

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	Updates to FG&E Committee – Tree whips planted in Walnut Tree, Buckwilly, in 2023. New trees & wildflowers planted in South Avenue. Reports of Barn Owl, Kestrel, Cuckoo	Jun 24			Monitor through butterfly surveys etc.
	Participate in No Mow May campaign on parish council estates and publicise to community.	Ongoing	No Mow May 2024.	Jun 24			
	Work with WSCC/local groups on Community Road Verge Scheme to identify and manage road verges for biodiversity.	Ongoing	WSCC contractor Grasstex, now agreed to cut & collect cuttings to encourage wild flowers/grasses.	Jun 24			
	Work with MSDC/local groups to identify land for Blue Heart “rewilding” scheme.	Ongoing	MSDC have identified one site in Hurstpierpoint for the Blue Heart scheme – Nursery Close open space.	Jun 24			
	Establish and maintain hedgehog highways (gaps in fencing) on parish council estate and encourage community to do the same in gardens.	Ongoing	Revisit sites to look at suitable locations across the parish. Advice from Hurst Hedgehog Haven. Remind allotment holders to be aware of hedgehogs in the area.	Jan 24			
	Improve and establish wildlife corridors and stepping stones in and around the villages.	Ongoing	Investigate WSCC hedge-cutting policy. Encourage and publicise Weald to Waves countryside mapping.	Jun 24			
	Investigate the feasibility of green roof systems on parish council owned building such as the public toilets.	Ongoing	Further investigation required. Could become part of a future refurbishment project.	Jun 24			



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	Incorporate biodiversity and nature concerns when Planning recommendations are made.	Ongoing	Continued pressure on MSDC to prioritise during the District Plan Consultation periods. Propose that the Planning Committee write to MSDC outlining our concerns about tree felling without sound reasons. Cllrs attending Environmental Networking meetings with other local councils to share practice/lobby.	Jun 24			
Objective	Planned Action	By When	Status	Last Updated	Budget & Code if applicable	Resources	Notes
2. Reduce waste	Launch Litter Plan 2023	Ongoing	Delayed	Jun 24			
	Monitor use of single use plastics within parish council.	Ongoing	Office staff continue to recycle plastic bottles & crisps packets.	Jun 24			
	Monitor and look to reduce water consumption and wastage across parish council run sites.	Ongoing	Review wording in our hiring agreement regarding recycling and taking away rubbish. Additional posters at CB and VC.	Jun 24			
	Support local initiatives to reduce food waste.	Ongoing	Investigate the feasibility of a community compost bin at either CB or VC.	Jun 24			
	Encourage MSDC to start food waste collection scheme.	Ongoing	Food waste trials extended in 2024 – 3000 households taking part. Continue to communicate with MSDC councillors.	Jun 24			
3. Increase access to green spaces	Work with local schools to encourage greater use of Hurst Meadows	Ongoing	Working towards a dedicated Forest Schools area in Hurst Meadows.	Jun 24			



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	Expand volunteer groups for maintaining woodland/butterfly surveys etc.	Ongoing	Butterfly group set up 2021. Woodland volunteer group set up. Clearing/raking by volunteers took place in Sept 23. Cllr part of Lost Woods volunteers networking forum.	Jun 24			
	Increase public walks led by Councillors/Ecologists etc	Ongoing	Bird walks with a local ecologist and Wassailing Event in the Orchard took place January 2024. Annual Parish Meeting theme nature themed. Orchard open day during Hurst Open Gardens, 70 visitors. Apple Blossom open day in April.	Jun 24			
	Review bench provision in Hurst Meadows/on recreation grounds etc	Ongoing	Two benches installed in Buckwilly & Walnut Tree field. 2 x perch benches 2 x backed benches to be installed as part of the cycleway.	Jun 24			
	Highlight need for green spaces when planning recommendations are made.	Ongoing	Response to Reg 19 consultation submitted. Awaiting outcome from Planning Inspectorate. Planning Committee have submitted comments for MSDC Local List Review Sept 24.	Jun 24			
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4. Reduce carbon emissions	Support "Shop Local" initiative by High St traders. Hurst Rethink no longer running monthly village market.	Ongoing	Discussions with Hurst Society around a website featuring local shops now and in 1985. Reminder to use the High Street.	Jun 24			
	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 almost completed.	Jun 24			
	Highlight existing bike racks and look to provide more.	Summer 24	Location agreed for two new bike racks in Sayers Common. Installation planned for summer 24.	Jun 24			



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	Support and encourage MSDC/WSCC to install electric car charging points.	Ongoing	8 electric car charging points installed into Trinity Road Car park. Four charging points now taken out of use until demand increases. PC investigating the feasibility of an electric van.	Jun 24			
	Continue to use renewable energy providers.	Ongoing		Jun 24			
		Ongoing	100% renewable electricity supplier – Ecotricity.	Jun 24			
	Monitor and reduce energy use across sites and assets.	Ongoing	Building survey took place in Nov 23 to assess the feasibility of solar panels at VC building. Report received June 24	Jun 24			
	Reduce staff/councillors' car use where possible.	Ongoing	Raise awareness now several new councillors are in place.	Jun 24			
	Develop awareness of where investments are linked to fossil fuels.	Ongoing		Jun 24			
	Seek to improve local public transport provision to provide an alternative to private car use.	Ongoing	Lobbying, through WSCC and bus company, now an improved service on the 273 to Brighton. Positive reaction from residents, feedback has been that the service is being utilised.	Jun 24			
	Encourage the planning authority to require new developments to incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar, heat pumps etc.	Ongoing	Through MSDC/Planning Committee. Our response to Reg 19 consultation now submitted.	Jun 24			



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5. Build Resilience	Develop community and infrastructure resilience to likely impacts of extreme weather.	Ongoing					
	Review Emergency Plan Annually - 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 plan 2022.	Jun 24			
	Support development of local mutual aid networks	Ongoing	Community Forum to take place January 24. MSVA are launching twice-yearly eco-forum for local groups which cllrs will be attending.	Jun 24			
	Monitor plans for new developments to ensure not at risk of/contributing to flooding.	Ongoing	2xEphemeral ponds to be installed at Reeds Land Rec to aid drainage. Hedging increased. Drainage contract awarded spring 24 – Grasstex.	Jun 24			
	Look at developing sustainable drainage solutions.	Ongoing	Topography Survey taken place. Including plans to mitigate issues as far as possible.	Jun 24			
	Support Increased urban tree planting to reduce heat through shading etc.	Ongoing	Locally grown Horse Chestnut saplings to be planted in South Avenue Rec. Wildflower meadows to be created at locations across the parish.	Jun 24			



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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	Nil	Nil	
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			