V2: Parish Action Plan 2026/27: Community Engagement Committee

For Review by Community Engagement Committee 10th September 2026

- Liaison with community groups on local topics
- Allocation of grants
- Develop and monitor implementation of the Sustainability Strategy
- Supervise Council's communications – website, noticeboards, newsletter, social media
- Develop and deliver agreed outputs from Parish Action Plan
- Manage in year committee budget within programme and delegation
- Identify and justify committee budget for future year

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS 2026/27

Objective	Planned Action	By When	Status/specific action	Last Updated	Budget & Code if applicable	Resources	Notes
1. Communicate effectively with residents and organisations in the parish	Plan and deliver Annual Parish Meeting.	May 2027	2026 APM took place 12.5.26, reviewed by EWG 22.5.2026 as a success. Similar format likely for 2027. 2027 APM date currently	June 2026	5660	Staff Time Cllr Time	
	Plan and deliver annual Community Forum for local groups in partnership with Community People	November 2026	Promoting networking to identify and address gaps in local services – DTBF in conjunction with Community People	June 2026	5660	Staff Time Cllr Time	
	Monthly Hurst Life article	Ongoing	Article co-ordinated by Assistant Clerk in accordance with the Hurst Life Programme & Protocol	June 2026	5600	Staff Time Cllr Time	
	Social media and website communications	Ongoing	Promoting positive news stories as well as reactive content, drawing from HL articles & grant recipients	June 2026	5600	Staff Time	

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2. Promote increased opportunities and support for local young people.	Promote/develop youth activities at Court Bushes.	Ongoing	Youth offer to be highlighted during devolution talks.	September 2025		Cllr Time Staff Time	
		Ongoing	Assistant Clerk continues to engage with Audio Active for possible Monday pm club, but they are not currently expanding	June 2026		Staff Time Youth EMR	
	Delegated Committee Members to attend forums/networking events when able	Ongoing	Next Event: Children Young People & Families forum - Thursday 30th April, 10am-12pm	April 2026		Cllr Time	
	Promote other youth services and activities in the parish	Ongoing	Posters displayed, e-flyers circulated via social media.	April 2026		Staff time	
	Offer Work Experience/ Opportunities directly to local Students	July 2026	Downlands Work Experience	June 2026		Staff Time	
		June 2026	Hurst College Community Action Day	June 2026		Staff Time	
	Engage with new heads of schools	July 2026	New St Lawrence Head to commence after Easter – contact to be made start of new school year, late Sept early October	June 2026		Staff Time Cllr Time	
3. Support Important Parish Events	Support, publicise and attend (where appropriate) local community events	Ongoing	Grant applications will be considered as received Office Staff to assist with publicity for local events via usual channels	June 2026	5660	Staff Time	
		July 2026	**St Lawrence Fair:** Grant application, publicity and purchase/staff Parish Council stand	June 2026	5630 & 5600	Cllr Time Staff Time Grant Funding	
		September 2026	**Hurst Festival:** Grant application & publicity	June 2026	5630 & 5600	Cllr Time Staff Time Grant Funding	
		December 2026	**Santa Sunday** – Grant application & publicity Grant application anticipated September meeting	June 2026	5630 & 5600	Cllr Time Staff Time Grant Funding	
		January 2027	**Orchard Wassail:** Plan and deliver 2027 Wassail Event	April 2026	5630	Cllr Time Staff Time	

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4. To improve the health and wellbeing of residents especially those who are vulnerable.	Publicising and signposting to local services.	Ongoing	Promoting networking at Community Forum, Annual Parish Meeting, via Hurst Life, Noticeboards and Social Media Channels	April 2026	5600	Staff Time Cllr Time	
	Revive Dementia "Safe Spaces" project	Ongoing	Email sent to Carl Roberts, Dementia Friend Ambassador from Boutique care homes in March, to establish whether this would be something he could still offer, or provide other recommendation Enquire if can attend forum once date set	June 2026		Staff time Cllr Time	
	Encouraging/facilitating groups/services to have a presence in the parish and work more effectively	Ongoing	Delegated members to attend relevant forums /networking meetings and events and report back to committee. Next forum Older People's 16th April	April 2026		Staff time Cllr Time	
			Promoting and awarding relevant grants	April 2026	5240, 5600, 5610, 5630, 5640, 5650	Grant budget Staff time Cllr time	
	Support local groups for older people.	Ongoing	Support groups such as Knit & Natter, Mid Sussex Memory Café & Befriended with grant applications, signposting & publicity	April 2026	5640, 5650	Grant funding Staff time	
	Promote and lobby for active travel	Ongoing	Lobbying for transport links continues as part of the master planning for Sayers Common Continued pressure to extend 273 service later into the evenings Promote consultations regarding cycle routes Promote alternative travel services (e.g. Befriended / Age Concern Hassocks / CT Sussex)	June 2026	5600	Staff Time Cllr Time	

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5. Work closely with local businesses and promote the High Street as an attractive place to visit.	High Street reps to work with traders to help to boost the High Street. Office Staff to continue promoting events / High Street	On-going	Posts on social media to support our high street to try and encourage footfall. Intermittent promotion in Hurst Life, who also produced a social media "reel" Ongoing pressure to MSDC and publicising re: parking charges consultations	June 2026	5600	Staff Time Cllr Time	
		December 2026	Santa's Funday to be promoted via usual channels. Grant application anticipated at September meeting	June 2026	5600	Staff Time	
6. Ensure sufficient funds available throughout the year for Communications and planned Parish Council events	Budget Monitoring	Ongoing	Income & Expenditure and Nominal Ledger (year to date) documents presented at each meeting	April 2026	301	Staff Time Cllr Time	
	Budget Setting	November 2026	Review half year budgeting reports to assist with budget setting recommendations to Council for Committee budget 2027/28	April 2026	301	Staff Time Cllr Time	

Closed Actions 2026/27

Objective	Planned Action	Status	Completed date	Budget & Code if applicable	Resources	Notes
1. Communicate effectively with residents and organisations in the parish	Annual review of Communication Strategy	Meeting took place 8.6.2026	May 2026		Staff Time Cllr Time	**Hurst Life and Hurst Hub still our best communication routes with highest level of engagement**