



## **KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL TRUST**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

#### **Introduction**

This policy sets out how the Trust Board, in its role as the management body of Kingston Village Hall Trust, 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 Barn and its environs covered by this policy but all aspects of the Village Hall's operations and user activities. A review of structural environmental performance was undertaken in 1997 / 1998 during a major refurbishment, and will be revised as the Kitchen extension project reaches fruition. Both environmental performance and the policy itself will be reviewed annually.

#### **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 is ongoing. Fitting daylight shutoff and movement sensors to external lights and toilets has been completed 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 rather than bringing disposable items to reduce the consumption of materials.

#### **Emissions of Pollutants**

Plant in both The Barn and Barn Cottage 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 through our Terms and Conditions for Barn Hire, which requires all recyclable material to be taken home.

#### **Noise**

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

#### **Implementation**

The Trust Board 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 will include an e-mail reminder to regular users, information to be issued with hire agreements and displays within the Village Hall and reminders in the regular 'News From The Barn' newsletter.

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