

GILSLAND VILLAGE HALL – ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

OVERVIEW

Gilsland Village Hall is committed to working in an environmentally sustainable way. As such, it will take all reasonable measures to minimise its impact on the local & global environment, always complying with statutory environmental measures including legislation and regulations and seeking to adhere to relevant codes of good practice.

This environmental policy will cover all aspects of the village hall's activities, from general house-keeping measures to ensuring that its investments are environmentally sound. A particular commitment is made with regard to energy conservation and the use of renewable energy. The policy also commits the village hall to supporting suppliers and services that adhere to environmentally sound ways of operating. It is intended that the policy should provide a framework for all decisions made by the managing committee, whether relating to the day-to-day running of the hall or major improvements and capital projects.

WASTE: Reduce, reuse and recycle

Gilsland Village Hall will subscribe to the three Rs:

- (1) It will reduce waste where possible by thinking about what it buys and how it uses it.
- (2) It will reuse wherever possible by trying to find a second life for items, especially paper and office stationery.
- (3) It will recycle as the least preferred option of the 3Rs. The hall will provide 4 waste bins to adhere to the Governments Simpler Recycling Policy and as recommended by NCC waste collections service. These will be
 - residual (non-recyclable) waste
 - food waste (mixed with garden waste if appropriate)
 - paper and card
 - all other dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal and glass)

ENERGY: Management measures

The Management Committee will seek to minimise the use of energy at the village hall. This might include simple measures such as replacing electric light bulbs with low energy fittings, choosing A* rated appliances when items of equipment become due for replacement (e.g. kitchen appliances) etc when appropriate. More significantly, it will seek to make a strong commitment towards addressing fossil fuel depletion and reducing the global problem of climate change.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The building's wide public use, including use by children and young people, provides an opportunity for raising environmental awareness. Where appropriate, the committee will provide information about energy saving and renewable energy measures at the hall, with a view to encouraging others to take an active interest in the environment and to develop a sense of individual responsibility for tackling the effects of climate change. Full use will be made of collaborative arrangements, for example with the National Park Authority and Community Action Northumberland to share knowledge and to promote environmental best practice.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The hall provides a key focus for village life and social interaction. An active and vibrant village hall is one of the defining characteristics of a sustainable rural community. We value our strong links with a wide range of community and voluntary organisations. We will continue to work closely with these groups and to constantly seek to increase wider community use of the hall. Furthermore, we will continue to support the delivery of basic services at a local level (i.e. where they are needed most), thus reducing the need to travel. We will seek the involvement of statutory and support organisations in developing the range of facilities at the village hall. For new

developments, we will adopt a general presumption in favour of local contractors and suppliers, thus maximising the potential benefits to the local economy.