

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

March 2021

The Natural Environment Committee will consist of 7 Members of the Town Council:

The Committee has responsibility and delegated powers for:

The Natural Environment; to identify and drive Green initiatives within the town, encouraging a climate friendly community with a cleaner, healthier future.

The Natural Environment Committee will promote the Health and Wellbeing of residents through engagement with our natural environment including initiatives which ensure our natural spaces are somewhere our community and visitors can enjoy and want to spend time.

Seek to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment.

Support the conservation of hedgerows, ponds and streams and will identify a programme of tree, hedgerow and wildflower, bulb and flower planting.

Consider the promotion of local biodiversity in all activities particularly with the relevance to the management of land owned by the Council.

Ecology and Habitats: The committee will seek ways to promote ecological interests within the town to address the decline in protected species. The rationale of the Committee is to collect and consider evidence bases, consult and partner with appropriate agencies and individuals, working towards recommending changes that will benefit the Ferndown residents, it's natural environment and our climate.

Identifying ways the Council and its holdings can become climate friendly through its own working practices.

Encourage recycling of wastepaper, cardboard, plastic and glass at all operational sites and across the town.

Use recycled paper products where feasible including paper and envelopes.

Minimise the amount of printing and wastepaper, promote electronic communication wherever possible.

Seek to minimise environmental damage caused through transportation of goods by sourcing material and services locally subject to value for money and quality are met.

The Committee will work together with partners such as the Dorset Local Nature Partnership (DLNP), Dorset Council, Dorset Wildlife Trust, South West Lakes Trust and Natural England to better understand how we can protect and enhance our natural environment.

The Natural Environment Committee

The Committee will review the Councils membership of the Dorset Wildlife Trust on a yearly basis.

To determine the amount of budget required for its activities and to make recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the necessary precept.