In the summer of 2020, as the lockdown came to an end, we surveyed our community to find out if they wanted to go back to the old normal or whether they wanted a different future, a more sustainable and climate-friendly one, for Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding.

We were delighted with the response. Over 450 people completed the survey, across all age groups.

We tested forty different ideas for the future across six key areas – transport, homes, energy, shopping, biodiversity and the local economy. People were asked to score each one on a scale of one to five, rating them from a ‘bad’ to a ‘great’ idea. The survey also asked how people’s priorities had changed as a result of the coronavirus lockdown, as this has caused many to think afresh about what is most important to them.

**Highlights**

The results showed a remarkable degree of consensus around many of the ideas proposed. It was clear that people are looking for genuine, positive change and are ready to work together to build a healthier, happier, low carbon future.

The following ten top ideas all got approval ratings of 92% or more, with respondents rating them ‘good’ or ‘great’ ideas. These were:

- Many new trees have been planted.
- Steps have been taken to create ‘wildlife corridors’ throughout the area.
- Local farmers are working to encourage biodiversity on their farms and minimise their environmental impact.
- No more building has been allowed on the Adur floodplain.
- There are many more solar panels on local schools, offices and public buildings.
- New housing is designed with climate resilience in mind.
- We are much better at caring for vulnerable groups within the community.
- We have vibrant and flourishing High Streets with most essentials available locally.
- There are community collection points for hard-to-recycle items.
- There has been a big reduction of food waste.

Most of the other suggestions got high approval ratings, too, with over three quarters thinking they were ‘good’ or ‘great’ ideas. The most uncertainty was over the feasibility of cutting down on privately owned cars. 57% were in favour, but 31% were ‘unsure’ and 12% against.

Only two ideas were considered to be ‘doubtful’ or ‘bad ideas’ by more than 20% of people: building wind turbines on the South Downs, and pedestrianising Steyning High Street. Yet even these were supported by over half of those who filled in the survey.
The aim of the 2030 Project is to create a future for Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding that is healthier, happier and greener. The first step was to paint a picture of exactly what this future would look like. Now, thanks to the survey, we have a much clearer idea.

This is the emerging vision of how we want our community to be by 2030:

- We have clean air and quiet roads thanks to improved cycle paths and buses, and a big shift to electric cars.
- We have thriving businesses as more people shop locally. More is repaired and recycled and less wasted.
- Zero-carbon building and retrofitting means we live in warm and energy efficient homes.
- Farmers, councils and local people working together to protect and enhance nature.
- We are producing clean, renewable energy at scale locally.
- We are a strong and cohesive community that looks after vulnerable people.

**Conclusions and next steps**

The results add up to a strong vote of confidence in the 2030 Project. They confirm there is overwhelming support for ambitious action across all these areas. Our community is ready to build a healthier, happier, low carbon future!

It is a hugely ambitious agenda. No one group can achieve this on its own. To be successful, the 2030 Project needs to be a real joint effort. So we want to involve as many other local community groups as possible: parish councils, the district and county councils, local schools, churches, clubs and societies, farmers, businesses and more.

Over the summer a series of Action Groups will be formed to take forward these ideas and come up with concrete plans.

To read the full survey report, see: [https://bit.ly/2030surveyresults](https://bit.ly/2030surveyresults) You can find out more, and learn how you can get involved, on the Greening Steyning website: [http://www.greeningsteyning.org](http://www.greeningsteyning.org)