

# Sopwell Residents Association's Environmental Policy

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## 1. The purpose of Sopwell Residents Association's Environmental Policy

This Environmental Policy document (also referred to as just "Policy") aims to set out the responsibilities we believe that Sopwell Residents Association ('the SRA') has in minimising negative whilst encouraging positive environmental outcomes. We aim for the document to be easy to read and easy to understand, so that the Policy can be used effectively.

## 2. Our Environmental Values

We want to help our community live happy, healthy lives. To do this, we recognise the need for a pleasant local environment that enriches where we live. We believe we have a responsibility to the local community and to the wider environment that means we should aim to live and work in a sustainable way, and to encourage others to do so.

Problems such as single-use plastics and other waste, increased scarcity of water, food miles, toxins in chemicals used in food growing, extinction of species, increases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions made worse with car use and unsustainable heating solutions are all leading to significant problems for both people and wildlife and significantly impact the planet.

We believe that the SRA has a role and a responsibility in encouraging good environmental stewardship. We must consider the environment in the decisions we make and encourage others to do so. We would like to lead by example but recognise the need and importance of local partners in making this happen.

## 3. The scope of Sopwell Residents Association's Environmental Policy

The SRA can impact the local environment, particularly in the areas of:

- noise

- litter
- air quality
- carbon emissions

The SRA can positively influence how the Community engages with sustainable living through:

- bringing isolated people together to strengthen local community networks,
- encouraging local people, including children, to make better use of our green spaces, increasing access to exercise, knowledge and involvement with local natural habitats, and reducing litter,
- promoting the environment through sharing partners' events and activities.

#### 4. Our Environmental Objectives and how we aim to achieve them

Area of impact	Our Objective	Examples of how we will achieve the Objective
1) Noise	a) To be good neighbours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To consider local residents when making decisions on events and activities.</li> <li>ii. To provide opportunities for local residents to feed back on events and activities.</li> </ul>
2) Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) To help reduce litter in the local area.</li> <li>c) Waste is disposed of responsibly, within a wider aim of refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recover and recycle.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. Encourage local litter picks, including the lending out of the SRA's litter pickers.</li> <li>iv. Members to be encouraged to report fly tipping and overflowing bins to St Albans and District Council.</li> <li>v. Litter problems fed back to the SRA to be reported to local councillors.</li> </ul>
3) Air quality	d) Reduce local air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi. Advertise local events and activities that are within walking or cycling distance.</li> <li>vii. Look to protect our green areas locally.</li> </ul>
4) Materials and services procurement and use	e) Reduce waste going to landfill by aiming to refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, recover and recycle.	viii. To consider environmental impact alongside cost when procuring materials and services for our events such as Larks in the Parks e.g. sustainable materials; reusable rather than plastic.
5) Partners	f) To work with partners to promote the local environment.	ix. Where appropriate, share local activities and events that

		promote the environment through e.g. the SRA newsletter, SRA social media.
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**5. The Policy as a Living Document**

It is the responsibility of the SRA Committee to adopt and implement this Policy.

Once adopted, the Policy should be reviewed at least every three years, and amended where necessary.

Copies of the Policy should be available online for the public.