

10 – POINT GREEN CHARTER

1. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Carry out an annual environmental audit (review) of the town, in conjunction with local voluntary groups and branches of the national organisations and other local authorities. i.e. assess the state of our local environment – against known recommended standards, e.g. pollution (river, air ground water, light, noise); waste disposal; recycling, the built environment; litter and fly tipping; traffic and road safety; the surrounding countryside; transport; and energy. Attempt to institute an environmental action plan.

2. COUNCIL MANAGEMENT POLICY

i. Purchasing

Make environmental considerations or requirements a vital part Council's purchasing policy, e.g. reduce the use of any poisonous chemicals and aerosols with CFCs to a minimum; resolve not to buy tropical hardwoods, and use only recycled products where possible.

ii. Disposal of Chemicals

Ensure that the Council disposes of unwanted chemicals in a careful and responsible way.

iii. Alternative to Peat

Use alternatives to peat where applicable, i.e. bark or wood chips for mulching; composted bark or wood chips for planting.

Produce an information leaflet, available to the public, about making compost heaps, to help reduce the consumption of peat and disposal/recycling of kitchen waste.

iv. Energy Conservation

Seek means of conserving energy at the Imperial Rooms, where feasible.

v. Compile a register of 'environmentally friendly' manufacturers producing recycled or organic products, to be made available to the public.

3. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Ensure that existing wildlife habitats in and around Matlock are properly conserved and encourage further tree and shrub planting and pond creation. Insist on meaningful landscaping of new developments.

Carry out conservation work where possible, with Government and/or principle authority assistance, and the involvement of local schools and voluntary groups. Ensure that countryside designated as a Special landscape area and land covered by SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) status or the BSR (Biological Sites Register) is protected wherever feasible. Urge consideration of areas of significant existing trees for the proposed TMO (Tree Management Order) protection, and really significant historic hedgerows for the purpose 'Hedgerow Protection Order'.

4. EXTENSION OF PROPOSED WASTE RECYCLING FACILITIES

Seek to get Matlock's waste recycling facilities extended to include plastic and cans (aluminium), in addition to paper and bottles, and preferably all within a single, 'total' reclamation container. The District Council should be aiming for one disposal site per 2,000 population (as recommended by FoE). Therefore, we need 4 or 5 in Matlock alone, preferably including the Gateway car park in particular, and with more frequent emptying.

Disposal of old refrigerators should be properly carried out and Derbyshire County Council encouraged to ensure the safe and effective disposal thereby minimising CFC emissions.

There should also be provision for the disposal of engine sump oil, batteries, textiles, and organic (garden/kitchen refuse – the latter two for recycling, preferably as part of the district Council's kerbside collection facility. This is vital if the Government target of 50% potential waste recycling is to be achieved. More public information about recycling is also required, and an eventual objective of door-to-door collection of all recyclable household rubbish. Perhaps an award for the best household waste recycling initiative could be offered.

5. ACTION ON LITTER AND DOGS

More efficiency by the District Council in the clearance of litter and fly tipping is needed, as well as the provision of a dog warden service for the Derbyshire Dales; dog free play areas and playing fields, as well as dog waste disposal facilities, and more public information about the problems of dog excrement.

6. TRAFFIC CALMING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Request experiments in Matlock for various traffic 'calming' techniques in the main residential areas e.g. Cavendish Park, Asker Lane, Hurst Farm, Starkholmes Road, Sheriff Fields. Press for similar techniques to be incorporated in the design of the new housing areas, at the planning application stage.

7. MATLOCK'S TRANSPORT LINKS

Seek to ensure Matlock-Derby railway line is maintained as an important public service, which helps to reduce A6 traffic, and that the admirable objectives of Peak Rail are encouraged whatever possible.

Attempt to reduce traffic congestion and the effect of heavy through traffic on everyday life in Matlock by urging progress on the town's relief road and thereby the pedestrianisation of selected streets.

8. TOWNSCAPE ENHANCEMENT

Initiate an environmental protection and enhancement strategy (with specific schemes programmed where feasible) for Matlock's streets; buildings, including shop fronts; pavements; open spaces and footpaths, after damage from vandalism, graffiti or service excavations. Press for more of the town's historic buildings, especially the best of the former Smedley's Hydro buildings within the Matlock Bank Conservation Area, to be listed by Department of the environment.

9. THE ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND FUTURE LOCAL PLANS

- i. To include in the new Derbyshire Dales District Plan a commitment to ensure that major new housing and industrial developments in Matlock are only permitted where there is reasonable access to shops, services and community facilities. The visual impact of proposed developments on the surrounding landscape must be carefully considered, and not impose unreasonable pressure on existing residents, transport and road space. Encourage the re-use of existing development land, rather than peripheral 'green field' sites, provided the land, had no important conservation value.
- ii. Make sure any further proposals for waste tipping are strictly controlled and closely monitored in terms of their visual impact, noise, lorry access and pollution. Local Councils should satisfy themselves that the former Dimple Tip presents no danger of water pollution.
- iii. Seek to get the various statutory and other local plans revised and updated and controls extended in line with the current environmental objectives and statistical data. This should include the protection of allotments and existing open spaces in the town, against possible future development.

10. THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ROLE AS WATCHDOG AND CATALYST

Finally, resolve to act as an effective 'watchdog' to the activities of any private companies, as well as the other Local Authorities operating within Matlock, in order to encourage higher environmental standards. This should include regular monitoring of the tipping situation at Lumshill Quarry.

In addition, the council should continue to provide leadership where appropriate in local environmental schemes to be implemented

Additional Clause inserted 17 July 2000

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

“Seek through the Council’s recommendations to Derbyshire Dales District Council about relevant planning applications and Conservation Area policies etc., to secure protection and enhancement of the town’s older buildings. In particular, the important architectural features of surviving Victorian/Edwardian shops and the numerous former Hydro buildings need to be safeguarded.

In addition, try to ensure that other surviving artefacts or sites in Matlock of historic or social interest, e.g. wartime relics and sites such as Bailey’s Tump and 135 Smedley Street (Ground Station Zero) are conserved, with suitable interpretation.

This council, mindful of the laudable objectives contained in the government’s Environmental Protection bill and the ideas and recommendations in the recently published Environment White paper, proposes to adopt a Green Charter.

This shopping list of environmental policies for Matlock seeks to make a contribution to a sustainable, healthy and ecologically balanced local community.

Councillor Martin Burfoot

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Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Association of Local Councils
Matlock Civic Association
Matlock Field Club
Matlock Town C. of E. (Aided) Primary School
The Ramblers Association – Derbyshire Dales Group
Matlock Against Dumping
J.B. Howitt