

Climate Action Group Meeting Notes

Wednesday 16th July 2025

1.0 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Mike Croker.

2.0 Update from Geoff on behalf of Greening Steyning on the following:

A) Horsham DC parity pathways and home builder update (tools for Parish Council to understand housing stock and energy usage)

Neil Sephton from HDC visited on 17 June 2025 and presented energy efficiency tools that include housing data (EPC ratings) for each of the three parishes.

The main tool helps homeowners identify energy and carbon-saving opportunities based on EPC and other data.

Issues identified:

- EPC data is often outdated.
- Tool averages data at the street level.
- Doesn't work for park homes.
- General credibility concerns due to data inconsistencies.

Recommendation: Do not actively promote the tool. Refer enquiries to the Heat Energy Desk.

Geoff will maintain contact with Neil for future updates.

B) Energy Landscape workshop

Presented by Katherine Hewetson from Energise South Downs and colleague.

This is a funded initiative with 12 workshops completed and 4–5 remaining.

The workshop involves mapping the local area, evaluating renewable options (solar, wind, heat pumps), and summarising learning in groups.

Feedback:

- Considered too basic for Steyning, which has existing sustainability awareness.
- Could be useful for engaging new councillors or external stakeholders (e.g. schools, business reps).
- Bramber Parish may benefit more than Steyning.
- Lacks planning connection or actionable next steps.

- There were concerns over councillor engagement.

C) Small scale wind farms

Presentation by Kayla Ente of BHESCo, a 15-year-old energy company who are focused on community owned small-scale wind generation. They are currently seeking pilot sites and access to wind mapping data.

Discussion:

- Possible local sites mentioned (e.g. Windmill Hill).
- Members expressed interest in further engagement.
- Proposal to arrange a site meeting or tour.

D) Walking and cycling plan

Engagement with Horsham DC has improved; meeting held with Ruth Fletcher, who supports the plan. The goal is to integrate plan into district planning mechanisms.

Contact has been made with PA to relevant HDC councillor – meeting to be scheduled.

The plan will also be submitted to WSCC under the Community Highways Scheme (annual deadline end of July).

Top priorities:

- Castle Lane crossing.
- High Street bike racks (locations under review – hidden vs. visible).

Next Steps:

- Delegated authority item to be added to Parish Council agenda (Cllr Johnson).
- Applications need sign-off from all three parishes – to be scheduled for September full council meetings.

E) Update on the Energy Champions training

Training was held with Eastbourne programme lead. Their approach seemed less ambitious (e.g. stalls at events).

Advice included:

- Get out into the community more.
- Engage through local events (e.g. Beeding School Fair).
- Explore creative marketing techniques.

F) Parish by Parish Carbon footprint analysis using Impact tool

Reviewed emissions data – all three parishes have seen a reduction over the past three years. The data reflects consumption-based emissions.

The tool could be used for further analysis and awareness at the parish level.

Discussion:

- Could this be useful for councillor engagement?
- Energy Champions offer workshops on using the tool.

The group will need to evaluate interest in hosting a training session

3.0 Feedback from Horsham climate action network meeting 7th July

Repair Café Presentation Local repair café highlighted as a successful community engagement model.

Tool-Sharing Suggestion - Idea of a local "library of things" floated for discussion between parishes.

One Planet Platform -Encouragement to upload climate action data and event information.

Plan Builder - Discussed in a positive light despite concerns raised locally.