

Ruspidge Memorial Hall

Environmental Policy

The Management Committee are committed to protecting and improving the local environment. We will ensure that environmental priorities are integrated into decisions that we take on our services, in line with the following principles and including the following actions:

1. **To make the most efficient use of energy;** to endeavour to minimise use of energy in the operation of the heating, lighting and appliances in the hall; we will regularly review our energy sources and energy-using appliances with a view to reducing environmental impact; we will monitor consumption and aim to eliminate excessive or unnecessary use; we encourage users to follow the list of actions (see separate list below*) to conserve energy and reduce waste which is displayed in the hall and given to all users; the use of light switches that automatically switch off lights where practicable and the close control of heating so that it is only used when needed are key ways that we reduce energy consumption.
2. **To minimise all forms of pollution;** by minimising the use of chemicals; late evening bookings will be considered carefully to avoid noise nuisance to neighbours.
3. **To minimise water use;** any leakages will be remedied expediently; users are asked to avoid excessive or unnecessary use of water, (see separate list of actions below*) which is displayed in the hall and given to all users.
4. **To avoid waste** and to encourage conservation, re-use and recycling of resources; recycling facilities for glass, tins and paper are made available to users.
5. **To reduce transport;** to encourage walking or cycling to the hall where practicable; to encourage car sharing for those not within walking distance; to let users of the upper hall know that there are railings at the back of the hall suitable to secure a bike to; to advertise events and activities that take place at the hall locally to encourage attendance by residents in the immediate locality; to seek to purchase from local or regional suppliers to minimise transport (and also to maximise input into the local economy).
6. The potential environmental impact of any building projects will be minimised; to prioritise low maintenance and energy efficiency and use sustainable materials where possible.
7. Protect and encourage the orchids growing in the grassed areas alongside and behind the hall.

Future specific actions identified:

8. Improve thermal insulation in the upper hall to reduce energy transfer through the roof.
9. Change lighting to LED in the upper hall.
10. Fit water saving devices to the urinals.

*List of actions for users to conserve energy and reduce waste:

- Close all external doors while hall is in use
- Close door to furniture store while hall is in use
- Close stage curtains while hall is in use (unless use of the stage is required)
- Request a lower heating temperature rather than opening external doors to reduce the temperature
- Only use ceiling lights OR wall lights, not both
- Turn off all lights before leaving
- Open blinds during daytime rather than turning on lights. Close blinds when using the hall after dark.
- Close water taps before leaving
- Close tap for urinal in men's toilet before leaving (to conserve water).
- Recycle waste where possible