



Seaford Town Council

Seaford Town Council Climate Change Sub Committee Agenda – Thursday 18th April 2024

To the Members of the Climate Change Sub-Committee

Councillors C Bristow (Chair), R Buchanan (Vice Chair), L Boorman, R Clay, O Matthews, J Meek, I Taylor and L Wallraven.

A meeting of the **Climate Change Sub-Committee** will be held in the **Council Chambers, 37 Church Street Seaford, BN25 1HG** on **Thursday, 18th April 2024** at 7.00pm, which you are summoned to attend.

Adam Chugg,
Town Clerk
12th April 2024

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Public attendance at this meeting will be limited, so registration to attend is advised.**
- **The meeting will be recorded and uploaded to the Town Council's YouTube channel shortly after the meeting.**
- **See the end of the agenda for further details of public access and participation.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To consider apologies for absence.

2. Disclosure of Interests

To deal with any disclosure by Members of any disclosable pecuniary interests and interests other than pecuniary interests, as defined under the Seaford Town Council Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011, in relation to matters on the agenda.

3. Public Participation

To deal with any questions, or brief representations, from members of the public in accordance with relevant legislation and Seaford Town Council Policy.

4. [Climate Change Update Report – 2023 - 2024 Year End Summary & 2024 - 2025 Forward Plan](#)

To consider report 205/23 providing a year end summary of the climate change activities of the Town Council during the 2023 – 2024 municipal year, and details of the process for discussing the 2024 – 2024 forward plan of business of the Sub-Committee (pages 5 to 17).

5. [Lewes District Council's Climate & Nature Strategy Refresh Consultation](#)

To consider report 203/23 allowing the Sub-Committee to consider Lewes District Council's consultation on its Climate & Nature Strategy and agree the Town Council's response (pages 18 to 43).

6. [Report on Swifts in Seaford](#)

To consider report 202/23 presenting a report from local group Save Seaford's Swifts, requesting that the Town Council consider how it can support the population of swifts and other urban birds in Seaford (pages 44 to 52).

AGENDA NOTES

For further information about items on this Agenda please contact:

Adam Chugg, Town Clerk, 37 Church Street, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1HG

Email: admin@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 01323 894 870

Circulation:

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Public Access:

Members of the public looking to access this meeting will be able to do so by:

1. Attending the meeting in person.

Due to health and safety restrictions, the number of public in attendance will be limited to 15. The Town Council therefore asks that you contact

meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk or 01323 894 870 to register your interest in attending at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Spaces will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Please note that if you don't register and just attempt to turn up at the meeting, this could result in you not being able to attend if there is no space.

OR

2. Watching the recording of the meeting on the [Town Council's YouTube channel](#) , which will be uploaded after the meeting has taken place.

Public Access to the Venue:

If you are attending the meeting in person, please arrive for 6.45pm where you will be shown into the meeting for a 7.00pm start.

Please note that the front door of the building will be locked at 7.00pm and remain locked during the meeting for security reasons. As such, if you arrive after this time, you will not be able to access the meeting.

When members of the public are looking to leave, they must be escorted out of the building by a Town Council officer. There is also a signposted back door which can be exited through if required.

Public Participation:

Members of the public looking to participate in the public participation section of the meeting must do so in person, by making a verbal statement during the public participation section of the meeting.

Below are some key points for public participation in the meeting:

1. Your statement should be regarding business on the agenda for that meeting.
2. You will only be able to speak at a certain point of the meeting; the Chair of the meeting will indicate when this is.
3. You do not have to state your name if you don't want to.
4. If you are unsure of when best to speak, either query this with an officer/councillor ahead of the meeting or raise your hand during the public participation item of the meeting and ask the Chair – they will always be happy to advise.
5. When the Chair has indicated that it is the part of the meeting that allows public participation, raise your hand and the Chair will invite you to speak in order.
6. Statements by members of the public are limited to four minutes and you don't automatically have the right to reply. The Chair may have to cut you short if you overrun on time or try to speak out of turn – this is just to ensure the meeting stays on track.
7. Where required, the Town Council will try to provide a response to your statement but if it is unable to do so at the meeting, may respond in writing following the meeting.
8. Members of the public should not speak at other points of the meeting.
9. A summarised version of your statement, but no personal details, will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Public Comments

Members of the public looking to submit comments on any item of business on the agenda can do so in writing ahead of the meeting and this will be circulated to all committee members. Comments can be submitted by email to meetings@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk or by post to the Town Council offices.

Health & Safety Measures:

While Covid restrictions are no longer mandated the Town Council wishes to stay vigilant and mindful of the health and safety of its meeting participants by upholding the requirement that you should not attend the meeting if you are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms (or have tested positive) as identified on the [NHS website](#) or symptoms of any similarly contagious illness.



Seaford Town Council

Report No:	205/23
Agenda Item No:	4
Committee:	Climate Change Sub-Committee
Date:	18th April 2024
Title:	Climate Change Update Report: 2023 – 2024 Year End Summary & 2024 – 2025 Forward Plan
By:	Louise Lawrence, Head of Assets, Projects & Services
Purpose of Report:	To provide a year end summary of the climate change activities of the Town Council during the 2023 – 2024 municipal year, and details of the process for discussing the 2024 – 2024 forward plan of business of the Sub-Committee

Recommendations
The Sub-Committee is recommended:
1. To note the contents of the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As the final meeting of this municipal year, this report is presenting the year end summary of the climate change activities of the Town Council.
- 1.2 In addition, the report presents the recommended process for the Sub-Committee to agree its forward plan of business for the 2024 – 2025 municipal year.

2. 2023 – 2024 Year End Summary – Climate Change Delivery Plan

- 2.1 In January 2023, this Sub-Committee consider the Climate Change Delivery Plan, based upon the priorities already identified by the Sub-Committee.

- 2.2** The Delivery Plan provided a set of specific commitments with a timeline. It made clear how this Sub-Committee is helping the Town Council to respond to the Climate Emergency, while also reflecting that the response is being made across the Town Council.
- 2.3** Following on from the progress review in October 2023, a year end summary of progress against the plan is now included at Appendix A.
- 2.4** Members may notice that the timeline against the plan has not been met in its entirety but the plan continues to be worked on steadily. Competing workload demands, staffing capacity challenges to deliver this and knowledge gaps have been the main factor in this work not being driven forward at more of a pace.
- 2.5** It is still intended to source further training – for councillors and officers – to strengthen the understanding of how to assess, monitor, measure and mitigate climate change as a local council. Training options are being researched. The frequency of refresher training and any ad hoc training needs can also be monitored.
- 2.6** The Town Council is also in the process of carrying out a review of its staffing structure and roles within. This process will identify the responsibility and resourcing for delivery of the climate change activities of the Town Council.

3. 2023 – 2024 Year End Summary – Seaford Head Golf Course

- 3.1** Seaford Head Golf Course is renowned for its environmental approach with greenkeeping and course management. The following update from the Course Manager provides an overview of the work undertaken on site in 2023 – 2024:
- (a)** We have invested in electric trimmers and blowers to reduce petrol usage. We always consider electric mowers when looking to renew but technology is currently not good enough.
 - (b)** We have continued to audit and replace sprinkler heads and valves to reduce and ensure the most efficient use of the irrigation system. We also use products to control the water management in the soil to retain or release as required.

- (c) We have continued to encourage finer and more drought and diseases resistant grasses into the greens and tees to help reduce Fertiliser/ chemical and water applications.
- (d) The Borehole for irrigation has continued to supply 100% of our course irrigation water.
- (e) Moving into the year ahead we are working with the South East Water to sample water quality and ground levels of our borehole water supply. This will help them to build a model of the underground water levels throughout the county with ours being the most coastal supply to date.
- (f) We have increased areas of un-mown grasses to encourage wildflowers and pollinators while reducing fuel usage.

4. 2023 – 2024 Year End Summary – Others

4.1 There has also been a number of other activities undertaken by the Town Council towards responding to the climate emergency. These are summarise below:

- (a) The introduction of temporary **compostable toilets** on the seafront, followed by the Town Council investing in purchasing two compostable toilet units (four toilets in total). These units are moveable – so can be relocated depending on need - and accessible.
- (b) The Town Council taking on **urban grass verge cutting** within the town. This provides the opportunity for the Town Council to ensure that this activity (which covers 129,378 m² of verge) is being carried out in an ecological way, with a focus on the future aim of protect and enhancing biodiversity within the verges.
- (c) Officers time dedicated to ensuring the Town Council's **plastic-free charter** within the Single Use Plastics Policy is being met, in particular with regards to community events (where achievable) and concessionaires.
- (d) An initial approach within the Town Council offices to **reduce energy usage** where possible – this to be built upon moving forwards.
- (e) Grant funding given through the **2023 – 2024 grants scheme** towards the following organisations / projects:

- i. Friends of Bishopstone Station CIC – to help fund fees relating to two community projects, including Bishopstone Station Community Food Project
- ii. Gardening in Action CIC – supporting the Peverells Community Garden

5. 2024 – 2025 Forward Plan

- 5.1** 2024 – 2025 is the year in which the Town Council will be reviewing its committee structure, including committee terms of reference and meeting frequency.
- 5.2** In the interim, the Town Council's committees and sub-committees will need to plan based upon their current structure, purpose and remit.
- 5.3** For the Climate Change Sub-Committee, this includes four meetings in the 2024 – 2025 municipal year (4th July and 21st November 2024, 6th February and 1st May 2025).
- 5.4** The intention is that the July Sub-Committee meeting will be used to explore and discuss the key themes, with the aim of formulating a strategy/plan of business for the remainder of the municipal year.
- 5.5** The outcome will be clear steer for the Sub-Committee, public and officers, on the work of the Sub-Committee in the coming municipal year and enable the scheduling of work and resources accordingly.

6. Financial Appraisal

- 6.1** This report has no direct financial implications.

7. Contact Officer

- 7.1** The Contact Officer for this report is Louise Lawrence, Head of Assets Projects & Services



Seaford Town Council
Climate Change Delivery Plan

APRIL 2024 UPDATE

As presented to the Town Council’s Climate Change Sub-Committee on 12th January 2023.

	January 2023		October 2023	April 2024
PRIORITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	TIMELINE (2023)	UPDATE	UPDATE
1. Develop Climate Emergency Policy for the Council	1.1 Convene a meeting inviting residents with appropriate knowledge to help guide the Council on how best to develop the policy document. 1.2 Bring the outcomes of these discussions back to this Sub-Committee. 1.3 Bring the final draft policy document to Full Council for approval.	FEBRUARY APRIL SUMMER	1.4 This Sub-Committee considered the draft policy document at its meeting in July 2023. An update on the draft is presented elsewhere on this October agenda.	1.5 The policy was adopted by Full Council in January 2024, due to take effect from 30 th June 2024. Work will be carried out for the launch of the new policy, including having this Sub-Committee agree it forward plan on work at its July meeting, linked to delivery of the policy

	January 2023		October 2023	April 2024
PRIORITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	TIMELINE (2023)	UPDATE	UPDATE
2. Enable the Council to undertake environmental consideration in decision-making	<p>2.1 Undertake desktop research to find examples from elsewhere we can learn from and also liaise with Lewes District Council.</p> <p>2.2 Bring a report to the Sub-Committee.</p> <p>2.3 Bring a proposal to Full Council for approval.</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>APRIL</p> <p>SUMMER</p>	<p>2.4 This is planned to be implemented for April 2024. This is taking into account the work required (as per 2.1) and training for councillors and officers involved in the process to enable effective and informed environmental considerations to be made.</p>	<p>2.5 This work has unfortunately been delayed due to the lack of officer time to dedicate to this. There will be two steps to achieving this:</p> <p>1) determining what training is needed, if any, and organising this, and</p> <p>2) creating a procedure to follow when doing this, providing necessary guidance for both councillors and officers</p>
3. Inform the new Strategic Plan for the Council	<p>3.1 Include relevant questions about the response to Climate Emergency in stakeholder workshops and</p>	<p>MAY</p>	<p>3.3 The Strategic Plan is due to be presented at November Full</p>	<p>3.5 The Strategic Plan will be brought to the July meeting of this Sub-</p>

	January 2023		October 2023	April 2024
PRIORITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	TIMELINE (2023)	UPDATE	UPDATE
	<p>planning days for the new strategic plan.</p> <p>3.2 Ensure this Sub-Committee review the plan from the perspective of responding to the Climate Emergency.</p>	SUMMER	<p>Council for consideration.</p> <p>3.4 The action at 3.2 will follow after this.</p>	<p>Committee for assessment from the perspective of responding to the Climate Emergency and any activities relevant to this Sub-Committee</p>
4. Play a role in civic leadership	<p>4.1 Publish report on Seaford Carbon Footprint and highlight key points in the community.</p> <p>4.2 Consider hosting a peoples' assembly in the autumn of 2023.</p> <p>4.3 Update the climate emergency page on the Council website at least once per quarter.</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>JUNE</p> <p>APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER</p>	<p>4.4 The report is published on the Town Council's Climate Change webpage.</p> <p>4.5 The webpage is updated at least once per quarter, more where updates are available.</p> <p>4.6 In January 2024, local groups are being invited to the Sub-Committee meeting to</p>	<p>4.8 A people's assembly was organised by local community organisations, superseding the Town Council's plans to hold one.</p> <p>4.9 Local groups presented to the Sub-Committee at an informal session in January 2024. One of the presentations has led to a report that appears elsewhere on this agenda,</p>

	January 2023		October 2023	April 2024
PRIORITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	TIMELINE (2023)	UPDATE	UPDATE
			<p>speak about local climate change issues.</p> <p>4.7 A people's assembly is being planned for autumn 2025, based on having the full policy approved and a year to measure against this.</p>	<p>in relation to swifts and urban birds in Seaford.</p>
5. Implement car park charging points	<p>5.1 Initial desktop research and informal consultation has been undertaken.</p> <p>5.2 At this meeting, a report on next steps is being presented.</p> <p>5.3 Implement with funds in budget in 2023 – 2024.</p>	<p>JANUARY</p> <p>JANUARY</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p>	<p>5.4 An update appears elsewhere on this agenda. Due to the introduction of electric car charging points by Lewes District Council, the Town Council has not pursued this project.</p>	<p>5.5 The October update stands.</p>
6. Explore options for	<p>6.1 Commission specialist report(s)</p>	<p>JULY</p>	<p>6.2 A working group to</p>	<p>6.4 The South Hill Barn</p>

	January 2023		October 2023	April 2024
PRIORITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	TIMELINE (2023)	UPDATE	UPDATE
South Hill Barn energy and water and the Green Roof at The View	on options for the Council to consider.		consider options at South Hill Barn has been established, which will look at energy options for the Barn alongside its potential uses. This group will be reporting back to the Community Services Committee. 6.3 Scoping work is underway with regards to the green roof at The View.	Working Group is meeting regularly and progressing well, including having site visits at other similar sites to help understand and visualise potential options available. The group will be aiming to report back to Full Council. 6.5 Scoping work continues on the green roof at The View.
7. Work with local community groups to deliver 'green' activities on land owned by the	7.1 Conclude agreements for a number of sites in the town, and explore the potential for additional work.	SEPTEMBER	7.2 This work is ongoing, such as with Trees for Seaford and On The Verge.	7.3 This work continues to be ongoing.

	January 2023		October 2023	April 2024
PRIORITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	TIMELINE (2023)	UPDATE	UPDATE
Council				
8. Continue the ecological approach to golf course management	<p>8.1 Further publicise and disseminate the work we are undertaking.</p> <p>8.2 Maintain accreditation for Operation Pollinator.</p> <p>8.3 Work with South Downs National Park Authority on possible new dew pond and other changes for the site.</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>DECEMBER</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p>	<p>8.4 The Course Manager provides quarterly updates through the Golf & The View Committee on the ecological approach being taken at the golf course, including under its accreditation with Operation Pollinator.</p> <p>8.5 The discussions the Town Council is entering into with regards to the super nature reserve (Chalk Coast National Nature Reserve) could</p>	<p>8.7 Work is continuing as per the October update.</p> <p>8.8 The Town Clerk has a site visit to Purbeck National Nature Reserve in April with the Chalk Coast National Nature Reserve group</p>

	January 2023		October 2023	April 2024
PRIORITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	TIMELINE (2023)	UPDATE	UPDATE
			<p>potentially include land adjacent to the golf course and as such, the land management techniques, standards and requirements, will be shared with the Course Manager to ensure a joined up approach, where possible, with these potentially neighbouring sites.</p> <p>8.6 The Town Council is awaiting an update from the South Downs National Park Authority on its application to</p>	

	January 2023		October 2023	April 2024
PRIORITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	TIMELINE (2023)	UPDATE	UPDATE
			<p>designate a dew pond on the golf course. A late 19th century dew pond has however been restored near South Hill Barn – courtesy of volunteers from Seaford Natural History Society and South Downs National Park Authority - and is being managed by a friends of group. The dew pond recorded over 200 species and contains winter shelters for reptiles and amphibians, freshwater for birds and grass</p>	

	January 2023		October 2023	April 2024
PRIORITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	TIMELINE (2023)	UPDATE	UPDATE
			snakes, and the UK's first recorded breeding of the rare lessor emperor dragonfly nymph.	
9. Appropriate management of Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve	9.1 Work closely with Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT) on their ecological management, under the agreement between the Council and SWT.	ONGOING	9.2 This work is ongoing and a regular communication occurs between the Town Council and SWT. SWT is included in discussions around the potential inclusion of the Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve in the Chalk Coast National Nature Reserve.	9.3 Work is continuing as per the update in October. 9.4 The Town Council is in the process of reviewing the South Hill Farm lease – agricultural land adjacent to the Nature Reserve. This review provides the opportunity for some changes to the land management.



Seaford Town Council

Report No:	203/23
Agenda Item No:	5
Committee:	Climate Change Sub-Committee
Date:	18th April 2024
Title:	Lewes District Council's Climate & Nature Strategy Refresh Consultation
By:	Louise Lawrence, Head of Assets, Projects & Services
Purpose of Report:	To allow the Sub-Committee to consider Lewes District Council's consultation on its Climate & Nature Strategy and agree the Town Council's response

Recommendations
The Sub-Committee is recommended:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To consider the Town Council's response to the consultation being run by Lewes District Council on its Climate & Nature Strategy.2. To delegate power to the Head of Assets, Projects & Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, to agree a final response based upon the comments raised at the meeting.

1. Consultation Information

- 1.1 The strategy, as outlined by the Lewes District Council, presents a framework for addressing climate change and biodiversity conservation within the district.
- 1.2 The District Council is now consulting with stakeholders and partner organisations on the refresh to the strategy.

- 1.3 This Sub-Committee is being asked to consider the potential implications of the strategy on Seaford's activities and operations and agree a response to the consultation.
- 1.4 The revised strategy can be found at Appendix A.
- 1.5 The consultation survey can be found at Appendix B.
- 1.6 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee go through the survey in the meeting, raising any comments. Officers will then work with the Sub-Committee Chair to agree a final response, based upon the comments, and submit this to the District Council.
- 1.7 Members may notice that the closing date for submissions has passed – the District Council has confirmed that it is happy to wait for the Town Council to consider its response at this Sub-Committee meeting.

2. Post-Consultation / Revised Strategy Launched

- 2.1 Seaford Town Council recognises the importance of aligning its operations with local initiatives aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change and preserving natural habitats.
- 2.2 This strategy is a chance to explore opportunities for collaboration and support in implementing the goals and objectives outlined in the Climate and Nature Strategy. This includes identifying areas where the Town Council can contribute positively to the achievement of the strategy's targets.
- 2.3 The Town Council looks forward to further dialogue and collaboration with Lewes District Council once it releases the results of its consultation.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

4. Contact Officer

- 4.1 The Contact Officer for this report is Louise Lawrence, Head of Assets Projects & Services

Climate and Nature Strategy 2024



Draft for Partner and Stakeholder Review

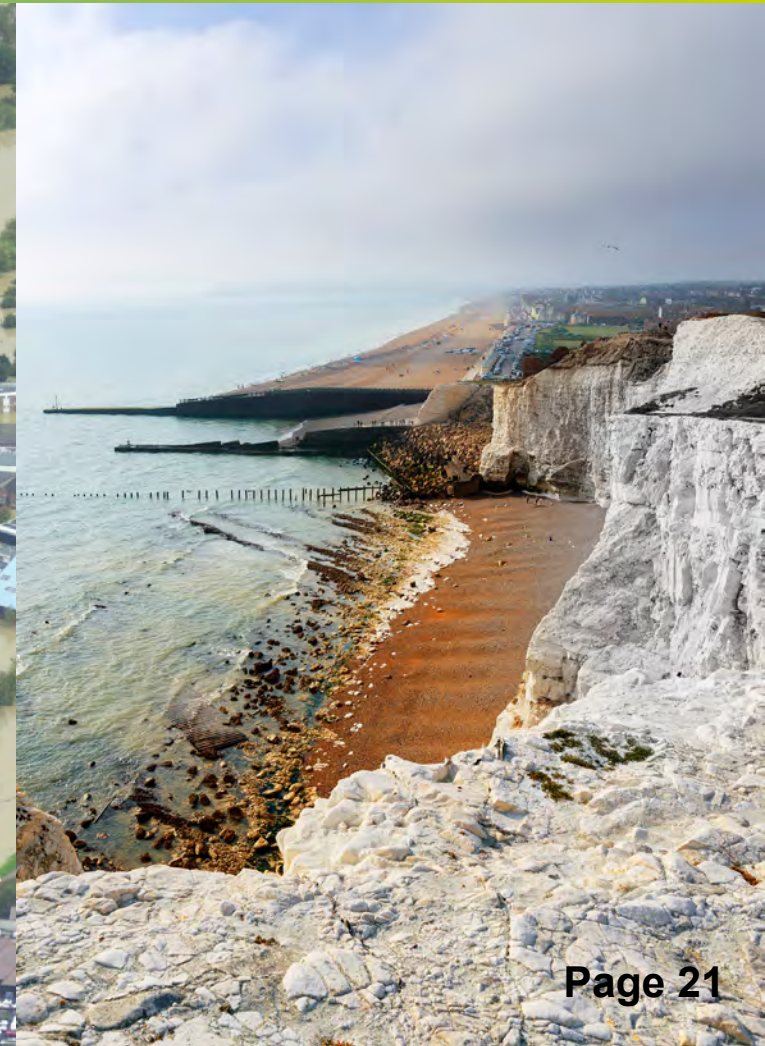


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The Vision

By 2030 we will have a net zero carbon and fully climate resilient council. Through our partnerships we will have enabled the district as a whole to progress to net zero carbon and to address the ecological emergency.

We will be able to clearly demonstrate progress on the climate mitigation measures we are taking and we will lead on adapting ourselves and our communities to reduce the risks posed by projected climate change.

Almost 5 years on from our Declarations of the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, Lewes District Council remains committed to and at the forefront of Local Government climate action. As such our core vision for our climate action work across the district remains unchanged. We are however guided by our residents and what our residents tell us is important so we have chosen to refresh and update our climate change strategy and action plan as we rapidly approach the midpoint of our pledge to become net zero carbon by 2030.

We can only deliver on our vision and strategic goals effectively by understanding all the aspects the council can directly act on and those that we can only deliver by working with others in public, private and voluntary sectors across the district.

This strategic document aims to bring together the work carried out by everyone throughout the district so we can monitor our progress towards net zero carbon by 2030.

Key to delivery of our climate action ambitions is the need to embed these within everything the council does. As such our Corporate Plan 'Re-imagining Lewes District: Delivering the Vision 2024-2028' reflects the breadth of our council services and commitments across 5 key areas, within which actions to address the climate and nature emergency can be seen throughout:

- 1. Delivering high quality, responsive services to local people**
- 2. Supporting local people through challenging times**
- 3. Providing leadership in tackling the climate and nature emergencies**
- 4. Creating sustainable community wealth**
- 5. Building genuinely affordable homes**

Tackling the climate crisis and nature emergencies is central to all our activities. As one of the most nature depleted countries in the world we are committed to supporting measures to help arrest biodiversity losses, restore habitats, reduce pollution and work for climate resilience to promote healthy and thriving communities. This includes wider issues such as keeping wealth local and enabling a local green economy, working with partners to facilitate green skills training, and ensuring we are prepared for extreme and unexpected events that may be the result of climate change through our emergency planning and risk management processes.

Meaningful nature-based solutions and adaptation measures are at the heart of our corporate ambitions. We're committed as a council to doing all we can to **mitigate** (prevent) climate change but we are also committed to working with partners **adapt** to the



PHOTO © SDNPA Charlie Hellewell

baked-in climate change that will affect our area in the years to come which can cause overheating, flooding and drought. Often tackling nature loss can help us both mitigate and adapt – whether through tree planting, wetlands or species-rich grassland – whilst helping reverse catastrophic nature loss, all at the same time.

In order to assist the district to become net zero carbon we will seek to influence and enable areas outside of the council's direct control, working with our partners, so that we can make a real difference to our local communities and to the planet. Our key partners include the Environment Agency, Ouse Valley Climate Action, Town & Parish Councils, East Sussex County Council, our local Climate Hubs, Transition Town Lewes, The Living Coast (UNESCO Biosphere), Changing Chalk, South Downs National Park Authority, The Railway Land Wildlife Trust, Sussex Nature Partnership, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Ouse & Adur River Trust, Ouse Sussex Flow, Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre, Natural England, Sussex-air and a wide variety of local volunteer groups.

Harnessing Community Action and Expertise

We can only deliver on our vision and strategic goals effectively by understanding all the aspects the council can directly act on and those that we can only deliver by working with others in the public, private and voluntary sectors across the district.

The council is linked into many local and regional organisations, charities, schools, community interest companies and businesses that are like minded to achieve sustainability goals such as lowering carbon emissions, reducing pollution, improving the natural environment, reducing poverty, promoting community cohesion and more. Some of these initiatives are represented here.

If you wish your organisation to be included here, if it is not already, please email your logo to: Jo.wunsch@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk



The Youth Voice

How should the council strategically work with young people in the district? Please see consultation questionnaire to respond.



ABOVE Youth Climate Action Forum & 3VA



RIGHT Rapid Charger installed at Kings Academy, Ringmer

Policy Framework

Global

Paris Agreement

Reduce emissions to limit temperature rise to 2°C

UN Sustainability Goals

National: **Climate Change Act: Net Zero by 2050**

Current Strategy & Policy:

- Clean Growth Strategy
- Road to Zero
- A Green Future: Our 25 year plan to improve the Environment
- Clean Air Strategy
- Gear Change
- Energy White Paper – Powering our Net Zero Future
- Green Jobs Task Force Report
- Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
- Heat and Buildings Strategy

Strategy is delivered by:

- The Environment Act 2021
- The National Planning Policy Framework and Building Regulations (specifically Part L)
- The Agriculture Bill

Regional

- East Sussex Environment Strategy 2020
- South2East Energy Strategy 2018
- East Sussex Local Transport Plan
- Transport for the South East – Transport Strategy
- Greater Brighton Energy Plan & Greater Brighton Water Plan
- South Downs National Park Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Sussex Natural Capital Investment Strategy

Local

- Lewes District Climate and Nature Action Plan 2024
- Corporate Plan 2024-2028

Alignment with Corporate Plan 2024-2028

The Climate and Nature Action Plan specifically meets the following goals within the Corporate Plan:

Corporate plan theme	Corporate plan Goals	Corresponding Climate and nature action plan area
High Quality responsive services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Listening and responding to the needs of local residents through good quality consultation and engagement 5. Increased resident and business involvement in neighbourhood services (e.g. litter picking) 6. Reduction in levels of nonrecyclable household waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Crosscutting actions for a sustainable council *Reducing emissions from waste *Biodiversity
Supporting local people through challenging times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduced levels of inequality experienced in the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Energy and the built environment
Climate, nature and food systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The indicators in the refreshed climate and nature action plan 2. Reduction in council carbon emissions to be net zero by 2030 3. Reduction in direct fossil fuel use 4. Increase the level of biodiversity net gain delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *All areas
Community wealth and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Increase in proportion of procurements and going to local companies 4. Better cared for and more accessible public spaces 5. More local job opportunities in renewable and green technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Sustainable community wealth building *Biodiversity
Building genuinely affordable homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. More sustainable and energy efficient homes across the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Energy and the built environment *Water, rivers and seas

UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals with 169 targets that were adopted by every country in the world in 2015. They set out a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. The goals are to be achieved by everyone everywhere and seek to make sure that 'No One is left behind'. They address the interconnected global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

Lewes District Council would like to seek to achieve the UN goals in the same period as the net zero carbon target. Many actions within the climate change and sustainability action plan will help deliver the goals but we have not yet gone through a process of detailed analysis.

The table on the following page provides examples of how our 2030 net zero action areas (and their respective goals) align to the SDGs.



UN Sustainable Development Goals Alignment



LDC Action Area:

- Circular economy & Community Wealth



LDC Action Area:

- Agriculture & Food



LDC Action Area:

- Sustainable Transport & Air Quality
- Biodiversity



LDC Action Area:

- Cross cutting theme and part of the green, post covid recovery



LDC Action Area:

- Not specifically mentioned



LDC Action Area:

- Water



LDC Action Area:

- Energy & the built environment



LDC Action Area:

- Cross-cutting themes
- Circular economy & Community Wealth



LDC Action Area:

- Cross-cutting theme
- Energy & the built environment



LDC Action Area:

- Circular Economy & Community Wealth
- Energy & the built environment



LDC Action Area:

- All action areas and cross-cutting themes



LDC Action Area:

- Circular Economy & Community Wealth
- Energy & the built environment
- Reducing emissions from waste



LDC Action Area:

- All action areas and cross-cutting themes



LDC Action Area:

- Biodiversity
- Water



LDC Action Area:

- Biodiversity



LDC Action Area:

- Circular Economy & Community Wealth



LDC Action Area:

- Cross-cutting themes
- Expert Panel
- Climate Action Forum
- Circular Economy & Community Wealth

The Strategic Action Areas

The 8 action areas set out in this strategy provide the framework for the action plan through which we will focus our efforts on climate adaptation and mitigation.

Fundamentally the action areas have not changed since the strategy was first drafted in 2021. We would like you, as part of this consultation, to review the action area goals and targets. Please use the consultation questionnaire to comment on these sections.



Energy and the Built Environment



Energy use is the largest source of emissions from our district. This action area covers all the energy consumed by everyone within our district with regards to heating and powering their homes and businesses. It also covers the councils own work to make its buildings net zero carbon and the things we can do to directly influence others such as through planning policy and our own housing stock. We will support the provision of social, affordable, sustainable, energy and resource efficient, climate resilient housing. We will ensure that when new housing is being delivered, the developers minimise waste and avoid removing material from the development site where possible.

Original Target	Progress	Keep or Refresh?
12MW increase in district solar capacity by 2025	14.6 MW 2018 – 18.1 MW 2022 – 17MW due for construction once a connection date to grid has been confirmed	Keep
50% reduction in council energy consumption by 2030	Consumption of gas has increased by 14% and electricity has reduced by 2.6% – overall there has been a 7.4% increase in kWh consumed	Keep
60% reduction in council carbon emissions by 2025	On track as diesel fleet has switched to renewable diesel as of 2024 which has up to 90% carbon emission reduction (actual reduction to be confirmed each year)	Keep

1

We will have built and encouraged affordable, energy efficient and climate resilient homes

2

We will enable and facilitate the district to shift to low and zero carbon heat and electricity

3

We will engage early on with developers to ensure they produce low cost, low energy buildings

2030
GOALS

Sustainable Travel and Air Quality

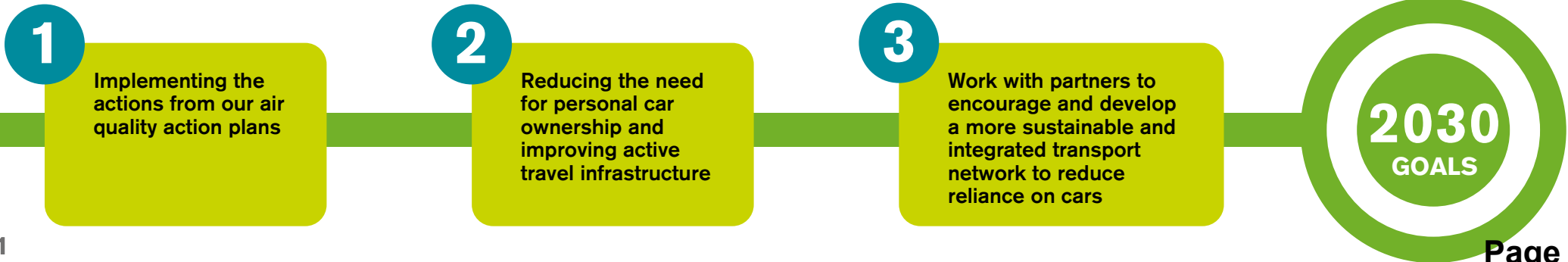


Monitor, and work with partners to improve, air quality in the district, focusing in particular on nitrogen dioxide and particulate levels, making use of air quality action plans for relevant areas.

Increase opportunities for public transport, cycling and walking in the district by working with partners such as community cycling groups, East Sussex County Council, Ouse Valley Climate Action and others to improve infrastructure and reduce barriers to active (accessible, low carbon) travel between and within our towns and villages.

Original Target	Progress	Keep or Refresh?
20% reduction in fleet fossil fuel use by 2025	Target met	Completed
We will have EV charging points and cycle parking in all car parks by 2025	EV charging in TBC% of car parks and cycle parking available in TBC%	Revise date and wording – not practically possible in all car parks.
We will have a zero carbon fleet by 2030	On track	Keep
New air quality action plans for Lewes and Newhaven by end 2021	Delayed	New date or change to Implement actions within the new AQAPs

We will have improved air quality and reduced carbon emissions by:





The land (soil and plants) within the district currently captures 23.9 kt CO₂e per year. Biological diversity is essential and intrinsically linked to every part of our health, livelihoods and our future wellbeing. Healthy and resilient societies depend on giving nature the space it needs yet globally wildlife populations have reduced by 60% and insects by 75% since the 1970's. This action area includes work to improve our natural environment and capture carbon through nature based projects.

Original Target	Progress	Keep or Refresh?
All major developments to achieve at least 20% biodiversity net gain by 2025	Net gain requirements part of Local Plan development	Date to be inline with new Local Plan
To implement a carbon capture fund no later than 2025	Some work completed but regional work on local projects has stalled	Change date to 2029
Method to determine locations for tree planting within the district by 2022	Mapping work completed by University of Brighton 2021	Completed – Remove

1

All developments maximise the opportunities for well considered net gains in biodiversity

2

We have increased biodiversity on Council owned and managed landholdings

3

We have engaged and enabled community led nature-based projects and we are involved in partnerships that promote natural capital across the district, including the coast and sea

2030
GOALS



Emissions from agriculture account for more than 37kt CO₂e per year and are about 8% of the districts total emissions – this figure is slightly higher than is reported in our baseline report as we commissioned a further more detailed study into agricultural and land use that can be found [here](#).

About 75% of these emissions are from livestock with the remaining 25% from fertilizer application and are typically nitrous oxide emissions.

The Council will work with landowners and others such as the National Farmers Union and Sussex Wildlife Trust to work toward more sustainable farming methods and we will develop the local food economy.

Original Target	Progress	Keep or Refresh?
NFU targets UK net zero agriculture by 2040		Keep
To have engaged with all council tenants about food growing by 2022	Completed	Remove
Governance in place and a draft strategy for a food partnership by 2022	Completed – food partnership active across the district	Remove

We will work with in partnership with others to:

1

Educate and enable residents to access affordable, local and seasonal food through supporting opportunities for local production and distribution

2

Implement a district and Sussex wide food strategy

3

Enable and support local food growing using regenerative farming methods

2030
GOALS

Reducing Emissions from Waste



To reduce emissions from the waste we generate we must work to reduce the districts waste first, then increase the amount we recycle. The council collects around 278kg of waste per person per year and that which is not recycled is incinerated.

Within this action area we include the emissions from our waste collection vehicles, this source of emissions is over half of the total council carbon baseline. The vehicles are currently run on diesel which contains other pollutants as well that lead to poor air quality and pollution.

Original Target	Progress	Keep or Refresh?
Pathway 20 carbon waste fleet produced by end of 2022	Completed	Remove
Zero carbon waste fleet by 2030	On track	Keep
55% of waste is recycled by 2025	Currently at 41%	Keep – refresh in 2025 update

1

We will have reduced emissions from waste collection

2

Reduced levels of nonrecyclable household waste

3

We will have increased the proportion of the waste collected by the council that is recycled and reduced the emissions from this activity where we can influence and control this

2030
GOALS



This action area covers the full spectrum of water use and impact within the district. We are consolidating our focus on our rivers, seas and water quality. We will prioritise efforts with partners to manage the risks posed by flooding, supporting the Environment Agency and other partners to address coastal erosion and explore a ‘rights of rivers’ approach with partners Love our Ouse.

We expect to see warmer and drier summers increase water consumption whilst milder and wetter winters will likely see us experience more flooding. Severe rainfall events are likely to increase throughout the year further increasing the risk of flooding.

Whether delivering coastal erosion or flood protection the mechanisms for delivery is complex and the works themselves are expensive, delivered at locations where are inherently dangerous. There is no duty to deliver flood or coastal protection, the Environment Agency and local authorities operate under permissive powers. Partnership working is essential and complex.

Original Target	Progress	Keep or Refresh?
100 L or less water consumed per person per day by 2030	Current local plan draft is targeting 90 L for newbuilds	Keep
New builds to be water neutral by 2030	See above	?
Southern water to deliver up to 50,000 water efficiency audits by end of 2021	Greater Brighton target – no progress update provided	Remove
Zero newbuild units approved contrary to environment advice regarding flooding	On track	Keep

We will work with in partnership with others to acheive:

1

Reduced water consumption in the district; conserve and protect our water resources, including our aquifer

2

Well managed and protected waterways and coastal areas that benefit residents and the natural environment

3

Communities that are resilient against flooding and coastal erosion





The Community wealth building (CWB) approach sits alongside sustainability as the two key policy drivers for the council. As an anchor institution the council can use its spending power and influence to drive investment into the local economy enabling a green economic recovery and local job creation and retention.

The Circular economy seeks to keep resources in use for as long as possible then recover and regenerate the materials at the end of each service life – it links with the CWB agenda in that we can generate local employment and wealth by doing this within our community – re-use networks are a good example of this.

This action area links with many of the other areas within this strategy through things such as decarbonising our housing and creation of community investment vehicles.

Original Target	Progress	Keep or Refresh?
Community investment in local projects as possible no later than 2025	Community municipal investment bonds have been investigated and are currently not financially viable – investigate other options	Revise date
At least half of annual Council spend is with Sussex-based providers by 2030	TBC	Keep
All anchor institutions within the district have taken up the community Wealth building approach	TBC	Keep





Lewes District Council

LDC Climate and Nature Strategy Refresh Survey

1. Strategic Vision



We are refreshing Lewes District Council's Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy (2021).

The refreshed strategy will be renamed the Climate and Nature Strategy and will reflect goals, targets, and ambitions for both for the council and the district to reach net zero by 2030.

We are asking stakeholders and our partner organisations across Lewes district, to take part in a consultation which will inform the strategy refresh.

Please complete the questions below by Wednesday 6th March.

1. The Vision

By 2030 we will have a net zero carbon and fully climate resilient council. Through our partnerships we will have enabled the district as a whole to progress to net zero carbon and to address the ecological emergency. We will be able to clearly demonstrate progress on the climate mitigation measures we are taking and we will lead on adapting ourselves and our communities to reduce the risks posed by projected climate change.

Please refer to Page 2 'The Vision'

How much do you agree or disagree with the vision statement for Lewes district?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comment:

2. Harnessing Community Action and Expertise

Please refer to Page 3 'Harnessing Community Action and Expertise'

Would you like your organisations logo included on the Harnessing Community Action page of the strategy?

If yes, please email a JPEG to jo.wunsch@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Would you like your organisation reflected as a case study in the Climate and Nature Strategy annual update?

This would be a short case study of around 200 words describing your organisations activities and impact, this would be due by end of August.

If you would, please enter your email address below and we will contact you about your case study.

Does your organisation or group have a report or strategy you would like included in our Climate and Nature Strategy annual update?

If you do, please email this to jo.wunsch@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

The Youth Voice

Please refer to page 4 'The Youth Voice'

How do think the council should engage with young people in the district about nature and climate change to make sure their views are heard?

3. Policy Framework, Alignment with Corporate Plan 2024-2028 & UN Sustainable Development Goals

Please provide your comments on the following sections of the strategy - Please refer to pages 5 – 8 of the consultation document.

- **Policy Framework**

- **Alignment with LDC Corporate Plan 2024-2028**

- **Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals**

4. Strategic Action Areas

Energy and the built environment: Page 10 of the consultation document.

Do you agree with the councils' goals:

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree or disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- Other (please specify):

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the energy and built environment section?

Sustainable Travel and Air Quality. Page 11 of the consultation document.

Do you agree with the councils goals:

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree or disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- Other (please specify):

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Sustainable Travel and Air Quality section?

Biodiversity. Page 12 of the consultation document.

Do you agree with the councils goals:

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree or disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- Other (please specify):

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the biodiversity section?

Agriculture and Food. Page 13 of the consultation document.

Do you agree with the councils goals:

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree or disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- Other (please specify):

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Agriculture and Food section?

Reducing Emissions from Waste. Page14 of the consultation document.

Do you agree with the councils goals:

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree or disagree

- disagree
- strongly disagree
- Other (please specify):

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Reducing Emissions from Waste section?

Water, Rivers and Seas. Page 15 of the consultation document.

Do you agree with the councils goals:

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree or disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- Other (please specify):

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Water, Rivers and Seas section?

Sustainable Community Wealth Building. Page 16 of the consultation document.

Do you agree with the councils goals:

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree or disagree
- disagree

- strongly disagree
- Other (please specify):

Does your organisation have a strategic goal or target you would like included in the Sustainable Community Wealth Building section?

5. About you

5. Which organisation are you representing?

6. Which area of Lewes district does your organisation cover?

7. Email address: to keep you updated on the strategy refresh.



Seaford Town Council

Report No:	202/23
Agenda Item No:	6
Committee:	Climate Change Sub-Committee
Date:	18th April 2024
Title:	Report on Swifts in Seaford
By:	Louise Lawrence, Head of Assets, Projects & Services
Purpose of Report:	To present a report from local group Save Seaford's Swifts, requesting that the Town Council consider how it can support the population of swifts and other urban birds in Seaford

Recommendations

The Sub-Committee is recommended:

1. To consider the five recommendations within Save Seaford's Swift's report, set out at 1.4, 1.7, 1.9, 1.11 and 1.14 of report 2023-23 for ease.
2. To consider recommending to Full Council that Save Seaford's Swifts becomes a formal Outside Body of the Town Council.

1. Information

- 1.1** Local community group, Save Seaford's Swifts, has submitted a report for consideration by this Sub-Committee on behalf of the Town Council, relating to swifts in Seaford and recommended actions the Town Council could take help protect the swifts.
- 1.2** The report is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.3** The recommendations are clearly set out in section 6 and copied below for ease, along with officer commentary to aid the Sub-Committee's consideration.

- 1.4 *Recommendation 1:*** *to actively promote and encourage the installation of Universal Nesting Sites by local residents by sharing appropriate information on the STC website and social media platforms, and promote the work of Save Seaford's Swifts. Consider actively promoting the annual Swift Awareness Week which runs each summer.*
- 1.5 **Officer Commentary:**** Officers have had initial discussions with Save Seaford's Swifts around the group becoming a formal Outside Body of the Town Council. This connection would see recommendation 1 above facilitated, as the Town Council helps promote and raise of its Outside Bodies where it can.
- 1.6** It is therefore recommended by officers that the Sub-Committee recommends to Full Council to accept Save Seaford's Swifts as a new Outside Body and appoints a representative at the Town Council's Annual Meeting on 8th May.
- 1.7 *Recommendation 2:*** *to investigate opportunities for fitting swift boxes and boxes suitable for other urban dwelling bird species on STC's buildings. This would be undertaken via a desk-based survey of its building assets and site visits which Save Seaford's Swifts could attend for advice. Swift bricks and swift boxes should be installed in accordance with British Standard BS 42021. This would go forward as a recommendation to the Community Services Committee.*
- 1.8 **Officer Commentary:**** as a recommendation to Community Services Committee, this would enable the Committee to consider this piece of work for inclusion in the Town Council's Projects Log.
- 1.9 *Recommendation 3:*** *to use its voice in recommending to the Planning & Highways Committee to undertake to consider whether a suggestion to install measures to support the conservation of swifts and other urban bird species is appropriate when they assess Planning Applications and if so to return a recommendation as part of the Town Council's response to the Planning Authority (this may invoke a revision to the STC Planning & Highways Policy).*
- 1.10 **Officer Commentary:**** as a recommendation to Planning & Highways Committee, this would enable the Committee to consider the impact and logistics of including this sort of consideration when agreeing responses to

planning applications. If a change were required to Town Council policy, this would be considered and looked at as a follow-on piece of work.

1.11 *Recommendation 4:* *to write to Lewes District Council as our local Planning Authority to inform them of the situation regarding swifts and other urban birds in Seaford and lobby them to take action to include specific measures within their Planning requirements to ensure that the provision of swift bricks and or swift boxes and provisions for other urban birds are included in appropriate developments. Also to ask LDC to include positive measures with the Lewes District Local Plan which is currently being drawn up to provide strong and explicit requirements for creation of new swift nesting sites in the District's urban areas.*

1.12 *Officer Commentary:* seeing that Lewes Town Council has already had dialogue with Lewes District Council on its policies relating to swifts and other urban birds, it may be most sensible to start with better understanding the outcome of these discussions. That would then enable the Town Council to approach the District Council with a view to potentially building on previous work done – or potentially a joined-up approach between Lewes and Seaford Town Councils.

1.13 With regards to comments on the Lewes Local Plan, officers would need to seek advice on the best method for submitting comments with the recent stage of consultation now closed. If not something that could be submitted now, this would be kept for inclusion in the Town Council's next response in the Lewes Local Plan process.

1.14 *Recommendation 5:* *to give consideration to the inclusion of provisions for swift boxes and swift bricks and other Universal Nesting Sites in the Town Council's input to the next iteration of the Seaford Neighbourhood Plan.*

1.15 *Officer Commentary:* if agreed – and once the review is beginning - this recommendation would be passed on to the relevant parties dealing with the review of the Seaford Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Financial Appraisal

2.1 This report has no direct financial implications.

2.2 As mentioned in the appendix, if the Town Council were to look at installing universal nesting sites on its properties, this would have a financial

implication that would have to be considered at the time. There may be options for external funding towards these costs, which would be explored.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The Sub-Committee is being asked to consider how the Town Council can support the population of urban birds in Seaford and make the necessary recommendations to other committees and / or instructions to officers to enable this support to be enacted.

3.2 This work has been linked to helping achieve point 13 of the Town Council's Climate Emergency Policy:

Protect, conserve and enhance the town's natural environment and its biodiversity whilst improving our open spaces, public rights of way and green corridors.

3.3 Officers are grateful for the work of the Chair and Vice Chair of this Sub-Committee in aiding with the preparation of this report.

4. Contact Officer

4.1 The Contact Officer for this report is Louise Lawrence, Head of Assets Projects & Services.

Title: Swifts in Seaford

Purpose of Report: To bring awareness of the plight of swifts and other threatened bird species reliant on urban environments to STC with a view to recommending that STC suggest the use of swift boxes and swift bricks, also referred to as Universal Nesting Sites, in appropriate planning applications and that STC considers installing measures on its own assets to support the populations of urban birds in Seaford.

Recommendations:

- To note the contents of the Report;
- To undertake to action the five points in Section 6 of this report, and in particular for the Climate Change Subcommittee as a priority;
- To recommend to the Planning & Highways Committee to undertake to consider whether a suggestion to install measures to support the conservation of swifts and other urban bird species is appropriate when they assess Planning Applications and if so to return a recommendation as part of our response to the Planning Authority (this may invoke a revision to the STC Planning & Highways Policy);
- To recommend to the Community Services Committee to undertake to assess STC's property assets in order to determine whether any buildings are suitable for installing Universal Nesting Sites (UNS) and to install UNS where feasible.

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2021, swifts and house martins were added to the Red List in the UK's Birds of Conservation Concern, indicating that these species are in trouble and face serious challenges in terms of historical decline, recent trends in population and range, population size, localisation and international importance, as well as global and European threat status. The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) reports that the number of swifts has halved in 20 years and that fewer than 90,000 arrived last year. The same is true of other species that use similar urban nesting sites, for example the house martin has declined by 50% since 1960.
- 1.2 The first migrant birds tend to arrive in April before departing in August and September. Swifts are urban dwellers and return to the same nesting site year after year.
- 1.3 Whilst the decrease in the number of swifts is partially due to the effects of climate change, the loss of suitable nesting places which are typically in the eaves of older housing stock has also significantly contributed to their decline.
- 1.4 The use of swift bricks in new developments or affixing swift boxes to existing buildings is a recognized means of offering a suitable habitat for swifts to nest in. These and similar boxes and bricks can be used by other species of urban nesting birds, hence the term Universal Nesting Site used in this report.
- 1.5 Seaford has an active community group called Save Seaford's Swifts (SSS) [Save Seaford's Swifts - Renaturing Seaford](#) whose aim is to protect and potentially increase nesting sites for the benefit of swifts. One of the ways SSS does this is by championing the use of swift boxes and installation of swift bricks in Seaford.

1.6 In January 2024 Save Seaford's Swifts made an informal presentation to Seaford Town Councillors to raise awareness and increase understanding of the issues faced by swifts in Seaford and what can be done to help the endangered species thrive again.

2. About swifts in Seaford

2.1 According to Save Seaford's Swifts, there are known colonies of swifts located on:

- Seaford High Street (including the former Nationwide Building)
- Over Claremont Road, between the Baptist Church and Salisbury Road
- Over the allotments on Sutton Drove
- On the East of Seaford, between Kingston Way and Fairways Road

2.2 It is noted that increased surveying of these areas is needed (when swifts arrive in late April/early May) to get a better understanding of where the birds are nesting.

2.3 Save Seaford Swifts reports that there are some swift boxes being installed on existing properties by supportive residents but more nesting sites are needed.

2.4 Other red-listed birds which are reliant on our urban environment including House Martins, House Sparrows and Starlings can also benefit from such nesting places.

3. Current Legislation

3.1 Central Government debated New Housing: Swift Bricks in July 2023. The transcript of this debate can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/debate/2023-07-10/commons/westminster-hall/new-housing-swift-bricks>

3.2 The current legislation can be broadly summarized as follows;

3.3 Whilst there is general consensus across all parties that updating the Building Regulations to include a mandatory requirement to include Swift Bricks in all new house building is a good idea (and, indeed, a huge number of people having signed the petition) the Government at present do not intend to make swift bricks compulsory in new housing.

3.4 The onus is set squarely on local authorities to determine the way in which support for swifts and other endangered birds is incorporated into local Planning requirements.

3.5 Whilst the debate by Government in July 2023 centred around swift bricks for new houses other opportunities were discussed where these could be applied to home extensions.

3.6 Whilst not addressed directly by any existing Planning regulations, support for swifts can be demonstrated by the retrofitting of swift boxes to existing buildings.

4. Shortfalls in the Current Legislation

4.1 Achieving biodiversity net gain, including the specific 10% BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) target in all new developments that will apply from November 2023, is to allow for maximum local discretion (again, not Government sanctioned)

4.2 Many local planning authorities and communities have already included specific provisions relating to swift bricks in their local development and neighbourhood plans and associated supplementary guidance. However, those initiatives remain the exception rather than the norm.

- 4.3 Swift bricks and other species-based features are not explicitly included within the metric for calculating biodiversity net gain. The result is that swift brick coverage across the country, estimated at fewer than 20,000, remains far too limited at present.
- 4.4 The Government's own Planning practice guidance emphasises the value of swift bricks to biodiversity net gain, but that is undermined by the habitat-based biodiversity net gain metric, under which the loss of a swift nest and the addition of swift bricks are irrelevant; they just do not count in the way that, say, hedgerows, trees or other sites for swifts' nests would count.
- There is currently no incentive for developers to install swift bricks when these will not count towards their 10% biodiversity net gain.
- 4.5 The Government have pointed to planning conditions that local authorities can impose and the introduction of new Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Although some local authorities mention swift bricks in their guidance for local plans, only a handful have made it a condition for new housing, and although local recovery strategies may identify swift bricks as important, there is currently no legal link into the planning system.
- 4.6 The current Government approach means that policy on swift bricks remains under the jurisdiction of local planning authorities, few of which have adopted a requirement to put swift bricks into new developments; where they have, it is because local campaigners have pushed for the measure.

5. Local Authorities leading by example

- 5.1 The following are some of the local authorities that have embedded swift bricks and boxes into their Planning policy:
- 5.2 Brighton & Hove City Council
- All new developments in the city of 5 metres or greater in height need swift boxes or swift bricks. The best option identified is swift bricks as they integrate into a building. As such, they are permanent and provide better temperature control.
- 5.3 Greater Cambridge - Biodiversity provision in the design of new buildings and open spaces
- That on all residential housing developments, there should be an equal number of integrated bird box features as dwellings for building-dependent birds (breeding Swifts, House Sparrows, Starlings and House Martins) provided individually or clustered in appropriate locations within the development.
 - That all suitable commercial and community building applications will include integrated bird box features for building dependent birds (breeding Swifts, House Sparrows, Starlings and House Martins) in keeping with the scale of development, i.e. minimum of 10 boxes for the first 1000 sqm footprint and one additional box for every 100 sqm.
- 5.4 West Devon Borough Council, South Hams District Council and Plymouth City Council
- Whilst there are various measures for biodiversity that can be included within minor developments to secure Biodiversity Net Gain, the following enhancements for wildlife should be provided (unless structurally impracticable):
 - One inbuilt bird box/brick per dwelling;
And also: Off-site delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain (where it cannot be provided on-site)
- 5.5 As of July 2023, out of 455 Local Planning Authorities in England only around seven have adopted a compulsory measure for swift bricks and/or swift boxes to be included in Planning

conditions. There are around four other councils that request swift bricks but do not state specific minimum numbers. Other examples include Exeter, London Borough of Bromley and Lonon Borough of Lambeth.

5.6 Lewes

- Lewes Town Council is supportive of the aims of Lewes Swift Supporters. When residents or developers make planning applications for building or renovations in areas where there are existing swift colonies, they advise installation of Swift bricks if the development is appropriate. In November 2020, Lewes Town Council Planning Committee formally adopted the advice leaflet (prepared in conjunction with Lewes Swift Supporters): Guidance for Councillors on installing Swift bricks/boxes.
- Whilst LDC is supportive, their input remains as advice. Local Planning does not make the support of swifts and other urban bird species a requirement.

6. How STC can help swifts and other endangered urban-dwelling bird species in Seaford

6.1 There are five distinct areas where STC could choose to provide meaningful support to the populations of swifts and other red-listed birds in Seaford's urban environment. The following action points would be in accordance with point 13 in STC's Climate Emergency Policy.

6.2 The first of these is to actively promote and encourage the installation of Universal Nesting Sites by local residents by sharing appropriate information on the STC website and social media platforms, and promote the work of Save Seaford's Swifts. Consider actively promoting the annual Swift Awareness Week which runs each summer.

6.3 Secondly to investigate opportunities for fitting swift boxes and boxes suitable for other urban dwelling bird species on STC's buildings. This would be undertaken via a desk-based survey of its building assets and site visits which Save Seaford's Swifts could attend for advice. Swift bricks and swift boxes should be installed in accordance with British Standard BS 42021. This would go forward as a recommendation to the Community Services Committee.

6.4 Thirdly, to use its voice in recommending to the Planning & Highways Committee to undertake to consider whether a suggestion to install measures to support the conservation of swifts and other urban bird species is appropriate when they assess Planning Applications and if so to return a recommendation as part of the Town Council's response to the Planning Authority (this may invoke a revision to the STC Planning & Highways Policy);

6.5 Fourth, to write to Lewes District Council as our local Planning Authority to inform them of the situation regarding swifts and other urban birds in Seaford and lobby them to take action to include specific measures within their Planning requirements to ensure that the provision of swift bricks and or swift boxes and provisions for other urban birds are included in appropriate developments. Also to ask LDC to include positive measures with the Lewes District Local Plan which is currently being drawn up to provide strong and explicit requirements for creation of new swift nesting sites in the District's urban areas.

6.6 Lastly, to give consideration to the inclusion of provisions for swift boxes and swift bricks and other Universal Nesting Sites in the Town Council's input to the next iteration of the Seaford Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Summary and Recommendations

7.1 The onus for implementing measures to protect the swift population rests not with current Building Regulations or Government but squarely with local authorities.

7.2 Adopting these recommendations would underline STC's commitment to protect and enhance our natural and local environment in accordance with point 13 of our Climate Emergency Policy.

7.3 It is recommended that STC take up the actions noted in Section 6 of this report.

Financial Appraisal

- This report has no direct financial implications.
- Should a recommendation be approved to go to the Community Services Committee to assess our property assets in order to determine whether any STC buildings are suitable for installing Universal Nesting Sites and to install UNS where feasible, this could have a financial implication. Save Seaford's Swifts may have access to funding to cover the cost of the purchase of swift boxes.

Environmental Appraisal

- Positive contribution to biodiversity in Seaford's urban and suburban environments
- Positive contribution to residents' wellbeing through engagement with nature in the urban environment