



HASOCKS PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN 2018-2023

ABOUT US AND OUR COMMUNITY

Hassocks Parish Council is responsible for a number of front line services in the villages of Hassocks and Keymer and the Hamlet of Clayton. Its core areas of responsibility can be found in the Appendix. The day to day operations to implement these functions are not included in this Business Plan.



There are fifteen Councillors who represent the residents, a full time Clerk, a full time Grounds-person, and three part time members of staff who keep the business of the Parish running on a day to day basis from the Parish office in Adastra Park.

Without our valuable staff the work of the Parish would not be achievable.

The Parish is a popular location in which to live and it is a growing and changing community. Over the past 10 years we have seen substantial new housing developments, but we've also seen a change in the age demographic. These trends will continue. We work in partnership with a network of strong community groups to enable Hassocks to remain a pleasant and attractive place to live and work.

Funding the work of the Parish Council

The work of the Parish Council is funded by the Precept via the Council Tax, plus other revenues generated through the hiring out of sport facilities in Adastra Park, Burial Ground fees and allotment rental.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BUSINESS PLAN

The 5 Year Business Plan sets out the areas additional to day to day operations, on which the Council proposes to focus for the ongoing benefit of the community. It will be subject to regular review and monitoring.

The plan is divided into six key areas:

Our Neighbourhood Plan.
Engaging with the Community
A great place to live, work and enjoy
A Parish for all
Connecting our Village.
Our Staff and Ourselves

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Localism Act 2011 gave Councils the opportunity to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for their communities.

Our Plan is the result of significant, skilled work by Parish Councilors and co-opted community members, with the assistance of professional advice.

Following extensive public consultation and refinement, the Plan was submitted to Mid Sussex District Council in 2016. The plan was reviewed during 2018 to include changes resulting from the newly adopted District Plan and will be consulted on in early 2019.

AIM: To ensure we can sustain a vibrant Parish within a countryside setting and to keep the Neighbourhood Plan up to date in line with statutory requirements, once it has been adopted by Mid Sussex District Council.

Objectives:

- 1.Continue to engage with the residents to keep the plan relevant.
- 2.Preserve and enhance the rural character and biodiversity of the Parish and its historic buildings, maintaining gaps to neighbouring towns and villages and having regard to the proximity of the Parish to the South Downs National Park and its biodiversity.
- 3.Ensure all sections of the community have access to key local services including education, health, community services, sporting, cultural, religious, performing and social clubs, groups and shops.
- 4.Stress with developers the need for appropriately sized, affordable and sustainable housing, developed in sympathy with the village and its

surroundings, built to very high standards of design, construction and energy and water efficiency.

- 5.Seek opportunities to develop the centre of the village to form a distinctive social hub.
- 6.Strive to maintain the visual gaps between Hassocks, Burgess Hill, Ditchling and Hurstpierpoint and improve recreational and wild spaces within the village.
- 7.Continue to oppose any development from encroaching within the South Downs National Park other than in connection with agriculture or tourism in line with SDNP policies.
- 8.Obtain funding from Community Infrastructure Levies and press for appropriate Section 106 agreements with developers.
- 9.Explore opportunities for acquisition of community assets and land for recreational spaces or allotments if demand exists for the latter.

Section 106 ; contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, as a result of a new development taking place. This **funding** is commonly known as '**Section 106**'.



ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

AIM: To engage with all sections of the community through a variety of appropriate and effective channels of communication in order to build a strong sense of community and a culture of delivering services in partnership.

Objectives:

- 1.Become more active and supportive of local initiatives and projects.
- 2.Ensure Hassocks, Keymer and Clayton residents and businesses are kept informed and updated on a regular basis about initiatives being undertaken by the Parish Council and its partners.

- 3.Explore appropriate and frequent methods of communicating with all sections of the community.
- 4.Review our branding and website and maximise its use as a communications tool.
- 5.Research the needs of the community and encourage feed back and participation.
- 6.Improve accessibility of Parish Councillors through engagement with the community.
- 7.Seek grant funding to provide seed money for new projects to assist wellbeing organisations to provide services directly to Hassocks residents.

A GREAT PLACE TO WORK AND LIVE

AIM: To invest in maintaining, improving and developing facilities and assets to ensure that Hassocks continues to be a great place to live, work and enjoy.

Objectives:

- 1.Research, develop and fund a master plan for Adastra Park and ensure that current and future needs of all residents are met. This will include undertaking a strategic review of public hire space and develop a plan for the next 5-10 years.
- 2.Ensure the efficient maintenance of the Adastra Park and Adastra Pavilion and maximise their appropriate use.
- 3.Continue to work with outside organisations, for example HKD Transition, to develop greener solutions for the assets that the council manages and to collaborate with organisations that promote environmental initiatives within the community
- 4.We will continue to invest in our tree planting scheme, floral and plant displays throughout the village.

A PARISH FOR ALL

AIM: To ensure the needs of all sections of the community are considered when the Parish Council allocates financial resources .

Objectives:

- 1.Continue to engage with the youth of our Parish with regard to the provision of services for younger residents.
- 2.Research the needs of older residents ensuring the services we provide assist in making our community more inclusive.
- 3.Ensure all residents with any disability are able to access our services and facilities.
- 4.Encourage diversity and understanding by supporting projects which promote the local economy and tourism.
- 5.Work with Mid Sussex District Council to support the growth of the wider economy.

CONNECTING OUR VILLAGE

AIM: To promote sustainable transport links by advocacy/lobbying the responsible authorities ensuring the village is accessible for all residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- 1.Support improvements to transport links between villages.
- 2.Engage with bus companies and all appropriate partners for improved services to Brighton, Haywards Heath and the hospitals.
- 3.Work with partners to lobby for improvements to Hassocks Station and for the provision of appropriate train services.
- 4.Lobby WSCC and the police for appropriate traffic calming measures, and to consider contributing to the costs of improvements.
- 5.Promote an increase in walking and cycling, through improvements in the environments for these modes of transport, in partnership with WSCC.
- 6.Work with partners to create safe cycling routes between Hassocks, Clayton and Hurstpierpoint.
- 7.Explore the creation of a safe cycle way to the east of the railway between Hassocks and Burgess Hill.
- 8.Promote a 'Nature Trail' by collaborating with community partnerships.
- 9.Seek to develop an interchange Hub at Hassocks Station with partners through the provision of off street parking and an improved east west bus service linking nearby villages.

OUR STAFF AND OURSELVES

AIM: The Council will support and enable staff to work effectively as a team together with Councillors, to maximise the service to the Community.

Objectives:

- 1.Budget to provide the financial resources to enable us to implement the Business Plan.
- 2.Where appropriate, deliver larger projects through external support to enable staff to maintain existing operations.
- 3.Endeavour to ensure decisions made by the Council take into account the work load of staff.
- 4.Invest in continuous professional development for the Clerk and the staff.
- 5.Encourage development for Councillors and committees in line with the "Good Councillor's Guide".



Play area Adastra Park



Memorial Garden



Burial Ground



Parklands Road Allotments

HASSOCKS PRISH COUNCIL

Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Keymer Road
Hassocks, BN6 8QH

01273 842714

info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk
www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk

Appendix

Area of Responsibility	Hassocks Parish Council	Mid Sussex District Council	West Sussex County Council	South Downs National Park Authority
Parks & Recreation	Owens and operates Adastra Park including the Garden of Remembrance and Adastra Pavilion, Parklands Road Allotments, Parklands Copse and Talbot Field.	Owens and operates Clayton Recreation Ground, Parklands Road Recreation Ground, and London Road	Owens public leisure facilities at Downlands School.	
Burial Ground	Owens and operates Hassocks Burial Ground.			
Street Scene	Owens Bus Shelters & Street Bins, funds emptying of street litterbins and dog waste bins. Funds village tree and flower planting initiatives. Manages notice boards. We have mobile waste collection. We sell parking permits through various outlets.	Operates car parks at Orion Parade and Dale Avenue. Responsible for the enforcement of on-street parking.	Operates highways, including on-street parking provision, repairs and maintenance. Manages all street lighting.	
Planning and Development	Influences via Neighbourhood plan and comments on each planning application.	Determines planning applications within the district of Mid Sussex excluding those in the National Park.		Determines planning applications within the National Park.
Public communication	Provides an office for the community which is the first port of call for local services.			
Christmas Lights	We part fund and maintain.			

Parish Councillors, through a series of committees, direct the work of the Parish Clerk and the staff. Councillors are both elected, and co-opted volunteer representatives of our community and each one of us is keen to hear your views on the work that we do on behalf of the community. You can do this in a number of ways:

- In person – at the Parish Centre, Adastra Park (Keymer Road end) BN6 8QH – open
- Five days a week Monday - Thursday 10am - 2pm. Friday 10am - 12pm.
- By telephone – 01273 842714
- By email – info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk