

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**



CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Climate Committee meeting held on Monday 14th February 2025 Council Chambers 49, High Street, Polegate 10:15am

Present: Cllrs D Murray, S Shing, M Piper, M Cunningham

Not Present: Cllrs D Dunbar, J Heward, A O’Kane

No members of the public present Cllr D Watts was in the public gallery

Minute Number	Resolution
13736	Apologies for absence Cllrs O’Kane (work), J Heward (work), D Dunbar
13737	Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda None
13738	Wealden District Council Climate Green Paper response A discussion took place on the devolution and whether the Local Plan or the policies that were being formed by Wealden currently would stand. It was also discussed that with the amount of building that was being allowed, the sustainability Climate Green Paper, whilst addressing many good points would be inconsequential in light of the amount of houses being built in Wealden and in particular in the Polegate and surrounding areas. The loss of green space and habitats in the area already approved by Wealden District Council would not be mitigated by this plan/policy. It was considered that this would therefore not help or improve or save the environment locally. <u>It was resolved to not submit a formal comment but to informally comment that with the unitary authority being in process now, and Wealden District Council ceasing to exist they felt that the response would not be useful. It was likely that the Local Plan would not continue/be invalid. The sustainability Climate Green Paper, whilst addressing many good points would be inconsequential in light of the amount of houses being built in Wealden and in particular in the Polegate and surrounding areas. The loss of green space and habitats in the area already approved by Wealden District Council would not be mitigated by this plan/policy. It was considered that this would therefore not help or improve or save the environment locally. VOTE All in favour.</u>

The meeting closed at 10:31am

Signed by _____ Chair of the Climate Committee

Dated _____



Climate Committee

Report: Climate Friendly Ideas for Residents – Overview of Engagement Work

1. Purpose of Report

This report outlines the Council’s ongoing climate-related engagement work and presents option for expanding the Council’s wider climate actions. The Committee is invited to provide suggestions, identify priority areas, and advise on future initiatives that could strengthen the Council’s environmental commitments.

2. Background

Over the past year, officers have delivered a rolling programme of public facing environmental guidance through the “Climate Friendly Ideas for Polegate Residents” social media campaign. This has covered topics such as recycling, save water and energy, gardening for biodiversity, food waste reduction, litter awareness. The posts are designed for all age groups.

This work demonstrates a consistent effort to support residents with simple, practical steps that contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable community. However, the council may wish to explore additional climate-positive actions beyond communications alone. We are also using the allotment social media to inform them of the various climate friendly ideas they can apply to their allotment plots.

3. Current Engagement Work (Summary)

Recent activity has included:

- Clear, seasonal guidance on recycling, including reducing contamination and promoting kerbside collection of batteries and small electrical items.
- Advice on water conservation for homes and gardens throughout the summer and dry periods.
- Promoting energy efficiency, such as switching off standby appliances and reducing tumble-dryer usage.
- Food waste reduction tips covering meal planning, safe defrosting, and using leftovers.

- Gardening and biodiversity content including composting, wildlife support, pollinator planting, and child-friendly nature activities.
- Litter-awareness posters encouraging responsible behaviour and clear reporting routes.

This engagement will continue, with refreshed and seasonal posts throughout the year.

4. Opportunities for Further Council Action

To build on existing communications work, the Council may wish to consider practical climate initiatives, partnerships, or policy improvements. Potential areas exploration include:

4.1 Biodiversity and Green Spaces:

- Expanding pollinator-friendly planting in Council-maintained areas.
- Creating “mini-wildlife zones” or “no-mow” trial areas during spring/summer.
- This is being considered already as part of the BNG (biodiversity net gain) requirements for the planning application at Brightling Road Leisure Ground improvement works. (tree planting areas etc)

4.2 Waste reduction and recycling

- o Providing clearer on-site signage for recycling at Council buildings and events.
- o Supporting community repair cafes, swap shops, or reuse events (in partnership with local groups)

4.3 Water and Energy Efficiency

- o Reviewing Council building maintenance to identify opportunities for improved energy efficiency, lighting upgrades, or small-scale water-saving measures; solar initiatives (already in the business plan).

4.4 Community Engagement and Education

- o Working with local schools on co-branded climate activities or competitions.
- o Offering small grant or recognition scheme for community climate projects

4.5 Strategic/ Long-term options

- o Identifying whether the Council wishes to adopt a strengthened climate action plan or strategy.
- o Considering opportunities for collaboration with Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council (or future unitary authority) on shared priorities
- o Exploring local opportunities for tree planting, urban greening, or habitat corridors. (already part of Jubilee Nature Reserve and BNG at Brightling)

4.6 Solar Panels – Council Office (Business Plan Priority)

As identified in the Business Plan; officers are currently exploring the feasibility of installing solar panels on the Council office. This includes researching potential external funding opportunities to support the project. A further update will be

brought to the Committee once clearer costings and funding options are available. No additional work is required from councillors at this stage.

5. Councillor Input Requested

The Committee is invited to provide feedback on:

- Any adjustments to the existing themes or messaging to ensure they continue to meet community needs.
- Opportunities to strengthen partnerships or signposting, without creating new standalone projects.
- Ways to increase visibility or reach of the current climate friendly campaign.
- Whether the Committee would like officers to continue refining the existing programme throughout the year.
- Feedback on an early idea to shape the next Annual Town Assembly around a climate theme, potentially in the form of a small “Climate Expo” showcasing local groups, recycling information, and practical household climate tips. Officers can develop this further only if councillors consider the approach appropriate.

Officers note that ongoing major projects are currently in progress, so the focus for 2026 will be on improving and enhancing existing climate engagement work rather than initiating new standalone projects.

6. Recommendation:

That the Committee notes the report and offers any comments on the existing climate related work, within current staff capacity and ongoing project commitments.

POLEGATE



Climate Friendly
Ideas for Polegate
Residents

Recycling From The Bathroom

Shampoo and conditioner bottles

Toilet roll tubes

Cardboard packaging

Bleach and spray cleaner bottles

Mouthwash bottles

Toothpaste tubes

Ensure bottles are empty and rinsed

Flatten any cardboard

Replace lids and tops, but remove
pump dispensers

Please do not recycle:
cotton wool, mirrors, nappies or tissues

Save energy, Recycle

<https://www.recyclenow.com>



Climate Friendly
Ideas for Polegate
Residents

Recycling From The Bedroom

Deodorant and hairspray aerosols

Tissue boxes

Make Up packaging

Moisturiser pots, tubes and jars

Magazines and newspapers

Save energy, Recycle



<https://www.recyclenow.com>



Climate Friendly
Ideas for Polegate
Residents

Recycling From The Kitchen

Aerosols

Bleach and spray cleaning bottles

Foil, take away trays and pie cases

Cardboard boxes

Kitchen roll tubes

Plastic tubs, pots and trays

Plastic drinks bottles

Metal cans and tins

Ensure bottles are empty and rinsed to remove food residue

Flatten any cardboard

Please do not put soft plastic packaging and wrappings in your recycling bin



Save energy, Recycle

<https://www.recyclenow.com>



Climate Friendly
Ideas for Polegate
Residents

Recycling From The Living Room

Scrap paper

Magazines and newspapers

Envelopes

Cardboard boxes and packaging

Plastic drinks bottles

Metal drink cans

Plastic bags

Ensure bottles are empty and rinsed
to remove food residue

Flatten any cardboard

Please do not put black bins
bags, biodegradable or
compostable bags in your
recycling bin

Save energy, Recycle

<https://www.recyclenow.com>





Climate Friendly
Ideas for Polegate
Residents

Reduce Recycling Contamination

When non-recyclable items end up in the recycling bin, it's called recycling contamination.

Food residue can “taint”
recyclable materials -
always rinse containers

Check the labelling
carefully - if in doubt,
keep it out

Use Wealden District
Council's online
Recyclopedia to find
out what can be
recycling in the
Wealden area.

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/recyclopedia/>



What goes in your Green Recycling Bin in Wealden?

Yes Please

- Glass bottles and jars,
- Cardboard,
- Paper,
- Food tins and drinks cans,
- Aluminium foil,
- Aerosol cans,
- Plastic bottles, pots, tubes, trays and bags

No Thank You

- Food and Garden waste,
- Textiles and shoes,
- Hard plastics (toys/plant pots)
- Polystyrene, bubble wrap, cling film, black plastic bags,
- Medicine blister packs,
- Foil-lined plastic pouches and bags,
- Food/drinks cartons,
- ovenproof glassware, drinking glasses and crockery
- Window panes and mirrors
- Light bulbs

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/>

Additional content posted



Yes Please

Non-recyclable waste

- Food waste,
- Cat litter/dog waste
- disposable nappies

No Thank You

- Garden Waste,
- Builders' rubble
- Soil
- Hot Ashes
- Electrical items
- Batteries

What goes in your Black Bin in Wealden?

Please place small electrical items in separate bags, removing any batteries first. Place all batteries in a separate bag.

Additional content posted



Climate Friendly
Ideas for Polegate
Residents

What not to put in the recycling bin

Pots and Pans
Broken mirrors
Drinking glasses
Plastic packaging
Plastic bags
Cartons

**These items can be sold,
donated or taken to your
nearest Household
Recycling Centre**



Additional content posted



Polegate Town Council

Published by Dso Polegate · 22 December 2025 ·

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Climate Friendly Ideas for Polegate Residents

Not everything belongs in your recycling bin. Items like pots and pans, broken mirrors, drinking glasses, plastic bags, plastic packaging and cartons can cause problems if recycled incorrectly.

Many of these items can be sold, donated or taken to your nearest Household Recycling Site instead.

If it's still usable, consider donating and giving it a second life. Every small action helps reduce waste and protect our environment.

Check what can be recycled in Wealden using their online Recyclopedia

 <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/recyclopedia/>

Book a slot at the Household Recycling Site

 <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/.../household-waste...>



Climate Friendly
Ideas for Polegate
Residents

Recycling your small electrical items made easy in Wealden!

You can now recycle small electrical items on your regular waste or recycling collection day.

Simply place the items in a carrier bag and put the bag on top of your black or green bin.

Do not put small electrical items in your bin.

They contain hazardous materials that can pollute soil and water and may also cause fires or explosions if disposed of incorrectly.

<https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/small-electricals>

Additional content posted



Polegate Town Council

Published by Dso Polegate · 20 December 2025 · 🌐

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🌱 Climate Friendly Ideas for Polegate Residents

Recycling your small items made easy with [Wealden District Council](#)

You can now recycle your small electrical items on your regular waste or recycling collection day. Simply place the items in a carrier bag and put the bag on top of your green or black bin. Electrical items can still be taken to your local Household Waste Recycling Site.

⚠️ Do not throw small electrical items in your bin.

They contain hazardous materials that can pollute soil and water and may also cause fires or explosions if disposed of incorrectly.

For more information visit: 📱 <https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/small-electricals>

Not sure what type of cable you have? Follow the link: 📱

<https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/.../Material...>

Book a slot to visit your local Household Waste Recycling Site: 📱

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/.../household-waste...>



Climate Friendly
Ideas for Polegate
Residents

How to recycle batteries in Wealden District Council

You can now recycle batteries on your regular waste or recycling collection day.

Simply place the household batteries in a small bag and put the bag on top of your black or green bin.

Do not put batteries in your bin.

They are classed hazardous materials can be dangerous if disposed of incorrectly.



Small Electricals – Kerbside Recycling - Wealden District Council

Additional content posted



Polegate Town Council

Published by Dso Polegate · 27 December 2025 ·

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Climate Friendly Ideas for Polegate Residents

How to Recycle Batteries in [Wealden District Council](#)

You can now recycle batteries on your regular waste or recycling collection day. Simply place the household batteries in a small bag and put the bag on top of your black or green bin so it can be easily seen.

⚠ Batteries should never be placed inside your bin. They are classed as hazardous waste and can be dangerous if disposed of incorrectly.

If you are putting out small electrical items for collection, please remove any loose batteries first. Batteries that are built in or rechargeable and cannot be removed can be left inside the item. Wealden District Council can collect most household batteries, including alkaline, lithium, zinc carbon and rechargeable batteries, as well as battery power packs but cannot collect lead-acid batteries, mercury batteries, or batteries from vehicles or industrial equipment.

For more information visit: https://www.wealden.gov.uk/.../small-electricals...



Additional content posted



Polegate Town Council

Published by Dso Polegate · ? ·

30 May 2025 · 🌐



Collect rainwater in water butts or other containers to use in your garden instead of the garden tap or hose - help save water and money!

Did you know rainwater is like a natural energy drink for your garden?

- ☁️ It's clean and soft – no nasty chemicals or salts
- ☁️ Has natural nitrates – plant food straight from the sky
- ☁️ Helps soil microbes thrive – tiny helpers that boost plant health
- ☁️ Soaks in deep – for strong roots
- ☁️ Slightly acidic – perfect for unlocking nutrients in the soil

POLEGATE



A hose and sprinkler can use enough water to fill 12 bath tubs, every hour!

Save water and money by using rain water and a watering can.

Save water, save money!



Climate friendly ideas for
Polegate residents

*In hot weather, established lawns can
handle dryness.*

*Save water and money by skipping the
sprinkler!*



Save water, save money!

<https://watersworthsaving.org.uk/>



Climate friendly ideas for
Polegate residents



Re-use water whenever you can

Keep paddling pool water for another day - don't forget to cover it!

Once you've finished with the water, use it on your flower beds.

Save water, save money!



<https://watersworthsaving.org.uk/>



Climate friendly ideas for
Polegate residents

**Collect cold water in a bucket while
waiting for the hot tap.**

It's perfect for reusing on the garden.

Save water, save money!



<https://www.wwt.org.uk/>



Climate friendly ideas for
Polegate residents



**Fix leaky and dripping taps and save
on average 13 litres of water a day!**

Save water, save money!



Climate friendly ideas for
Polegate residents

Wash fruit and vegetables in a bowl or
in the sink with the plug in instead of
under running water.

This can help cut water use by 50%.

Reuse the leftover water when
watering houseplants or the garden.

Save water, save money!





Climate friendly ideas for Polegate residents

Save almost £50 a year just by remembering
to turn appliances off standby mode!



Save energy, save money!

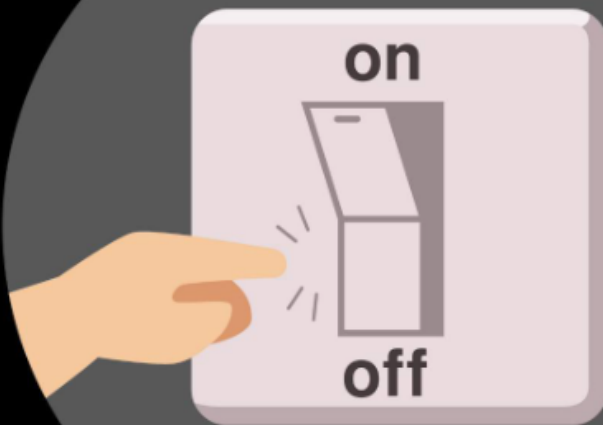
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>



Climate friendly ideas for Polegate residents

Remember to switch the light off when
you leave a room

Lighting takes up around 5% of an average
home's energy bill



Reduce the amount of energy you're using by
replacing halogen bulbs with LEDs

Save energy, save money!

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>



Climate friendly ideas for Polegate residents

Avoid over filling the kettle to
save water, energy and money.

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>



Save energy, save money!



Climate friendly ideas for Polegate residents

Save almost £50 a year just by remembering
to turn appliances off standby mode!



Save energy, save money!

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>



Climate friendly ideas for
Polegate residents



Avoid the tumble dryer to dry your clothes.
Use a washing on line outside or an airer
inside to save up to £50 a year!

Save energy, save money!



bananas
milk
cheese
avocados



Climate friendly ideas for
Polegate residents

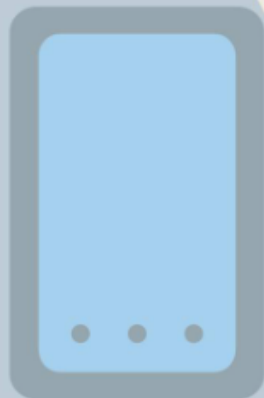
Before popping out to do the BIG shop,
plan your meals to ensure you only buy
what you need and will use.

Make a list, keep track of expiry dates
and include leftovers in your weekly menu.

Reduce waste, save money!



Climate friendly
ideas for Polegate
residents



Defrost food
safely before
cooking or
eating

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Frozen fruit and
vegetables are
just as nutritious
as fresh and last
much longer

Freezing
seafood keeps
it safe and
extends its
shelf life.

Cook and freeze
meals before they
go bad to avoid
waste.

P T
Reduce waste,
save money!
C



Climate friendly ideas for Polegate residents

Any leftovers?

Freeze leftovers for a meal next week

Or they are great for tomorrow's lunch

Reduce waste, save money!

www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

POLEGATE



Climate friendly ideas for
Polegate residents

Even if your fruit and vegetables
look a little bruised or wilted,
they can still be delicious!

Use soft fruit in smoothies or jams.

Turn tired vegetables into soups,
sauces or stock.

Use stale bread to make croutons
and bread pudding.



www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

Reduce waste, save money!



Climate friendly ideas
for Polegate residents

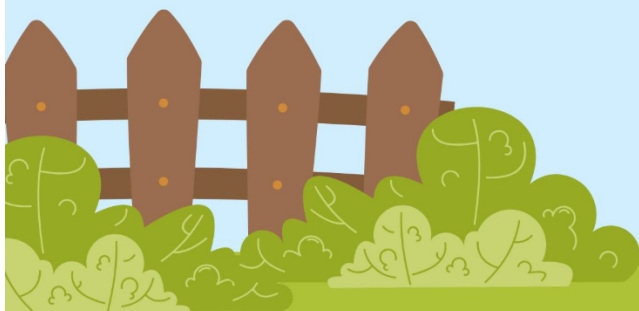
Compost Bin

Choose a bin to suit the size of your space

Place in a shady spot to avoid extreme temperatures

Use a lid to keep the rain out and keep the warmth in!

Stand directly on soil for easy drainage and good access for soil organisms



For more tips, visit The Royal Horticultural Society
<https://www.rhs.org.uk>



Climate friendly ideas
for Polegate residents

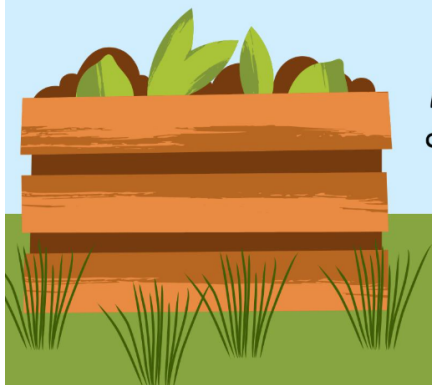
Composting

Green compost is rich in nitrogen

Soft, leafy material including grass clippings, sappy green plants, crop waste, old fruit and vegetables, kitchen peelings.

Brown compost is rich in carbon

Mainly dry woody waste such as hedge trimmings, dead stems and straws, torn up or shredded paper and cardboard



Turn your compost several times a year to
add air and assess the moisture level

For more tips, visit The Royal Horticultural Society
<https://www.rhs.org.uk>



Climate friendly ideas
for Polegate residents

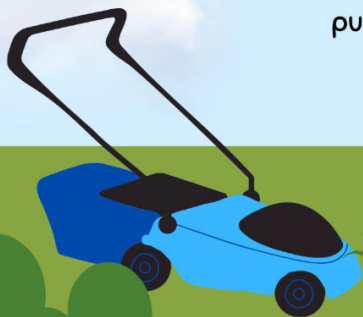
Decarbonise Your Garden

Reduce your garden's use of fossil fuels

Buy and share electric tools and mowers between neighbours and friends

Avoid heating your green house unless absolutely necessary

Cover young plants with a lid to create a mini green house – an upcycled clear fruit punnet



For more tips, visit The Royal Horticultural Society
<https://www.rhs.org.uk>

Additional content posted



Polegate Town Council

Published by Dso Polegate ·

18 September 2025 ·



🌱 Climate Friendly Ideas for Polegate Residents
Decarbonise your garden and reduce the use of fossil fuels.
Buy and share electric tools and mowers between friends and neighbours,
Avoid heating green houses unless absolutely necessary,
Cover young plants with a lid to create a mini green house - you can use an upcycled clear fruit punnet.
For more ideas and information, visit RHS - Royal Horticultural Society

Container Pond

Create a mini-wildlife friendly container pond to support your garden's biodiversity

Re-purpose an old sink or large tub – make sure it's water tight!

Include large stones, rocks, bricks and logs – wildlife will use these to get in and out

Only use rainwater – keep it topped up in hot weather

Include up to 5 small plants suitable for ponds

The pond will need some sun – but not all day



For more tips, visit The Royal Horticultural
Society
<https://www.rhs.org.uk>

Additional content posted



Polegate Town Council

Published by Dso Polegate ·
27 September 2025 ·

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🌱 Climate Friendly Ideas for Polegate Residents

Want to support your garden's biodiversity?

Create a mini-wildlife container pond!

Re-purpose an old sink or large tub - make sure
it's water tight!

Include large stones, rocks, bricks and logs -
wildlife will use these to get in and out,

Only use rainwater - keep it topped up in hot
weather,

Include up to 5 small plants suitable for ponds,

The pond will need some sun - but not all day.

For more ideas and information, visit **RHS - Royal
Horticultural Society** See less

Garden Waste

Avoid bonfires to get rid of woody waste

Keep tree stumps and create log piles to boost biodiversity in your garden

When cutting back beds in the Spring, leave cut stems of herbaceous plants on the beds as an easy mulch

Compost herbaceous material



For more tips, visit The Royal Horticultural Society
<https://www.rhs.org.uk>

Additional content posted



Polegate Town Council

Published by Dso Polegate ·

11 August 2025 ·



 Climate Friendly Ideas for Polegate Residents

What should you do with your garden waste?

Avoid using bonfires to get rid of woody waste,

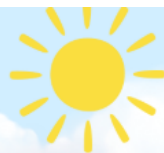
Keep tree stumps and create log piles to boost biodiversity in your garden,

When cutting back beds in the Spring, leave cut stems of herbaceous plants on the beds as an easy mulch,

Compost herbaceous material.

for more ideas and information, visit **RHS - Royal Horticultural Society**

Inspiring Children



Create a sensory garden to play with – include smelly herbs, furry textured plants or rattling poppy heads,

Choose easy flowers to grow from seeds – sunflowers, poppies and marigolds,

Plant quick and tasty edible plants – radish lettuce, courgettes and runner beans



For more tips, visit The Royal Horticultural Society
<https://www.rhs.org.uk>

Additional content posted



Bug Hotel



Fill toilet roll tubes with small twigs and leaves – pack them in tightly so they don't fall out!

Place several in a pile or use string to hang them from trees to create mini-habitats for insects.



For more tips, visit The Royal Horticultural Society
<https://www.rhs.org.uk>

Additional content posted



Polegate Town Council

Published by Dso Polegate ·
21 October 2025 ·



 Climate Friendly Ideas for Polegate Residents

Looking for a fun, eco-friendly activity for the kids (or yourself!)? Help our local wildlife by building a mini bug hotel using recycled toilet roll tubes!

Just fill the tubes with small twigs and leaves, pack them in tight so they don't fall out. Stack them up or hang them from trees using string to create cosy homes for insects.

Don't forget to share your bug hotel creations with us in the comments!

For more ideas and information, visit RHS - Royal Horticultural Society

 <https://www.rhs.org.uk> See less

Leaf Art

Go on a nature walk and collect different sized and shaped leaves
together

Use the leaves to create fun pictures of animals or people
Paint the leaves and press on to paper to create pictures and patterns

For more tips, visit The Royal Horticultural Society
<https://www.rhs.org.uk>

Additional content posted



Polegate Town Council

Published by Dso Polegate ·
28 October 2025 ·

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 Climate Friendly Ideas for Polegate Residents

Looking for a fun, free, and eco-friendly activity
for all ages? Try Leaf Art – a great way to enjoy
nature and get crafty at the same time!

- Go on a nature walk and collect leaves of
different shapes and sizes
- Use the leaves to make animals, people, or any
creative designs
- Paint the leaves and press them onto paper to
create beautiful prints and patterns

Share your leaf creations in the comments - we'd
love to see them!

For more inspiration, visit the RHS - Royal
Horticultural Society

 <https://www.rhs.org.uk> See less



Report it, Don't Ignore It!

See large amounts of litter? Report it to Wealden District Council and let us know too.

Together, we'll keep our town clean!

street.scene@wealden.gov.uk

Include details like the location, type of litter, and any specific details like vehicle or perpetrator descriptions.

recycling@Wealden.gov.uk
01323 443322

You can also report issues with litter bins, overflowing bins, or damaged bins.





Did you know?

Litter isn't just ugly, it attracts rats and pollutes our rivers!

Report large waste to
Wealden or to us.

Let's clean up our
town together!

street.scene@wealden.gov.uk
admin@polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk



Plastic and rubbish can hurt birds and wildlife!

Every piece of litter picked up is a life saved.

Put your litter in the bin
and make a difference!

Report problems areas to Wealden District Council and us.

street.scene@wealden.gov.uk

admin@polegatetowncouncil.go.uk



Take Action, Not Just Words!

Not happy with litter in our town?
Do something about it!



Join our events and report problems
areas to Wealden District Council and
us.

street.scene@wealden.gov.uk
admin@polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk