



Greener Brockenhurst Annual Report

October 2022

1 Introduction

The Greener Brockenhurst committee brings together representatives of key village stakeholders including the Parish Council, our Primary School, our Churches, the Village Hall and local businesses and organisations, along with committed and enthusiastic residents. We also have a committed band of hard-working volunteers who work on our various sub-projects.

Our work over the past year is briefly described in following sub-sections.

2 Recycling Shed

The Recycling Shed continues to be well used by the community. We now collect 13 different types of waste that are currently not recycled by New Forest District Council. We are hugely grateful to our loyal team of volunteers who help run the shed. For details of exactly what is being collected, please visit <https://www.greenerbrockenhurst.org/re-cycling-shed>.

3 Making Space for Nature

The aim of this project is to increase biodiversity in both the public and private spaces within the village and to bring local people together to take action for wildlife.

The Making Space for Nature team has created a small wildlife trail in the grounds of St Saviour's church to showcase what can be achieved in gardens and small community spaces to encourage wildlife and help it to thrive. Laurel and brambles were cleared, a wood chip trail laid, wildflower seeds sown, logs dug into a stumpery to attract stag beetles and other mini beasts, bird and hedgehog boxes installed, a bog garden added and a pond made in a lined water barrel with a wildlife ramp added to it. Native pond plants were added to the bog garden and water barrel. There is a plan to further extend the area and more volunteers are needed.

4 Eco Fair

The Eco Fair was held jointly with the church on 9th July. It was a really hot day, and consequently attendance was rather lower than hoped. Nevertheless, there was a great variety of local crafts and Eco ideas for all the family to enjoy. Next year we may do something a little different.

5 Nappy Library

In October 2021 we were awarded a £4k grant from Hampshire Country Council to set up a Cloth Nappy Library to serve the whole of New Forest area (not just Brockenhurst). An enthusiastic team of young mums has been pulled together and we now have 6 nappy kits available for hire, 3 for new-borns and 3 Birth-To-Potty. So far feedback from our clients has been good, with the majority going on to buy their own kits, but uptake is still slow and we need to work on further publicity.

6 Repair Café

Greener Brockenhurst held its first repair Café in April 2022.. We fixed just over half of 31 items brought along on the day; Some others were fixed later by the volunteers and ten were beyond repair. We are very grateful to the volunteers for their help Another Repair Café is scheduled for this autumn. More volunteer fixers would be most welcome.

7 Plastic Free Brockenhurst

We have joined the Plastic Free Communities campaign, calling ourselves “Plastic Free Brockenhurst”. Plastic Free Communities is a grass roots campaign, originated by Surfers Against Sewage, that empowers and connects people to reduce the use of avoidable, throwaway plastic; from our country side, rivers, homes, all the way back to the brands and businesses who create it.

At the next Parish Council meeting (November 2022) a request will be made for a resolution of support to meet the five objectives for PF status.

8 Other events & Activities

8.1 Queens Jubilee

We had a stall at the village Queens Jubilee celebration held at the football club, where we were able to publicise our work and engage with the children with a variety of environment related games and activities.

8.2 Sway Road Bridge Campaign

When Hampshire County Council lifted the weight restriction on the Sway Road bridge in February of this year, it created a route for HGV’s of any size to cut right through our village. Greener Brockenhurst worked alongside Friends of Brockenhurst, local residents and the NPA, gathering support for campaign to reverse this decision, writing letters of objection, and lobbying our Parish Council to also object to Hampshire. This was ultimately successful as the weight restriction has now been reimposed. However, there is still work to be done as the issue of the Meadens Car Transporter off loading and turning on Sway Road so near the school, remains

8.3 Discussions on the future of Brookley Road

Greener Brockenhurst has been engaged with talks with Friends of Brockenhurst and the Brockenhurst Business Association about the future of Brookley Road. It has been agreed that representatives from this group will sit on the Parish Council Village Strategy Sub-Committee.

8.4 Climate Cafés

Greener Brockenhurst has hosted two Climate Cafés over the past year, offering a safe space for people to come and talk about their feelings about climate change.

9 Treasurers Report

As attached separately.