

Climate Action Group Meeting Notes

Wednesday 15th October 2025

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Jill Cannon and Geoff Barnard.

2. Horsham DC Representation

Update on current representation and involvement

- Discussion on formal representation from Horsham District Council at the group.
 - Mike currently represents by default.
 - Victoria Finnegan, Nicholas Marks, and Roger Noel to confirm whether they are content with Mike's continued representation or if rotation would be preferred.
-

3. NALC Climate Emergency Network Meetings

Feedback and actions for the group

- The group agreed to increase participation in the NALC Climate Emergency Network, which meets quarterly via Zoom.
- Next meeting: *5 November at 12:00 noon.*
- The network connects environmentally focused parishes, sharing best practice and resources such as the "Storage for a Changing Planet" video library.
- Green Growth – Building Sustainable Futures Together event scheduled for *17 December.*
- Members noted that any parish councillor can attend through NALC membership.
- Recent highlights included:
 - Oswestry Parish's projects promoting free bus travel and banning glyphosate.
 - Flooded People UK, a charity offering support in uninsurable flood areas.
 - Carbon Literacy education projects.

- Department for Education requirement for all schools to complete Climate Action Plans by December 2025.
- Idea raised for a tree-planting initiative linked to new births, inspired by Oswestry's "one tree per resident" scheme.

Actions:

- *Leanne*: Circulate Green Growth event details and Climate Network newsletter.
 - *Geoff*: Liaise with local schools to support their Climate Action Plans.
 - *Leanne*: Share primary school eco-lead contact with Vicci.
 - *Mike*: Report on Climate Emergency Network progress at future meetings.
 - *Frank*: Review previous meeting notes and share summary feedback.
-

4. Update on Progress of Adoption of the LCWP by the Three PCs

- Steyning Parish Council formally adopted the Local Cycling and Walking Plan (LCWP) in September 2025.
 - Bramber Parish Council has already adopted the plan.
 - Upper Beeding Parish Council expected to confirm adoption at its 28 October meeting.
 - The plan includes proposals for enhanced walking/cycling connectivity and new toucan crossings near the Glebe Farm development.
-

5. Review of the Minutes of the Last Greening Steyning Group Meeting

- Updates noted from the Greening Steyning meeting:
 - Glebe Farm (King's Barn Lane) Development – developers have revised designs following consultation, including added solar panels and greater boundary spacing.
 - Roundabout construction anticipated January–February 2026.
 - SDNPA Funding: Possible opportunities for improved river access and biodiversity projects.
 - Biodiversity & Volunteers: Plan to establish a WhatsApp group for ad-hoc environmental work. First Bramber Brooks volunteer event scheduled for 3 November.

- Home Energy Help Desk: Attendance remains low; proposed to adjust messaging from “energy saving” to “cut your bills” and focus on simple, affordable fixes (e.g. radiator valves, thermostats).
- Eco Open Houses: Continue as an effective engagement tool for higher-budget households.
- Community Fridge: Now open Sunday mornings; surplus food distributed to volunteers (not the public) past its use-by date.
- Green Drinks: Film *Power Station* scheduled for January, followed by Forage & Ferment workshop in February.
- Big Picnic event cancelled due to poor weather.

6. TROs – Reviewing How Steyning and Bramber Achieved Recent TROs

- Group reviewed successful Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) by Steyning and Bramber PCs.
- Focus on extending speed-limit consistency on A283 and Clay’s Hill where abrupt transitions from 60mph to 30mph create risk.
- CrashMap data (covering 20 years) to be used as supporting evidence.
- Speedwatch volunteers have helped reduce average speeds on Clays Hill.
- Behavioural change noted as key – even small compliance levels can reduce overall speed averages.

7. Reminder – HDC Climate Action Network Meeting (24 November)

- Upcoming Horsham District Council Climate Action Network meeting confirmed for 24 November.
 - Members expressed concern that the One Planet tool is overly bureaucratic and detracts from practical climate work.
 - Agreed that each parish will bring its Climate Action Plan to the January 2026 meeting for review.
 - Mike to attend the November session.
-

8. White Bridge Update

- Bridge nearing completion; target opening date 25 October 2025.
 - Decision to retain the name “White Bridge”, with a historical sign explaining its origin.
 - Path improvements on the Beeding side funded by the Wilson Memorial Trust.
 - Proposal for a joint press photo with councillors from all three parishes to celebrate completion.
 - Official opening event expected in Spring 2026.
-

Any Other Business

- Rural Market Towns Economic Alliance: Includes Billingshurst, Pulborough, Storrington, Steyning, and Henfield.
 - Group to monitor for any climate-related opportunities or collaborations.
 - *Mike* to circulate updates as available.
-

Next Meeting

- Monday 14 January 2026