

Slaley Commemoration Hall - Environmental Policy

Introduction

Slaley Commemoration Hall Trustees recognise that a healthy environment is fundamental to the prosperity and wellbeing of our local parish community. In support of this, the Trustees commit to taking steps to minimise negative environmental impacts caused by the use and maintenance of the Hall.

The Trustees will comply with and, where possible, exceed all environmental regulations, laws, and codes of practice, as applicable.

Aim of the Policy

By adopting this policy, the Trustees of Slaley Commemoration Hall will endeavour to make a positive contribution to environmental sustainability by protecting and enhancing the Hall environment.

Committee/Trustees

As part of the business of the running Slaley Commemoration Hall, the Committee regularly review whether becoming involved in environmental activities is:

- In the best interests of the charity
- An effective way of furthering the charity's purposes.

User Behaviour

The Hall Trustees encourage Hall users to take actions which have a positive environmental impact but do not require change to the infrastructure. These include:

- Making sure lights and water taps are turned off
- Checking all electrical items are switched off before leaving the premises
- Making sure the thermostats are turned down before leaving the premises
- Windows are closed.

Waste

The Hall adheres to the County Councils recycling policies and has green and black bins for waste. In addition, during the summer months, a brown bin is used for garden waste. The content is taken away by the Council for recycling.

Hall users take away empty glass bottles for recycling as NCC do not collect bottles curbside.

Electrical Items

Where possible these are switched off at the mains to save power when not used regularly, For example: The Wi-Fi is switched off overnight (12:00 – 08:00).

Lighting

New halogen light-fittings have replaced the old spotlights in the areas of the Hall which have been refurbished since August 2020. Where appropriate these also have movement sensors so that they only come on as required.

Toilets and Washbasins

The toilets are dual flush to reduce the amount of water used. The washbasin taps are activated by sensors, so that they are only used for a short time, and they cannot be left on inadvertently.

Heating and Electricity

The central heating boiler was replaced with a new boiler as part of the refurbishment in August 2020. This is an efficient, low emissions boiler.

Solar panels were installed in 2022 and battery storage in 2023. These initiatives are intended to ensure that electricity usage is minimised and to make the most efficient use of energy.

Pollutants

The Caretaker is encouraged to minimise all forms of pollution by using biodegradable chemicals where possible. Purchasing of cleaning materials is channelled through the Treasurer who must check that purchases meet this standard.

Water

All Hirers, Trustees and the Caretaker are encouraged to use the minimum quantities of water possible in accordance with their activities and ensure that the water it uses is disposed of, in the purest condition possible, meeting statutory requirements.

Local Supply

We seek, where possible, to purchase from local or regional suppliers, in order to maximise input to the local community and minimise carbon emissions from transport.

Event Focus

The Trustees and Committee aim to encourage a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment in the community by participation in environmental issues, by raising user awareness and by supporting events, when appropriate, which promote the green agenda and the move to becoming a net zero county.

Future Environmental Initiatives

The Trustees aim to:

- Replace old strip lighting in the Main Hall with a suitable energy efficient alternative.
- Review the kitchen bins to ensure improved sorting and separation of kitchen waste.
- We seek to provide safe cycle standing to encourage users to cycle rather than to use a car.
- In the medium term, review the heating solution and take advise on possibly replacing the gas boiler with an air source pump