

## **Reading Room - Sustainability Policy January 2024**

A sustainable Reading Room requires a balance of environmental, social and economic policies.

### **Environment**

**Policy 1.** We should minimise the use of energy, water and materials used by the Reading Room directly and to encourage those who rent it to do so too.

**Policy 2** Where it is practicable to do so, the Reading Room should use only renewable energy.

**Policy 3** We should avoid wasting energy by improving the insulation of the building: upgrading control systems and by using only the most efficient appliances.

**Policy 4** We should seek out the least environmentally damaging products for use in the Reading Room and use them sparingly.

**Policy 5** We should avoid the use of single use items and encourage those who use the Reading Room to do so too.

**Policy 6** We should minimise waste by following the waste hierarchy.

### **Social**

**Policy 7** We should continue to provide a space for events and activities which contribute to the quality of the society enjoyed by the people of Helmdon and to be proactive in identifying and responding to new or additional needs within the village.

**Policy 8** We should collaborate with other providers of social events and activities in Helmdon and neighbouring villages to maximise the opportunity to meet village needs.

**Policy 9** Where a need is identified which is not being met by other groups in the village, the Reading Room should consider promoting suitable activities

**Policy 10** We should promote events which link the residents of Helmdon to wider sustainability concerns outside the village.

### **Financial**

In following these policies we will ensure that the long term financial stability of the Reading Room is maintained.

### **Monitoring**

The observance of these policies and the attached action plan will be reviewed at one or more Trustees meetings each year.

### **Action Plan**

## One off actions

Secure funding to replace the remaining Fluorescent lights with LED lighting

Review available equipment and processes for controlling heating and electricity use.

Complete plans to establish the Reading Room as a Warm Space for casual use by villagers.

Review the current selection of cleaning materials and other consumables to see whether acceptable environmentally better options can be used instead

Revise the room hire rules to discourage the use of single use items.

Contact other social providers in the village to explore opportunities for co-ordination or collaboration.

Develop a series of sustainability based events eg a Repair Cafe and Fresk Climate Change event.

## Continuing Actions

Apply the waste hierarchy to waste arising from the Reading Room: promote reusable rather than disposable items, repair items which break, offer redundant items to others, maximise recycling

When letting contracts for work specify environmentally sustainable materials.

Check that the Reading Room can be used safely by all users having regard to age and any physical limitations.

Periodically check that taps and toilet cisterns are not leaking.