Sustainability Strategy
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council

Sustainability means *"meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."* (UN 1987)

Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council recognises that our planet is experiencing a climate and nature crisis caused by global heating from greenhouse gas emissions and by over-use of Earth's natural resources.

We aim to try and leave our small part of the planet in good condition for those future generations who will live in this beautiful part of the world. In seeking to do so, we recognise the importance of our efforts in contributing to national and international priorities to reduce and mitigate the effects of global heating, halt the loss of plants, insects, birds and animals and reduce use of key natural resources such as water.

We believe that in trying to do this to save future generations from ecological disaster we can also improve the quality of life of our current residents. For example, reducing carbon emissions by encouraging more walking and bike travel will improve air quality and hence the health of our local population.

Across all objectives we have a commitment to working in partnership with local groups, residents, authorities and businesses. We have a focus on education and families, developing our links with local schools, for example. We also have a focus on the more vulnerable in our community, engaging with local charities through awarding grants, etc. Our drive for greater sustainability will underpin the work of all of the committees of the Parish Council who will measure their own actions against these objectives.

These objectives have been developed, and come directly from, consultation with the community at the Annual Parish Meeting May 2021 "*Working Together for a Sustainable Future"* as well as through inviting ideas and suggestions to be sent direct to the Parish Office.

Key Objectives:

- **Help nature to recover**
- **Reduce waste**
- **Increase access to green spaces**
- **Reduce carbon emissions**
- **Build resilience**

Progress towards these objectives will be measured by an initial audit in 2022 and thereafter annually using the relevant part of the Parish Action Plan. The current Action Plan (attached) is based on the public consultation of 2021.

Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

Objective	Planned Action	By When	Status	Last Updated	Budget & Code if applicable	Resources	Notes
1.Help nature recover	Increase biodiversity in Hurst Meadows, The Wilderness and Tilley's Copse as per Management Plans	On-going	See updates to E+F Committee & website updates	**Sept 22**			Monitor through butterfly surveys etc
	Participate in No Mow May campaign on parish council estates and publicise to community	May 2023	Continue participation in scheme into 2023	**Sept 22**			
	Work with WSCC/local groups on Community Road Verge Scheme to identify and manage road verges for biodiversity	Ongoing	Hurstpierpoint was part of a pilot 'cut & collect'; scheme with WSCC, within the 30 MPH zone.				
	Work with MSDC/local groups to identify land for Blue Heart "rewilding" scheme	Ongoing	Ongoing with MSDC				
	Establish and maintain hedgehog highways (gaps in fencing) on parish council estate and encourage community to do the same in gardens	Ongoing	For Estates & Facilities Agenda November 22				
	Improve and establish wildlife corridors and stepping stones in and around the villages.	Ongoing	Investigate WSCC hedge-cutting policy				
	Check that all plants supplied by contractors e.g. for Village Garden are grown and maintained without the use of peat, insecticide, herbicide and artificial fertilisers	Ongoing	For Estates & Facilities Agenda November 22				
	Investigate the feasibility of green roof systems on parish council owned building such as the public toilets	2023	Further investigation required				
	Incorporate biodiversity and nature concerns when Planning recommendations are made.	Ongoing	Assistant Clerk to contact MSDC Planning for clarification of procedure Discussion needed with Chair/Vice Chair of Planning Committee				

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Objective	**Planned Action**	**By When**	**Status**	**Last Updated**	**Budget & Code if applicable**	**Resources**	**Notes**
2. Reduce waste	Launch Litter Plan 2023 Reduce waste and improve recycling in Village Centre including Parish Office. Monitor use of single use plastics within parish council. Monitor and look to reduce water consumption and wastage across parish council run sites Support local initiatives to reduce food waste Encourage MSDC to start food waste collection scheme	**2023** **Ongoing** **Ongoing** **Ongoing** **Ongoing** **Ongoing**	 Furnishing of Parish Office/Family Room re-used furniture from other sites Meeting set up with Mid Sussex Food Partnership October 22 MSDC have trialled a Food Waste collection during Summer 22. Work with MSDC to extend/launch to all households.				Engage young people in this (e.g., St Lawrence School Hurst week 2022)
3. Increase access to green spaces	Work with local schools to encourage greater use of Hurst Meadows Expand volunteer groups for maintaining woodland/butterfly surveys etc Increase public walks led by Councillors/Ecologists etc Review bench provision in Hurst Meadows/on recreation grounds etc	**Ongoing** **Ongoing** **Ongoing**	St Lawrence School Hurst Week 2022 – tour of HM for all reception children etc Butterfly group set up 2021 Woodland volunteer group set up 2022 Monthly Bird Walk established January 2022. Woodland walks spring 2022. Bird walk took place during Hurst Festival Sept 22. New perch bench – Bellows Nose Oct 22				

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	Highlight need for green spaces when planning recommendations are made.	**Ongoing**	Contact MSDC Planning, arrange meeting with Chair/Vice Chair of Planning January 2023.				
Objective	**Planned Action**	**By When**	**Status**	**Last Updated**	**Budget & Code if applicable**	**Resources**	**Notes**
4. Reduce carbon emissions	Support "Shop Local" initiative by High St traders	**Ongoing**	Free 'Shop local' bags and shopping maps distributed at Annual Parish Meeting and St Lawrence Fair.				
	Continue to work with WSCC to establish a network of cycle routes around the parish and further afield towards Burgess Hill and Hassocks.	**Ongoing**	Parish Council Chair in contact with WS highways				
	Highlight existing bike racks and look to provide more	**Ongoing**	New bike racks installed at the Village Centre and on South Ave Rec. Any possible Sayers Common sites to be investigated.				
	Support and encourage MSDC/WSCC to install electric car charging points.	**Summer 22**	8 electric car charging points installed into Trinity Road Car park.				
	Continue to use renewable energy providers	**Ongoing**					
	Monitor and reduce energy use across sites and assets	**Ongoing**	Lower energy LED lights installed in the Village Centre August 22				
	Reduce staff/councillors' car use where possible	**Ongoing**	Encourage car sharing and walking where possible				
	Develop awareness of where investments are linked to fossil fuels	**Ongoing**					
	Seek to improve local public transport provision to provide an alternative to private car use.	**Ongoing**	Options around Community bus service to be explored with Mid Sussex Community Transport, through CE committee.				

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	Encourage the planning authority to require new developments to incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar, heat pumps etc.	**Ongoing**	Through MSDC/Planning Committee, see previous.				
Objective	**Planned Action**	**By When**	**Status**	**Last Updated**	**Budget & Code if applicable**	**Resources**	**Notes**
5. Build Resilience	Develop community and infrastructure resilience to likely impacts of extreme weather Review Emergency Plan Annually - Review plans to support vulnerable people in the event of extreme weather/ shortages e.g., of water Support development of local mutual aid networks Monitor plans for new developments to ensure not at risk of/contributing to flooding Look at developing sustainable drainage solutions Support Increased urban tree planting to reduce heat through shading etc	**Ongoing** **Ongoing** **Ongoing**	Volunteer mutual aid leaders' details added to plan 2022 Networking meeting with MSVA to be arranged. Ephemeral pond to be installed at Reeds Land Rec to aid drainage. Increase the hedging.				