

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP UPDATE

Report for Parish Council meeting 13th May 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 an initial meeting was held. A large amount of guidance on how to move this forward was provided. Further discussions to be held. This is not a simple exercise!
- In the last couple of months 2 initial applications have been made to funding organisations in respect of the Village Hall and Jubilee Hall projects. For the Rudgwick Hall Roof project, an Expression of Interest was made to the 'Community Ownership Fund' and we have 'passed' this stage. The aim is to ultimately attempt to get 80% of the funding for our £250,000 project. There is now a Task and Finish group for the Rudgwick Hall Roof project – meeting once a week currently.
- 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.
- In late March I attended an online meeting run by Action in rural Sussex (AirS) to demonstrate how several village halls had made energy improvements to their buildings. In the main many of the presentations simply followed some of the actions we have taken in the last year or so. However, a couple of points were raised which could be considered. One related to a document produced by the Centre for Sustainable Energy which could assist councils who were carrying out building surveys but concentrated on energy aspects in particular. This has been passed to the Facilities Officer for future reference/building surveys. Also, a presentation was provided highlighting how different communication channels can be used in this space.
- 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.
- A further meeting of the HDC Parish and Neighbourhood Council Climate Action Group meeting was held on 25th March. The Easy Wins document that was put together was reviewed again but few changes were made. This document has number of areas where possible improved communications with parishioners could be our next priority.
- Discussions were held with Go Greener Rudgwick to have better signage in KGV to show the way to the recycling centre. **Now resolved.**