



## Environmental Policy Statement

**Burren Court Holiday Homes is a family run business. As proud members of the Burren EcoTourism Network, we are committed to make as little impact on our environment as possible.**

**With the location of our holiday homes in the heart of The Burren, we strive to protect nature and our natural Burren landscape. We support and promote sustainable tourism. We also like to involve our guests in proactive measures to minimise the carbon footprint of their stay and hope that our guests can learn from their experience in the Burren and implement some sustainable practices when they go home.**

### **Working Together**

We collaborate with all stakeholders to collectively develop the Geopark as a sustainable tourism destination.

- *We are active members of Burren EcoTourism Network and pay annual membership;*
- *We regularly attend Burren EcoTourism training and events to network with other BEN network members;*
- *We have adopted and implemented the Burren Geopark Code of Practice for sustainable tourism and continually strive to improve our sustainable practices;*
- *We work in collaboration with other Burren EcoTourism Network members to meet the needs of visitors to The Burren, by recommending BEN members to our guests, depending on what our things our guests want to see and do;*
- *Susan participates in BEN Marketing group meetings;*
- *We do our best to inform our guests about how Burren EcoTourism Network work together to promote sustainable tourism for The Burren and Cliffs of Moher unesco Global Geopark;*
- *We work together to bring awareness of Climate change and environmental awareness;*

### **A cared-for landscape**

We actively participate in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.

- We have business friend membership of Burren Beo Trust, to support their conservation work, as we cherish the Burren landscape;
- Burren Court Holiday Homes encourages biodiversity and pollinators, by our participation in the national 'No Mow May' - we allow our gardens to grow wild for the month of May each year;
- We minimise cutting grass and have a wild landscape throughout the year;
- We do not use any chemicals in our gardens;
- The Burren Court Team understands and supports the importance of 'Leave No Trace' and has completed 'Leave No Trace' Training;
- We display 'Leave No Trace' logo on our website, with a link to 'Leave No Trace' website;
- All of our holiday homes have 'Leave No Trace' leaflets in our guest book for guests to read.

### **A well-understood heritage**

We offer quality information and interpretation to communicate our stories and the unique character of our place to guests.

- The Burren Court Team all live in the local area, so we have very good local knowledge of the heritage in this region;
- We keep ourselves informed about heritage by attending training and heritage events;
- We have information on our website about local Heritage.

### **Vibrant Communities**

We work to ensure that tourism makes a positive social contribution so that it benefits our community as well as our guests.

- We participate in beach cleans organised by Burren EcoTourism Network;
- We participate in local rubbish collection to care for our environment;
- We recommend cafes, restaurants and many local tourist attractions to our guests, trying to tailor our information to the needs and interests of our guests.

### **Strengthened Livelihoods**

We contribute to the local economy by maintaining and supporting local employment, by sourcing services and produce locally wherever possible, and by engaging with other businesses in promoting our region as a sustainable tourism destination.

- We buy our bed linen and towels from local suppliers to support local business;
- We do our best to hire local housekeepers and tradesmen to do cleaning, repairs and maintenance to support local employment and livelihoods;
- We regularly share posts from local businesses on our social media about their events to support tourism and to support local jobs;
- We support local taxi and minibus operators by encouraging our guests to travel to local restaurants and venues in a sustainable way and recommend local electric bike hire.

### **Sustainable tourism management**

We work to an Environmental Action Plan, which includes actions and targets for improvement that are reviewed annually. We have effective systems for monitoring and adequately managing our waste, water, wastewater, energy, travel impact and purchases.

- **Electricity:** We made the decision to improve our carbon footprint, so we made the switch to a 100% renewable electricity provider. We also set up LED motion sensors on our stairways and installed low energy LED lights in our car park and our communal courtyard garden and we try our best to use low energy light bulbs and A energy appliances throughout our holiday homes;
- **Heating system:** To further save energy, we chose to set a global temperature throughout apartments. For the comfort of our guests, they have the opportunity to turn up the heat if they want, but we encourage and bring awareness about energy sufficiency. Moreover each apartment is equipped with an individual heating boiler to minimise the impact of both electricity and water usage as hot water is instant.
- **Towels and toiletries:** As a self catering holiday home business, we provide one bath towel and one hand towel per guest, as well as one hand towel per bathroom. We do not provide a change of towels everyday unless requested. In order to reduce the carbon footprint of Burren Court, we also got rid of single use plastic bottles, so top up toiletries like shampoo and shower gel.
- **Refuse/Waste collection:** As we try to reduce our waste every year, we provide for our guests three bins (black bin, food bin and recycling) and clear instructions in order to guide them through recycling. Furthermore, large bins are also available in public areas. In the kitchen the guests will enjoy quality cookware and metal instruments and delph, with zero single use plastic in our kitchens.

*We encourage our guests to think about their carbon footprint, by asking guests to turn off lights and heating when going out, thinking before asking for extra towels, recycling waste, being mindful of water waste, using sustainable transport and reminding them about good sustainable practices, such as 'Leave No Trace'*

*We are passionate about The Burren Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark and are privileged to live and work in this beautiful place!*

*We have an Environmental Action Plan and will do our best to continue to improve our Green sustainable practices, to protect the environment for the enjoyment of our guests and for future generations to enjoy this unique region of Ireland*

---