Last updated 28 April 2026

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 communication with the education sector 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. The Sustainable Community grants are for groups whose focus is on community efforts to address the climate and/or biodiversity crisis. 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.

Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

Objective	Planned Action	By When	Status	Last Updated	Budget & Code if applicable	Resources	Notes
1.Help nature recover	Increase biodiversity around the parish including Hurst Meadows, The Wilderness and Tilley's Copse as per Management Plans.	**On-going**	Monthly updates to FG&E Committee – New mowing plan approved for Fifteen Acre – rough pattern cutting.	April 2026		FGE Cttee, HMWG, PC Staff and Contractors PC Staff and Contractors	Monitor through butterfly surveys etc. Grant for house martin/swift cups in High Street.
	Participate in No Mow May campaign on parish council estates and publicise to community in order to expand scheme.	**Each May**	Continue to participate in No Mow May at Court Bushes.	April 2026	N/A	WSCC, Staff, Contractors, Volunteers	Grass now left longer at Court Bushes.
	Work with WSCC/local groups on Community Road Verge Scheme and 3x annually cut and collect mowing trial, to identify and manage road verges for biodiversity.	**Ongoing**	WSCC contractor now cutting & collecting cuttings in HPP. A study by Dr Judd shows improvements in biodiversity in verges. CM to write to WSCC to express concerns re use of weedkiller on edges of road verges being maintained for biodiversity. Sayers Common still has 5 cuts/year.	July 2025	N/A		Hurst Rethink leading on the Community Road Verge scheme based on Gloucester scheme, where verge arisings are being used as bio-fuels.
	Establish and maintain hedgehog highways (gaps in fencing) on parish council estate and encourage community to do the same in gardens.	**Ongoing**	Sites revisited to look at suitable locations across the parish e.g. Reeds Lane play area. Advice from Hurst Hedgehog Haven. Community to be encouraged to participate.	July 2025	N/A	WSCC, PC Staff, WFFG.	All wildlife can rest, eat and shelter in longer verges and in wildlife corridors.
	Improve and establish wildlife corridors and stepping stones in and around the villages.	**Ongoing**	WSCC hedge cutting completed through the winter. Registered Hurst Meadows & Community Orchard with Weald to Waves. Berrylands Pond project to improve pond health. Weald Close valuable wildlife haven.	July 2025	5610-301	Possible sustainability grants from PC for pond.	WFFG leading on Berrylands pond.
	Incorporate biodiversity and nature concerns when Planning recommendations are made.	**Ongoing**	Planning Committee continue pressure on MSDC to prioritise within planning applications. Cllrs attending Environmental Networking meetings with other local councils to share practice/lobby.	April 2026	NA		District Plan may be found unsound but continued pressure to be placed on MSDC for improving nature related policies.

Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

Objective	Planned Action	By When	Status	Last Updated	Budget & Code if applicable	Resources	Notes
2. Reduce waste	Encourage MSDC to start food waste collection scheme.	**Ongoing**	Food waste trials extended in 2024. 3000 households took part. Continue to encourage MSDC to launch full roll-out in the parish.	July 2025			MSDC has extended the scheme to all properties.
	Include message to reduce waste in all correspondence.	**Ongoing**	Consider how best to include waste reduction messages in all publicity. Soft plastics recycling by Hurst Rethink. Bra, stamps, printer cartridge and composting in Village Centre. Hassocks Repair Café. Consider a litter picking group for Hurst to mirror Sayers Common model.	July 2025			Continue to use Hurst Life for monthly articles. Ask Hurst Rethink about a litter picking group for Hurst.
Objective	**Planned Action**	**By When**	**Status**	**Last Updated**	**Budget & Code if applicable**	**Resources**	**Notes**
3. Increase access to green spaces	Expand volunteer groups for maintaining woodland/butterfly surveys etc.	**Ongoing**	Butterfly surveys completed. Orchard raking not required. Volunteer group removed plastic tree guards. Tools and gloves provided by Lost Woods. Cllr attends Lost Woods volunteers networking forum.	April 2026			Healthy number of Hurst Meadow volunteers. Coppicing training to be available late 2026. New mixed-use cycleway in Hurst Meadows has increased accessibility for all.
	New play equipment at Reeds Lane encouraging more visitors especially children to enjoy green space.		Play equipment, table tennis table, benches, bins, fencing installed April 2026.	April 2026			New community allotment will support those wishing to share the load.
	Increase public walks led by Councillors/Ecologists etc	**Ongoing**	Cllr Majsai took a group from U3A around Hurst Meadows July 24, continued tours with councillors. Wassailing Event each January.	April 2026			Improved path surface through Tilley's Copse to Chalkers Lane and Hurst College.
	Highlight need for joined up green spaces when planning recommendations are made.	**Ongoing**	Planning Inspector hearings attended October 2024 and February 2026. Pressure put on MSDC for master-plan to include green space, wildlife corridors and active travel. Cllr Majsai met Head of Sustainable Economy at MSDC at Eco-Forum.	April 2026			Continue to pressure MSDC to include accessible joined-up green space requirements in District Plan.

Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

Objective	Planned Action	By When	Status	Last Updated	Budget & Code if applicable	Resources	Notes
4. Reduce carbon emissions	Continue to work with WSCC to establish a network of cycle routes around the parish and further afield towards Burgess Hill and Hassocks.	**Ongoing**	First phase of the cycleway through woodland bordering the Millennium Garden opened Aug 24. Positively received by residents. WSCC asked to assist with "missing link" across Hurst Meadows from new cycleway to Iden Hurst and upgrade of St George's Lane to Layton Fields footpath	April 2026			Designs and quotes for cycleway across Hust Meadows to link the village to Burgess Hill completed. Footpath route from Hurstpierpoint to Hurst College improved by WSCC.
	Support and encourage MSDC/WSCC to install electric car charging points.	**Ongoing**	Four electric car charging points currently in use. It was concluded the costs involved in charging an electric van are prohibitive due to lack of on street charging points. New EV charging points planned for Willow Gardens.	July 2025			
	Monitor and reduce energy use across sites and assets.		Feasibility report for solar panels on roofs received June 2024. Library structural surveys undertaken in March 2025. Findings listed below and in notes column: *"The village hall roof is covered with single ply EPDM with a mock standing seam and a pitch greater than 5 degrees meaning weighted mounting frame will not be suitable. Looking at alternatives, fixing the solar array to the structure of the roof – by penetrating the roof covering - whilst keeping the site watertight will be problematic due to the EPDM covering. The conclusion is that currently the roof does not seem to be suitable for solar.*				*You may want to explore the alternative fixing option with other contractors but our contractor has stipulated that they believe this is a high risk solution."*
			Consider air source heat pump for Village Centre, currently on gas for hot water and heating.	April 2026			

Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

4. Reduce carbon emissions/… continued	Seek to improve local public transport provision to provide an alternative to private car use.	**Ongoing**	The improved service on the 273 to Brighton has been positively received, 50% more journeys taken. Improves the connectivity of Sayers Common. Stock of timetables in the office.	April 2026			Continue to promote bus services and lobby bus companies. Encourage visitors to travel to parish by bus for their day out rather than by car. Hurst now advertised on website as a destination by Metrobus.
			New bus shelters requested at Orchard Way and Wickham Hill. New shelters for Sayers Common to be part of developer improvements.	April 2026			
			Consider asking a car club operator to cover the parish.	April 2026			
	Encourage the planning authority to require new developments to incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar, heat pumps etc.	**Ongoing**	Requests made to MSDC via Planning Committee.	July 2025			
			Potential review of Neighbourhood Plan once draft District Plan is eventually adopted. To include sustainability objectives.	April 2026			Continue to place pressure on MSDC through the draft District Plan policies.
	Parish Council to consider the impact of decisions made on biodiversity and carbon emissions where applicable.		Staff to consider sustainability matters in all briefing reports to Council and Committees.	April 2026			Greater effort required in Committee briefing notes.
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.	**Ongoing**	Annual review of Emergency Plan each May. Annual review of Winter Plan each November.	July 2025			Investigate planting more trees to act as natural flood prevention schemes.
	Review plans to support vulnerable people in the event of extreme weather/ shortages e.g., of water.	**Ongoing**	Volunteer mutual aid leaders' details added to Emergency Plan.	July 2025			
	Monitor plans for new developments to ensure not at risk of/contributing to flooding and have added other resilience factors.	**Ongoing**	Through MSDC/Planning Committee.	July 2025			
	Look at developing sustainable drainage solutions.	**Ongoing**	Drainage work completed on Reeds Lane Rec July 2024, ponds are	July 2025			

Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

			operating as intended. Hedging increased.				
	Support Increased urban tree planting to reduce heat through shading etc. e.g. maintain mature trees on site.	**Ongoing**	Locally grown Horse Chestnut saplings planted in South Avenue Rec. New Lime Trees also planted on South Avenue Rec. Hovel Field, Big Edgerley and Walnut Tree field trees thriving.	April 2026			
	Lobby all parish, district and county councillors to support and promote sustainability issues across their organisations. Lobby local schools (two new headteachers in 2025) to support and promote sustainability issues across their schools. Consider using annual parish meeting for residents ideas and suggestions.	**Ongoing**	Target new county councillors in May 2026 and at the same time, existing parish and district councillors. Ask how the parish council can support them as well. E.g. use of Hurst Meadows, grants available to PTA's. APM on 12 May 2026.	April 2026			

Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

COMPLETED ITEMS

Objective	Planned Action	By When	Status	Last Updated	Budget & Code if applicable	Resources	Notes
Help nature recover	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.		Facilities Manager has confirmed this with our contractor.	Completed			
Help nature Recover	Investigate the feasibility of green roof systems on parish council owned building such as the public toilets.		Further investigation required. Could become part of a future refurbishment project.	Completed			
Reduce waste	Reduce waste and improve recycling in Village Centre including Parish Office.		Furnishing of Parish Office/Family Room re-used furniture from other sites	Completed			
Reduce waste	Monitor use of single use plastics within parish council.		Office staff continue to recycle plastic bottles & crips packets.	Completed			
Reduce waste	Litter and Dog Waste Bin Audit 2023/24		Two larger bins installed at South Avenue Rec. One large dog waste bin at Reeds Lane, dog waste bin & litter bin relocated from Bellows Nose to Langton Lane Wording updated in hiring agreements regarding recycling and taking away rubbish. Continue to monitor.	Completed Completed Completed			
Reduce waste	Monitor and look to reduce water consumption and wastage across parish council run sites.		Water saving devices installed in Village Centre urinals in 2025.	Completed			
Reduce waste	Support local initiatives to reduce food waste.		It is proposed to install a compost bin at the VC for use by the Pre-School, PC & library.	Completed			Grant from Parish Council to Village Centre
Increase access to green spaces	Work with local schools to encourage greater use of Hurst Meadows		Dedicated area within Hurst Meadows now allocated for a Forest School.	Completed			

Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

Reduce carbon emissions	Review bench provision in Hurst Meadows/on recreation grounds etc Highlight existing bike racks and look to provide more. Continue to use renewable energy providers. Support "Shop Local" initiative by High St traders. Reduce staff/councillors' car use where possible.		Further benches installed by the Monday Group in March 2025. Location agreed for two new bike racks in Sayers Common. Installation completed Aug 2024. 100% renewable electricity supplier – Ecotricity. Publicised Hurst Society "Now and Then" website, page on our website and social media. More councillors aware of the benefits of car sharing.				Section 106 funds secured.