The Hangleton & Knoll Project
Working for a better community
CLG No. 7265039 Reg Charity No. 1139971

# West Area Community Climate Consultation Report

# The Hangleton and Knoll Project

## Introduction

The Hangleton and Knoll Project (HKP) is part of the three-year city-wide Climate for Communities programme, led by the Trust for Developing Communities. The programme supports people to take action on climate change in ways that matter to them, at home, in their daily lives, and within their communities.

During Year 1, we introduced the project and spoke with residents in a range of settings, including community groups, meetings and events. We focused on older people and multicultural communities, who are often under-represented in climate discussions. Our aim was to raise awareness of the links between climate change, health and quality of life, and to start conversations about local priorities.

At the start of Year 2, we carried out a community consultation to reach more widely into the community to better understand community priorities and opportunities for future activities. The survey explored:

- Climate actions people are already taking
- Activities and resources currently available
- The support residents would like
- Barriers people experience and what would help them access activities

We received 101 responses to the survey. The findings show residents are already active, environmentally aware and committed to local climate action, community wellbeing and nature.

Residents are reducing waste, saving resources, protecting wildlife, volunteering, sharing skills and supporting their neighbours.

The results also highlighted a need to:

- Improve local neighbourhoods
- Strengthen community connections
- Increase feelings of safety
- Expand opportunities for practical climate action

## What We Did

When developing the survey, we considered what information would be most useful for shaping community climate activities.

The survey was open for seven weeks to reach as many people as possible, and participants could enter a prize draw to encourage involvement. It was promoted through:

- HKP newsletters (approximately 2,600 people reached)
- HKP social media channels (approximately 62,000 people reached)
- Community networks and groups
- Partner organisations

Emphasis was placed on engaging residents who are often under-represented in climate conversations and consultation activities, including older people and multicultural communities.

Survey promotion and engagement was also carried out through trusted local organisations and community networks and groups, both online and in person, including:

- Multicultural groups
- Older people's groups
- Big Munch families
- Community Action Group
- Local environmental groups
- Community buildings
- West Area Network
- Community Health Panel
- Pain drop-ins

To ensure accessibility, paper copies of the survey were made available and one-to-one support was provided by the HKP Community Development Team. This helped address digital exclusion, literacy challenges and language barriers, enabling more residents to take part.




## Who took part

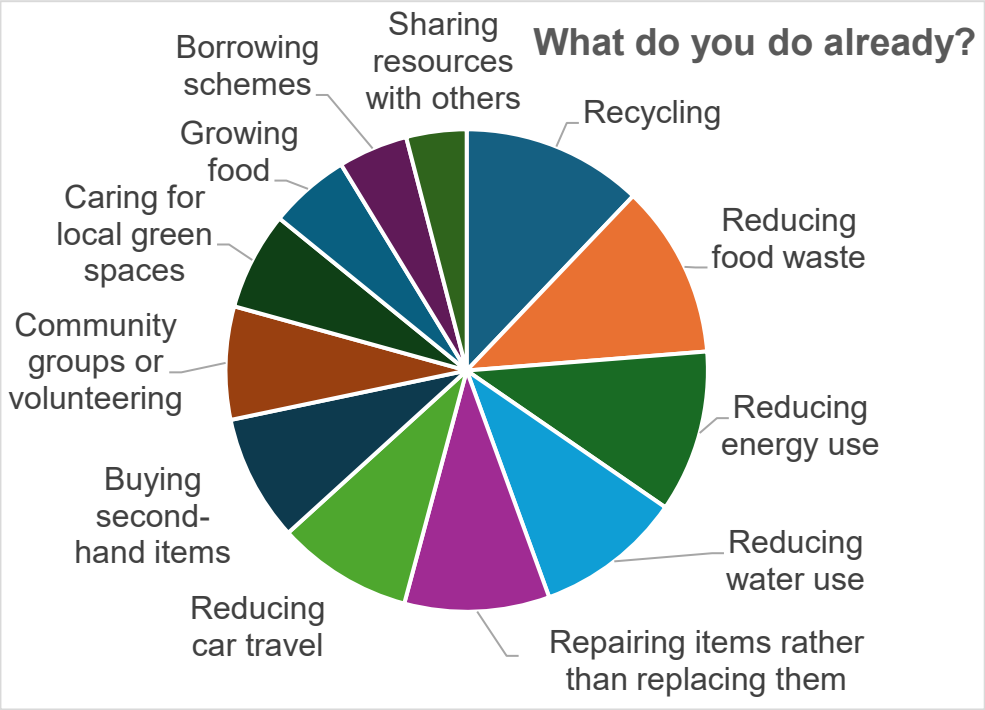
The survey achieved a high level of responses across Hangleton, Knoll and Portslade in particular, and nearby Hove neighbourhoods, with almost 80% of respondents living in BN3 and BN41 postcodes.

The survey received a significant response from residents from ethnically diverse backgrounds reflecting the local population. 82% of respondents were aged 55+, which highlighted current levels of interest in climate issues and climate activity with older people.

## What you told us

## What do you already do in your everyday life?

The survey responses show that the community is already highly engaged in sustainable living, environmental action, resource sharing and community volunteering. Many respondents described climate-friendly behaviours as part of their everyday lives and demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting local nature and reducing waste.




The responses also highlighted a strong and diverse network of local groups and activities that support community wellbeing, social inclusion, environmental ownership, lifelong learning, and resilience.

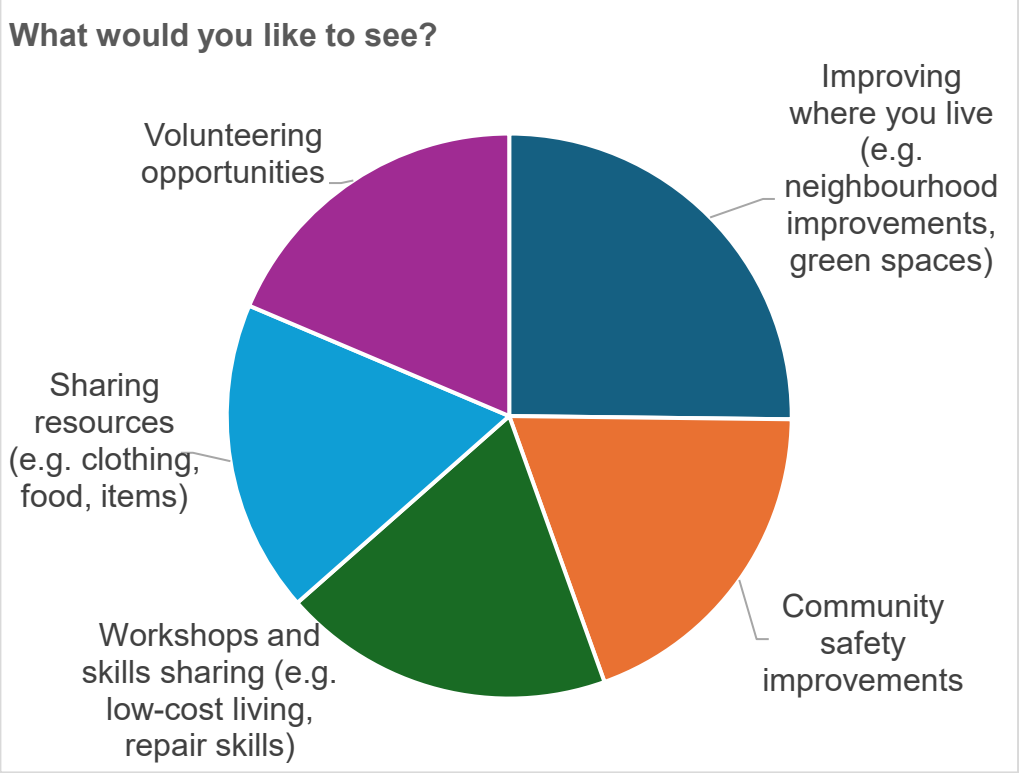


**You told us about community interests, strengths and resources.**



## What activities would you like to see in your community?

Based on resident comments and the survey results there is strong support for community-led action, environmental improvements, sharing resources, skills development and community safety.




## What you said about…

**Improving Local Places and Green Spaces**
Residents showed support for enhancing parks, green spaces and neighbourhood environments.

- Concerns about loss of gardens and increasing paving over of front gardens.
- Calls for more tree planting, flower beds, wildlife habitats and food-growing spaces.
- Desire for cleaner streets, less litter and better maintenance.
- Suggestions to redesign spaces such as Grenadier shops to be more community-friendly with seating and planting.

**Climate Action and Climate Adaptation**
Residents showed awareness of environmental issues and wanted practical action alongside education.
Key concerns included:

- Climate change awareness.
- Flooding and extreme weather.
- Heatwaves.
- Biodiversity loss.
- Sustainable lifestyles

**Community Safety**
Community safety emerged as one of the strongest themes.
Concerns included:

- Anti-social behaviour.
- Safety in parks and public spaces.

- Electric bikes and scooters on pavements.
- Local impacts of high-support housing and addiction services.
- Accessibility and maintenance of pedestrian routes.
- Public transport links

**Volunteering and Community Participation**
Many respondents were already volunteering extensively and reported limited capacity for additional activities.
Examples included:
- Litter picking.
- Maintaining grass verges.
- Church activities.
- Community gardening.
- Community groups for older residents.

However, people still wanted:
- More opportunities to volunteer.
- Better support for volunteers.
- Easier routes into community action.

**Resource Sharing and Circular Economy**
There was significant enthusiasm for sharing and reusing resources.
Ideas included:
- Clothing swaps.
- Arts and crafts swaps.
- Community resource banks.
- Free-shop style initiatives.
- Recycling.
- Food sharing.
- DIY and repair workshops.

**Examples**
- The Free Shop model.
- Clothes repair and sewing skills.
- Sharing tools and household items.
- Reuse and donation hubs

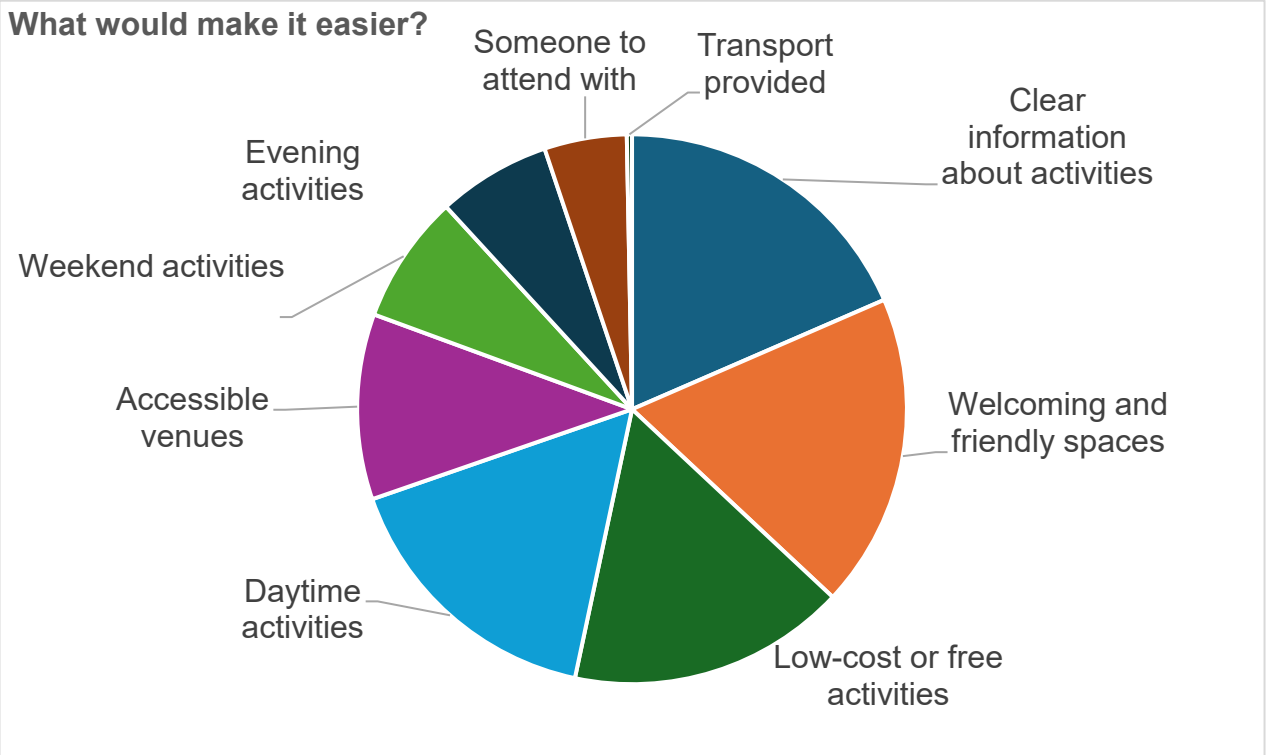
**Learning, Skills and Practical Workshops**
Many residents wanted practical learning opportunities rather than purely informational events.
Topics suggested:
- Low-cost cooking.
- Low-energy living.
- DIY and repair skills.
- Clothes repair.
- Healthy eating.
- Diet and nutrition.
- Climate adaptation.
- Gardening and food growing.

**Social Connection and Wellbeing**
Many respondents highlighted the importance of community activities that reduce isolation and bring people together.
Suggestions for activities included:
- Coffee mornings.
- Drop-ins.
- Community events.

- Youth clubs.
- Arts and crafts groups.
- Dance and mindfulness sessions in nature.
- Activities for over-55s.

## What would make it easier for you to take part in community activities?

The responses suggest that there is a lot of interest in community activities, but participation is influenced by practical barriers including awareness, cost, accessibility, time and inclusivity. Residents highlighted the importance of creating welcoming, flexible and affordable opportunities that fit around people's lives.




## What you said about…

**Better Communication and Awareness**
Clear, accessible information is one of the strongest participation drivers. A recurring message was that people cannot participate in activities they do not know about.
Comments highlighted:

- Lack of awareness of activities in some neighbourhoods.
- Difficulty finding clear information and understanding systems e.g. BHCC Recycling
- Need for better promotion of opportunities.

**Welcoming and Inclusive Environments**
Creating welcoming spaces is equally as important as promoting activities. Respondents frequently mentioned the importance of activities feeling friendly, welcoming and informal.
Examples included:

- Opportunities to chat over tea, coffee and snacks.
- Friendly community groups.
- Spaces that feel welcoming rather than intimidating.
- Activities suitable for people with different abilities and confidence levels.

**Affordability and Cost**
Keeping activities affordable is critical for increasing participation.
Several respondents noted:

- Limited personal income.
- The importance of free or low-cost activities.
- Concerns about affordability for families.

**Family-Friendly Opportunities**
Families want more local, affordable activities for children and parents.
There was a clear call for:

- Family-friendly weekend activities.
- Activities during school holidays.
- Safe places for children to play.
- More local opportunities that do not require travel.

**Flexible Timing**
Offer activities at a variety of times with flexible participation options.
Respondents had varied preferences:

- Many preferred daytime activities.
- Some requested evening sessions.
- Weekend availability was important for working people and families.
- Long-term commitments were viewed as difficult by some respondents.

**Accessibility and Convenience**
Activities should be distributed fairly across communities and held in accessible locations.
People are more likely to participate when activities are:

- Close to home.
- Easy to get to.
- Held in accessible venues.
- Available without significant travel.

**Community Connection and Social Participation**
The social element is often as important as the activity itself. Many respondents value activities because they provide opportunities to:

- Meet neighbours.
- Socialise.
- Work together on shared goals.
- Develop friendships.

Tea, coffee and informal conversations were repeatedly referenced as important features rather than extras.

**Environmental and Community Action**
Environmental activities remain an important route into community participation.
Many respondents are already involved in:

- Conservation activities.
- Water testing.
- Wildlife projects.
- Community groups.
- Environmental volunteering.

There was interest in:

- Community gardens.
- Composting initiatives.
- Eco-projects.
- Group environmental action.

## Conclusion from Consultation feedback

The survey findings show a community that is already taking action to improve environmental sustainability and community wellbeing. Residents are reducing waste, conserving resources, supporting nature, volunteering, sharing skills and resources, and strengthening local connections.

Several clear priorities emerged throughout the responses. Residents want stronger, more connected communities; greener and more biodiverse neighbourhoods; practical action on climate change; safer and better-maintained public spaces; and greater support for community-led projects. There is an interest in recycling, reuse and repair, food growing, sustainable gardening, resource sharing, volunteering, and activities that deliver both environmental and social benefits.

Respondents are motivated not only by environmental concerns but also by a desire to create resilient, inclusive and supportive communities. While many individuals and community groups are already making a positive difference, there is an interest in developing training, resources and infrastructure to support local action to grow.

Residents are most likely to participate in community activities when opportunities are accessible, affordable, inclusive and easy to find. Supporting a diverse range of free or low-cost activities in local community venues, offered at flexible times and designed to be welcoming. This will help reduce barriers to participation. Clear communication and strong social connections will further encourage engagement.

# Our Climate Action Plan – Your Priorities, What We Are Doing Already and Our Next Steps

We have put together our Climate Action Plan as a first action in response to the West Area Community Climate Consultation feedback.

## Improving Local Places and Green Spaces

| What You Said | What we are Doing Already | What We Will Do Next |
|---|---|---|
| Residents suggested:<br>• Swift and sparrow nest box schemes<br>• Community orchards and food-growing sites<br>• More benches, flowers and trees<br>• Better management of litter and grass verges | We actively support local environmental and community initiatives and work with community groups to improve local green spaces. | We will continue to work with community green space groups, the BHCC Community Engagement Team and BHCC City Parks to explore partnership projects and collaborations. |

## Climate Action and Climate Adaptation

| What You Said | What We Are Doing Already | What We Will Do Next |
|---|---|---|
| Residents identified the following priorities:<br><br>• Increased understanding of climate risks<br>• Better-prepared communities<br>• More resilient homes and streets<br>• Reduced carbon emissions<br>• Increased participation in local climate action<br><br>Suggested activities:<br>• Community Climate Champions<br>• Talks on climate change and local impacts<br>• Solar energy education<br>• Flood resilience measures<br>• More water butts<br>• Less hard surfacing and asphalt<br>• Tree planting and urban cooling projects | Our existing Community Resilience Project works to raise awareness in our communities. This summer we ran heatwave awareness activities with older people's groups, Big Munch families and multicultural groups to support wellbeing and climate adaptation.<br><br>We have an ongoing commitment to work with BHESCO, Southern Water and Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and partner at community events and groups to chat to residents and families about reducing bills and wastage of food, energy and water. | We will review the HKP Environmental Policy to embed climate and sustainability priorities at the heart of the organisation.<br><br>We will continue to develop opportunities for residents to learn about and participate in local climate action. |

## Community Safety

| What You Said | What We Are Doing Already | What We Will Do Next |
|---|---|---|
| Residents identified the following priorities:<br>• Improved policing and neighbourhood services<br>• Better pavement maintenance<br>• Improved lighting and management of public spaces<br>• Community-led safety initiatives<br>• Improved transport links | We have gathered evidence and feedback through the survey and ongoing community engagement activities. | We will share the report highlighting neighbourhood improvements with local councillors, the BHCC Community Engagement Team and through the West Area Network. |

## Volunteering and Community Action

| What You Said | What We Are Doing Already | What We Will Do Next |
|---|---|---|
| Residents highlighted a need for more support for green space and climate volunteering activities, such as litter picking.<br><br>There was also strong interest in volunteering generally and becoming involved in community activities. | We support volunteers across a range of community projects, activities and events. | • Support volunteering opportunities linked to developing climate activities.<br>• Signpost local green space groups to BHCC City Parks for support and training.<br>• Provide support on running successful community groups and activities where needed.<br>• Link greenspace groups into networks supporting Brighton & Hove Greenspaces, Community Gardens and Wildlife Conservation Groups for peer support. |

## Resource Sharing and Recycling

| What You Said | What We Are Doing Already | What We Will Do Next |
|---|---|---|
| Suggested community activities:<br>• Clothing swaps<br>• Arts and crafts swaps<br>• Community resource banks<br>• Free-shop initiatives<br>• Recycling projects<br>• Food sharing<br>• Tool and household item sharing<br>• Reuse and donation hubs | We actively signpost residents to cost-of-living and resource-sharing initiatives including:<br><br>• Food banks<br>• Community food stores<br>• Community cafés<br>• Lunch clubs<br>• Community fridges<br>• Smarter Uniforms<br>• Jigsaw and book swaps<br>• Warm space and cool space drop-ins<br><br>We have worked with Smarter Uniforms, who provide school uniform rails at Hangleton Community Centre and St Richard's Community Centre and they attended our Big Munch family school holiday events. | We will continue to promote resource-sharing opportunities across the community and encourage greater reuse, recycling and waste reduction. |

## Learning, Skills and Practical Workshops

| What You Said | What We Are Doing Already | What We Will Do Next |
|---|---|---|
| Suggested topics:<br>• Low-cost cooking<br>• Low-energy living<br>• Clothes repair and sewing skills<br>• DIY and repair skills<br>• Healthy eating, diet and nutrition<br>• Climate adaptation<br>• Gardening and food growing | We provide free and accessible opportunities through the HKP Community Learning Programme. | We will explore partnerships with community and voluntary sector organisations to develop activities and incorporate the suggested topics into future learning opportunities. |

## Social Connection and Wellbeing

| What You Said | What We Are Doing Already | What We Will Do Next |
|---|---|---|
| Residents highlighted the importance of opportunities that help people connect with others, reduce isolation and improve wellbeing. | We are committed to promoting social connection and wellbeing across all areas of our work. We work closely with local communities to deliver a diverse programme of activities and events that bring people together, build confidence, reduce isolation and support healthy, connected lives.<br><br>Examples include 50+ Coffee & Chat, multicultural community groups, gardening and conservation projects, singing activities and a range of other opportunities that support friendship, wellbeing and community connection. | We will continue to listen and respond to community needs, developing and promoting opportunities that help people connect with others and feel part of their community. We know that taking part in local activities can improve wellbeing, strengthen relationships and create a greater sense of belonging. |

## Key Message

This Consultation demonstrates strong community interest in greener neighbourhoods, climate action, volunteering, resource sharing, practical learning opportunities and social connection. The findings will help shape our Hangleton and Knoll Project Climate Action plan and future partnerships, projects and services while building on the work already taking place across the West Area.

**Report by: Clare Hopkins, Senior Community Development Worker for and on behalf of The Hangleton and Knoll Project. 02/11/2026**