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Description automatically generated**AGM 2022**

**(review of the year from 1 Jan – 31 December 2022)**

**Saturday, 22 April 2023**

**WHITE ROCK HOTEL 10.30 – 12 noon**

**Agenda:**

10-10.30 Meet, greet and gather

10.30-10.35 Check in with person next to you

10.35-10.45am Intro and welcome from Chris Richards, acting chair. Overview of year and chair report

10.45-11.15 Past year project updates including

* The Green Room
* Gardening our Streets
* Town Grown: food growing network
* Compost Community
* Kings Rd market stalls
* Apple pressing
* Apple tree planting
* The Big Lunch & Green Drinks

11.15-11.25am -Treasurer report of the past year

11.25am New Transition Town Hastings & St Leonards roles

11.45am New projects from TTH and the wider network

11.50-12 Year ahead flip charts

**INTRO** (Chris R)

PRESENTATION of TTH

Current roles:

* Rotating chairs (Sarah Macbeth, Sherry Clark, Chris Richards, Anna Locke)
* Treasurer / Secretary (Andrea Corso)
* Comms (Hannah Robbins)

**REVIEW OF 2022 PROJECTS**

**GARDENING OUR STREETS** (Sherry Clark)

The first community-led element of the Hastings Garden Town project, aiming at planting seeds (literally and metaphorically) in some visible areas of the town, to start a concrete discussion about what the community can do to increase biodiversity and nature in urban public spaces with reduced council maintenance and funding.

Sixteen new planters have been situated around Robertson Street and the Observer Building.

Contribution from volunteers is recognised via Time Credits that recognise the value of their time and effort. Credits can be redeemed with coffee / cake, or attendance to activities.

The first 6-months of Gardening Our Streets was generously funded through a grant from Making It Happen. The project has recently received 2023 extension funding through the Trinity Triangle Heritage Action Fund.

**WARRIOR SQUARE STATION COMMUNITY GARDEN and WILDFLOWER SEED-SOWING**

The wildflower meadow planted near WS station will be resown and an additional meadow will be sown at the foot of the Nightingale Passage in St Leonards (today)

Regular sessions at WS Station Garden. Volunteers needed

* Wednesday 5-7pm
* Sunday 2-4pm

Gardening our Streets weekly sessions (meet at The Common Room at 1.45)

* Wednesday 2-4pm

Old Town Gardening group weekly sessions

* Monday 1.30-3.30pm

Warrior Square Gardens rose garden maintenance session

* Sunday morning 10-12noon

TTH co-hosted a shared info and plant-sale stall with Town Grown:

* Kings Road Market (May, June, July, September)
* City of Sanctuary Festival (26 June)
* St Leonards Festival (9 July)

**THE GREEN ROOM** (Sherry Clark)

The Common Room was opened in September 2021 in Cambridge Road, in a space provided by the Hastings Commons, in order to provide a space for individual and groups to gather and cooperate in the town.

Within that, one day a week was dedicated to the Green Room, co-hosted by Energise Sussex Coast and Transition Town Hastings to make accessible activities and cooperation between groups committed to climate action in the town. This included:

* 50 weeks of free Energy Advice
* 12 potluck suppers
* 12 TTH monthly meetings
* Several workshops, including Fantastic Fungi, Beyond Beach Clean, energy and water focussed events

The Green Room was generously funded by a grant from the Making It Happen programme and part-funded by a National Lottery Reaching Communities grant.

**TOWN GROWN** (Hannah Robbins)

Project aimed at encouraging and supporting local individuals to growing their own food.

It started with a survey to find out the interest and the experience available around town

After the initial public launch, there were

* 5 informational sessions at the Kings Road market
* Several well-attended workshops
* Sponsorship of home-growing mushroom kits
* Our Town is an Orchard (with around 150 new trees registered in the town during last year)
* During 2023 the focus is on Edible Gardens and small-scale home growing (e.g. on window sills etc)

**HOUSING** (Ken Davis)

Shortage of housing is a real issues in Hastings. It is really a legislation/permits problem. Locally there is a limitation in terms of land availability. Hastings has very low density of buildings, but also limited provision of local amenities especially in suburban developments. There is plenty of land available for small scale (and also larger scale) developments, many publicly owned, but the application process is very cumbersome

**BIG LUNCH** – TTH not involved this year but Coronation Big Lunches will be taking place in Alexandra Park and Christchurch St Leonards over the weekend of 6-8 May, as well as many other locations around town.

**GREEN DRINKS** – to resume shortly

**OTHER LOCAL PROJECTS**

**COMPOST COMMUNITY** (Josh Brem-Wilson, member of the Steering Group)

Aim of the project is to address the shortfall of collection of organic domestic waste around the town

Six hubs are already in place, with about 40 households per hub (so that volumes and contents are controlled, there is no risk of attracting pests). The limit to having more hubs is coming from the time it is taking to get approval for new sites. Aiming also to have larger hubs on public (council) land.

Bins are built based on a scheme running in Brighton. Compost is given out first to members, or used locally.

The project was initially supported through TTH, and is now fully independent, and has received funding for further expansion of hub.s

The team is fairly stable, even if it’s always a struggle to find active participating members.

**COMMUNITY ORCHARDS** (Anna Sabin & Mary Dawson)

Two orchards now in HOLLINGTON (12 trees) and BEMBROOK (25 trees, near West Hill Community Centre).

Local volunteers have committed to the watering of the trees in the summer. Contribution from the Survivors of the Streets group.

**HASTINGS GREENWAY GROUP** and **HASTINGS URBAN BIKES** are looking for volunteers to get involved in supporting local sustainable transport.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

* Helen Diamantopoulo aiming to plant some trees and plants around St Andrew’s Square (and connect with ongoing initiatives around that)
* Penny Foxwell lives on a farm outside town (Guestling area) and is keen to spread her skills around food growing
* Damian Tissier acquired 6 acres of land in Westfield and is looking for people to get involved in planting and growing food
* Hastings Woodcraft Folk local group being relaunched with weekly sessions for 0-12 year-old children in Alexandra Park (advertised on the Hastings Woodcraft Folk Facebook page – contact Chris and Emma Anderson)
* Beach clean today in St Leonards (Amanda Jobson, Green Party)
* The Common Room – clothes swap today 12 noon (Make and Mend)
* Hastings Garden Town community conversation - Wednesday May 10th evening (7pm) for local gardening practitioners to push on the Garden Town initiative, at Alexandra Park Greenhouse
* Hastings Men’s Group has a new initiative that just started (Green Men, Green Shoots, Green Economy ) – funded by Making It Happen
* Strandliners [[Cleaner Rivers, Cleaner Seas – Increasing public awareness of our environment through citizen science & community engagement (strandliners.org)](https://strandliners.org/)] continue with beach clean and collection of data on plastic pollution collected

**ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS**

**TREARURER’s REPORT**

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

CHAIR – Hannah Robbins to become rotating chair from today

TREASURER – Andrea Corso re-nominated

SECRETARY and COMMS – Sherry Clark and Helen Diamantopoulo to share the role

**MONTHLY MEETINGS** now moving to Mondays. Next meeting on Monday 24th April/ 7pm at White Rock Hotel