

Planning Statement in relation to Climate Change to all Planning Applicants

Background

At the beginning of 2019 Cornwall Council and Helston Town Council declared a climate emergency and set out their first action plans in the same year. This included setting a very challenging date of 2030 for carbon neutrality in Cornwall and Helston.

Developers play a key role in achieving this goal through their application of environmentally sound principals to building design and construction – it is within your power as a developer to minimise the impact on the environment of your building/s and Helston Town Council encourages developers to strive for the highest possible environmental standards for all developments in order to contribute to the wellbeing of future generations and planet.

“A fundamental principle of the National Planning Policy Framework’s (NPPF) environmental ambition is supporting a transition to the low carbon economy, by encouraging energy reduction. This will be done by using renewable resources and energy, reusing existing resources and helping people to live more sustainable lives to minimise our impact on climate change” taken from the draft CC Climate Emergency DPD.

Biodiversity

It is possible that the law will change in 2023 to state that all new developments must achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain. Helston Town Council encourages developers to take this into consideration now, and where this cannot be achieved on site, target projects in the local area which are most likely to provide benefit and amenity to the local community.

[Small Sites Metric Guidance Beta test.pdf](#)

Building materials

Helston Town Council encourages developers to use environmentally friendly or recycled materials in the building construction wherever these are available, for example uPVC windows made from recycled plastics.

Helston Town Council encourages developers to use locally supplied materials where these are available to reduce the carbon emissions impact on the build from embedded carbon in products fabricated and transported from further afield.

Energy Harvest

As part of all developments including the addition of roof area, Helston Town Council encourages developers to include PV panels or water heating systems to harvest solar energy and input into the running of the building using renewable energy.

Fossil Fuel Free

Helston Town Council strongly encourages developers to fit water and building heating systems that are fossil fuel free rather than just “fossil fuel free ready”. This avoids the additional future cost and carbon emissions associated with retrofitting with a new system.

Energy Efficiency

Helston Town Council encourages developers to construct new buildings to the highest possible energy efficiency standards rather than the minimum requirement by current Building Regulations.