

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 including 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 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	July 2025	5410-210 (Earmarked Reserve 350)	FGE Cttee, HMWG, PC Staff and Contractors PC Staff and Contractors	Monitor through butterfly surveys etc.
	Participate in No Mow May campaign on parish council estates and publicise to community.	Each May	Continue to participate in No Mow May at Court Bushes.	July 2025	N/A	WSCC, Staff, Contractors, Volunteers	Some grass now left longer over the summer 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.
	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		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.	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	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.	July 2025	NA		District Plan may be found unsound but continued pressure to be placed on MSDC for improving nature related policies.



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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 extending the scheme.
	Include message to reduce waste in all correspondence.	Ongoing	Consider how best to include waste reduction messages in all publicity.	July 2025			Continue to use Hurst Life for monthly articles.
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3. Increase access to green spaces	Expand volunteer groups for maintaining woodland/butterfly surveys etc.	Ongoing	Butterfly surveys completed. Volunteer group removed plastic tree guards. Tools and gloves provided by Lost Woods. Cllr attends Lost Woods volunteers networking forum.	July 2025			Coppicing training to be available soon.
	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.	July 2025			New mixed-use cycleway in Hurst Meadows has increased accessibility for all.
	Highlight need for joined up green spaces when planning recommendations are made.	Ongoing	Stage 1 Planning Inspector hearings attended by PC Consultant & Chair in Oct 24. Cllr Majsai met Head of Sustainable Economy at MSDC at Eco-Forum.	July 2025			Continue to pressure MSDC to include accessible joined-up green space requirements in District Plan.
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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.	July 2025			Designs for cycleway across Hurst Meadows to link the village to Burgess Hill being completed.
	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			



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4. Reduce carbon emissions/... continued	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: <i>"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."</i>				<i>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."</i>
	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.	July 2025			Continue to promote bus services. Encourage visitors to travel to parish by bus for their day out rather than by car.
	Encourage the planning authority to require new developments to incorporate renewable energy sources such as solar, heat pumps etc.	Ongoing	Through MSDC/Planning Committee. Potential review of Neighbourhood Plan 2025.	July 2025			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.	July 2025			



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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 operating as intended. Hedging increased.	July 2025			
	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.	July 2025			



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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			
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 & crisps 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	Completed			
Reduce waste	Monitor and look to reduce water consumption and wastage across parish council run sites.		Wording updated in hiring agreements regarding recycling and taking away rubbish. Continue to monitor.	Completed			
Reduce waste	Support local initiatives to reduce food waste.		Water saving devices installed in Village Centre urinals in 2025.	Completed			Grant from Parish Council to Village Centre
Increase access to green spaces	Work with local schools to encourage greater use of Hurst Meadows		It is proposed to install a compost bin at the VC for use by the Pre-School, PC & library.	Completed			
			Dedicated area within Hurst Meadows now allocated for a Forest School.	Completed			



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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.
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