

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP UPDATE

Report for Parish Council meeting 17th June 2024

- Map of Parish land now obtained and ongoing discussions being held on a number of options including a community orchard at Churchmans Meadow (or at KGV). Contact has been made with the Steyning Community Orchard team who have offered significant support to help us and they have now recently provided some further information which now has to be reviewed to consider our next steps.
- For the Jubilee Hall project an initial approach to the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been made. Their response has been positive and based on what we presented they feel there is potential for a full application, although some further development would be needed. In this regard they have provided some further feedback/suggestions should we progress to the next stage. A further Task and Finish group for the Jubilee Hall project to be put together in due course once a further information is obtained. **It was agreed at HROS meeting 01/05/24 that the Rudgwick Hall Roof project is the priority task so no immediate action being taken.**
- A rural community green spaces fund is to be rejuvenated through a new government investment. The new Community Green Spaces Fund will provide up to £7 million of funding to support communities across the country to create, restore and enhance their green spaces. Grants of up to £75,000 will be provided to help communities to plant fruits, vegetables and trees, creating orchards and kitchen gardens for all to access and enjoy. Landscaping projects could also create raised beds and improve areas to plant different flowers around village hall facilities and other community green spaces, making space for pollinators and nature to thrive. The funds will be available up until March 2025 but I'm assuming at this stage the general election (or afterwards) will not impact this initiative. In view of the above, I have registered our initial interest to receive more information about the fund when this becomes available.
- Start to seriously consider planters or other projects for the village for 2024. When work was recently undertaken at Churchmans Meadows one possible thought was to have 2 planters either side of the entrance to the playground. To be considered further.
- The next meeting of the HDC Parish and Neighbourhood Council Climate Action Group meeting is planned for 23rd July.