



**HAYWARDS HEATH
TOWN COUNCIL**

Town Hall 40 Boltro Road, Haywards Heath West Sussex,
RH16 1BA

Tel: 01444 455694

Website: www.haywardsheath.gov.uk

Email: town.clerk@haywardsheath.gov.uk

16th April 2024

To all Councillors on the Environment and General Purposes Committee and others for information.

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the **Environment and General Purposes Committee** to be held on **22nd April 2024** at the Town Hall in the Council Chamber at **7.30pm** when the following business will be transacted.

Yours sincerely
Steven Trice
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. Public Participation The public are invited to attend the meeting to observe in person. They may ask questions under the council's remit or make representation on a matter that is on the agenda. Speaking is guided by the Council's standing order 1 (available on website). You should indicate that you wish to speak by raising your hand. There is no right of reply. Should you wish to circulate anything to the committee this should be sent to the Town Clerk no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

To commence not later than 7.45pm

3. To receive the minutes of the Environment and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 26th February 2024.
4. To note Substitutes.
5. To receive Declarations of Interest from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda.
6. To receive the Events & Community Officers 2024 events (February 24- April 24) update report.
7. To consider the adoption of a Town Council Environmental Policy and associated action plan. (action plan attached as a separate document. If you are viewing on the website please look under additional documents).
8. To consider a report detailing the Weald to Waves project.
9. To receive an update on the current situation with Active Haywards Heath.
10. To receive a verbal update on South and South East in Bloom.

11. To consider any items that the Chairman agrees to take as urgent business.

Committee Members: Environment & General Purposes Committee: Cllrs: N Chapman (Chair), A Rees (Vice Chair), A.M Cooke, S Ellis, S Inglesfield, D Nicholson, D Pascoe, L Wilson

*'During this meeting the public are allowed to film the Committee and officers only from the front of the public gallery, providing it does not disrupt the meeting. **Any items in the Exempt Part of the agenda cannot be filmed.** If another member of the public objects to being recorded, the person(s) filming must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking. The use of social media is permitted but all members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.'*

Town Mayor Cllr Stephanie Inglesfield

Town Clerk Mr Steven Trice

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and General Purposes Committee 26th February 2024.

Nick Chapman (Chair)
Alison Rees (Vice Chair)
Anne- Marie Cooke
Sandy Ellis
Stephanie Inglesfield
Deanna Nicholson
Duncan Pascoe
Leila Wilson

Apologies Absent***

**Also present: Town Clerk, Events and Community Officer,
Committee Clerk, Projects Officer and 3 members of the
public.**

51. Apologies

There were no apologies to note.

52. Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

In relation to agenda item 12, representatives from South and South East in bloom (SSEiB) gave a presentation detailing the actions of the working group. Andrew Lawes shared the new logo in varying forms for Haywards Heaths entry into SSEiB for members consideration, he noted that costs for printing were as yet unknown. It was suggested that the logo could be printed onto magnetic panels and applied to the Town Council vehicles. The Clerk advised that there was money set aside in the budget for this project.

Sylvia Harris gave an update; she presented a hand knitted 'carpet of flowers' for display outside the Town hall on the day of judging. She encouraged members with contacts in community groups to drum up support, more community engagement was needed. Some of the ideas which the group are working on are, a display of Scarecrows on Muster Green from schools and community groups and photos of floral displays in the local area during the changing seasons. Sylvia Harris encouraged both members and members of the public to send in their photos and get involved.

The Chairman thanked the SSEiB representatives for their updates.

53. Minutes

The minutes of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 18th December 2023 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

54. Substitutes

None.

55. Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Members of the public left the meeting at 07.44pm

56. Events and Community Officer's update

The ECO referred to her report. 2024 Planning is well underway, food vendors are being sought for Town Day, entertainment has been booked for the D Day Anniversary with beacon lighting planned for approximately 9.15pm.

The ECO reminded members that there was still time to send in nominations for the Haywards Heath Community Awards, she noted that no nominations had been received for the category of outstanding young person. Cllr Ellis asked if members could approach community groups for nominations, the ECO replied yes and that she herself had already reached out to a number of local groups.

The ECO advised that she oversees the Town Councils social media accounts in relation to events as part of her role, actively sourcing information to post. She asked should councillors be aware of any upcoming projects or events to please let her know so they can be shared on the Town Councils social media accounts.

Members **NOTED** the **report**.

57. Community Days Out Feasibility Study

At the 6th November Environment and General Purposes meeting it was resolved that a 'days out' feasibility study would be undertaken. The Project Officer had completed a large amount of research into potential days out which was shared with the committee.

The Clerk asked members to comment on the report and decide how they wished to proceed.

Cllr Pascoe thanked the Project Officer for the comprehensive report.

He reminded members that he originally proposed the days out project to give local children from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to do something outside of their town.

Members entered into discussion where the following points were discussed.

Transport costs were a limiting factor.

It would be useful to agree the target age range as this will impact supervision ratios. The PO said the feasibility study was based on primary school aged children.

Staffing costs and CRB checks needed to be taken into account.

Other options such as train trips to museums with free entry and packed lunches may be more cost effective. The ECO advised food options for the day out had been sought with the cost of £4.50 per head as a suitable budget, this cost may be reduced if the meal was produced in house.

Taking a small deposit was discussed to mitigate 'no shows', the deposit could be refunded although this would incur staff time to process the refunds. Alternatively, the deposit could be used to purchase a book which the children would be able to take home. A 'fun day' on the green was a cost-effective option and open to more participants but may clash with other Town events.

Other options discussed were a petting Zoo and an open-air cinema event.

It was felt that there were already charities/organisations providing similar types of services for families, maybe the Town Council could collaborate. It was suggested that the Town Council could approach a 3rd party organisation to explain that the Town Council are willing to sponsor a days out project which the 3rd party organisation could then manage on behalf of the Town Council as they would be best placed to run such an event. The committee liked the idea of a trip to Wakehurst Place and thought this would tie in nicely with the 60th anniversary of Briton in Bloom.

It was suggested that starting small and then building on this years 'day out' would be a good way forward, securing sponsorship for future 'days out'.

The Clerk noted the great ideas coming from the discussion and reminded the committee that the officers need a clear steer, timescales should be considered, especially in regard to finance and possible booking /hiring involved. Avoiding event dates already in the diary and staffing time also need consideration.

Following the discussion Cllr Pascoe proposed a trip to Wakehurst Place to be delivered in partnership with a third-party organisation, the ECO/PO will contact schools via the

pupil premium programme to ensure inclusivity of eligible local children this ensures a town wide reach. It was suggested that Bentswood Hub could be contacted. A name for the event will need to be chosen for advertising purposes.

An action was noted – the ECO/PO will research the costings to put on an outdoor cinema screening possibly in the autumn or next year.

A vote was taken and with all in favour.

Members RESOLVED to pilot a Wakehurst trip in partnership with a 3rd party organisation, the decision of the 3rd party organisation being delegated to the officers.

58. Christmas Events 2024

The ECO gave an update and referred to her report as tabled in the agenda. She advised that along with the Clerk she had met with Nicola Bird from The Orchards Shopping Centre to discuss the Christmas event. Nicola was supportive of the event on South Road as it would increase footfall and support the local shops and businesses.

The Clerk thought that the timing of the event may be better changed to 1pm - 4.30pm.

Cllr Ellis asked that thanks were passed onto Nicola Bird for her support.

Members RESOLVED to agree a Christmas event on South Road.

59. Cllr Motion - Hidden Disabilities Initiative

Cllr Pascoe presented his motion regarding the hidden disabilities' sunflower scheme in which the Town Hall would become a sunflower friendly venue. Cllr Pascoe advised the cost would be approximately £50 per year and this included training for members and staff. It should be recognised that some disabilities, conditions and chronic illnesses are not immediately obvious. The hidden disabilities sunflower has been created to encourage inclusivity, by wearing the sunflower the wearer is letting everyone know they may need extra help.

The initiative was supported by members with members agreeing that the Town Council should encourage businesses in the Town to also adopt the sunflower. It was thought that the initiative should be advertised on the Town Councils social media and around the town. It was noted that if adopted the Town Council would be the first town in Mid Sussex to take up the initiative.

This initiative dovetails with the Town Councils Thumbs up pledge and the Alzheimer's Society campaign.

Members Resolved to support the initiative.

60. Cllr Motion - Collaborative Working

Cllr Pascoe presented his motion regarding collaborative working; he said it was important to have a clear understanding of the existing directional policies and how they impact upon the Town Council. The existing directional policies being;

Haywards Heath Town Council – A Plan for the future (green paper) July 2023

Mid Sussex District council- Haywards heath Town Centre Master plan – March 2021

West Sussex County Council – West Sussex Transport Plan April 2022

Cllr Pascoe's motion seeks to provide instruction to officers to produce a report detailing what other councils are doing in Haywards Heath, identifying opportunities to work together.

The Clerk advised he will liaise with both MSDC and WSCC to discuss issues such as Clair Hall and the South Road Streetscape plans. The Clerk will prepare a report/project plan to recommend to Full Council in May.

Cllr Cooke asked if the SID could be moved to Gander Hill and College Road where there seems to be a problem with speeding cars. The Clerk advised that the SID was on the Balcombe Road presently and scheduled to be moved to Harlands Road next.

Cllr Ellis wanted to note that she had not agreed with the Town Councils green vision paper. She noted that before implementation of 20mph zones a public consultation would need to take place through the County Council.

A vote was taken and with all in favour.

Members RESOLVED to recommend the Clerk presents a project plan to Full Council to assist in the delivery of the Town Councils Green Paper.

61. Muster Green Management Plan

The Clerk referred to his report and the attached appendix detailing the Muster Green Management Plan.

Cllr Nicholson pointed out an error on page 10 paragraph 6.3 which will be amended. Without further comment-

Members RESOLVED to adopt The Muster Green Management Plan for 2024.

Cllr Nicholson stated that the Towns Councils vision for sustainable transport, in particular cycling, was being hampered by the number of potholes. The Clerk advised that he was meeting with the other two local Town Councils to discuss this issue and a letter will be sent to WSCC highways.

62. South and South East in Bloom

Due to members of the South and South East in Bloom Committee in attendance the Chairman brought forward **agenda item 12 South and South East in Bloom.**

Cllr Ellis thanked the SSEiB committee and volunteers for their work. She advised that she had contacted MSDC to tell that that HHTC are in Britain in bloom, she also noted that MSDC are in the process of tree relabelling in the town. Cllr Ellis has written to both schools, Warden Park and Oakhall; this year is the 60th Anniversary of Britain in Bloom and the project theme is 'Friendship and togetherness', the schools are going to get involved by planting seeds, making poesy's and writing poems.

Cllr Ellis thanked the ECO for her work advertising the Towns entry saying that some sponsorship was already in place said the Town Council needed to look for more sponsors which she thought would be forthcoming. She said that this was a big thing for the town and each year it gets bigger and better, she would like to open the event up to the community to make them feel part of Britain in Bloom.

Members RESOLVED to note the update and AGREE the new logo.

63. Urgent Items

Cllr Nicholson advised that the Friends of Scrase Valley link on the Town Council website is no longer live and it seems the group may have been disbanded. It has been brought to her attention that there is frogspawn in the pond which needs protecting. The Clerk agreed

to contact MSDC who are the landowners. Cllr Nicholson asked that the Town Council share some educational material on the Councils website and social media to highlight the cause. Cllr Nicholson agreed to put together some wording which she will pass to the ECO.

Meeting closed at 09.00pm

Report of: Events and Community Officer

Date: 22nd April 2024

Subject: Events and Community Officer Report (February 24- April 24)

Purpose of Report:

1. The purpose of this report is to update Councillors on the work of the Events and Community Officer (ECO).

Summary:

2. The work of the ECO is varied and has undergone a lot of changes over the past few months. The job description of the ECO has recently been updated to reflect the changing needs to the council. The post now includes the line management of the Project Officer as well as social media administration. The administration of the Town Council's Small Grants Programme has now been handed over to the Committee Clerk. The ECO will continue to promote the Small Grants Programme via social media, at relevant meetings and across her contacts.

- Event co-ordination and planning
- Project development
- Representing the Town Council at meetings
- Social Media
- Liaison with the community

Recommendation(s):

Members are recommended to;

- a) **Comment as appropriate.**

Background:

3. An update on the aforementioned work streams (item 2) follows.

4. Event co-ordinating and planning

4.1 Events General-

There has been an excellent response to the call for used plastic bottles to be used to create an installation on Muster Green to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. After the anniversary, the poppies will be stored to be reused for Remembrance. The ECO is busy making bookings for Spring into Summer and Town Day. Beauty providers are also being sought for the Carers Events, however there has been no response to this yet.

The Projects Officer has been busy making arrangements for the Christmas Event and liaising with Nicola Bird from The Orchards to ensure continuity across both events.

5. Project Development

5.2 Haywards Heath Community Awards

Judging has taken place for the Community Awards, all winners and those highly commended, as well as those who made the nominations, have been invited to the Annual Town Meeting to receive their awards.

5.3 Active Haywards Heath

The next Active Haywards Heath meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 24th April. At present, we have only had four people to sign up to attend the meeting. The ECO has tried to engage with the Executive Board members to ask for ideas for the agenda but has not yet received any feedback.

5.4 Dementia Friendly Haywards Heath

The ECO has set up a Dementia Peer Support Group for those who have loved ones living with Dementia. The group will allow them to have a safe space to talk about their experiences and concerns. The first support group will be held at the Town Hall at 2pm on Thursday 25th April. There will be a second group held at Martlet Manor on Tuesday 25th June at 2pm.

5.5 Sponsorship

The sponsorship brochure has been sent to local businesses. There has been some uptake, but this is lower than last year.

5.6 Days Out Scheme

The ECO and Project Officer met with Anna Sharkey to discuss Bentswood Hub CIC delivering the scheme on behalf of the Council. Arrangements for this are now being made, with the Project Officer liaising with Anna and making the necessary bookings. The Projects Officer is also meeting with the local schools to discuss referral schemes to ensure the correct families are benefitting from the project.

5.7 DBS Checks

The ECO is currently ensuring everyone is DBS checked as per the Safeguarding Policy. The DBS checks are nearly complete with only a few still needing to complete their paperwork or provide the relevant identification.

6. Representation of Town Council at meetings

Since E&GP on Monday 18th December, the ECO has attended the following meetings-

- Meetings with MSVA to meet new Community Development Officer for Haywards Heath.
- Meeting with the Projects Officer and Bentswood Hub CIC to discuss the Days Out Scheme.
- Mid Sussex Heath Subgroup LCN Meeting
- regarding grant applications, volunteer fair information, changes to MSVA and HHTC Community Awards.
- Mid Sussex Community Safety Partnership.
- Mid Sussex Voluntary Action Funding Meeting.
- Mid Sussex Better Young Lives Partners Forum
- Meeting with Anna Sharkey to confirm the Bentswood Hub CIC Service Level Agreement.

The Projects Officer is setting up and attending meetings with local schools to increase our engagement with the local community and to encourage the schools to become more involved with the Town Council. These meetings are also to discuss the Days.

7. Social Media

The ECO oversees the Town Council's social media accounts for all aspects other than mayoral engagements. The ECO is always actively trying to source information on posts to share via our accounts and has contacted local groups, organisations and charities offer our help of sharing events etc via social media. Should Councillors be aware of any projects, events or important information that could be shared on HHTC social media accounts, the ECO asks to please be made aware of these. Social media is an incredibly important way of engaging with the community and should not be overlooked. The ECO aims to release a post on social media on a daily basis, so assistance in finding information to post is greatly received.

8. Community Liaison

The ECO has been providing community groups support in publicising their events.

Committee: Environment and General Purposes Committee
Report of: Town Clerk
Date: 22nd April 2024
Subject: Environmental Policy and Action Plan

Purpose of Report

- 1) The purpose of this report is for Members to consider a policy document.

Summary

- 2) As part of the Town Council's commitment to the Environment the Project Officer has developed the attached Environmental Policy and associated Action Plan to guide the Town Council in its operations. This is in line with a commitment to improve Town Council working practises so to be best in class and to practice what it expects of and will be promoting to the community. Members are asked to consider the policy and action plan.

Recommendation(s)

Members are recommended to adopt the Environmental Policy and Action Plan as attached in the appendices of this report.

Background

- 3) The purpose of this policy is to reduce the impact that Haywards Heath Town Council (HHTC) has on our environment through recognising that the day-to-day operations of the council does impact directly on the local environment and setting out an action plan to reduce such impact.
- 4) The Policy promotes good management by adopting best practice within the Town Councils operation at the Town Hall and with its outdoor services and land ownership. This will demonstrate our commitment to enable HHTC to be the best in class and practise what we are signposting and asking our residents and local businesses to consider in their day-to-day lives/operations.
- 5) The basis of the Policy is that Haywards Heath Town Council will make a positive contribution to protect and enhance both the local and global environment by;
 - minimising waste and opportunities for environmental pollution in our activities and positively encourage the re-use, recycling and conservation of resources.
 - considering sustainability and environmental considerations into HHTC policies and when providing services.

- In addition, Haywards Heath Town Council will adopt a number of projects and review of current processes as presented within the policy.
- 6) The policy has been shared with the Environment Working Group who have not raised any significant concerns of issues to date.

Financial Implications

- 7) The funding of each action will primarily be met from operational budgets and any major capital project will return to the committee for consideration and will be subject to Town Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations during its delivery.

Legal Implications

- 8) Further to section 137 legislation, the Town Council can make a grant under the General Power of Competence, which the Town Council meets the criteria of as exercised and resolved at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council dated 15th May 2023 under minute 20.

Town Clerk

SECOND DRAFT
Haywards Heath Town Council
Environmental Policy

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the impact Haywards Heath Town Council (HHTC) has on our environment. We recognise that the day-to-day operations of the council can impact directly and indirectly on the local environment through good management and by adopting best practice within our local community wherever possible. This will demonstrate our commitment to enable HHTC to be the best in class and practise what we are signposting and asking our residents and local businesses to consider in their day-to-day lives.

- Haywards Heath Town Council will make a positive contribution to, protect and enhance both the local and global environment.
- To minimise waste and opportunities for environmental pollution in our activities and positively encourage the re-use, recycling and conservation of resources.
- To consider sustainability and environmental considerations into HHTC policies.
- In addition, Haywards Heath Town Council will adopt the following objectives:
 - ❖ Reflect upon and follow best practice in order to reduce the energy use and emissions into the air from the HHTC Buildings.
 - ❖ Be mindful of the environmental credentials of our suppliers, when making purchasing decisions.
 - ❖ Actively reduce the use of single-use items.
 - ❖ Curtail material consumption of items purchased, and vigorously consider the environmental impact of the purchase.
 - ❖ Maintain and manage biodiversity at Council owned sites across the town, encouraging plant-life and wildlife, where appropriate.
 - ❖ Increase the planting of trees within the town to improve the air quality for residents and capture of CO₂, by homeowners, business sponsorship and ourselves.
 - ❖ Offer support users of HHTC allotments to improve their environmental contribution, by helping reduce waste, such as installing rainwater harvesting systems in allotment sites.
 - ❖ To ensure that the plant and machinery omissions are at the optimum level possible (lowest possible level within their specific categories).

Appendix 1 – Council decision making

- A** Council Funds – Where are the Council funds invested? Are they held in fossil fuel companies? Could they be held in low-risk sustainable funds and banks?
- B** Consider working towards an accreditation for the Town Council (such as Green Accord), to display our environment credentials to the local community and wider audience.
- C** Planning Applications – The Planning Committee will consider sustainability, environmental impact and biodiversity issues when commenting and deliberating on planning applications made to the council.
- D** Ensure the purchasing power of HHTC is used positively to influence supply chains. We need to lead by example in the community and embed sustainability and social value into the procurement process where possible. This includes promoting local service delivery, where appropriate.
- E** We should be making purchases from local delivery and those companies who have integrated environmental credentials within their processes. Possibility of providing residents ‘special offers’ if HHTC can make savings.
- F** Grounds staff vehicle – potential change to an electric truck. This has been explored but unfortunately due to the constraints of the currently available electric vehicles it is unfit for purpose (towing capacity for the water bowser).
- G** Purchase of fuel and fuel card.

Appendix 2 – Energy Efficiency

- A** Regularly review the cost of current energy providers, paying particular attention to the offerings made by green energy providers to ensure the best possible package is secured.
- B** When the buildings are closed ensure all lights, computers and printers are turned off.
- C** Heating – to be used in the most efficient way possible. Turn off over the weekend – is this best practice?
- D** During working hours, ‘screensaver’ mode should be applied to all computers, following inactivity for a specified time.
- E** Install LED lightbulbs to overhead lights and explore the opportunities to install motion-activated lights to reduce the cost of electricity in lesser used areas in the building.

- F Explore the viability of renewable energy (particularly solar panels) being installed to buildings owned by HHTC.
- G Explore the possibility of having a ground source heat pump fitted.

Appendix 3 – Office equipment

- A How does the Council dispose of unwanted and end-of-lifecycle products such as computers/printers/catering and grounds equipment?
- B Movement towards being as much of a paper free office as possible.
- C Paper usage within the office environment and for council meetings will be minimised. HHTC already provide councillors with electronic copies of the agendas and minutes for meetings.
- D Paper purchased for the printer should be 100% recycled, however, not all printers/copiers run optimally when using this type of product.
- E If printing is required, use double-sided to save paper.
- F Investigate the possibility of using refillable ink cartridges for the printer.
- G The use of non-toxic writing equipment.
- H Use of plastic folders and dividers as they are more durable than card, will last longer, avoiding the need for repeat purchases.
- I Investigate the possibility of having a 'recycle your ink cartridges' box in reception for both staff and public to use. Funds generated from this could be donated to the Mayor's charity (<https://www.printercartridge recycling.co.uk>).
- J Any catering supplies used for events organised by the Town Council should either be fully recyclable, or biodegradable so they can be disposed of correctly after use, alternatively, china crockery etc can be used and cleaned in the dishwasher.

Appendix 4 – Cleaning materials/practices

- A A review of cleaning materials should be carried out on a regular basis.
- B Transition any current chemical based products (such as bleach) to chemically benign (green) products, where possible, to prevent harmful chemicals being released that may cause damage to health and/or the environment.
- C Minimise the use of disposable items for example; bin liners, by emptying bins daily into recycling and waste, instead of placing a new liner into each bin daily.

- D** Use of paper towels in the building, particularly in the toilets. Would an electronic hand drier be more cost effective longer term?

Appendix 5 – Biodiversity

- A** Rainwater harvesting system – could something be erected to the main HHTC building to gather rainwater to use for watering the flowerbeds/hanging baskets?
- B** Wild flower planting and use of drought resistant bedding plants – are there any additional areas that could be used/benefit from this?
- C** Weed control processes, using environmentally friendly chemicals and natural alternatives to control pests and weeds.
- D** Explore planting more pollinator plants to encourage numerous species of insects.
- E** Compost – there is an arrangement already in place to take grass clippings and leaves from the Muster Green area to Borde Hill to include with their composting, hopefully we should be able to purchase compost at a reduced rate from them.
- F** Investigate the opportunity of having our own piece for land to reduce costs longer term (storage of trucks and equipment, tools, creating our own compost heap, polytunnel for growing our own plants from seed)
- G** ‘No Mow May’ – a scheme to allow wildflowers to support pollinating insects, (apart from Council owned sports pitches and playing areas)
- H** Work closely with allotment holders to improve processes (such as reducing water waste, purchasing of goods/soil?)
- I** Desk plants – increase the amount in the office. These will increase the oxygen flow and improve the air quality (may assist to remove chemicals from the air).

Committee: Environment and General Purposed Committee

Report of: Town Clerk

Date: 22nd April 2024

Subject: Weald to Waves project – Motion Cllr D Nicholson

Purpose of Report

9) The purpose of this report is for Members to consider a Councillor motion.
Summary:

10) The following report outlines a Councillor motion that has been made to the Committee by Cllr D. Nicholson in relation to the opportunity for the Town Council to commit to the Weald to Waves project. Members are asked to consider the following motion, which has been made under Section 10 of the Council's Standing Orders.

Recommendation(s)

Members are to consider the motion as presented by Cllr Nicholson to commit to the Weald to Waves project.

Background

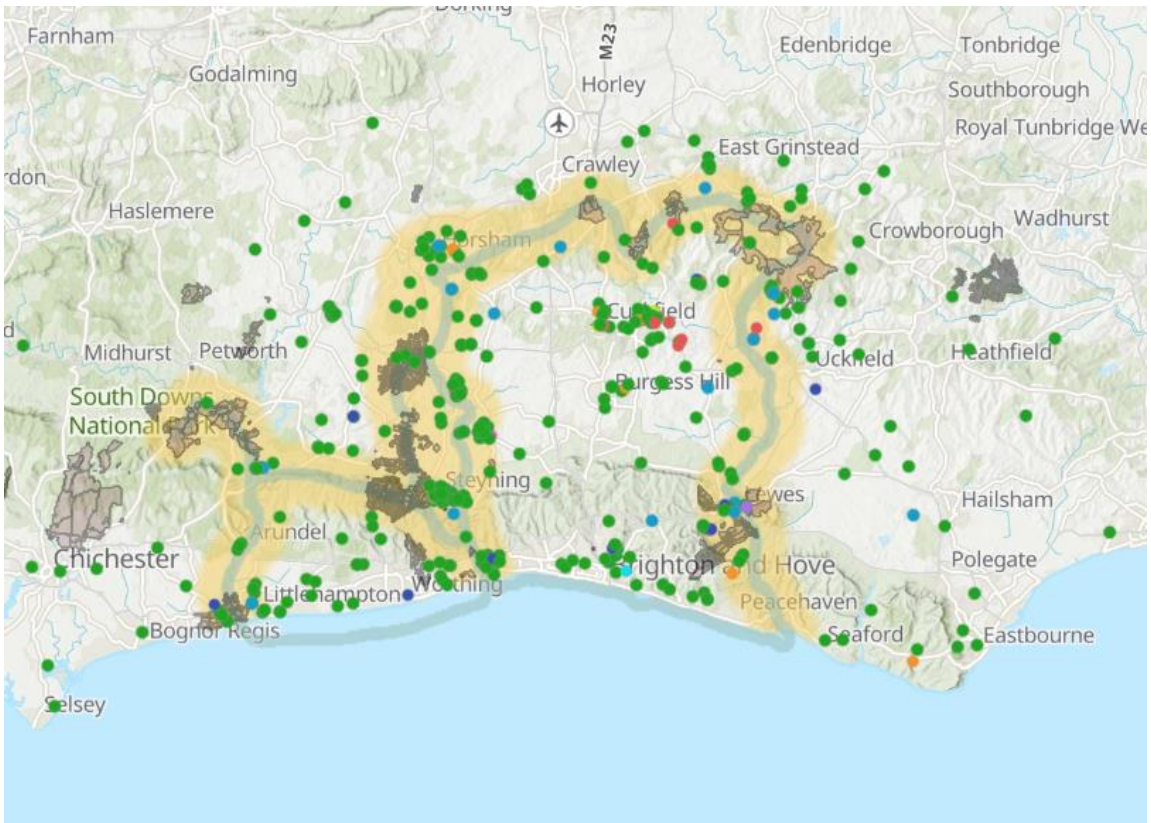
11) Weald to Waves project is a plan to create a 20,000 hectare, 100 mile long nationally significant wildlife corridor, stretching from the Ashdown Forest to the kelp forests off the south coast. Research shows that continuous stretches of rewilded land can support a much more diverse number of species and environments than the same area that is fragmented.

12) There are 3 goals to the Weald to Waves project:

- To create the continuous natural habitat corridor.
- To promote nature as a provider of vital ecosystem services, involving supporting sustainable agriculture and reduced pollutants, whilst tracking and evidencing progress.
- Engaging local people and communities by tracking and connecting local projects and providing opportunities for people to thrive alongside nature.

13) For example, Eastern Road NR in Lindfield, plus the Scrace Valley NR would be ideal candidates for sign up, and the idea is that councils look to the land that they own and commit those that are suitable. As would the Town Councils Western Road Nature Reserve and in the future land at Hurst Farm.

14) As Members will see from the maps below the HH area is outside the remit of the initial project but the website logs all commitments and people can see their place in the overall scheme of things. At the recent local councillors meeting hosted by Lindfield Parish Council, it was agreed by all that it would be great to add a green "leg" to the map that comes our way into central Mid Sussex. As can be seen from the maps of current pledges, that is starting to happen already.



15) What the commitment involves: the main aim is for parks and gardens to have 30% of their land given over to a connected wild space for nature recovery by 2030. This is not at odds with the town's environmental policy and could be a good starting point for the proposed new country park.

16) Tasks that would need to be done would be to look at HHTC owned lands, identify those that are suitable, and plan how to connect 30% of those spaces for nature recovery. This

would then feed into the council's development and maintenance plan for these areas. This would make an idea project for the Environment Working Group. Whilst not wanting to make a hollow commitment, there is no actual obligation or penalties for not making enough progress to the timescale.

- 17) We would also advertise the project on the council website and social media, highlighting the work that HHTC is doing, and encouraging people to commit their lands. This is something that the allotment associations, and the small holders association may well want to join in with, along with local schools and businesses. In addition, this would hopefully generate interesting and engaging social media content for the council.

Financial Implications

- 18) None at the present time.

Legal Implications

- 19) Town Council can adopt the motion under the General Power of Competence, which the Town Council meets the criteria of as exercised and resolved at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council dated 15th May 2023 under minute 20.

Cllr Nicholson

Committee Meeting: Environment and General Purposes Committee

Report of: Events and Community Officer

Date: 22nd April 2024

Subject: Active Haywards Heath

Purpose of Report:

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with information on a Town Council led initiative.

Summary:

2. The following report is to update Councillors on the engagement from Active Haywards Heath members and seek guidance on the future arrangement of the initiative.

Recommendation(s):

Members views are sought for the future arrangements and Town Council involvement in Active Haywards Heath.

Background:

3. Active Haywards Heath was originally run as the Haywards Heath Sports Forum, it fell dormant prior to COVID and was revived in 2022 when the Events and Community Officer came to post. The ECO chose to rename to Active Haywards Heath to try to attract a bigger audience. Both efforts to engage were introduced to give local sports groups, organisations and professionals a space where they can speak with likeminded individuals. It failed originally due to lack of engagement from members.

Summary:

4. The ECO has worked hard to try to increase engagement with the group and has made it a focus to ensure the voices of the group are heard and addressed in the meetings. This included working with members to develop their priorities and facilitating the formation of the executive board.
5. The ECO and Town Clerk are concerned that the engagement from members is lacking. They believe that there are some things that the clubs and groups should lead on as they know their own needs and requirements, with the Town Council acting as facilitator. The Town Council has given a considerable amount of time and effort in setting Active Haywards up. The ECO and Town Clerk have always felt that once up and running those in membership should be driving forward Active Haywards Heath aims and objectives.
6. Recent interaction has been lacking. The Town Council Community Awards did not see a single nomination come from Active Haywards Heath members for the Sports person of the Year Award.
7. Haywards Heath Gets Active event to support the Marathon had low attendance numbers last year and currently there are only two groups booked to attend this year's event. This is a free of charge event to showcase their clubs and increase membership.

8. Upon hearing the thoughts of the members, an early morning meeting has been arranged. This only has 4 members booked to attend.
9. The Town Clerk and ECO are concerned at the lack of engagement from members and the way Active Haywards Heath is heading. This is on the grounds that the Town Council should facilitate and not have to struggle to engage and set the agenda.
10. As a result of the information outlined in points 4 – 9 Members views are sought on the future direction, set up and Town Council involvement in Active Haywards.

Financial Implications:

11. N/A

Legal Implications:

12. The Town Council can undertake this project using the General Power of Competence, which the Town Council meets the criteria of as exercised and resolved at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council dated 15th May 2023 under minute 20.

Events and Community Officer