PARISH COMMUNITY LIFE
PLAN 2016 - 2021

HURSTPIERPOINT & SAYERS COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

From left to right:

John Lowman,
Martin Machan,
Tony Lank,
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Rodney Jackson,
Judith Marsh,
Julia Shorrocks,
Rosemary Burns,
Matthew Stokes,
Steve Whitehead,
Bob Sampson,
David Evans,
Stephen Hand,
Allan Brown.

FOREWORD

I am very pleased to be able to write the foreword to the new Parish Community Plan which sets out the main projects and initiatives that the Parish Council intends to undertake for the next five years.

First of all I want to thank the 400 or so residents of our Parish for taking the time to complete the questionnaire at the end of last year –these are not our plans and initiatives they are yours. I am also grateful for the hard work put in by the small group of my fellow Parish Councillors who designed the questionnaire, analysed the results and drafted the plan in the form we have today.

Some people may be wondering what the difference is between this plan and the recently approved Neighbourhood Plan, which we voted for at last year's referendum. Delivering one of the first completed Neighbourhood Plans in Mid Sussex has been your Parish Council's major achievement over the last few years and its value in preventing unwanted overdevelopment of our countryside has already been demonstrated. However it is a formal strategy and planning document setting out the policies which we have adopted to govern how our villages develop over the next twenty years. The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision

"to keep the village-feel of our community, and keep it a thriving and attractive Parish, a desirable place to live, work and visit. Our aim is to maintain, and where possible, improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of our area and the quality of life for all, now and in the future."

This new Parish Community Life Plan based on your responses sets out how this vision will be fulfilled in practical terms over the next few years. For example the Parish Community Plan pays great attention to improving the social well-being and cohesion of our Parish by putting in place initiatives to bring residents of all ages together to support the more vulnerable members of our community.

We are now presenting this consultation version of the Plan to you for your consideration and comments. All contributions will be welcome but I would ask you, in giving your views, to remember that the Parish Council is working within very significant constraints on finance and resources. As you will see in the plan we have been able to achieve many of our objectives from previous plans. Our aim is to continue to plan to deliver only what is realistic although I am sure many of us would like to do much more if we could.

Stephen Hand

Chairman
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council

INTRODUCTION

In December, last year, we delivered a Community Plan Questionnaire to houses in Hurstpierpoint, Sayers Common and Goddards Green.

We were really pleased to get over 400 responses (over 30% more than to the questionnaire we sent out in 2010). The answers and comments we received have helped us decide on our priorities for putting together this Community Life Plan, the purpose of which is to try to make life better for everyone who lives in the Parish.

Your Parish Council is the first tier of local government - the one that is closest to the people who live here and is in the best position to hear what our community feels would improve their quality of life.

Although we have limited powers and resources, we work with the other tiers, Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council, to try and achieve satisfaction for the majority of our residents.

The last five years have seen many of the things in our last Community Plan completed, with some of the long-term objectives still ongoing, and there have been a few additional things added after requests from the community. We have a list of projects that are in the pipeline and many of our aspirations for the future are outlined in our recently accepted Neighbourhood Plan, copies of which can be obtained from the Parish Council Office.

Successes completed during the last five years:

- Hurstpierpoint's Village Garden has been enhanced by the inclusion of a sculpture celebrating the 700th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Fair and the rebuilding of the retaining wall;
- Sayers Common now has its Community Shop in the renovated Village Hall as well as a Boules Court in the Reeds Lane Recreation Ground;
- A Local Community Groups Event took place in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre;
- Seven benches were replaced and four new noticeboards were erected;
- Grants were given to many local groups and charities, including the Scouts, Sayers Common Village Hall, Hurst Festival and St Lawrence Fair.

Ongoing work (and continuing successes):

- Replacing the street lights that we own with more energy efficient ones;
- Installing more new benches;
- Intalling extra dog waste bins;

Sculpture by local artist Sylvia Thornhill, celebrating the 700 years of St Lawrence Fair.

INTRODUCTION continued

- Traffic management schemes: to manage traffic speeds and parking from the High Street down Cuckfield Road to Chalkers Lane and the new housing developments;
- Traffic congestion, pedestrian safety and parking in College Lane will be investigated and where practical solutions implemented;
- Prevent additional traffic from the Burgess Hill Northern Arc development, and the proposed Business Park at Goddards Green on the A2300, from using Cuckfield Road and Malthouse Lane;
- Encourage the Local Planning Authority to review the existing Conservation Areas of Langton Lane, High Street and Hurst Wickham for possible modification and extension;
- The children's playground on the South Avenue Recreation Ground is having a complete makeover;
- Continuing support for the on-going development of the Willow Way Hub;
- Continuing support for the Improvement of the facilities at Fairfield Recreation Ground, owned and managed by Mid Sussex District Council;
- Continued funding of floral hanging baskets in the High Street;
- Maintaining our support for local groups protecting the flora and fauna in the parish.

Tables showing how the actions detailed in the 2011 Parish Plan have progressed and a list of on-going projects can be found at the end of this document.

We believe we have improved our communications with residents through our survey newsletters, our upgraded website and new noticeboards throughout the parish. This improvement in communication has been borne out by the responses to our questionnaire, with over 60% of respondents giving a favourable answer, but the also showed us that we still have a way to go.

You can see details of the questionnaire results on the Parish Council website: *www.hurstpierpoint-pc.org.uk .*

The Community Shop and the refurbished Village Hall in Sayers Common

COMMUNICATIONS

CONTACT WITH OUR RESIDENTS

Whilst we already circulate a quarterly newsletter to houses in the parish and regularly update our website, we will endeavour to further improve our contact with the public by making more use of social media and email.

ACTION: ***Continue to improve communications with residents and organisations in the parish.***

MEETING YOUR COUNCILLORS

The responses to our questionnaire showed support for the Parish Council to hold regular surgeries, where residents can talk to just one or two Parish Councillors instead of the full council at a public meeting. We will try to arrange locations in different parts of the parish to enable a programme of regular surgeries to take place. Although individual councillors cannot make decisions on their own, they can take residents' concerns back to the full Council for discussion.

Remember that all Parish Council meetings are open to the public and residents are invited to attend these to help them understand what their Parish Council does throughout the year.

ACTION: ***Develop a programme of 'Councillor Surgeries' in locations around the parish.***

THE COMMUNITY

SETTING UP A YOUTH COUNCIL

The majority of respondents to our questionnaire believed that young people in the parish should have the chance to take a positive role in our future development because, as was said many times, they are the future. To this end we will investigate, together with young people themselves, the best way towards setting up a Youth Council for them to have some influence over the future, whilst also giving them an insight into the difficulties and delays that parish councils can often face in developing plans.

ACTION: ***Take the necessary steps to contact young people to discuss the way forward in forming a Youth Council for Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common***.

HELPING OLDER PEOPLE REMAIN SOCIALLY ACTIVE

We will explore more ways of encouraging local groups to work with older people to help them carry on an active social life. Some of the actions we can take include:

- Encouraging activities for older people;
- Encouraging opportunities for young people to assist older people who would like some help in using computers and the internet;
- Explore ways we can help older people to keep themselves safe and secure, including internet safety;

ACTION: ***Inform residents of, and support, opportunities for older people.***

THINKING ABOUT AND HELPING EACH OTHER

Our survey picked up the fact that there are lonely and isolated people in the parish. These are not, as one might imagine, just older people. There are residents of all ages, including young mothers with pre-school children, people with disabilities and carers who are not able to socialise with anyone outside of their own home. There is also a need for more education and understanding of the problems of dementia. We will explore ways of putting residents in touch with groups that can assist in dealing with all these problems. We will look at ways we can encourage residents to offer more help to people that live nearby who may have difficulties in carrying out everyday tasks such as shopping, especially in bad weather.

ACTION: ***Inform residents of, and support, local groups that are able to help lonely and isolated people of all ages.***

COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT

OUR POLICE

We are fortunate to live in a low crime area and have a very good relationship with our local Police and Community Support Officers. With the major reorganisation of policing in Sussex this year we aim to maintain this close contact we have had in recent years for the benefit of all our residents' safety and security.

We will support Police action in their fight against online, telephone and doorstep fraud**.**

ACTION: ***Support action to make people aware and receive information about fraud.***

COMMUNITY WARDENS

We will discuss with the responsible authorities the possibility of introducing Community Wardens in the area. The Community Warden Schemes' main priorities are to reduce litter and anti-social behaviour. They are the 'eyes and ears' of the community, providing a visible uniformed presence on the streets. Their aim is to make people feel safer, deter crime, tackle anti-social behaviour and help to keep their area clean and tidy

ACTION: ***Enter discussions with the responsible authorities about introducing a Community Warden Scheme.***

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES

Although this is operated by the police in conjunction with local residents, the Parish Council is ready to help in any way it can to spread the net more widely.

ACTION: ***Explore ways to help extend Neighbourhood Watch schemes to cover the whole of the parish.***

HOUSING

HOUSING FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

New developments in the parish should all contain a specified number of affordable homes as a requirement for planning permission. Mid Sussex District Council decides who lives where when it comes to social housing, but we shall continue to press for allocations to be made to local people as a priority.

The Parish Council has the power to build and own properties to rent exclusively to local people but the construction and subsequent property management would prove costly and would inevitably lead to an increase in council tax for everyone (including those that live in them), therefore we will explore the possibility of such an investment. If it proves to be a viable proposition, no further action would be taken without full public consultation.

ACTION: ***Consider ways that the Parish Council can help with delivering affordable housing and accommodation for local people and investigate costs involved with any such actions.***

SHOPPING & EMPLOYMENT

SHOPPING AND SERVICES IN THE HIGH STREET

The Parish Council will work closely with businesses in the High Street to assist in bringing more customers to their doors. This is not always easy and will not happen without concerted effort by all concerned.

ACTION: ***Work closely with local businesses to make Hurstpierpoint a more attractive place to visit and shop.***

ENABLING MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We aim to encourage an increase in employment opportunities in the parish. Our powers are limited but we shall do all we can to influence decision-makers and help open dialogue to create more business opportunities.

ACTION: ***Explore ways in which the Parish Council can enable more employment opportunities in the parish.***

MORE OFF-STREET PARKING

We will continue to look for ways to improve off-street parking. The costs involved, if and when a suitable site is found, would mean an increase in council tax.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Unfortunately, this is not something we are able to do on our own. Mid Sussex District Council is responsible for enforcement of parking regulations, so we must work with them to find ways of combating illegal parking.

ACTION: ***Continue the Parish Council's efforts to alleviate car parking problems in Hurstpierpoint.***

COUNTRYSIDE & ENVIRONMENT

DEVELOPING OUR GREEN SPACES

We shall continue to support the local Woodland Flora and Fauna Group and manage the ongoing development of the countryside in the parish, including the recently acquired 'Hurst Meadow'.

We shall also endeavour to merge the concepts of Quiet Lanes, a local heritage trail, and parkland footways into a connected network for enjoying the environment around the villages of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common, for the benefit of walkers, riders and cyclists.

ACTION: ***Continue supporting the local Environmental Groups and manage the ongoing development and enjoyment of the countryside.***

ACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Nearly three quarters of Questionnaire respondents said that they were in favour of increasing solar panels on suitable large buildings in the parish. This will be encouraged by the Parish Council, to help reduce the carbon footprint by reducing power drawn from the National Grid. We shall also explore ways to encourage more people to cycle and walk safely to reduce the use of cars for short journeys.

ACTION: ***Encourage energy saving and alternative power generation within the parish.***

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Finally, we are going to invite you to get involved in the future of our parish, we would like the parishioners themselves to take part in the implementation of this plan.

If any of these subjects are of real interest to you, contact your Parish Council to let us know you would like to participate in working towards a better future for the Parish of Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common.

ACTION: ***WE WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED AND BE PART OF IT.***

PARISH PLAN - COMMUNITY LIFE 2011 - 2016 - Actions

	ACTION PLAN	COMMITTEE	DETAILS	KEY DATE	STATUS
1	YOUNG PEOPLE AND DEMOCRACY: We shall explore ways of involving children and young people in making decisions that positively affect our society by engaging the local community groups, especially youth groups and groups that involve young people.	Community Affairs	1. Councillors nominated to identify ways of working with young people. 2. Work Experience student, Downlands School, October 2013; Oakmeeds School July 2015. 3. Other ideas: Youth Council		No action taken
2	INFORMATION: We shall improve the quality of our website and review and replace some of our noticeboards in 2011/13. Estimated cost: £4,000 over the period 2011-13.	Community Affairs	Noticeboards: 2 replacements completed at Sayers Common and St Georges Lane. Noticeboards: 1 to be replaced at Village Green Noticeboards: 1 new at Sayers Common Boules Pitch	Mar. 2014 Nov. 2014 Jun. 2015	Completed Completed Completed
3	ENVIRONMENT: The Parish Council shall work with local groups to encourage the development of areas of protection for natural habitats. £3,000 will be set aside over the plan period for this work.	Community Affairs	Money spent on Woodland Flora & Fauna Group (£1000 17.09.09; £1100 16.12.10; £500 May 2013 and £500 June 2015)		Grants given to Flora & Fauna Group. No other action taken.
4	CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES: The Parish Council shall adopt a responsible role in meeting the challenges of climate change by: 1. Looking for opportunities for energy conservation and use of green energy in its own activities; 2. Publicising good practice where appropriate; 3. Working with special interest groups to encourage responsible environmental behaviour in the community.	Community Affairs	Environment Day 5 March 2011 Speaker at Community Affairs Meeting from HKD Energy (solar panels at Downlands School) for possible action in Parish. Invited St Lawrence School and Hurst Village Centre Association members. No other actions taken.	Sept. 2014	No other action taken.
5	STREET-LIGHTS : We shall have a programme of renewing our older street-lights, but with designs that are appropriate to their location. We shall aim to replace an average of 10 lights a year, at a cost of about £1,200 a unit. Estimated cost: £60,000 over the period 2011-16.	Finance & General Purposes	Inventory complete. Programme of replacements completed. Furzeland Way replaced, Orchard Way replaced, Highfield Drive – part replaced, Weald Close replaced 6 replaced in different roads A PFI programme to replace all parish-owned street lighting with new columns (as appropriate) and LED lanterns. Cost funded by Public Works Loan Board Loan, about £200,000. Tenders were sent out February 2016 to 3 suppliers. Choose Tender Obtain PWLB Loan Work commenced Work completed	Sept. 2013 Oct. 2013 to Feb. 2014 Oct. 2015 Apr. 2016 May 2016 July 2016 Sept.2016	Programme of 4-5 street lights per annum progressing at a cost of about £2,500+ per unit. Progressing
6	DOG WASTE BINS : We shall have a programme of maintaining the current bin service and also look for suitable areas to increase the coverage.	Finance & General Purposes	Dog waste bins being monitored. List of suitable areas. Met with D Harper, MSDC, to identify suitable areas for new bins.		Progressing
7	RECREATION GROUNDS : We shall maintain our levels of service on the South Avenue and Reeds Lane Recreation Grounds. We shall look for opportunities to ensure that the levels of service are maintained on the recreation grounds operated by Mid Sussex District Council. South Avenue Playground is to have new equipment put in and also extended to be level with Bowls Club boundary. Tenders received and a supplier has been chosen. Awaiting Planning Permission and receipt of S106 monies from MSDC before getting the supplier to start work. It is expected for work to be completed before August 2016 holidays.	Finance & General Purposes Finance & General Purposes	Reeds Lane Recreation Ground – Sayers Common: Exercise & new toddler equipment in place. South Avenue Playground – Tender chosen but awaiting Planning Permission and receipt of S106 monies from MSDC. Supplier to manufacturer equipment and fit it	2012 Apr. 2016 July 2016	Completed Progressing

	ACTION PLAN	COMMITTEE	DETAILS	KEY DATE	STATUS
8	RECREATION GROUNDS - COST: We shall investigate transferring the District Council Recreation Grounds to the Parish Council. However, we would not proceed without first consulting the community regarding any additional cost.	Full Council			No action taken
9	SEATS: The Parish Council shall have a programme of replacement and reinstatement of community seats, accepting where appropriate sponsorship from individual members of the public. Estimated cost: £7,000 over the period 2011-16.	Finance & General Purposes	Inventory: now complete. 4 seats replaced 2 Seats replaced 1 further seat to be replaced	Jan. 2014 April 2015 Mar. 2016	Completed Completed Site being identified
10	VILLAGE GARDEN: The Parish Council shall introduce minor changes to the Village Garden to improve its appearance and use. Estimated cost: £5,000 in the period 2011-16.	Finance & General Purposes	New sculpture; refurbished Garden area. Re-pointed Garden wall Electricity socket put in Village Garden Retaining wall and steps by Charity Shop rebuilt.	May 2013 May 2015 Nov. 2015 Jan. 2016	Completed
11	LOCAL GROUPS: The Parish Council shall facilitate a local clubs exhibition, perhaps on an annual basis, to encourage more people to participate in their activities.	Community Affairs	Community Groups Open Day on Sat 28 June 2014 - in Main Hall & Conference Room in Village Centre building.	Jun. 2014	Completed
12	FAIRFIELD PAVILION: The Parish Council shall encourage the current users of the Fairfield Recreation Ground sports pavilion to explore ways of improving the facilities and broadening its appeal to the local community.	Full Council	Small Grants made to Hurst Cricket Club for some refurbishment. Substantial replacement linked to s106 funds attached to Chalkers Lane South development.	2013 2013	Short Term refurbishment complete S106 funds made available as part of Chalkers Lane development.
13	COMMUNITY SHOP IN SAYERS COMMON: The Parish Council shall actively consider requests for assistance in developing a community shop by giving advice, locating possible sites and possibly financing a start-up grant.	Community Affairs	Community shop group formed and business plan completed. Parish Council grant made.	Nov. 2013	Shop opened in April 2014
14	LOCAL GROUPS FOR THE ELDERLY: The Parish Council shall look for opportunities to encourage local groups and organisations to actively assist elderly people to participate in community life	Community Affairs	Older Persons' Event in Parish - for more isolated people – monthly tea parties at different residents' homes each month. Started with 4 homes in Parish: St Christopher's Home, Ladymead Care Home, The Glebe and Ribbetts House. Gradually adding 'people from the community'. Aim: to increase number of 'people from the community' and decrease people from the Glebe and Ribbetts House – organising separate tea party for the Glebe and Ribbetts House residents.	Began in Aug. 2015	Ongoing
15	LOCAL GROUPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: The Parish Council shall look for opportunities to encourage local groups and organisations to actively assist the 14-19 age group in participating in projects and courses.	Community Affairs	Allotment plot for Downlands Community School students 26.01.12. Councillor M Stokes supervised and had responsibility for plot and pupils.		Allotment plot for Downlands School students stopped due to person unavailable for supervision of students. No other action taken.

PARISH COUNCIL ONGOING & COMPLETED PROJECTS 2014 ONWARDS

Project	Cost range	Funding source	Implementation Dates	Current stage
Replacement + additional community noticeboards	£4,000	HP&SCPC CCL	2011 - 14	3 complete 1 more in planning
Replacement streetlights	£60,000	HP&SCPC	2013-2018	Project start mid-2013 ongoing
Cemetery - new facility, St Georges Lane, Hurstpierpoint	£300,000	S106 agreement HP&SCPC	Beyond 2020	Land purchased
Community seats – Sayers Common and H'point	£7,000	S106 agreement HP&SCPC	2013 - 2015	4 seats complete; 4 others in planning
Village Garden, H'point - St Lawrence Sculpture + seating circle	£25,000	Community gifts HP&SCPC	2013	Further changes in 2015
Off-street parking provision (additional car-parking) H'point	Not known	S106 agreement CiL HP&SCPC	Beyond 2015	Early feasibility
County Park – 'Hurst Meadows' – H'point	£90,000 – 120,000	S105 HP&SCPC Other	2014 - 17	Subject to Little Park planning permission (awaited)
High Street Improvements Scheme, H'point	£153,000	S106 HP&SCPC WSCC Developer	2013-2015	Construction
Cuckfield Road - traffic improvements	Not known	S106 agreement WSCC	Beyond 2015	Not started
College Lane - traffic improvements	Not known	S106 agreement WSCC	Beyond 2015	Not started
South Avenue Recreation Ground – childrens' enhanced play facilities	£120,000	S106 agreement HP&SCPC CLC	2015-16	Feasibility
Boules Pitch – Reeds Lane Rec, Sayers Common	£3,500	S106 HP&SCPC CLC	2014-15	Completed 2014
Village Gateways 2 or 3 at Sayers Common 5 at H'point	£10,000 each x 7 or 8	S106 agreement HP&SCPC CLC	Beyond 2015	Feasibility study commissioned
Albourne to Hassocks Cycle route	Not known			Early feasibility

Other Project (non-Parish Council)	Cost range	Funding source	Implementation Dates	Current stage
Fairfield Rec Pavilion - new sports and community facilities	£500,000 - £600,000	S106 agreement CiL	Beyond 2015	Early feasibility
Fairfield Rec Ground – expansion	£50,000 – £80,000	S106 agreement	Beyond 2015	Early feasibility; Included in Chalkers Lane (south) development
Sayers Common Village Hall	£35,000	HP&SCPC grant	2015	
North Hurst Hub	Not known			Early feasibility

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