



## **Greening Steyning Constitution**

*Revised October 2020*

### **Objectives**

Greening Steyning is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation working to create a sustainable, low-carbon future for Steyning, Bramber, Upper Beeding and the surrounding area. Our aim is to engage the whole community in tackling climate and ecological breakdown and take action locally so that together we can make a real difference. Our ambitious mission is to make ours one of the greenest, healthiest and most sustainable communities in the UK.

### **Background**

The organisation was set up originally in 2010 when a group of local people came together to share their concerns about the need for action on the climate. Back then the evidence was already mounting that unless we act quickly to cut carbon emissions humanity will face serious problems in the years to come due to global warming, sea level rise, famine, species loss and related knock-on effects. We felt it was time for ordinary people to step up and show that they are ready to take action to defend our children's futures.

Since then, the evidence has become overwhelming. We are facing a climate emergency combined with a growing ecological crisis involving widespread species loss and habitat destruction. As the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and many others expert bodies point out, unless we act decisively, we are heading for disaster. It's now or never.

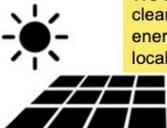
The original name for the group was the 'Steyning 10:10 Climate Action Group'. When we launched a Greening Campaign in 2011 we took on 'Greening Steyning, Bramber and Beeding' as a more descriptive name, or 'Greening Steyning' as shorthand.

In 2020 the group formally changed its name to Greening Steyning and began an ambitious new phase of activities called 'The 2030 Project'. A broad-based public survey was carried out asking local people what they wanted to future to look like in 2030. We had an excellent response to the survey, with over 450 replies. The results showed a high degree of consensus on the need for action and set the outlines of a positive, optimistic vision for how local residents would like their community to be within the next decade.

This emerging vision is summarised in the graphic below.

## An emerging vision

This is how we want our community to be in 2030:

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

Full details of The 2030 Project can be found on the website: [greeningsteyning.org](http://greeningsteyning.org)

### Powers

In order to achieve its objectives the organisation may:

- Raise money
- Open bank accounts
- Take out insurance
- Organise courses and events
- Communicate information via the website, social media, local press and other channels
- Work with and exchange information with other groups with shared objectives
- Do anything that is lawful which will help it to fulfil its objectives

### Principles

Greening Steyning is a collaborative effort and aims:

- to be open and inclusive – the more people and organisations we can involve and engage, the more we will achieve. For example, we are aiming to work closely with local schools, Parish Councils, church groups, farmers, the business community, and other voluntary groups.
- to build on the enthusiasm, ideas and efforts of the whole community – we need to share the work around.

- to provide a positive vision for how our community can work together to create a safer, happier, healthier and more sustainable future for all.
- to help educate, inform and inspire our community.
- to recognise that people are approaching climate and environmental issues from different perspectives. Worries about climate change are a key driver for many people, but there are other good reasons to cut carbon emissions, protect biodiversity, and promote more environmentally sustainable lifestyles.
- to make space for different viewpoints – within the context of Greening Steyning’s overall objective of promoting concrete action to create a sustainable, low-carbon future for Steyning, Bramber, Upper Beeding.
- to be non-party political.
- to ‘practice what it preaches’ and work to minimise its own carbon footprint.
- to demonstrate best practice with regard to equal opportunities and safeguarding (see separate policy statement on both these areas).

## **Membership**

- There is no formal application process or subscription to pay to join the organisation. Individuals can sign up to become members of Greening Steyning by subscribing to the email newsletter, which means they will be invited to meetings and hear about upcoming activities and how they can get involved.
- Membership of Greening Steyning shall be open to any individual over 18 years in age who is interested in helping the Group to achieve its aims. (Anyone younger than this is welcome to sign up to the mailing list but will not become a full member with voting rights until they reach the age of 18.)
- Membership shall be available to anyone without regard to gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion or belief.
- Other organisations and voluntary groups that support its goals can also become Affiliate Members of Greening Steyning.
- Affiliate Members shall appoint a representative to attend Greening Steyning meetings on behalf of their organisation, and should notify the Greening Steyning of that person’s name.
- Every individual and Affiliate Member shall have one vote at General Meetings.
- The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Steering Group but the member has a right to be heard by the Steering Group before a final decision is made.

## **Organisation and management**

Greening Steyning has a deliberately 'light touch' management approach:

- Decisions on the overall direction of the organisation are made by a Steering Group that will meet approximately once a month, or as required, to agree a programme of activities, coordinate different projects, and take other necessary decisions.
- Responsibility for planning and carrying out specific activities is delegated to smaller action groups or project teams, as appropriate. These sub-groups will appoint coordinators to lead them.
- The Steering Group will be made up of representatives from each of the main action groups, plus other necessary operational or advisory roles, as agreed by the Steering Group.
- A Chair, or two co-Chairs, of will be appointed to convene and chair Steering Meetings, and act as an overall spokesperson(s) for the organisation. These positions will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting of the membership.
- The Chair/Co-chairs will chair meetings and act as spokespeople for the organisation when required.
- A Treasurer will be appointed to the Steering Group to manage the funds of the organisation, keep proper accounts and monitor the organisation's bank account.
- Decisions by the Steering Group will be reached by consensus, where possible, and if not by a simple majority vote of those present. In the event of a tied vote, the motion will be deemed to have been turned down.
- A volunteer will be sought to take notes at Steering Group meetings, which will be published on the website.
- A member of the Steering Group will be nominated as Safeguarding Lead, with responsibility for developing and overseeing Greening Steyning's safeguarding policy.

## **Financial management**

- The organisation may seek funding or sponsorship for activities, as agreed by the Steering Group.
- Other income will be raised by charging an entrance fee for events or seeking voluntary contributions from time to time.
- Any money obtained for the organisation will be used solely for fulfilling the organisation's objectives.
- The Treasurer will be responsible for maintaining accounts for the organisation, which will be published on an annual basis.
- The bank account will require two signatories to approve expenditures.

## **General Meetings**

- The Group shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM), normally in January each year.

- All members shall be given at least fourteen days' notice of the AGM and shall be entitled to attend and vote. The quorum for an AGM shall be 15 members.
- The business of the AGM shall include:
  - Receiving a report from the Chairperson(s) on the Organisation's activities over the year.
  - Receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the Organisation.
  - Electing the Chair/Co Chairs and Treasurer for the year ahead.
  - Considering any other matter as may be decided.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Steering Group at any time during the year to consider urgent matters that cannot be deferred until the next AGM.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting can also be called by members of the Greening Steyning if a petition signed by 15 current members is submitted to the Chair/Co-Chairs.

### **Alterations to the Constitution**

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting.

### **Dissolution**

The Organisation may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another Group with similar aims.

Agreed by the Greening Steyning Steering Group

Date: 20 October 2020

Signed by:



Paul Hannam  
(Co-Chairs, Greening Steyning)



Geoff Barnard