

Kingsbridge in Bloom began as a result of an initiative to make the town
A better Kingsbridge for All

Our environmental policy is aimed at *working in sympathy with nature, conserving valuable resources and enhancing the environment and quality of life for people and wildlife alike.*

To achieve this, it is necessary to ensure that all those working with us are aware of our environmental guidelines, as follows:

- ***To use material resources carefully***, based on the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle.
- ***To use water*** as efficiently as practicable, using butts for water storage and plant-containers with reservoirs.
- ***To manage waste locally*** - prioritising local composting of all plant material; plus re-use/recycling of pots and plants, wherever possible.
- ***To buy locally*** with the emphasis on environmentally sensitive products and increased perennial planting.
- ***To plant in sympathy with local needs, conditions and climate*** - native wild-flowers, butterfly and bee-friendly plants, plus sensory and edible plants in public spaces; drought-tolerance is given high priority; salt tolerance where appropriate.
- ***To enhance growing conditions***, by using locally produced mulch and conditioner, and ***to protect plants*** by environmentally sensitive means, such as beer traps and copper tape.
- ***To avoid the use of chemicals***, except for control of persistent, invasive weeds.
- ***To provide homes for wild-life*** – hedgehog streets, boxes for birds, bats and insects – and to encourage others to do so.
- ***To celebrate local history and heritage*** and highlight this via displays and signage, acknowledging that much of our heritage (farming, lime production, shipping) is linked to the natural environment.
- ***To enhance the locality***, by keeping the town clean, tidy and attractive, working with others to address issues such as litter, graffiti and dog-fouling, and by supporting the use of art in public spaces.
- ***To educate others*** including children on the natural world and environmental matters, including local history, via activities, leaflets – Hedgehog Street/Tranquillity Trail - and signage
- ***To encourage good practice***, such as home-composting, water-conservation, correct use of brown bins and anti-littering.
- ***To consult specialists***, such as the local Natural History Society, to help ensure current best practice.
- ***To keep abreast of current environmental guidance*** in respect of e.g. growing media and weed-control, and to advise others, including those in local government, of concerns.
- ***To review this policy*** on a bi-ennial basis – next review due 2020