

Managing road verges for biodiversity



Rother



HIGH WEALD LANDSCAPE TRUST



RALC

East Sussex
Highways
Keeping You Moving

**GREAT DIXTER
HOUSE & GARDENS**

Rother road verges: online survey results

RALC Meeting

Date/ time: 13th January 2021 7.30pm

Remote meeting

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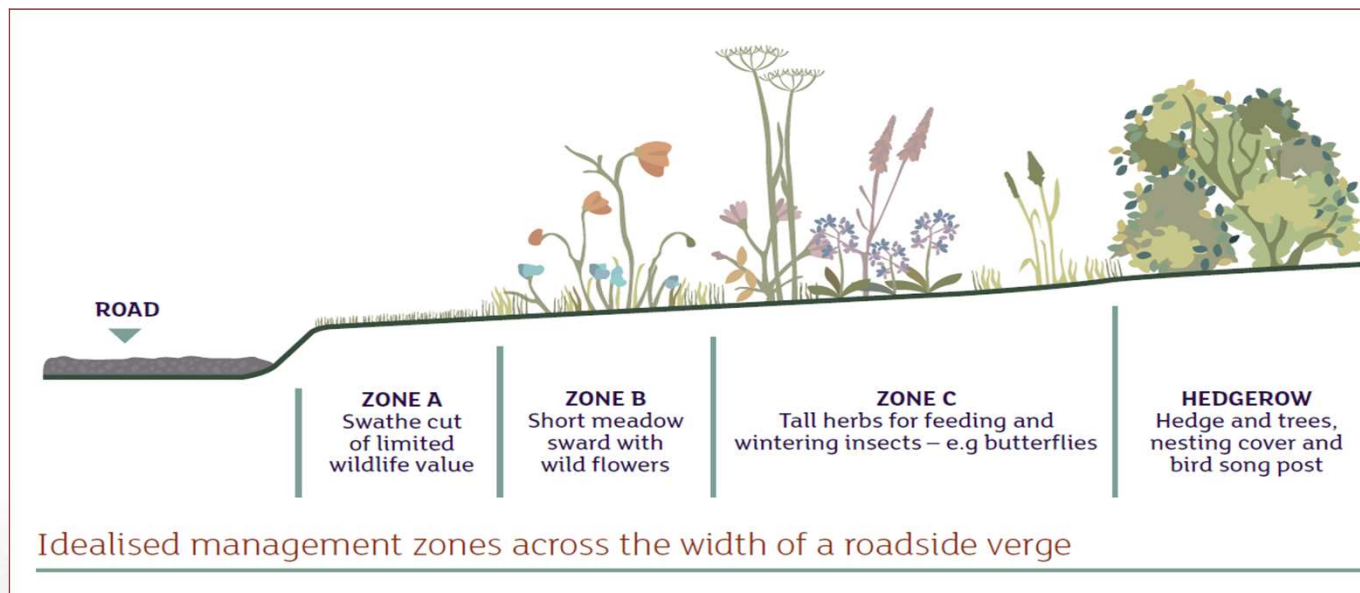
Rother District Council

www.rother.gov.uk

Why is this important?

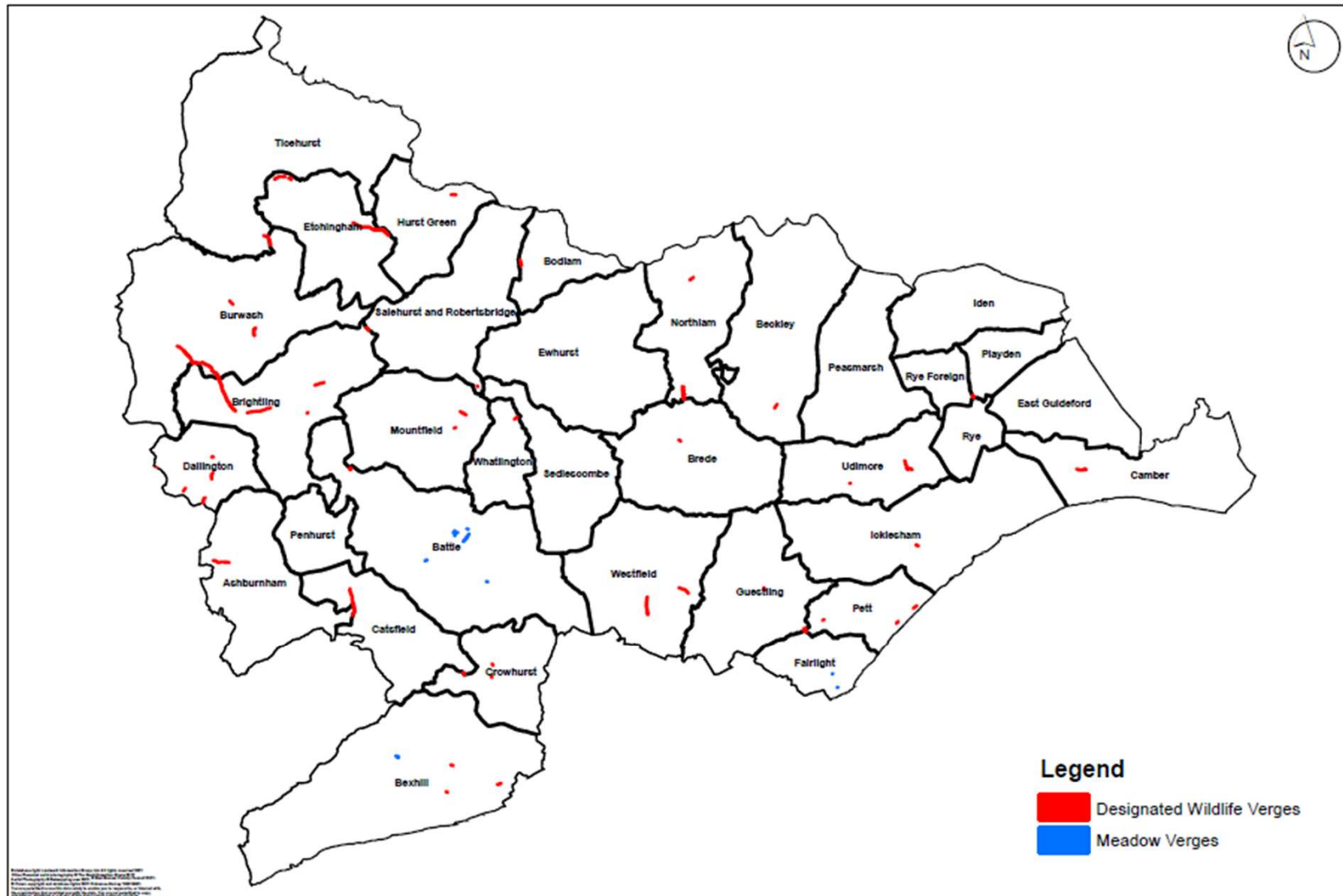
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 s.40 specifies:

“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”.



@Plantlife

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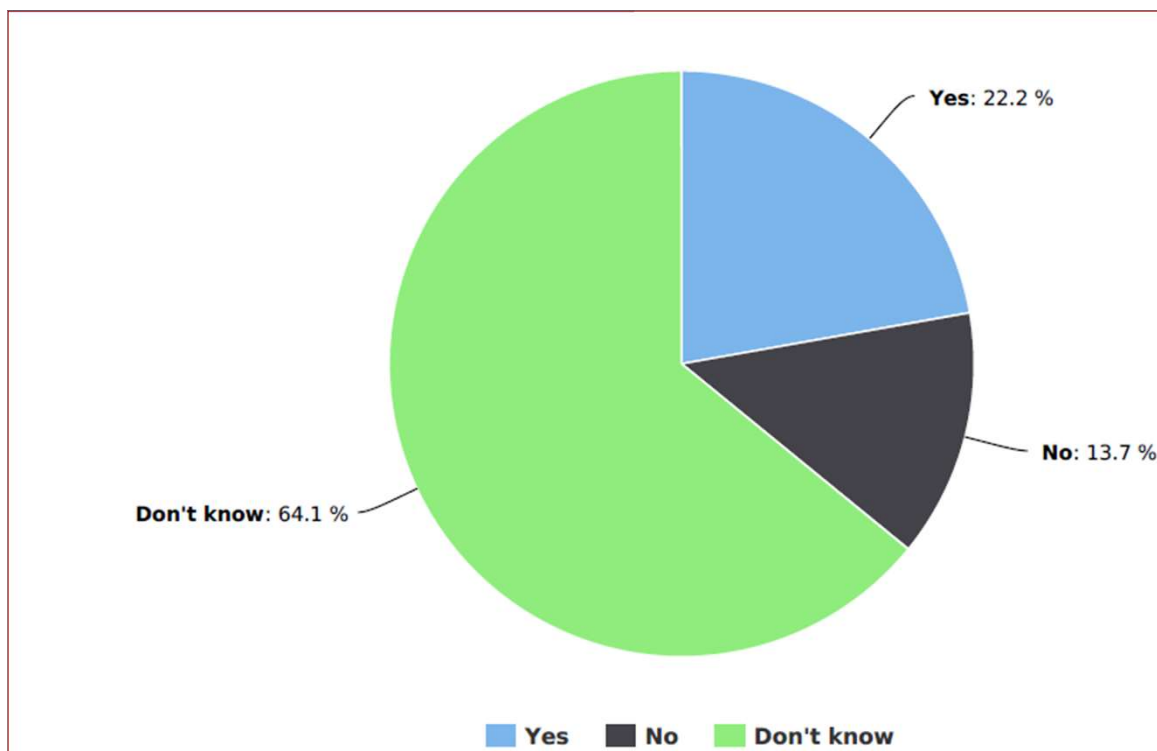
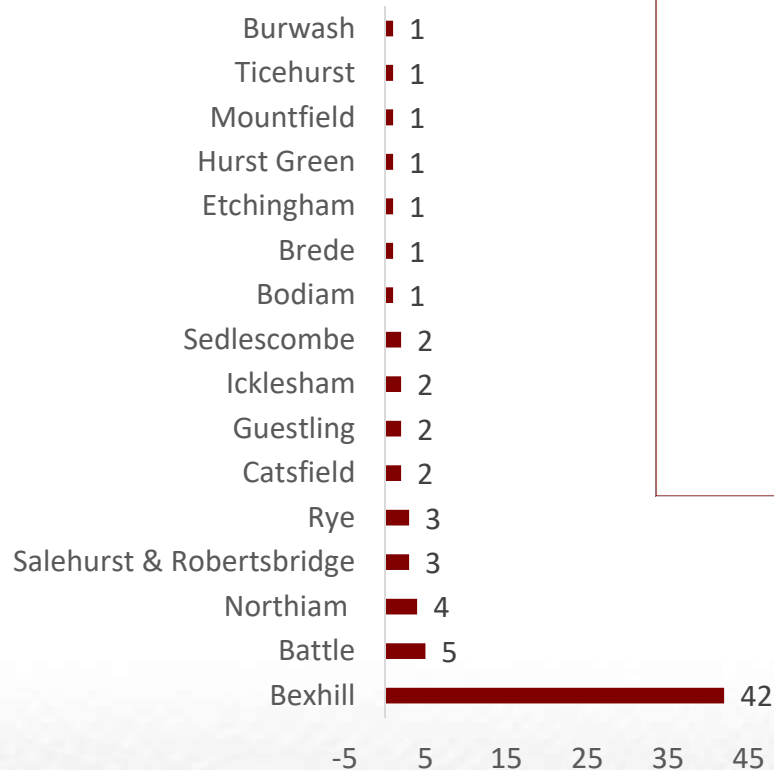
Legend

- Designated Wildlife Verges
- Meadow Verges

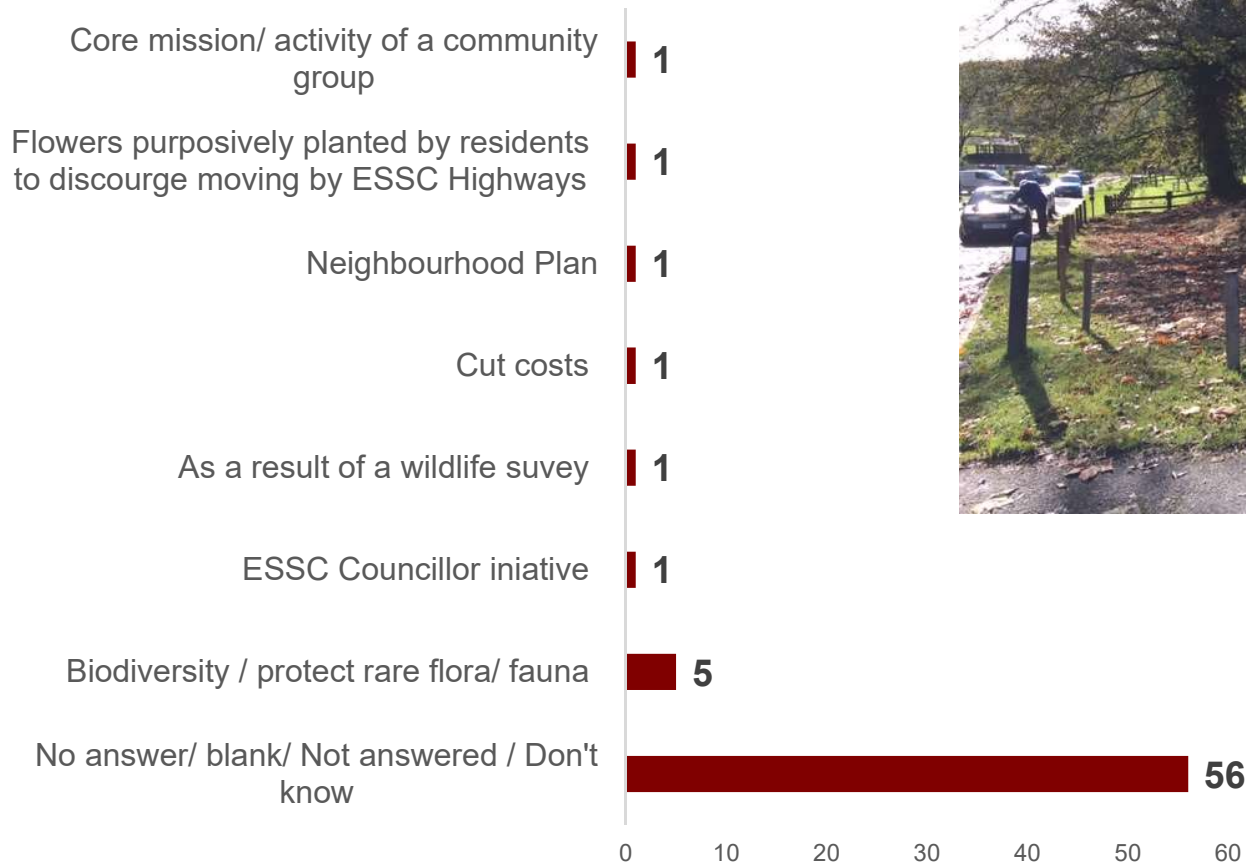
Does your parish or town already have verges designated by East Sussex County Council? (all responses)



Don't know answer



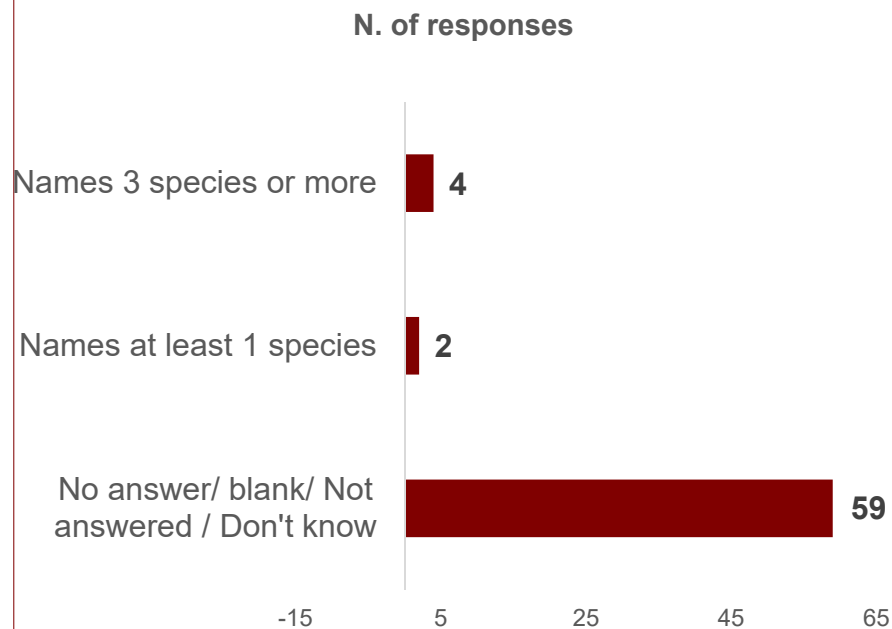
What were the reasons for applying for a wildlife verge designation at that time? Rural Rother



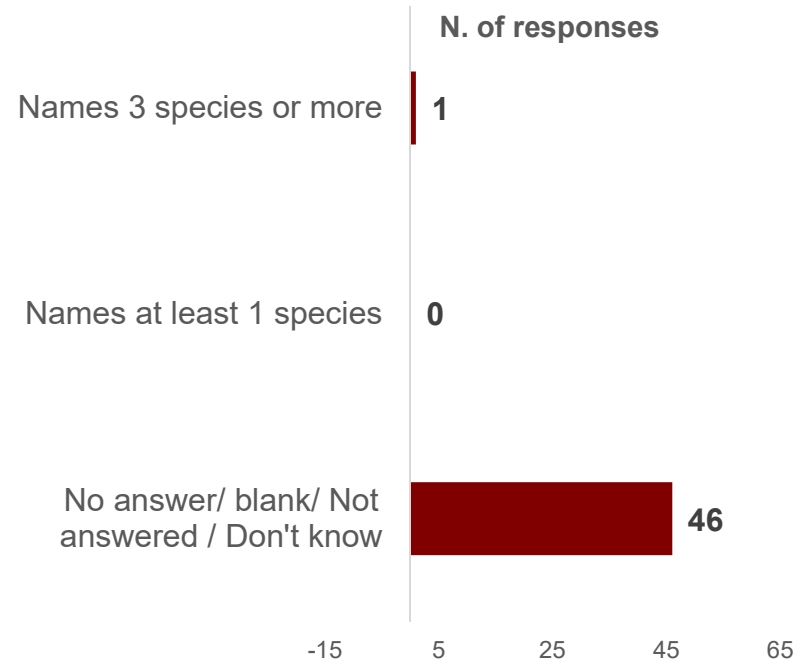
What fauna and flora have been identified in your designated wildlife verges?



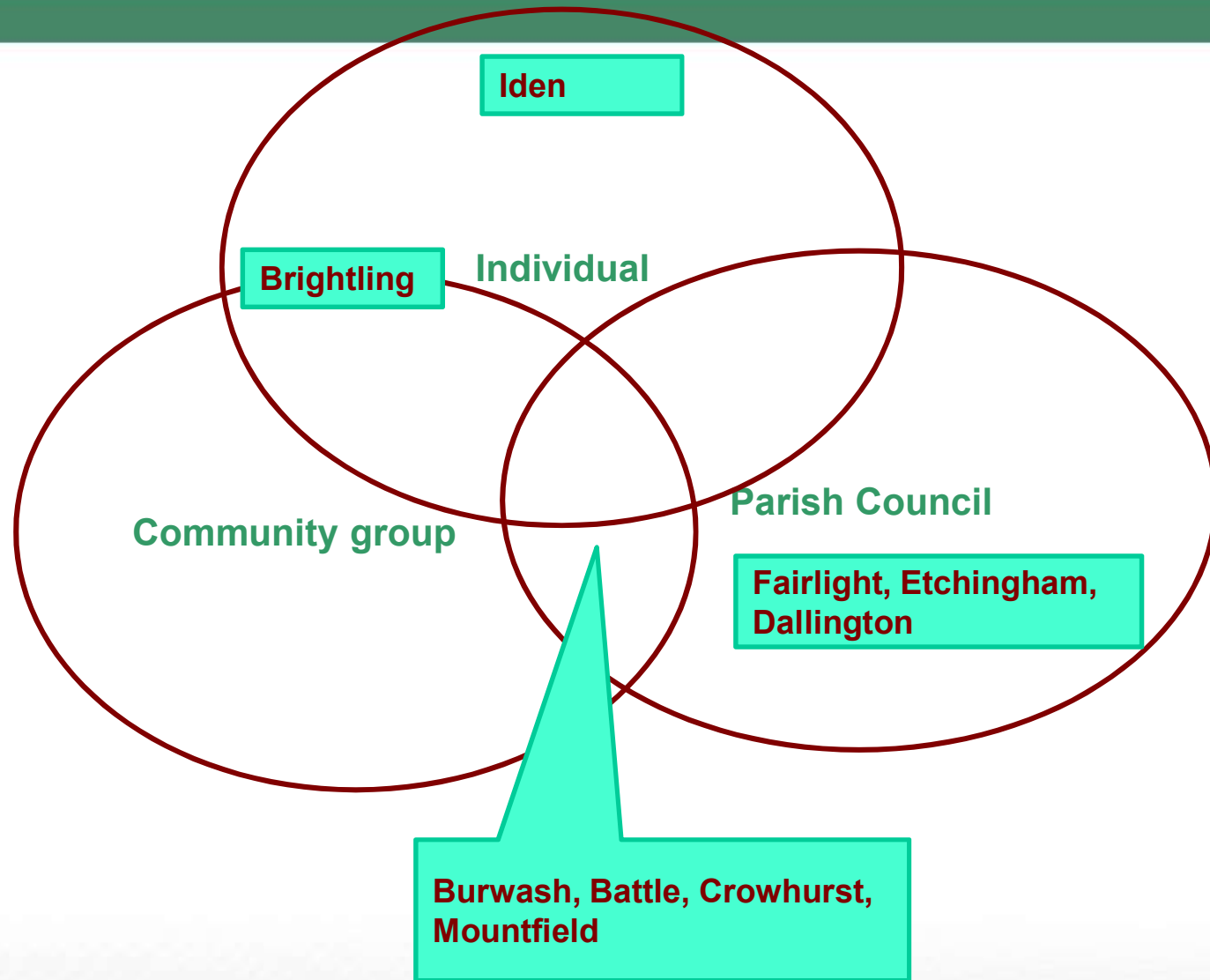
- Rural Rother



- Bexhill



Who in the parish or town applied to East Sussex County Council for the designation of the current wildlife verge or verges?(all responses)



Comments on the process of getting wildlife verges designations? (all responses)



What worked well

- ✓ It led to a verges designation and protection
- ✓ Less mowing

“I feel that Rother District Council and ESCC are either keeping very quiet about their actions to maintain wildflower verges, or they are actually not doing a thing about it.”

What could be improved

- ✓ Transparency of the process
- ✓ Better communication
- ✓ Collaboration amongst parishes – knowledge sharing
- ✓ Formal management of sites
- ✓ More resource and support
- ✓ The process is too lengthy and time consuming for small communities
- ✓ Maps availability, accesibility and accuracy
- ✓ Wildlife surveys help
- ✓ Accessible virtual Wildlife Verge record system
- ✓ Timing of cuts

Visibility issues

Pedestrians safety

- As previous stated all our verges need to be cut regularly for safety of pedestrians.
(Whatlington Parish)

Cars parking on the wildlife verges

- Our community verges are being destroyed widely by parking cars on them. When wet, car tyres churn the verges into mud. If you want to do something to protect verges then the first thing is to make it a criminal offence, punishable by a substantial fine, to park on them.
- Thoughtless parking of vehicles. Is there any way that parking can be enforced?
- Stopping motorists from driving over and parking on the verges.

Residents destroying habitat

- Residents have destroyed the habitat by mowing and strimming.

Is the parish or town council considering applying to East Sussex County Council to have any or more wildlife verges designated?



- **Yes - In the next 6 months**

- Brightling
- Mountfield
- Sedlescombe

- **Yes - In the next 12 months**

- Bexhill
- Crowhurst
- Etchingam
- Northiam
- Peasmarsh
- Salehurst & Robertsbridge