

Joint Parish Climate Action Group Meeting Notes

Wednesday 8 March 2026 – 7:30pm

Attendees: Vicci Johnson, Ann Blakelock, Mick Tilley, Jill Cannon, Geoff Barnard (representing Greening Steyning)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mike Croker and Frank Bull.

2. Discuss and agree meeting dates for forthcoming year

It was agreed that meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the relevant months going forward.

The agreed dates are:

- 8 July 2026
- 14 October 2026
- 13 January 2027
- 14 April 2027

3. Climate resilience / adaptation (Geoff) Report from SECA and the Climate Majority Network

Geoff reported on two key initiatives currently gaining national traction:

- The National Emergency Briefing
- The Climate Majority Project

The Climate Majority Project is focused on how communities can become more resilient to climate change through community-level processes and strategic adaptation.

Geoff reported back from the recent SECA gathering, where key speakers gave a powerful presentation followed by breakout workshops discussing different kinds of resilience, including:

- food
- water

- business
- emergency response

The emphasis is on bringing local people together to confront the issue and think practically about what will make a difference locally.

It was agreed that the resources and facilitation material from both initiatives would be useful should the group wish to hold a local resilience discussion in future.

Members discussed how this links directly to the film screening, which could act as a starting point for wider community conversations.

4. National Emergency Briefing film – how to show locally to effect change

The group discussed how the National Emergency Briefing film could be used locally as a catalyst for action.

It was noted that:

- the film is designed as a conversation starter
- it includes suggested discussion points
- it is not a government project
- the organisers would like it to be shown on national television

The group discussed what should happen after the film is shown, particularly:

- what follow-up work would sit with the parish councils
- what might sit with West Sussex County Council
- how to ensure momentum is maintained after the screening

It was agreed that the first step should be to view the film first, then decide on the most effective local follow-up.

Suggestions for invitees included:

- all parish councillors
- churches
- schools
- youth projects
- guides and scouts

- the partnership
- the hub
- police
- wardens
- other local community organisations

There was discussion about whether there is an existing model for community emergency planning, with a Steyning resident mentioned as someone experienced in organising emergency responses at Gatwick Airport.

The possibility of showing the film twice was discussed, with the second screening potentially aimed at a wider or more strategic audience after word had spread.

Geoff confirmed:

- Greening Steyning are showing the film on 24 June
- there may also be an online screening, and he will circulate details
- the group may wish to consider a further event in the autumn

There was discussion about whether the Climate Action Group should lead the follow-up work.

Actions

- Vicci to report to Full Council that the group would like as many parish councillors as possible to attend
- Geoff to prepare a draft list of organisations / community leaders to invite
- Geoff to circulate details of the online screening when available

5. Walking and cycling plan priorities

Bramber Parish Council

Priorities identified:

- safer crossing across the bypass at Castle Lane
- footpath on the western side of the river

Re the exit from the footpath at Beeding bridge, the following issues are to be investigated:

- whether highways can cut back the overgrown hedge to improve visibility
- whether double yellow lines can be introduced due to obstructive parking by vans and cars
- whether the path can be altered and signposted towards Bramber Brooks, avoiding Beeding Bridge altogether

This would make the exit onto the High Street safer.

The agreed next steps are to:

- check with WSCC regarding the hedge and road markings
- investigate the feasibility of the footpath alteration

Geoff advised this may need to become a Community Highways Scheme.

It was noted:

- double yellow lines can be difficult to secure
- the deadline for community highways schemes is end of July
- each parish can submit one scheme per year

Geoff and Mike have a call scheduled with WSCC in May after the elections.

Beeding Parish Council

The agreed priority is:

- Dacre Gardens to Beeding footpath / riverside route

This is likely to proceed.

It was noted that this is primarily a walking route rather than a cycling route.

Because the Steyning Grammar School development has now been agreed, members also felt this should remain a priority issue.

Steyning Parish Council

Priorities identified:

- Glebe Farm crossing
- Horsham Road pedestrian access

It was noted that people will continue to access the school this way and that Horsham Road should remain a priority for Steyning to lobby WSCC.

The question was raised as to whether the bike racks scheme should be resubmitted, as it did not previously tick enough boxes in relation to consultation and did not include MP support.

Geoff will discuss this with the SPC Clerk under the Community Highways Scheme process.

Geoff, Mike and Russell (Steyning and District community partnership sustainable travel committee steering group) are meeting on 9th April 2026 to discuss the plan for the three parishes.

6. SDNP & HDC online workshop to co-create mini action plans on community climate action – 11 May

The email received from Victoria Wyllie de Echeverria was discussed.

The group agreed it would be useful to share the walking and cycling plan as an example of good practice.

Vicci indicated she may attend if able to do so.

There was also discussion around the broader question of who the workshop is intended to help and whether it will add value to the work already being undertaken locally. Vicci will email Victoria with our thoughts

7. AOB

Personal climate footprint / public engagement

The group discussed ways to help residents think about their own climate impact.

Tools mentioned included 'Climate Hero'

The idea of an article signposting people to these tools was discussed.

The Take the Jump campaign was also mentioned, particularly its five key actions to reduce personal impact.

Vicci offered to give further thought to a short article, ideally to be shared the month after the film is shown.

It was noted that language is important, and the phrase "carbon footprint" may put some people off.

The aim should be to focus on action at every level.

Actions

- Vicci to give further thought to an article and circulate something
- Geoff to send a link to Britain Talks Climate

Further community engagement

Another suggestion from Greening Steyning was to hold smaller conversational evenings / green chats to encourage discussion in a less formal setting.