



# Hassocks Village Action Plan

**December 2002**



# Preface

Hassocks Village Action Plan was started on February 6th 2001 when a Steering Group was formed from village organisations and the Parish Council. New members joined later as a result of a public meeting. The project received great help and encouragement from the Sussex Rural Community Council (now known as Action for Rural Sussex) and from the Hassocks Regeneration Partnership, which provided an organisational base.

At a public meeting on April 2nd 2001, themes were identified that could be explored further in a village questionnaire. Five task groups met to work out the details.

The questionnaire was finalised by the end of July and delivered to 3300 homes in October. It included 48 questions related to the Village Action Plan and 25 questions for Centuri21 (a pilot project to do with using IT to improve information and communication about public services in rural communities). There was a separate Young People's questionnaire and an opportunity to volunteer to help with village activities.

917 completed questionnaires were received, representing 1692 respondents, and there were 114 responses to the young people's questionnaire. Brighton University students input the 'tick-box' data and members of the Steering Group collated the 'written-in' answers. Initial computer analysis was completed by the end of February 2002 and the task groups were then re-activated to suggest an action plan. The action plan attached is a result of the discussions of these groups and of the whole Steering Group and finally with the Parish Council, which approved the plan on December 10th 2002.

# Finance

Printing and delivery of the questionnaire was funded by the Hassocks Regeneration Partnership, Mid Sussex District Council, and Centuri21. The Countryside Agency made a grant of up to £3,300 under the Parish and Town Plans scheme against a budget of £4,400 for data analysis and publication of the results.

# Key issues **and actions**

**8 Key Issues and 25 Actions have been agreed from the principal results of the questionnaires:**

- Rail Services
- Bus Services
- Village Environment
- Village Facilities
- Facilities for the Elderly or Disabled
- Young People's Facilities
- Policing/Traffic
- Cycling/Walking

Lead organisations are marked with \*, e.g. Hassocks Parish Council\*

**You can read the full list of principal results on the back cover**

# Membership of the Action Plan Steering Group

Olive Alexander	Young People
Chris Baker	Hassocks Parish Council
Tony Barton	Hassocks Parish Council
Sally Blackmore	Beacon Centre
Roger Booth	Hassocks Traders Association
Anne-Marie Bur	Action for Rural Sussex
John Bushell	Hassocks Community Bus
Catherine Cassidy	Public Transport
Mary Coldman	Age Concern
David Crosta	Environment
Trevor Davey	Amenity Association
Tony Davies	Regeneration Partnership
Janet Everest	Young people
Malcolm Fife	United Reformed Church
Margaret Ford	Older people/disabled
Jose Gargett	Hassocks Parish Council
Sherrian Guest	Young people
Kairen Hancock	Policing/Traffic
David Howe	Field Society
Chris Mason	Village Voice
Andy Moir	Policing/Traffic
Rachel Mundy	Sussex Police
Cathy Meyer	Young people
Diana Nason	Policing/Traffic
Chris Paynter	Environment
Judith Poncelet	Environment
Michael Pryke	Policing/Traffic
Sandra Ross	Library
Marion Wartnaby	Local Resident
Colin Wilsdon	Chairman

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# Rail ..... Services

## ..... **Action 1** To improve the train service to Hassocks

- re-introduce off-peak to London Victoria services
- increase weekend service
- introduce Sunday Thameslink
- restore late-night services from Brighton on Friday and Saturday
- introduce a shuttle service to Gatwick
- introduce more direct services to Hove

### how

- Lobby the train companies
- Hold co-ordination meeting with other groups
- Act as contact point for railway users

### who

- Hassocks Amenity Association\*
- Hassocks Parish Council
- Local MP
- Local elected councillors

### when

- Contact with local rail users has already taken place and actions are being co-ordinated by Hassocks Amenity Association
- Meetings with the rail operators have taken place and more are planned for the future. The next one is on February 14th 2003



# Bus Services

## **Action 2** To improve information about bus timetables

### how

- Lobby West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council (to include in Mid Sussex Matters) and bus companies operating through Hassocks
- Publish up-to-date information to households and public buildings
- Maintain timetables at bus stops and improve format
- Display on Rotunda and web sites

### who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- Village Action Plan Transport Group
- County Councillor

### when

- Now

## **Action 3** To establish a Sunday/weekend bus service from Hassocks station to Jill Mill

### how

- The Sussex Downs Conservation Board are taking a lead on this. Application has been made for a Parish Transport Grant and matched funding has been found
- West Sussex County Council and Mid Sussex District Council are supporting the project

### who

- Sussex Downs Conservation Board\*
- Village Action Plan Transport Group\*
- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- West Sussex Rural Transport officer

### when

- It is intended to start at Easter 2003



# Bus Services

**Action 4** To establish a circular bus service between Hassocks, the Triangle and Burgess Hill centre

how

- Lobby West Sussex County Council about need
- Initially concentrate on bus service to the Triangle
- Investigating possibility of Community Bus to establish market

who

- Village Action Plan Transport Group\*
- Hassocks Parish Council
- West Sussex Rural Transport Officer

when

- May be able to provide bus to the Triangle in short term. Full circular route is longer term aim

**Action 5** To provide a bus service to Brighton from the centre of Hassocks

how

- Lobby Stagecoach to divert some 770 services via centre of village and Lodge Lane.

who

- Village Action Plan Transport Group
- Stagecoach
- West Sussex County Council\*

when

- Stagecoach are currently considering this suggestion





# The Village Environment

**Action 6** To carry out litter clearance within .....  
the village including the streams

how

- Environmental group divides village in areas for individual members to clear. Litter survey of village (map)

who

- Village Action Plan Environmental Group\*

when

- An initial clear was completed (June/July 2002)

**Action 7** Educational programme for local  
schools about litter

how

- Arrange with local schools.

who

- Village Action Plan Environmental Group\*
- Hassocks Parish Council

when

- School year 2002 / 2003





# The Village Environment

**Action 8** To employ someone to provide additional litter clearance in the village

how

- Hassocks Parish Council to investigate possibilities either by delegation or by purchase of extra services from Mid Sussex District Council

who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- Mid Sussex District Council

when

- Investigations to start now

**Action 9** To provide extra litter bins in litter black-spots

how

- Village Action Plan Environmental Group has investigated litter black-spots
- Hassocks Parish Council has budgeted for extra litter bins

who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- Village Action Plan Environmental Group
- Mid Sussex District Council

when

- Two bins in 2003/2004 and two in 2004/2005





## **Action 10** Development of flood protection ponds as sites for wildlife and recreational use

### how

- Influence the design of the Parklands Road balancing ponds by lobbying Mid Sussex District Council
- Look for other sites and liaise with landowners

### who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- Village Action Plan Environmental Group\*
- Mid Sussex District Council

### when

- Immediately as regards Parklands Road. Other sites as opportunity arises

## **Action 11** To develop a Design Statement for the centre of the village including Village Square/Green

### how

- Project for a community-minded architect

### who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- Hassocks Regeneration Partnership\*
- Mid Sussex District Council

### when

- Long-term project but study could take place in 2003. Work towards including it in the next Local Plan

## **Action 12** Encourage rebuild of Hassocks station in traditional style as National Park gateway

### how

- Lobby Govia / South Central Trains / Sussex Downs Conservation Board / National Park
- Sponsorship by local businesses
- Lottery funding

### who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- Hassocks Amenity Association\*
- Sussex Downs Conservation Board

### when

- Lobby now to fit in with South Central's expected refurbishment of the station





# Village Facilities

**Action 13** To provide cinema performances in Adastra Hall

how

- Initially use local operator
- If successful, jointly purchase DVD computer projector

who

- Village Action Plan Young People's group\*
- Need group of enthusiasts to take forward\*
- Hassocks Regeneration Partnership is providing pump-priming finance

when

- First showing planned January 3rd 2003

**Action 14** To encourage a Farmers' Market in Hassocks

how

- Liaise with Mid Sussex District Council and commercial organisers of Farmers' Markets

who

- Hassocks Regeneration Partnership\*
- Hassocks Traders
- Hassocks Parish Council
- Mid Sussex District Council
- Action for Rural Sussex

when

- Investigations to begin in 2003





# Young People's Facilities

## **Action 15** Drop-in café with internet connection

how

- Investigate possibility in local café
- Liaise with Beacon Centre

who

- Village Action Plan Young People's Group to initiate\*
- Hassocks Regeneration Partnership is providing pump-priming finance
- West Sussex County Council (Beacon Centre)
- Mid Sussex District Council
- Police

when

- Discussions taking place now

## **Action 16** To build a skateboard park and outdoor meeting place for young people

how

- Hassocks Parish Council has agreed a site
- Grant applications have been made to West Sussex County Council and Mid Sussex District Council
- Lottery application will follow

who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- Hassocks Skateboard Club\*

when

- Is being progressed now





# Facilities ..... for the Elderly or Disabled

.... **Action 17** To improve access to public buildings for the elderly or infirm

how

- Carry out an access audit
- Lobby the owners of buildings identified with poor access to improve them

who

- Age Concern\*

when

- Can be done soon

**Action 18** To provide an audio version of the *Talk About* for the visually impaired

how

- Readers record contents of *Talk About* on tape each month

who

- Team of readers identified by Village Action Plan

when

- This is now taking place on a regular basis for 37 clients



# Policing/Traffic

**Action 19** To employ traffic warden, paid for out of fines

**how** • Lobby Mid Sussex District Council to ensure Hassocks has the opportunity under Decriminalisation of Parking

**who** • Hassocks Parish Council\*  
• District Councillors

**when** • Important to lobby now

**Action 20** To put greater traffic-calming measures in place

- 20 mph speed limit from Station Approach East to Keymer, and in Dale Avenue
- 30 mph limit on Hurst Road
- Traffic calming in Grand Avenue

**how** • Use results of Sustrans safe routes to school study  
• Lobby West Sussex County Council

**who** • Hassocks Parish Council\*  
• West Sussex County Councillor

**when** • Hassocks Parish Council have twice asked West Sussex County Council for a speed limit in Hurst Road without success.  
• Re-open the issues after Sustrans have reported.





# ..... Policing/traffic

## **Action 21**

Pedestrian crossings at Stafford House, Willowbrook Way, Dale Avenue and London Road (Little Copse Road)

how

- Use Sustrans study if applicable
- Continue to lobby West Sussex County Council using resident support

who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- West Sussex County Councillor\*
- Kalma Keymer

when

- Now

## ..... **Action 22** Police base in village

how

- Police to use the Parish Centre on a regular basis with good publicity

who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- Sussex Police\*

when

- This is already happening. Four police "surgeries" were planned between 8 October 2002 and 19 December 2002

## **Action 23** CCTV (particularly at the station)

how

- Lobby Govia/South Central to examine current coverage and identify gaps

who

- Hassocks Parish Council\*
- Govia/South Central

when

- Now





# Cycling/Walking

## **Action 24** Cycle and walking routes from Ditchling and Hurstpierpoint

### how

- Study by Sustrans funded by SEED programme grant of £5000 plus £2000 matched funding
- Further grant applications to fund proposals

### who

- Kalma Keymer Traffic Group
- County Council
- Sustrans\*
- Local schools
- Parish councils

### when

- Feasibility study will take place in 2003

## **Action 25** Cycle racks in schools, at station, in village. 'Greening' of Underhill Lane to restrict traffic to access only; footpath Lodge Lane

### how

- Apply for specific grants and lobby West Sussex County Council

### who

- West Sussex County Council (safer routes to schools)
- West Sussex County Councillor\*
- Hassocks Parish Council
- South Central (station cycle racks)

### when

- Greening of Underhill Lane is being investigated by West Sussex County Council. Footpath Lodge Lane is also logged with West Sussex County Council. Specific grants may be announced in January 2003



# Public Meeting For Your Comments

Thursday 30th January 2003 7.30pm in the Green Room, Adastra Hall

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## Summary of principal statistics

### Housing

No new housing 73% (1167) but if no choice: starter homes to buy (754), and sheltered housing (559)

### New shops

Farmers market (1011); shoe shop (499); fresh fish (47 written in)

### Rail travel

Off-peak service to Victoria (792); more weekend services (435); Sunday Thameslink service (394); late night from Brighton Fri/Sat (377); direct services to Hove (349) and a Gatwick shuttle (347)

### The station

Improve appearance (1025); improve waiting facilities (1171)

**Bus services** (improvements that would encourage use)

Better publicity about timetables (778); more hospital services (531); circular shuttle to Burgess Hill (448); regular services to Triangle (375); evening services to Burgess Hill and Brighton (366)

### Taxi-rank on east side of station

Needed (854) 55%; not needed (249) 16%; don't know (455) 29%

### Traffic calming

No more (512); Dale Avenue nr schools (494); Grand Ave (399); Keymer Rd nr Greyhound (383); Ockley Lane (316); Keymer Rd (by Adastra Pk) (46 written in)

### Pedestrian crossings

Stafford House/Library (564); Dale Avenue – Orion Parade (484); Keymer Rd – Willowbrook Way (437); no more crossings (378); London Rd – Belmont Close (326); Grand Avenue/Keymer Rd (40 written in)

### Traffic Warden paid out of fines

53% in favour (841); 34% against (532); 13% don't know (199)

### Hassocks Parish Council road sweeper

73% in favour (1160); 17% against (266); 10% don't know (156)

### Substantial spending on safe cycle routes

51% in favour (803); 28% against (439); 21% don't know (332)

### Most important cycle routes

Ditchling – Hassocks (605); Hassocks – Hurstpierpoint (623)

### New footpaths/pavements

Woodland Road to Burgess Hill (in Local Plan) (552); Lodge Lane (south end) (394); none needed (378); Ockley Lane (36 written in)

### Environmental improvements to village

Village square/green on site of National Tyres (1016); flood protection/nature ponds (1014); traditional station rebuild (676); rebuild area outside Budgens (592)

### Facilities needed

Mini-cinema (714); Skateboard park (713); swimming pool (562)

### CCTV (suggested areas)

Shopping area of Keymer Road (842); Adastra Park (722); not needed (332); station area (146 written in)

### Permanent police base in village

82% in favour (1319); 9% against (139); 9% don't know (151)

### More visible policing

92% in favour; particularly in the evenings (228 written in)

### Public seats

224 wanted more seats including 128 persons who had walking disability

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## Specific items from Young People's questionnaire (114 responses)

### 1. Activities undertaken

- 50% in all age groups up to 18 took part in an organisation weekly
- 48% took part in swimming or another sport
- 26% met friends in Adastra Park

### 2. Facilities requested (all age groups up to 18)

- A cinema (52%)
- A drop-in café with internet access (34%)
- A skateboarding facility (33% but higher for 12 and under)