Speen Playing Fields

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Background

Speen Playing Fields comprise the main village Playing Field and Ridgley's Field, provided for the use and enjoyment of the community of Speen. These fields are managed by a committee of Trustees who give up their time freely to ensure the village has safe play facilities and recreation areas. The Trustees are supported by community volunteers who help with fundraising and maintenance activities. Without this valuable support we would be unable to meet our charitable objectives.

The Trustees accept the primary function is to maintain the fields and fundraise to support the management and improvement of the fields. However, the Trustees are very much aware of environmental concerns and manage our responsibilities by adopting the policies and mitigations outlined below to promote a favourable environmental balance from our activities.

The Fields

Both fields provide a green environment with hedges and trees, which are maintained by a combination of paid contractors and voluntary village support. By their nature as green spaces the fields are a carbon sink.

Policies, Activities & Mitigations

Policies are in place to manage the environmental aspects of our activities such as waste, noise, light and emissions, as well promoting positive environmental benefit on wildlife through conservation activities.

A. Waste - Trustees empty waste bins and remove litter from the field for disposal by the Council. Waste is sorted where possible for recycling. Event organisers are asked to conduct an environmental impact assessment and show how they will manage waste and other environmental considerations related to their use of the fields.

B. Noise - Activities and occasional marquee hirings can result in excess noise and this is controlled by the field hiring conditions and by limiting the number of events.

C. Light - Activities which require lighting will balance essential safety requirements and reduce the unnecessary use of lighting to avoid light pollution.

D. Emissions - Occasional bonfires are required to burn waste that cannot be disposed of by other means. The annual Autumn bonfire event is recognised as having an environmental impact. The size of the bonfire has been substantially reduced in recent years and is constructed from recycled, end of life materials. We make an annual donation to a recognised charity or local project for the maintenance of existing woodlands and new tree-planting to mitigate any environmental impact of the bonfire.

E. Wildlife and Conservation - An area of woodland copse on Ridgley's field is retained to provide a habitat for wildlife. Nesting boxes are provided on both fields for both birds and bats which are regularly maintained. An area of Ridgley's field is also being improved to help create a wildflower meadow. Hedges are regularly cut and shaped to maximise their value for wildlife. We provide a service to the village to recycle Christmas trees which are used to improve wildlife habitat in a local woodland.

Approved by the Trustees of Speen Playing Fields.

Matt Davies
Chair

Updated October 2026