

Greener Brockenhurst Annual Report

October 2021

1 Introduction

The first meeting of the Environmental Community Action Group, now known as Greener Brockenhurst, took place in September 2020, though the name, Greener Brockenhurst was not agreed until later that year.

This is therefore, the first annual report of the Activities of Greener Brockenhurst since its inception.

2 Report on the formation and organisation of Greener Brockenhurst

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. In the period between the first meeting in September 2020 and January 2021, when the group was formally launched, the following formational activities were undertaken

- The name, Terms of Reference and Aims of the group were agreed
- A written constitution for the group were agreed
- The chair persons, Treasurer and Secretary were appointed
- Our website was developed
- A bank account was applied for
- Liability Insurance was researched and eventually procured
- Policies on GDPR, Health and Safety etc were discussed and developed

Since then, various Greener Brockenhurst Action Projects have been undertaken, each with a sub-committee managing the activity. Each of these projects is described in following sections.

3 Report from the Recycling Shed Project

The Greener Brockenhurst Recycling Shed was opened in February 2021. We are most grateful to the Village Hall for allowing us to locate it in their carpark.

We collect 12 different types of waste that are currently not recycled by New Forest District Council. For details of exactly what is being collected, please visit

<https://www.greenerbrockenhurst.org/re-cycling-shed>.

Each stream of waste has its own bin in the shed, and each bin is managed by one of our wonderful volunteers. Each volunteer monitors their allocated bin, emptying it and taking the collected waste to the designated drop-off point for that waste stream. The two bins that fill up most frequently are the 'Crisp Packet' bin and the 'Plastic bag' bin. Each of these bins has 2 volunteers allocated to it in order to manage the volumes, without it becoming too onerous for the valiant volunteers concerned.

The streams of waste that we chose to collect were, largely dictated by the requirement for there to be some reasonably local drop off point for the collected items. Many of the streams of waste also raise money for local charities. For full details on the final destination of each waste stream, and details of any charity supported, please see https://caae7628-6820-4e88-ad3a-10d373009248.filesusr.com/ugd/4bf14d_69b34d497a67498e9b0ae0f520cb571a.pdf.

To date the Recycling shed has been running for 9 months. There have been very few teething problems and we have been delighted with its uptake and use by local residents. Probably our only concern is that users, in their enthusiasm to recycle, do not always check carefully what is and what is not acceptable waste types for each stream.

4 Report from the Making Space for Nature Project

Our aim with 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.

Any space transformed for wildlife, no matter how big or small, creates more space for nature to thrive.

There are currently five key parts to this project

- Promoting nature-friendly gardening which involves encouraging residents to create areas within their gardens to boost wildlife (most especially pollinators), to maximise planting of flowers, to improve their soil and to provide wildlife corridors between gardens to help wildlife move around to find food and safe habitats. We can also point anyone in the direction of more specialist advice if it is wanted.
- We have become a member of the Team Wilder Hampshire community which is an initiative set up by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to help nature's recovery through small local actions. This is a great source of information, shared ideas and support and provides a connection to other Wilder community members through an e-newsletter.
- We joined the charity Plantlife's national campaign to increase wildflowers and the wildlife they underpin by a) getting local authorities to reduce the mowing of

roadside verges and parks to twice a year and b) publicising the ‘no-mow-May’ challenge locally. This challenge appears to have been widely taken up by our village residents and some went a step further by leaving areas of lawn/garden uncut all summer which will have greatly benefitted wildlife. With the help of Plantlife and HCC, we will continue in the spring to find ways to effectively work with residents on managing the ungrazed verges outside their properties and keep them informed of the benefits this will have for biodiversity.

- Greener Brockenhurst has been collaborating with the Parish Council and New Forest Land Advice Service on a native daffodil-planting project and six sites around the village have been identified as a pilot. We also looked at the possibility of planting wildflowers on these and other public sites which are ungrazed but this will be more complicated due primarily to the New Forest’s SSSI status. We will continue to look for potential locations and investigate suitable wild flowers to plant.
- We are working with our Greener Brockenhurst partner organisations and groups to identify local green spaces for planting or wilding which can be enjoyed by our community.

5 Report on Community Energy Project

Earlier this year, one of our members with life-long experience as an engineer, gave much of his time to undertaking a feasibility study into various renewable energy options. He concluded that a community home energy project at this time was not economically viable. However, new technologies are rapidly developing to meet the challenge of climate change and we are not closing the door on this as a future project.

Regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, he recommended that the economic costs of a project to instal these around the village, subject to demand, could be viable. Greener Brockenhurst will be discussing with our partner organisations over the next few months to see if this can be developed.

The retrofitting of our homes to help reduce our energy consumption is a topic on which Greener Brockenhurst would like to make available specialist information and guidance to the community through our website, publicity and possibly even workshops.

6 Report on Greener Brockenhurst Day

On Saturday, 10th July, Greener Brockenhurst put on an Eco Fair in the grounds of St Saviour’s Church, its first big event since launching in January. Despite Covid rules making the organisation more complicated, the event was a great success and attracted more than 500 visitors of all ages. Lots of lovely comments were received about the community atmosphere

throughout the afternoon and it was wonderful to see such a mix of people all gathering together again for a community event. There was no pinging from the QR code. There were a great variety of stalls from those displaying inspirational ideas about nature-friendly gardening, healthy, sustainable living and natural skin care to demonstrating bee keeping, bell ringing, woodland crafts, recycling/sewing clothes, solar panels and more. Our Primary School brought a wonderful display of their creative art work using recycled materials and the allotment team generously gave out free seedlings. There were games for the children and the Friday Girls came and sang for us including getting us to join in with a song for the climate emergency! The PTA served Pimms and Prosecco and the Mothers' Union served Ploughman's lunches and cream teas - all very much appreciated. The committee is most grateful to the organising team for their hard work and all that went into making the day so successful, St Saviours' PCC for the use of their garden and the Catholic Church for offering parking

7 Report on Greener Brockenhurst Open Meeting

Greener Brockenhurst held its first public "Open" meeting on 23rd September 2021. This had been delayed by COVID. Approximately 45 people attended, many of whom were previously unknown to Greener Brockenhurst, so we felt it was a real success. We were very fortunate to have Mary DeBoos from Ringwood RACE and Rebecca Sykes from NFCA to come and facilitate the break-out groups and feedback.

The bulk of the meeting was spent in small groups, discussing possible future projects for the group. The output from this Open meeting and follow-on next steps is still a work in progress, but we are hoping that many of those that attended will want to get involved in future work.

8 Treasurers Report

Current bank balance is £1,512 (as at 11 October 2021).

This includes income from the Eco-fair, and some generous donations, notably £500 from the Co-op Welcome Store, £500 from the Parish Council, £470 from an individual and several smaller donations from local businesses and organisations.

Outgoings are very low (the main outgoings so far are the cost of insurance, the room hire for the open evening, and bank charges of £6 per month) so the finances are very healthy.

A full breakdown of the accounts is shown overleaf:

Greener Brockenhurst Accounts 2020 - 2021

Date	Details	Incomin g	Outgoing s	Balance	Comment
05/03/2021	Welcome Store	£500.00		£500.00	Donation - Seed money
15/05/2021	Cottage Lodge	£15.00		£515.00	Donation for recycling shed
15/05/2021	Trevor Davis		£289.03	£225.97	Liability insurance
30/06/2021	Bronze-Design	£15.00		£240.97	Donation for recycling shed
30/06/2021	Brock Football Club	£15.00		£255.97	Donation for recycling shed
09/07/2021	FOB	£15.00		£270.97	Donation for recycling shed
23/08/2021	Individual Donor	£470.00		£740.97	Donation
20/09/2021	Cash	£100.00		£840.97	income from ecofair
21/09/2021	cash	£205.00		£1,045.97	income from ecofair
25/09/2021	P Andrews	£20.70		£1,066.67	income from eco-fair
25/09/2021	Brockenhurst PC	£500.00		£1,566.67	Donation
25/09/2021	Mother Union	£20.00		£1,586.67	Donation
30/09/2021	Unity Bank		£18.00	£1,568.67	Service charge
04/10/2021	Brock Village Hall		£56.25	£1,512.42	Venue hire