

## ENVIRONMENT AND BIO-DIVERSITY

### *Brightling Environmental Group*

**Dark Skies Accreditation** – The meeting with the Sustainability Officer James Corcoran at British Gypsum factory site in Mountfield was constructive. He and the Manager from Brightling Mine site are looking at their lighting use and specifications with a view to creating lighting policies. They have been given High Weald National Landscape guidance document for technical lighting which local authorities use to inform their lighting decisions. Another meeting to discuss progress at the factory site to be arranged for November.

**AGM** – 3 September – 8 attended plus steering group – 16 in total.

**Events** -Warmer Brightling II on 14 October – Air source heat pump in an older property report. Energise Sussex Coast attending – retrofitting older properties to heat them greener.

Night Flyers Walk on 16 October – Astronomers and moth expert.

### *Wildlife Verge application – Brickyard Lane*

Brickyard lane from Fontridge Lane down to the bridleway (BRI/5/1) beyond the bridge has been designated a Meadow Verge and will receive special treatment one cut a year, clippings to remain.

This is virtually the same cutting regime as all our verges, although they are without the classification of being wildlife verges.

For info - Other Meadow verges are opposite Park Cottages, opposite the Village Hall and along Long Reach.

We could put this information on the website? Why it was requested, what was required of applicants, and ask residents if they are interested in getting verges outside their properties further protected?

### **Reminder of our cutting regime**

#### **Option 2: Environmental Enhancement Service**

First cut at start of season: only at junctions and bends for safety

Second cut later in the season: 1 metre wide cut along the verge plus safety cuts at junctions and bends.

*Himalayan Balsam* – BEG have been informed and are gathering information to consider possible action.

## FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

*Parish Byways walks* - Request from BEG member to have a wild flower or foraging element to the walks. A Wild flower one is to be arranged for May/June 2026.

Monday 28 July 2pm – 5 people and a dog. No footpath issues

Next one now on Sunday 19 October 10am – Darwell Woods.

### *Reported 2 September*

Ref 250924842 (46301) - footpath BRI/16/1 overgrown nettles, brambles with orchids growing there.

Ref 250961232 (46296) – Footpaths BRI/14/1 and BRI/14/2 reported as overgrown with sedge.

Ref 250923786 (46295) - Footpath BRI/14/2 and access to an ancient beech tree blocked by brash and spoil.

Unable to contact Tamsin and Leo despite calling in 3 times to discuss their overgrown footpath BRI/17/2. Will leave a note asking them to call me.

## WELCOME PACK

New owners of Socknersh Manor welcomed – Geoff Sims. (Simms?)