

Environment Policy and bio-diversity

- **Brightling Environment Group** (BEG) - Sam Dugan (Clerk) should now have access to BEGs Dark Skies data store to upload relevant information to show Brightling Parish Council's commitment to dark skies. Eg Coldharbour Farm development removing 96 roof windows and Swallowfield Farm – no external lights.

Parish Councils needs to show public engagement to get accreditation – at our AGM we have agreed that Dark Skies pledges can be collected from the public attending but would it be useful to have a speaker to draw people to the AGM? Perhaps David Field to talk about the accreditation and Dark Skies or the architect councillor at Ticehurst - James Galpin - to share with us Ticehurst Parish response to planning applications for properties with very large picture windows overlooking Bewl Water in line with their dark skies policy?

BEG Events - two successful and very well attended events were held on 31 October and 1 November.

31 October – *Darker Brightling* - A talk in the Village Hall on stars, bats, insects and moths and the impact lights at night have on us and the wildlife in our area. Attended by over 80, it demonstrates the value local people place on preserving our area of dark skies.

1 November – *Into the night* a night time walk star gazing and light pollution spotting while learning more about nocturnal animals. Limited to 20 people this event was over subscribed.

BEG *Night sky monitoring* has started – one area around Perryman's Lane has been completed, and an area around Brightling Road has been started. Two meters have been borrowed but recording the data can only be done on cloudless moonless nights – so there is a small window of opportunity each month. There are five volunteers.

- **Wildlife verge** – one is to be applied for by two residents on Brickyard Lane early 2025. Support is needed in writing from the Parish Council.

Footpaths and Bridleways

Byways walks – three organised this year and 16 people attended from Brightling and our neighbouring villages. Two footpath issues were recorded as a consequence of going on the walks. Information is to be put on the village website. I hope to continue the walks in 2025.

Welcome Packs

The family at Glebe House have been given one. They gave me a bottle of wine – to be kept for our AGM