Flushing Sailing Club (V3)

Environment Plan 2023 - 2028

Introduction

The Trustees, Committee and members of Flushing Sailing Club are acutely aware of the quality our environment in which we live and sail. This quality is essential to our levels of enjoyment and therefore our physical and mental wellbeing.

We are also aware that our Clubhouse is in a remarkably sensitive location on a Listed Quay, in a Conservation Area, in the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and immediately adjacent to the Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation where our primary activity of racing yachts takes place. We are also aware of the declared Climate Emergency (2019) and Ecological Emergency in Cornwall (2022). This places a moral obligation on the Club and its members to protect and wherever possible enhance this stunning asset.

The Club has committed to doing all that we can to respect this outstanding location and where possible undertake positive action to improve this quality whilst reducing the environmental footprint of the Club activities and in operating the clubhouse.

Policy FSC1
The Trustees, Committee and members will seek to reduce the environmental footprint of the Club and its activities as far as achievable, where both practical and affordable. This will apply to all shoreside and waterside activities. All management decisions will be taken only after examining the potential environmental consequences of the decision.

Progress to Date

We believe that we have already undertaken a fundamental step change in reducing our environmental footprint with the completion of the new Clubhouse which opened on 1st May 2021. This has delivered significant environmental savings in terms of energy, waste reduction, sustainability and reduced environmental footprint. The way that we manage the new clubhouse has also reduced the environmental footprint of the Club and its activities and continues to do so.

Next Steps

Whilst major steps forward have been achieved in reducing the Clubs' environmental footprint we must strive for continuous improvement. Three key areas of focus will be considered in turn.

1. Water side

Club Boat

The Club operates a Club Launch powered by a small outboard motor for taking crew to and back to their yachts for racing. This is crucial to the central activity of the Club in taking crew to and back from their boats for racing. The launch was subject to a

major restoration 3 years ago. There is significant opportunity to look at the replacement of the petrol fuelled outboard with an electric engine at a reasonable cost, and this will be explored further.

FSC Policy 2
FSC will continue to monitor fuel usage of the Club launch. We will have the engine serviced annually by an appropriately qualified service business. We will explore replacing the current engine with an electric outboard as part of the proposed pontoon project.

Anchoring
Awareness is high of the impact of anchoring in the sensitive environment of the Fal Estuary. It is estimated that anchoring in the Roads takes place on around 25 occasions per annum, this is significantly reduced by an increased number of Clubhouse starts in the annual racing programme.

This has been discussed with the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners. We are in active discussion with the Commissioners regarding the placing of a permanent buoy to which Committee Boats could attach in suitable wind conditions and directions to reduce the number of occasions that anchoring is required. A record of this will be kept in the Race Officers log.

FSC Policy 3
FSC will engage closely with the FHC proposal to install a permanent anchor buoy for the use of Committee Boats. The FHC mooring buoy will be used as frequently as conditions are suitable and appropriate for its usage.

Pontoon Project
The emerging plan to provide a new pontoon to improve disabled and all tide. access to the water is being developed within the focussed lens of delivering a significant Biodiversity Net Gain in the Penryn River which is part of the SAC. We will also seek the best practicable environmental options in terms of the materials used in the construction of the scheme. Decisions have already been taken for example, to specify no polystyrene to be used in the pontoon flotation system. Navigation lights will be powered by a solar panel and battery installation. We will ensure that the scheme is as sympathetic as possible to the Listed Quay and minimise the visual impact of the required bank-seat for the bridge take-off point.

FSC Policy 4
We will seek to obtain consent and funding for a permanent pontoon that delivers a significant Biodiversity Net Gain to the Estuary. We will maximise the sustainability of the scheme as far as possible and affordable.

Rubbish disposal during racing.
The World Sailing Racing Rules already contain a zero-tolerance policy of the throwing of rubbish over the site during any sail racing. This is strongly supported by the Club and will be strongly policed.

Policy FSC 5
The Club has a zero-tolerance policy to boat crew throwing any rubbish overboard whilst on the water during racing. The usual penalty for this will be disqualification from that race.

5. Landside

The Club has taken significant steps to reduce its environmental footprint over the last three years. There are opportunities to build on this excellent progress still further. Opportunities to improve performance will be maximised and awareness of new developments will be pursued.

Policy FSC 6
The Club will operate its landside activities in accordance with best environmental practice subject to normal affordability checks and balances. All procurement and purchasing agreements will include consideration of best environmental practice.

Energy
The Club will investigate a renewable energy electricity provider when the electricity contract comes up for renewal in July 2023. Choice of a new provider will include an environmental evaluation alongside affordability and quality of service as part of the decision-making process.

Waste Management & Recycling
The Club uses a registered waste collector, collecting black bag waste, paper, card, glass and plastic. The recycling rate for the Club is now well over 55% by weight. This is a significant improvement on previous waste management whereby large proportions of waste was disposed of via the "black bag." The Club will organise litter picks twice a year at the beginning (March) and end of the season (November) along the foreshore adjacent to the Club. This will be undertaken by Club Volunteers.

Bar Management
No plastic straws or single use products will be purchased and nor will they be permitted. Regular discussions will be held with suppliers.

Food Waste
The Club has moved to a system where food is pre-ordered by the use of a Club WhatsApp group. This has resulted in a significant drop in food waste produced by the caterers. On race nights which are cancelled crew who have ordered food are still expected to turn up and eat at the Club.

Water Conservation
The development of the new Clubhouse included design components to conserve water usage including a water efficient dish washer and dual action flush toilets. We will provide free refills to members and guests using refillable water bottles.

Caterers
The caterers use Club provided environmentally friendly cleaning products. These are kept under regular review.

Sewage/Black Water Disposal
All sewage is disposed directly to the South West Water system immediately adjacent to the Club. The Club operates a "Pee, Paper and Poo" only policy in the two toilets. Hygienic containment is provided for sanitary items in both toilets.

3. Green Travel Plan (being developed by Steve Walker)
Parking within the Village
Arrival by boat
Parking in the Layby
Village Car Park
Car Sharing
Cyclists (including Beryl Bikes)

How Will We Communicate this Environment Policy
This policy is designed to be used and continually improved, it has not been prepared to sit on a shelf gathering dust. So how will it be communicated to our members and the wider community ?

Existing Members
We will facilitate awareness of this initiative through the use of Tuesday night presentations, placing it on our website, publicising it in our monthly newsletter and covering it in social media.

New Members
All new members will be provided with a copy of this policy document and its importance will be emphasised at new members evenings.

Stakeholders & Sponsors
We will make our stakeholders and sponsors aware of this new environment policy. We will not accept sponsorship from companies unable to outline their environmental policy.

Suppliers
We will in future ask all suppliers to provide us with their environmental policy.

2. Conclusion
This new FSC Environmental Policy reflects much good work that has occurred in the last three years and also identifies opportunities for implementing more good practice. Progress will be reported on annually and reviewed every three years.

FSC Policy 7
We will review progress and report improvements to the AGM.

We will formally review this plan formally every three years.