



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
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Village Centre
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex BN6 9UY

Sustainability Working Group – 10th October 2024

Councillors present: Cllr Claire Majsai
Cllr Bob Sampson

Apologies: Cllr Susan Dyke

Also present: Helen Valler, Assistant Clerk

Help Nature Recover – actions

- Further investigation required to establish sites around the parish for hedgehog highways.
- HV to register Hurst Meadows on Weald to Waves Garden and Green spaces map as our 30% pledge to nature recovery as agreed by council. Encourage residents to do the same (next Hurst Life etc)
- Lara Southam (Head of regeneration and Sustainable economy) at MSDC attended and spoke at MSVA Eco-Forum on 25 September. Cllr Majsai and other attendees were able to highlight the issues including developers working to reduce the need for bio-diversity net gain and felling trees without valid reasons.
- Cllr Majsai has requested that the next meeting has a tree theme with, for example MSDC tree officers as better protection for trees is a key issue for many.
- HV to contact MSDC to establish whether the Blue Heart Scheme is still current – no evidence of this on a visit to Nursery Close open space.

Reduce Waste

- HV to arrange meeting with the Pre-School Manager to look at a suitable site for a compost bin. VC Charity to apply to PC for a grant under Sustainable Communities Fund.
- Food waste trial has been extended in 2024 to 3000 households, continue to pressure MDSC for a full rollout. Part of the Governments new 'Simpler Recycling' regulations, weekly collections of food waste will be introduced for most households across England by 2026.

Increase access to green space

- Cllr Majsai happy to do guided walks around Hurst Meadows for local groups and councillors. Volunteer group to go in to remove plastic tree guards in Edgerley Meadow over the winter.
- New benches to be installed by Monday Group in Oct 2024.
- Publicise the Sustainable Communities Grant, to encourage local groups to apply for funds.

Reduce Carbon Emissions

- Hurst Society website featuring present shops and past shops/business is now up and running, publicised on our website and social media.
- First phase of the cycle way through Hurst Meadows completed July 24 - CM to publicise in HL again – including as an accessible multi use path.
- Bike racks installed in Sayers Common - completed July 24
- Building survey feasibility study into solar panels at the VC has recently been received – this was reviewed at the recent VC Trustees meeting – next steps need to be agreed.

Build Resilience

- Drainage contract completed July 24 – Ephemeral ponds are working as intended.
- Horse Chestnut & Lime tree saplings to be planted on South Ave and the Rec.

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 – New mowing plan approved for Fifteen Acre – rough pattern cutting. Cut & collect completed for 2024	Oct 24			Monitor through butterfly surveys etc.
	Participate in No Mow May campaign on parish council estates and publicise to community.	Ongoing	Continue to participate in No Mow May at Court Buses.	Oct 24			
	Work with WSCC/local groups on Community Road Verge Scheme to identify and manage road verges for biodiversity.	Ongoing	WSCC contractor Grastex, now agreed to cut & collect cuttings. WSCC trialling new Greenprint scheme.	Oct 24			
	Work with MSDC/local groups to identify land for Blue Heart "rewilding" scheme.	Ongoing	Blue Heart scheme continued in 2023–Nursery Close open space. Contact MSDC.	Oct 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.	Oct 24			
	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	Oct 24			BN6 area not part of the main wildlife corridor
	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.	Oct 24			
	Incorporate biodiversity and nature concerns when Planning recommendations are made.	Ongoing	Continued pressure on MSDC to prioritise during the District Plan Consultation periods. Cllrs attending Environmental Networking meetings with other local councils to share practice/lobby.	Oct 24			



Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

Objective	Planned Action	By When	Status	Last Updated	Budget & Code if applicable	Resources	Notes
2. Reduce waste	Launch Litter Plan 2023	Ongoing	Two larger bins installed at South Avenue Rec. One large dog poo bin – Reeds Lane, dog bin & waste bin relocated from Bellows Nose to Langton Lane	Oct 24			
	Monitor and look to reduce water consumption and wastage across parish council run sites.	Ongoing	Working updated in our hiring agreements regarding recycling and taking away rubbish. Continue to monitor.	Oct 24			
	Support local initiatives to reduce food waste.	Ongoing	It is proposed to install a compost bin at the VC for use by the Pre-School, PC & library. Suitable site to be found.	Oct 24			
	Encourage MSDC to start food waste collection scheme.	Ongoing	Food waste trials extended in 2024. 3000 households taking part. Continue to encourage MSDC to launch full roll out.	Oct 24			
3. Increase access to green spaces	Work with local schools to encourage greater use of Hurst Meadows	Ongoing	Dedicated area within Hurst Meadows now allocated for a Forest School. E&F manager met with local pre-schools.	Oct 24			
	Expand volunteer groups for maintaining woodland/butterfly surveys etc.	Ongoing	Butterfly survey completed in 2024. Orchard raking not required. Volunteer group planned to remove plastic tree guards. Clir part of Lost Woods volunteers networking forum.	Oct 24			
	Increase public walks led by Councillors/Ecologists etc	Ongoing	Clir Majsai took a group from U3A around Hurst Meadows July 24, continued tours with councillors. Wassailing Event scheduled for Jan 25.	Oct 24			
	Review bench provision in Hurst Meadows/on recreation grounds etc Highlight need for green spaces when planning recommendations are made.	Ongoing Ongoing	Further benches due to be installed by the Monday Group in Oct 24. Inspectorate hearings to commence Oct 24, our Consultant & Chair to speak. Clir Majsai in contact with new 'Sustainability' officer at MSDC.	Oct 24 Oct 24			

Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy



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	Publicised Hurst Society "Now and Then" website, page on our website and social media.	Oct 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 opened Aug 24. Positively received by residents.	Oct 24			
	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.	Oct 24			
	Monitor and reduce energy use across sites and assets.	Ongoing	Feasibility report received June 2024, was reviewed at July VC Trustees meeting. Need to decide next steps.	Oct 24			
	Reduce staff/councillors' car use where possible.	Ongoing	More councillors aware of the benefits of car sharing	Oct 24			
	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.	Oct 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. Inspector hearings taking place Oct 2024	Oct 24			



Action Plan: Sustainability Strategy

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5. Build Resilience	Develop community and infrastructure resilience to likely impacts of extreme weather.	Ongoing		Oct 24			
	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.	Oct 24			
	Support development of local mutual aid networks	Ongoing	Community Forum to take place January 2025. Cllr Majasai attends Eco-forum arranged through MSVA.	Oct 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 work completed July 24, ponds are operating as intended.	Oct 24			
	Look at developing sustainable drainage solutions.	Ongoing	Topography Survey taken place. Including plans to mitigate issues as far as possible.	Oct 24			
	Support Increased urban tree planting to reduce heat through shading etc.	Ongoing	Locally grown Horse Chestnut saplings planted in South Avenue Rec. New Lime Trees to be planted.	Oct 24			



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	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			
Reduce waste.	Monitor use of single use plastics within parish council.		Office staff continue to recycle plastic bottles & crisps packets.	Completed			
Reduce carbon emissions	Highlight existing bike racks and look to provide more.		Location agreed for two new bike racks in Sayers Common. Installation completed Aug 24	Completed			
	Continue to use renewable energy providers.		100% renewable electricity supplier – Ecotricity.	Completed			