



Redgrave Parish Council

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. Introduction

Redgrave Parish Council (RPC) aims to carry out its activities with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to protect and enhance the local environment and biodiversity within its area of operation whilst endeavouring to ensure wider adverse environmental impact does not occur as a result.

Research has shown that human activities have negatively impacted the environment and led to climate change. It is recognised that climate change is not only a threat to our environment, but it is our biggest economic and social challenge.

Mid Suffolk District Council's Strategic Priorities have climate change mitigation at its core. The Council is committed to minimise its adverse environmental impacts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to plan how best to adapt to the changing climate to improve the quality of life for the people of Mid Suffolk and beyond.

2. Policy

RPC recognises that a climate emergency has been declared nationally and that this has been recognised by the Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council as defined in their respective environment policy statements.

It is RPC policy that the village will support the policies as defined by Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. This commitment is reflected in the recently "made" Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan (RNP). In particular, Objective 5 of the RNP states Redgrave's commitment "To encourage low carbon initiatives and future sustainability" while Objective 3 commits "To protect and enhance Redgrave's natural and historic assets".

3. Aims & Commitments

RPC will seek to implement its Environmental Policy by adopting specific aims as identified in the BMSDC Joint Local Plan, the RNP and elsewhere. These will cover environmental issues under a number of different areas:

- **New Development Proposals:** New development proposals will be expected to comply with RED 9 of the RNP in particular:
 - Development proposals will be expected to protect and enhance existing ecological networks and wildlife corridors such as the River Waveney and River Little Ouse and their associated habitats.
 - Proposals should retain existing features of landscape and biodiversity value (including ponds, trees, woodland (including ancient woodland), veteran trees,

hedgerows (including ancient field boundaries and verges) and provide a net gain in biodiversity.

- All development should demonstrate how net gains for biodiversity are being secured, proportionate to the scale of development and potential impacts
- All new development proposals will comply with statutory requirements for delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), with a 10% BNG level specified in the Environment Bill, and aim to deliver aspirational targets of 20% where possible.
- **Low Carbon Initiatives.** The RNP will aim to implement the provisions of Objective 5 and RED 12 of the RNP, namely for non-residential development it will:
 - Support proposals that incorporate energy saving measures into new development
 - Support proposals which include renewable energy and sustainable technologies.
 - Support the investigation of the feasibility of a village-owned power supply (as a Community Action Project – See Chapter 6 of the RNP).
- **Community Action Groups for the Environmental Issues.** Chapter 6 of the RNP calls for Community Action Projects to be established outside of the RNP using CIL income. Many of the Community Action Projects identified in Chapter 6 address the environmental issues facing the village and the wider community. The RPC has established the Green Redgrave Group to address many of these issues.

In addition, the RPC will:

- Support local initiatives aimed at climate change and/or biodiversity protection or enhancement.
- Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
- Consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes, where this is practicable and affordable within the resources and financial capabilities of council.
- Seek ways to reduce the impact that operating its assets has on the environment (by reducing energy needs for instance)
- Ensure wherever possible safe walking and cycling routes within the parish are available
- Investigate the use of sustainable energy sources.
- Support energy reduction strategies within the Parish