

May 2024 Environment and Bio-diversity report

Dark skies

The number of Parishes who have now joined the regional dark sky initiative has increased to nine (Burwash, Wadhurst, Ticehurst, Crowhurst, Etchingam, Battle, Catsfield, Mayfield, Brightling).

A response to Rother Local Plan re. Dark Skies is being formulated by David Field and we should have it before our next meeting to inform our response.

A Darksky Community data store has been created with a general folder and a folder for each Parish - lighting plan, policy, pledges, events etc. Each Parish should keep its own records - BEG will be adding to the folder but the Parish Council also needs to keep records - should Sam have access to add to the information stored here or keep Parish documentation separate?

A Lighting Plan for Brightling needs to be developed - this can be done together with the Brightling Environment Group using information from other Parishes.

Can a visit to the Gypsom mines be arranged please? I need to see their lighting up close.

Dark Skies pledges from the Community are needed for certification in two years time - can the Annual Meeting next year be used to collect them?

Brightling Environment Group

(2 Councillors are members)

Dark Skies monitoring of the Parish is going to take place from September - anyone who would like to help with the monitoring will be able to get some training.

Events for the Wealden Dark Skies Festival 28 October - 10 November are being planned.

Rother Climate Strategy

Dr Lucie Bolton (Rother Climate Strategy Officer) was invited to talk but no longer works there.

Information on how individuals can reduce their carbon footprint is to be sourced elsewhere.

Footpaths and bridleways

'Walk Brightling's Byways' on Monday 22 April had 6 people (all from Dallington) and a dog walk 3.7 miles - it was enjoyed by all. There were two places on the footpath that needed to be reported to the Council.

Next walk is on Wednesday 26 June 6pm starting from Fern Hill. TN32 5EY.

Two more dates for later in the year to follow.

Welcome Pack is being updated. The most recent arrivals in the parish were welcomed to Brightling with the pack and a jar of wild garlic salt made by Cllr Joanna Colman.

Katrina Blench

Councillor Brightling Parish Council