



Biddenham Village Environmental Policy

Introduction

This policy sets out how Biddenham Village Hall Management Committee, in its role as management body of Biddenham Village Hall is committed to complying with relevant legislation and reducing the Village Hall's environmental impact. It details a commitment to periodic monitoring and review of progress and the aspiration towards continuous improvement. Not only are the physical facilities and systems of the Village Hall covered by this policy but all aspects of the Village Hall's operations and user activities. A review of environmental performance was undertaken in July 2008 on adoption of this policy and was quantitative where possible to allow future improvement to be measured. Both environmental performance and the policy itself was last reviewed in November 2009. The next review is due in November 2010.

Scope

The key aspects of the environment which are potentially affected by the Village Hall and its users and which are capable of being controlled are the use of natural resources (including energy, water and materials), the emission of pollutants to atmosphere, ground and water, the production of waste and impacts on the local noise climate. Each of these environmental aspects is discussed below.

Use of Natural Resources

Efficient use of energy and water will be achieved through encouraging users to be prudent in their use of the heating and water systems and through adapting and/or replacing fixtures. Energy efficient lightbulbs will be fitted throughout the building, where possible and the conversion of all fittings to be able to take such bulbs will be considered. Fitting daylight shutoff and movement sensors to external lights and dual flush cisterns to the toilets will also be considered. Posters will be on display in key locations to encourage users to use water sparingly and to turn off lights and heating appliances when not required. Users will be encouraged to use cutlery and crockery provided in the kitchen rather than bringing disposable items to reduce the consumption of materials.

Emissions Of Pollutants

Plant will be serviced regularly to ensure that atmospheric emissions comply with legislation. Notices in the kitchen will remind users not to dispose of unsuitable substances (fats, oils etc) to the water environment through the sinks and drains.

Waste

Waste minimisation will be encouraged through the use of permanent, not disposable crockery and cutlery and dedicated storage bins will be provided for the collection of recyclable materials. Users will be educated in the system of waste recycling and disposal.

Noise

Users will be reminded of their responsibility to the local community within the hire agreement and the sound limiter will be kept in good condition. Regular community consultation will allow the views of neighbours to be heard. A dedicated member of the Village Hall Management Committee will act as the point of contact for residents' comments and queries and it shall be a condition of hiring the facilities that the Village Hall Management Committee has the authority to stop an event or reduce its noise impact (through disabling music systems etc) if unacceptable disturbance is being caused.

Implementation

The Village Hall Management Committee is committed to a programme of raising awareness to facilitate a change in behaviour in order to reduce the environmental impact of the Village Hall. This could include an e-mail broadcast to key¹ users, information to be issued with hire agreements and displays within the Village Hall and on Parish Council notice boards in Biddenham.

¹ Defined as regular users who use Hall at same time each week (as per Regular Users Timetable).