth.org/raising-car-parking-charges-and-threatening-the-viability-of-small-businesses/) and [visionforsidmouth.org/raising-car-parking-charges-is-about-raising-revenue-not-about-reducing-emissions/](https://visionforsidmouth.org/raising-car-parking-charges-is-about-raising-revenue-not-about-reducing-emissions/)

### > The Transition Town movement:

*Transition is a movement that has been growing since 2005. It is about communities stepping up to address the big challenges they face by starting local. By coming together, they are able to crowd-source solutions. They seek to nurture a caring culture, one focused on supporting each other, both as groups or as wider communities.*

*In practice, they are reclaiming the economy, sparking entrepreneurship, reimagining work, reskilling themselves and weaving webs of connection and support.*

[visionforsidmouth.org/sidmouth-and-sustainability/](https://visionforsidmouth.org/sidmouth-and-sustainability/) and <https://transitionnetwork.org/about-the-movement/what-is-transition/>

> The principles of Resilience:

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[www.resilience.org/stories/2014-04-24/resilience-impact-and-learning/](http://www.resilience.org/stories/2014-04-24/resilience-impact-and-learning/)

*Coastal communities around the country are looking for cost-effective ways to increase their resilience (to sea level rise, coastal erosion and flooding, changes to coastal habitats, etc.).*

[futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2016/03/making-coastal-communities-resilient.html](http://futuresforumvgs.blogspot.com/2016/03/making-coastal-communities-resilient.html)

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