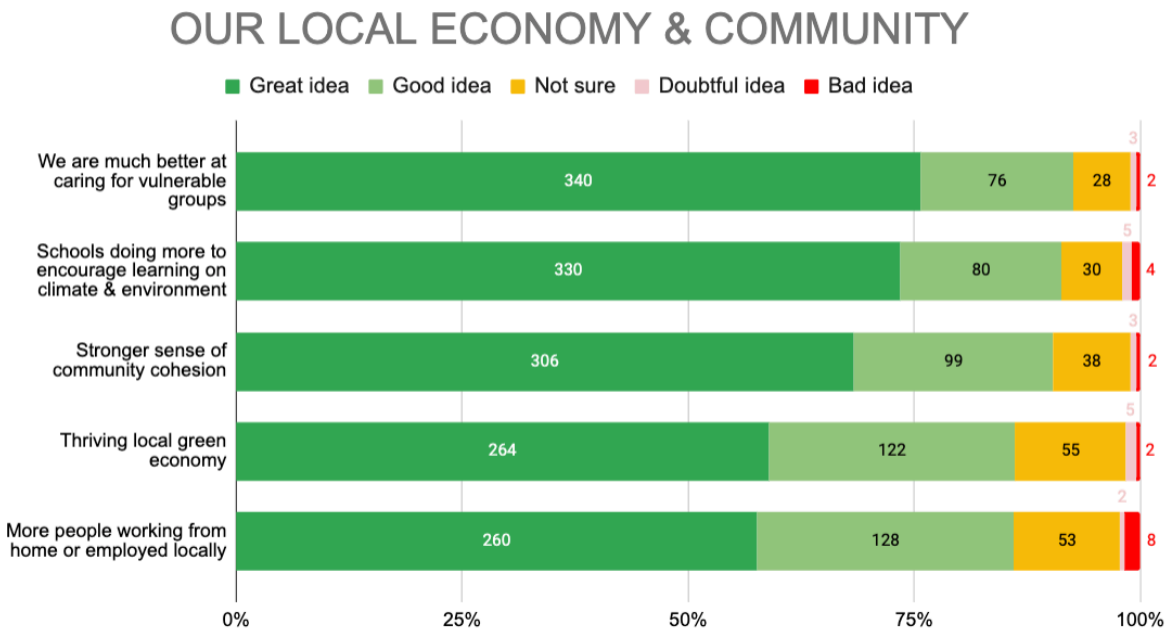
F. Our local economy and community

Headlines



Top Priorities

*3

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- People's lockdown experiences have no doubt affected their thinking about how they want our community and economy to be like in future.
- There is a widespread feeling that we need to be better at caring for vulnerable groups and a desire for a stronger sense of community cohesion – over 90% agreed with these options.
- 86% would welcome a shift to more locally-based economy, with more people working from home or employed nearby, and a thriving local green economy.
- The crucial role of schools in encouraging learning and engagement on climate and environment issues was also widely noted - it came top of the list of priorities.

Raw data

Idea	Great idea	Good idea	Not sure	Doubtful idea	Bad idea	Good or great idea	Doubtful or bad idea	Average Score	Number who consider priority
We are much better at caring for vulnerable groups within the community	76%	17%	6%	0%	0%	92.9%	0.9%	4.67	253
Schools are doing more to encourage learning & engagement on climate and the environment	74%	18%	7%	1%	1%	91.5%	1.8%	4.63	289
We have a stronger sense of community cohesion	68%	22%	9%	1%	0%	90.4%	1.1%	4.57	230
There is a thriving local green economy	59%	27%	12%	1%	0%	86.1%	1.6%	4.43	209
More people are working from home, or are employed locally	58%	28%	12%	0%	2%	86.2%	2.0%	4.40	286

What else would you like to see?

A community garden
A continuation and extension of the community hub for all time, especially for the benefit of vulnerable people and those who are not on line.
A greater understanding of some of the structurally issues that have created difficulties in achieving alot of these aims
a green and caring way of controlling pigeons and rats
A local green energy cooperative. I think community cohesion is pretty good.
adopt a granny / granddad
Although there has been improvements towards vulnerable I am still aware of many falling through cracks and left in challenging circumstances
An initiative that gets the whole community on board, sometimes it feels as though we are in an echo chamber. Need to think what would entice members of the community who wouldn't typically be on board with green ethos.
Better education within schools on green matters. teachers are busy and many will not have environmental matters on their minds. Those young people in secondary schools could be running local councils and local companies by 2030!
Better funding for carers. Decent pay for those in paid caring roles. Investment in and funding for local sustainable businesses.
Better mental health provision

Build on local WhatsApp groups to continue to develop neighbourliness and neighbourhood watch.
Commuter tax bands.
Education is the key - if the generations in school now understand the issues and want things to change, they will have the information and abilities to make fundamental change happen across all areas of society, government and the economy.
Further connections with local primary and secondary schools to engage young people in the movement - could you deliver assemblies?
GP practises, care homes, pharmacists, healthcare providers etc being actively involved in prescribing and ensuring health and wellbeing is obtained through nature connections. Green prescribing its called I think?
Growing vegetables is part of school life and looking after a green space for wildlife
I think community cohesion should include looking after vulnerable groups.
I think some local groups could combine which would help with the problem of finding volunteers to help keep things running
I think the farmers option belonged to the previous section!
I would like to see the church set up a Steyning hub (like the Beeding Hub) in a re-built Penfold Hall - ongoing social benefit and good in a crisis.
If people cannot work from home, perhaps work units could be created locally with shared facilities,
improved connectivity for broadband and mobile phones to support the above.
It would be amazing to see a more cross-generational effort to tackle climate change. I think there is a generational divide with myself and many other young adults fearing for the global picture and how it will look when we are late into adulthood, whereas I feel those are stuck in much more of a local concern that is equally as important but does not consider the massive suffering around the world already because of climate change. One generation sees it happening now, all over the world, and the other sees how it might reach them locally in the future if nothing is done.
Local 'green gyms' and 'good gyms' - go for a healthy walk/run then help undertake environmental activity, e.g. tree planting, or help vulnerable people, e.g. helping with their insulation, or energy monitoring, or veg garden, installing water butt, composter, etc. Would bring all elements of vision together and help community cohesion. Exercise and helping others known to promote wellbeing and help mental health. We need to include health, wellbeing and fitness within this section as all vital for vision and success of the community. Diversity, equality and inclusion are all vital also and needs to be explicitly mentioned within vision.
Local schoolchildren receiving more instruction in cooking and domestic science
Love the ideas mentioned earlier of community projects repairing goods, helping wildlife, beach cleans etc...
Make the Steyning area a hub for green start ups
Mobile network and WiFi resilience needs to be improved
more awareness that many residents do not use social media
More frequent farmers and growers markets/bring and share events. We need an inter-generation, sustainable approach, not just the 'usual' volunteers who can get overwhelmed.
More integration between different generations
More interaction/projects between schools and community groups on green issues - allowing young people to take a lead too.

More local policing.
More mixing between the age groups
More power from Parrish council, Horsham planning is too dictatorial.
More public leisure provision
More voluntary groups and focus groups supporting local community interests
MORE WAIGHT LOSS CLUBS
Much better support locally for the vulnerable. Locally available homecare
New local Green economy businesses and jobs.
Office space provided locally to combat isolation if many more people are working from home; far better resources for young people in the community
One thing that we have seen in Covid times, is people caring for people round them. This needs to be encouraged, people need a better work life balance to allow them to look after each other. This will save the state a fortune in the long term.
Our teenagers and youngsters feeling part of community so they respect green areas.engagement to respect.
people continuing to help elderly and vulnerable, schools being made aware of people in need, ways to help etc, create a local charity to help local people
people not driving to work or taking the bus
Really important to identify a way to bring home workers together, to maybe generate a communicate office hub, the danger of being lonely is always a risk
river banks maintained to prevent flooding
Scandinavian countries encourage their older school children to do a year or more of service in the community - in Iceland I believe it is compulsory.....what do most of ours do?
Small local groups should be more prepared to collaborate and less proprietorial about their areas of interest.
Support for connectivity. Much more is possible with home working tech.
The school appears to be doing nothing (I have recently had 3 children at Steyning Grammar school) both in terms of practical things and education
We need to be less short sighted. We are global citizens. We should embrace globalized culture, not only focus on our local community and its conservative / middle class / white culture.

Any comments or concerns to share?

Anti social behavior stopped before it gets out of hand.
As above - vision needs to be accessible for all to see and achieve irrespective of who they are and needs to ensure people are all encouraged and free to be their true selves. So promotes diversity and inclusion in all it's forms - culture, income, race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, etc, etc.
As I use a mobility scooter I am not allowed on the local community mini bus for shopping. Most coach companies won't take me for the same reason. It's simply unfair to deny access and to tell me the local minibus is only for able bodied.
Concerned that the approach will create a feeling of guilt rather than thinking more deeply about how we can reach some of the climate needs through a more egalitarian culture in our country and amazing world that we are passing through

Current climate education is very nice but limited in terms of affective context in my opinion. It's not really schools and the younger generation alone that need more educating on these topics but the older generations who don't seem to care (acc some overheard Beeding conversations). Some very public very forceable and visual education - films etc of death and destruction as a result of climate change contextualised for this area would be more impactful. Lots not bothered about arctic ice caps or fish dying but they do care if they can't get from Beeding to Bramber or Beeding to Henfield. Simulations of the impact of Adur rising or average cost of a basket of shopping due to scarcity of ingredients could be much more shocking and have a bigger impact.
Educating the young (re the above) will bring massive benefits when they come to design the future
education for all ages
Education to focus promoting wellbeing and gearing people up with up for a greener economy. Revive creative subjects to promote creative thinking.
Effect of all schemes on biodiversity
Enabling people to work from home is important, but providing suitable activities to replace the 'social' aspect of going out to work is essential.
Garden chemical are too easily sold without their effects beig fully understood. more research and publicity should be avaiable to counteract advertising
Getting people involved and volunteering will always be a problem as a large section of the population are working and have demands on their time.
Heightened awareness & commitment of residents to play our part in reversing climate change.
I agree with the principle of better education, but I'm not convince climate change as a subject is free from propoganda and so the existing syllabus is probably of a good quality until the politics and self righteousness is managed better.
I hope that with a greater community cohesion that the vulnerable would cared well for.
I think the farmers tick-box doesn't belong here but to the previous section me thinks.
I've gotten very suspicious of any plans to influence kids by promoting certain ideas in schools. Rather, I would like schools to ask children for their opinion, and take that into account. Children should have a significant say in how the school is run, and by doing that, learn and practice democracy, decision making and care for their community. Sociocracy / dynamic governance should be introduced and used to increase engagement.
In my experience, primary schools already do a fine job of educating children about the environment and climate change. Am not able to speak about secondary schools' contribution however.
Information collection and distribution is essential but not always successful.
It's hard to pick just 3 in most of these sections. Alot is relevant.
Local jobs - what a great idea. Commuting is at massive levels with the roads clogged at every rush hour (and at weekends with tourists!)
Many people now work through agencies, and have frequently changing work, so feel they need a car. We need decent, stable employment.
More community centres, in central locations (high street) for ease of access.
Motherhood and apple pie?
Not everyone can work in the local area depending on the job they do

Only to reiterate how important it is to be educating the next generation. All of the suggestions on this page may not have the biggest impact on carbon savings, but the societal cohesion needed to fight climate change should not be underestimated. It is only when we are together and united that we can be strong and make a difference to an entire community.
Private and business rents continue to be a major barrier to local economies. Why bother if the beneficiaries are just the landlords?
That we will default to previous lives
The Parish Council try to control everything but take for ever to deal with emergencies.
The school curriculum at primary level is already heavily invested in climate awareness - we should avoid making young minds over-anxious on this topic.
We must take this opportunity to invest in the green economy and as they say... we must 'Build back better'!
We need to use this opportunity to Green all employment and education moving forward.
Whilst I think it would be better for people to work locally & not have long commutes, I do not think it is a good idea for a lot of people's mental health to work from home. It does not suit everyone.
wonderful ideas but age is now against me unfortunately
Working from home can be lonely for the single
Working from home has many benefits eg flexibility . However having done it for several years it can be very lonely. Also one needs a workspace which allows concentration and minimises interruptions. Loneliness and isolation are growing as we have less contact with others face to face due to new technologies. Especially the more vulnerable.