



Introduction and Approach

Here at SCFC, we recognise the importance of sustainability within our local community and seek to minimise our own impact on the environment while encouraging all those who engage with the club to do the same. It is only by working together that we can make a meaningful, positive impact and secure a more sustainable future for us all.

There are some simple things that *we have done, are doing, and intend to do*, in order to lessen our environmental footprint and associated carbon emissions. These initiatives stem from a circular economy approach which basically means that we use less, recover more, and strive to eliminate waste.

It is hoped that we can use our platform within the community to promote sustainability and encourage everyone to help protect the local environment.

Initiatives

We have taken active steps already to demonstrate our commitment to sustainability, some of these are highlighted below:

- Redevelopment of the Southwell City clubhouse and grounds at Brinkley that included a new low energy building utilising LED products and an energy efficient air-source heat pump providing space heating for the facility.
- Installation of new LED floodlights at Brinkley that are around 80% more energy efficient than traditional forms of lighting and have a much greater lifespan.
- Issuing of SCFC water bottles to all players in order to decrease reliance on single use plastics at games and training sessions.
- Continually monitoring our use of resources, especially energy, and switching to greener utility providers where possible.
- Maximising recycling opportunities by working with our grounds maintenance suppliers to reduce packaging in the first place and encouraging them to provide a take-back scheme to recycle/refill containers.
- Establishing a pre-loved football boot recycling scheme to help re-home unwanted or outgrown boots to help keep them in use for longer and reduce unnecessary waste.

- Encouraging car sharing for travel to training and on matchdays to reduce the environmental impact of transportation.
- Encouraging those players, parents and supporters who are local to the Memorial Ground and where it is practical, to try leaving the car at home and walking to matches; easing congestion and the burden of parking in and around the town on matchdays.

Future Opportunities

It's a start – but there is always more we can do – as shown below. Some of these initiatives will not be 'quick fixes' and external funding/grants will have to be secured to bring them to fruition.

- Introduction of a central club-wide kit policy offering more durable kits manufactured in the UK. These kits can be re-issued within the club structure to help reduce cost and avoid unnecessary waste.
- Upgrade/reconfigure the facilities at Memorial Ground and in turn introduce heat pump technology when the gas-fired boilers need replacing i.e. remove the reliance on fossil fuels.
- Explore opportunities to generate our own power through the installation of Solar Photovoltaic panels.
- Re-lamp or upgrade the floodlights at Memorial Ground with LED based products to make significant savings in energy consumption.

Governance

While it is envisaged that everyone associated with the club will try to do 'their bit', it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to ensure that sustainability is embedded within the decision-making process, and the resulting initiatives effectively implemented.

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