

WILD

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

We would like to propose that we should now develop a consistent plan for tree planting in Steyning rather than a piecemeal approach.

I think it has been shown that the PC Working Party is a very effective group getting more trees into Steyning in a quick, efficient and cheap way.

We feel it would be good to capitalize on this with a plan based on increasing the number and effectiveness of Wildlife Corridors in Steyning. The latest State of Nature Report highlights the continuing steep decline in so many species. This has the dual advantage of also increasing carbon capture.

Corridors offer the possibility of linking habitats and reducing the isolation of populations of wildlife. They do not need to be contiguous, ie stepping stones, helping wildlife to migrate and disperse their gene pool. In a countryside that is becoming increasingly fragmented, the role of wildlife corridors has assumed greater importance.

All the following may function as a corridor to a greater or lesser extent.

Hedgerows- one of the best ways to help wildlife

Avenues of trees

Road or motorway verges

Tunnels and underpasses

Gardens

[Handwritten mark]

Ditches

Field margins

Streams, rivers and river sides

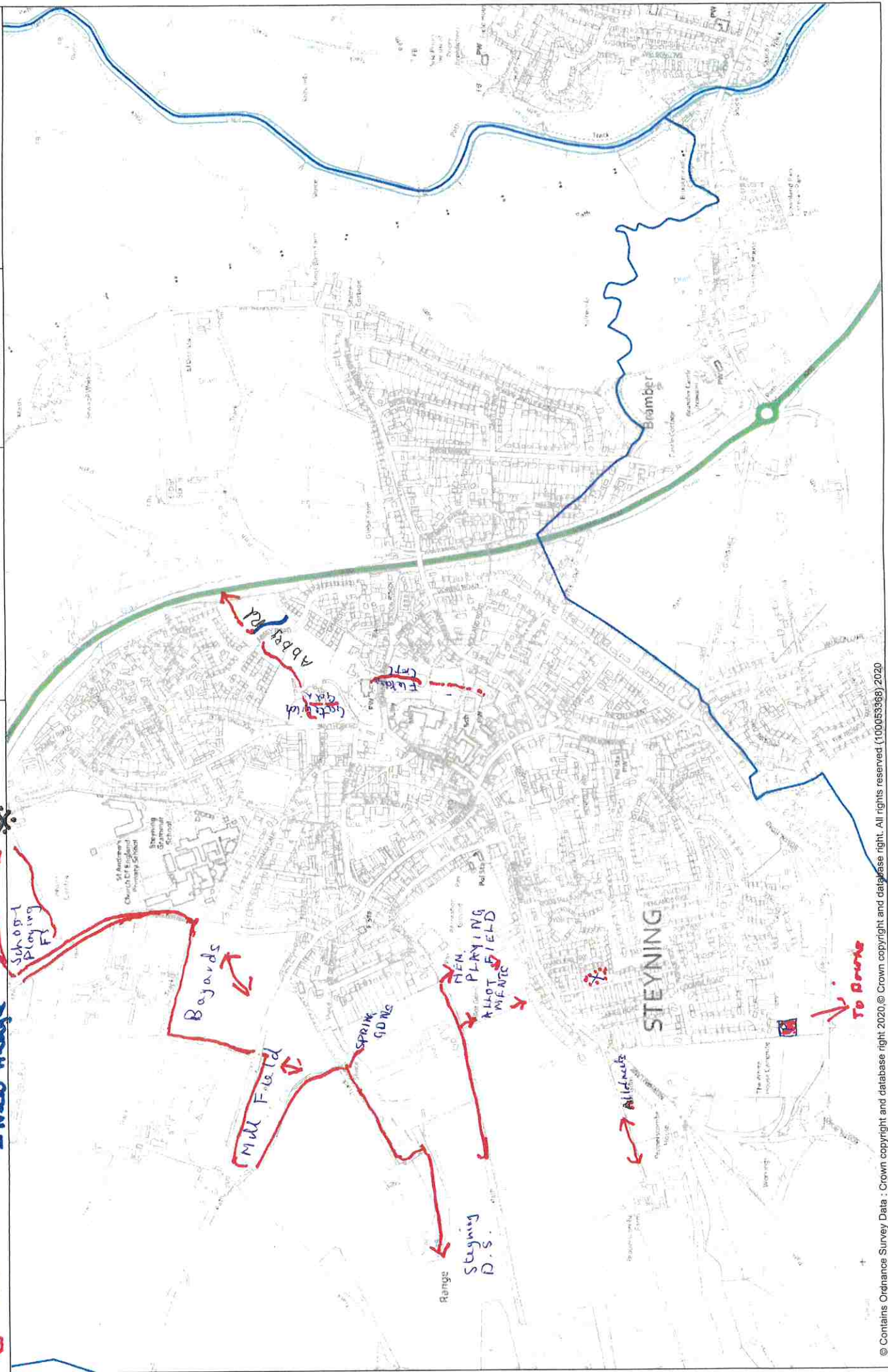
Remnant woods

I think this reflects the aims of the HDC / Sussex Wildlife Trust's initiative (see copy of Ashurst's PC Minutes) and their funding which seems to have an emphasis on tree planting , hedgerows and wildlife corridors.

I presume this is the fund we hope to get money from for the pond at Abbey Road and path . I believe the inclusion of our policy on trees, hedges and therefore, wildlife corridors would show our rounded and comprehensive approach to these issues and therefore help our funding. It would also mean we could look to them for advice if needed.

I believe this would show that we take our strategic position as a nature gateway to the Downs seriously and our desire to build a net gain in bio-diversity.

Attached Present and hoped for extensions and strengthening of our Corridors.



fund

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST PARISH COUNCIL,
HELD AT ASHURST VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY
9th JANUARY 2020 AT 8.00PM

Attendance Chairman Cllr Fischel Ashurst Parish Council (APC) Cllrs Hammond, Hedley, Knight, Nicholson and Russell Horsham District Council (HDC) Cllrs Lloyd and Platt Clerk Elizabeth Leggo To provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make statements at the Chairman's discretion. 1. Apologies for Absence. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Hammond and Jesse (APC) and Cllr Barling (West Sussex County Council). 2. Declaration of Members' Interests. None for this meeting. 3. Approve the Minutes of the meeting of 7th November 2019 The minutes were circulated to all councillors and taken as read. It was RESOLVED that the minutes are a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman. 4. Green Issues in the Horsham District Cllr Bob Platt, recently elected Horsham District Councillor briefed the Council on green issues in the District as follows: Horsham District Plan It has been raised during discussions that current housing standards are not sufficiently energy efficient. At present, Horsham District Council adheres to the mandatory lower standard in energy efficiency, whilst some other councils adhere to the higher standard. When the Plan is published it will be clear what the Council has decided. Wilder Horsham District Initiative HDC is working in partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT). SWT is able to present HDC with detailed maps indicating the current locations of various wildlife species. The current thinking is to enable better planning around ecosystems. Landowners have been said to be interested in seeing what they can do to encourage more wildlife. It is envisaged that two HDC officers will work closely with and will be trained up by SWT. Setting up a green reserve This will run over a 5-year period to provide funding for green initiatives, the first of which is to appoint someone to look at HDC's carbon footprint, with an aim to reduce it by 2030.

X Draft minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst Parish Council on Thursday 9th January 2020 Minutes subject to approval by the Council on Thursday 12th March 2020 Funds available for green issues Parish councils and community groups can apply to HDC for funding to do work in the area of green issues, for instance creation of wildlife corridors, replanting hedgerows, tree planting etc. An amount of £40,000 has currently been set aside for this initiative