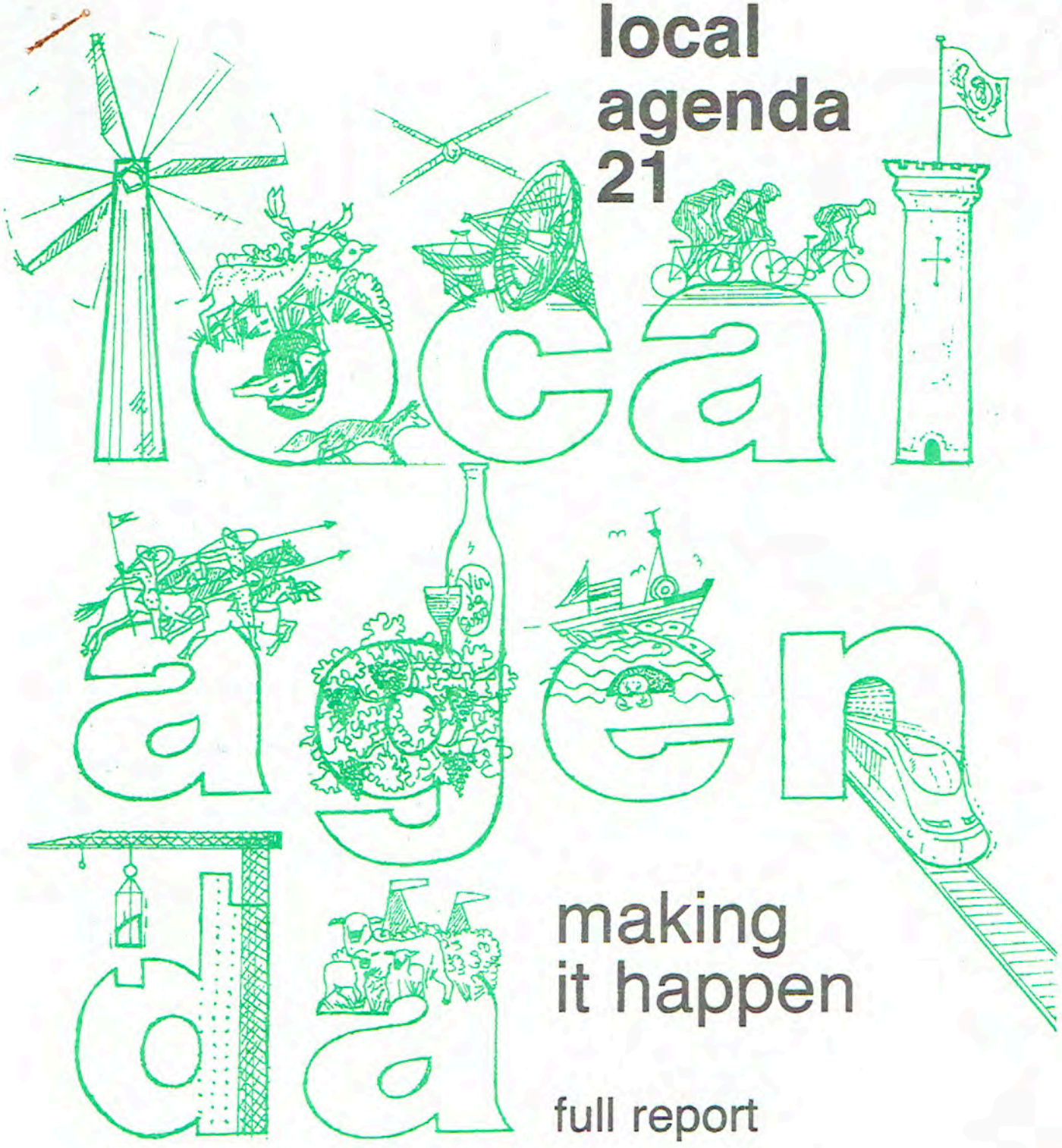
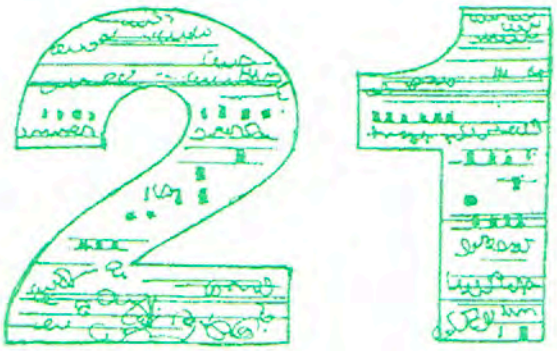
local agenda 21



making it happen

full report



plans, comments
and proposals from
'our future in our hands'
action planning day
16th November 1996

Hastings local agenda 21 forum
and Hastings Borough Council

About this report

On Saturday 16 November, 1996 over 80 people representing a wide range of local organisations and interests gathered at the White Rock Theatre in Hastings for an 'action planning day' on the area's future.

The main aims were:

- To consolidate and crystallise two years of work by local agencies and working groups developing Local Agenda 21 proposals for improving local sustainability.
- To devise an action plan for moving forwards and involving more people.

This is the full report of the day, summary reports are also available.

For additional copies and further information please contact Kevin Carías, 79 Marina, St Leonards-on-Sea, TN38 0BJ Tel: 01424 715496

HASTINGS AGENDA 21
Our Future in our Hands

URBAN DESIGN GROUP
Public Participation Programme

Credits

Overall Co-ordination	Jenneth Parker
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Programme advisor	Nick Wates
Council liaison	Nigel Ray
Facilitator	Rosie Manise

Special thanks to Judy Clark, Val Greenwood, Caroline Kempster, Susie and Ian Lyle, Mike and Mahin McCandless, and Geoffrey Sands for arriving early and setting up the many displays. And to Hastings Borough Council for funding the Day.

Summary and Full Reports produced by Kevin Carías. Reports designed and illustrated by Roger Gates, unless otherwise stated.

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Background

Agenda 21 is an action agenda for our global future into the 21st century agreed by 178 world governments at the UN 'Earth Summit' at Rio in 1992. Agenda 21 recognises that the scale of human activities threatens the natural systems on which we depend for life: most importantly it unites environment and development issues. Agenda 21 outlines actions we must take now to develop a sustainable way of life for ourselves and our children.

Local Agenda 21 seeks to develop plans and actions using local knowledge for local ownership and commitment to Agenda 21 objectives. Local Agenda 21 has been taken up around the world: in the UK local authorities have been encouraged and supported in the process by the Local Government Management Board (LGMB). Local Agenda 21 will not work as just another policy drawn up by planners: it must be a widespread process invoiving communities, business, local government, voluntary groups, adult learners, schools and colleges to discuss and develop local plans to improve our quality of life now - and for the future.

Some Local Agenda 21 concerns are:

Over-consumption - reducing energy use, waste and pollution and promoting efficient transport

Nature - looking after the variety of species, habitats and landscapes

Health - ensuring a healthy environment for ourselves and our children

Work - developing economies that meet people's needs

Community - renewing neighbourhoods in our cities, towns and villages

Justice - making sure that costs of the changes we need to make are shared fairly

Future - planning to ensure the well-being of future generations

Initial Local Agenda 21 plans were requested by the UK Government by the end of 1996 but there is now a recognition that the process must continue to be further developed. As we face the challenge of developing sustainable ways of life we must engage the hearts, minds and energies of all our citizens in a continuing creative process.

Hastings Local Agenda 21

The Hastings Local Agenda 21 process started in late 1994 and to date working groups on Energy, Transport, Built Environment, Natural Environment, Waste and Pollution, Work and Economy have produced reports: these have been compiled into Main and Summary Findings Reports (obtainable from Hastings Borough Council). The Reports also contain results of a public survey commissioned by Hastings Borough Council of local opinions on what was best and worst about Hastings, the town's future and the most important issues it faces. Throughout 1996 these reports formed the basis of Standing Conferences which further developed policy and project ideas. The Hastings NGO Forum was formed in 1994 to coordinate the response of the community sector to LA21 and to progress LA21 in whatever ways possible with a particular emphasis on widening participation and public awareness. The Forum has now become the LA21 Forum to include working groups' co-ordinators - it is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Hastings Borough Council has responded to LA21 in many ways - in particular by encouraging greater coordination throughout the Council by creating cross departmental LA21 teams and piloting the local neighbourhood scheme 'Better Braybrooke'. Hastings Borough Council has consistently supported and encouraged LA21 events in partnership with working groups and the LA21 Forum.

Jenneth Parker

Introduction to the Action Planning Day

It was a long day (10am to 6pm) but the energy did not flag.

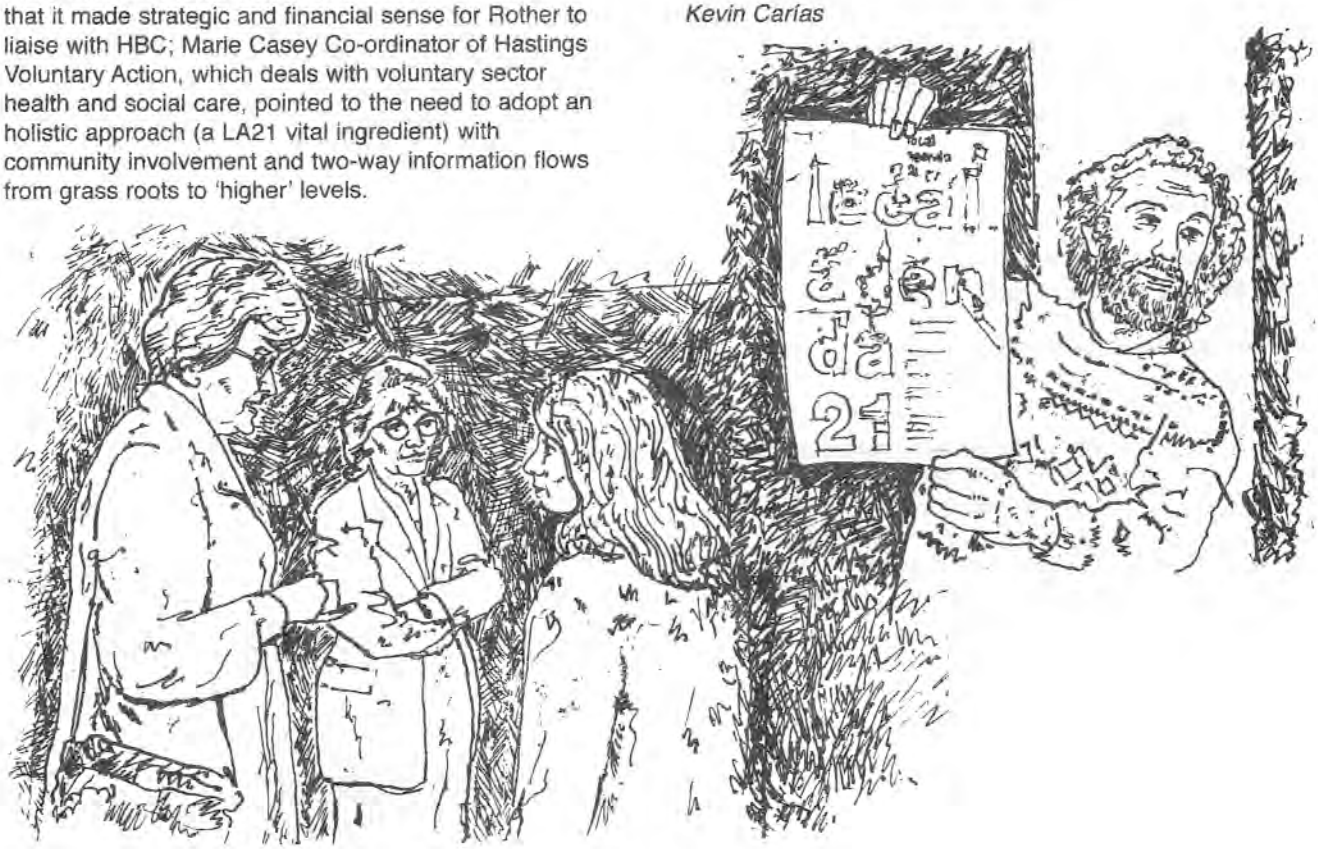
In opening speeches Jenneth Parker of the LA21 Forum put the Day in the global context and history of LA21, Nick Wates of the Urban Design Group explained that the Day was to be featured in the DoE's Public Participation Programme; HBC's Deputy Director of Environmental Services Nigel Ray drew attention to the lack of young people in LA21 (a theme picked up in the workshops); and Kevin Carías argued that LA21 principles were common sense writ large.

The following speakers placed LA21 in the context of other programmes and initiatives in Hastings: Carole Bailey explained the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Partnership and its importance as a vehicle for promoting sustainability; HBC's Chief Planner Paul Lewis outlined the problems for housing, green space and business in a Borough that had reached its boundary limits and referred the audience to the Local Plan Review; Cllr Pam Brown said the aim was to Make Hastings a Better Place to Be, that the Council had set up six panels to involve local expertise, part of a policy of partnership and openness essential to LA21; ESCC's Chief Engineer Bob Wilkins spoke of local and global, long and short term pressures, the need for public consultation and comment on the County's Structure Plan; Cllr Sue Prochak for Rother District Council said that it made strategic and financial sense for Rother to liaise with HBC; Marie Casey Co-ordinator of Hastings Voluntary Action, which deals with voluntary sector health and social care, pointed to the need to adopt an holistic approach (a LA21 vital ingredient) with community involvement and two-way information flows from grass roots to 'higher' levels.

The ideas that emerged from the workshops that took up most of the Action Day frequently overlapped and sometimes coincided exactly. As far as I can discover there was only one serious point of disagreement: should the LA21 Forum be the main organ for carrying forward Agenda 21 ideas or the Working Groups? This in turn is an aspect of the still unclear structure and organisation of planning and participation in the Borough. No-one is to blame for this. The deep change of culture that is needed, despite many varieties of good practice to draw upon, has no ready complete model and pioneering work needs to be done. The openness and good will that the Day expressed is the fuel for that work and the promise of its success. As Cllr Pam Brown said to guests at the 6 o'clock reception, **'You really missed something'.**

In this report the principles come first to remind us that proposals are only examples, temporary leaders of a new comprehensive approach to community, environment and development. The LA21 Working Groups proposals come next, then the ideas from the workshops that sometimes build upon the working groups proposals and are sometimes new. Finally there is a list of participants - unlisted will be those who came but did not sign in, apologies to them and gratitude to all, listed and unlisted, who made the day such a positive event.

Kevin Carías



Principles:

a checklist proposed by the Hastings Local Agenda 21 Forum, the Local Agenda 21 working groups and endorsed by the ideas that emerged from the Action Day workshops.

'The principles need setting out in an attractive, encouraging document to circulate to businesses and large organisations to encourage them to use the check list in making policy/action decisions.' (Written comment from the Action Day)

Hastings Local Agenda 21 Forum

Projects or actions should promote sustainability through education and training, public awareness and participation.

Work and Economy Group

Make better use of local resources.

Maximise the employment and skills of local people.

Use local renewable resources.

Provide opportunities for local people to invest in their area.

Built Environment Group

Use unused or underused building possibly by permitting change of use.

Use vacant or redevelop inner-town sites presently occupied by unusable, redundant or derelict buildings.

Involve local community and business in regeneration of run-down neighbourhoods and shopping areas and consider what public works could stimulate investment and activity.

Energy Group

Boost energy efficiency through using best practice.

Use renewables wherever possible (eg Sussex coppiced wood).

Audit energy use, including greenhouse gas emissions.

Transport Group

Integrate transport strategy encouraging public transport use and non-damaging modes such as walking and cycling by rewarding their use.

Promote accessibility over mobility avoiding the need for private cars.

Waste and Pollution Group

Build waste minimisation and recycling into project design.

Minimise pollution investigating and employing best practice.

Use clean production methods rather than 'end-of-pipe' pollution control.

Natural Environment Group

Take the natural environment to be all green and open spaces, not just protected or designated areas, including private gardens, parks, roadside verges, abandoned land, verges, allotments, the beach, sea, etc.

Maintain green space in Borough at 1996 levels at least and preferably increase.

Do not build beyond Borough boundaries.

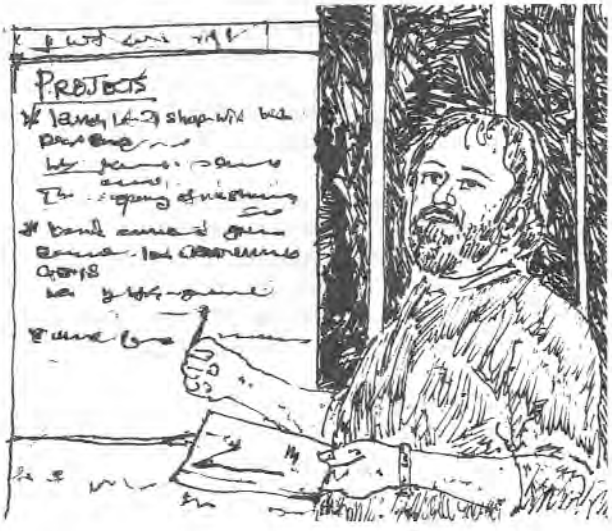
Give all residents easy access to green space (no more than a 10 minute walk away).

Projects to be evaluated for their impact on the natural environment allowing modification or abandonment according to results.

Ensure that local knowledge and values are in dialogue with expert knowledge in evaluating impacts and making decisions on the natural environment.

General Agenda 21 Principles

All projects and actions should promote **equity** at local, regional and global levels, be **democratic** and **inclusive** in organisation with attention paid to marginalised social groups.

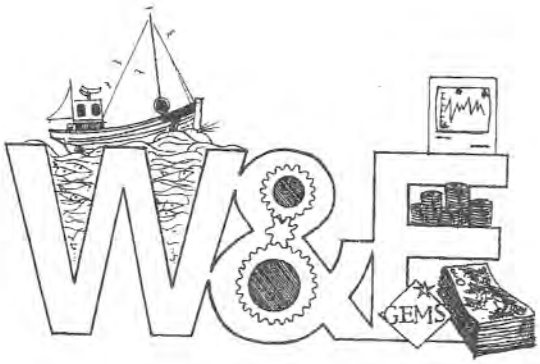


Summary of working group proposals displayed on the day

group	proposal	who	when
Work & Economy	**Economic analysis**, including adjacent towns and rural surroundings, to reveal underused local human and financial resources, to cover social and environmental linkages. Aims to maximise local knowledge, skills, incomes, the sustainable use of resources and residents' investment in local economy.	A team with time and skills sponsored by the Regeneration Partnership.	In stages after confirming sponsorship.
	1066 Regional Environmental Business Forum: a business-led response to broader environmental issues facing Hastings and the surrounding area.	Establish team or panel to guide formation	
Built Environment	**Strengthen the local economy** through an enabling framework created by the Borough to build and sustain partnerships between business, voluntary and statutory. **Renovate a shopping street and neighbourhood**. **Create a working neighbourhood** from a dormitory suburb.	Regeneration Partnership and as an umbrella for subsidiary partnerships.	
Energy	**Energy Forum**	All community sectors.	Early 1997
	'Adapted' Ecohouse: a converted ordinary house to demonstrate sustainable living to ordinary people.	To be discussed at Energy Forum	Mid-1997
	Energy Advice Centre for research, networking and information.	HBC applying for funding.	Possibly early 1997
	Ecohouse/Sustainable Living Centre for educational tourism unique in the South East, to create local jobs, provide local and European educational opportunities.	Develop cross-sector SRB and Millennium funding bids.	1998
Transport	**Safe Routes to School**: help children to walk or cycle safely to school.	Local schools, Sustrans, ESCC.	Soon
	Go Green: make 'green' commuting easier and more attractive.	Big employers, bus and train companies.	Soon
	On your bike & on your feet: encourage more cycling and walking.	HBC, local Health authority.	Soon
Waste & Pollution	**Scrap Store** - local business waste recycled for creative environmental education in local schools.	SKRAPP, HBC, RDC & others.	Immediate
	Bulky Waste Re-use.	HBC, Onyx, etc.	1-2 years
	Domestic recycling &waste minimisation, door to door.	DoE, HBC, etc.	2-5 years
	Commercial recycling stimulated by audits, seminars, presentations, green business network and awards.	DoE, HBC, DTI, SRB, etc.	2-5 years
	Hastings Environmental Action Response Team (HEART) working in partnership to improve Borough's neglected green spaces.	ESPS, HBC, Hastings Trust, LA21 Forum	Immediate
	Green waste composting.	HBC & private firm	1-2 years
	Energy Awareness with Energy Forum & Advice Centre.	HBC, DTI, etc.	1-2 years
	Sun Safety Awareness through schools, Health Unit, etc.	Various.	1-2 years
	Smoky Diesels - promote dirty diesel spotting.	HBC, DoT	1-2 years
	Lift Share Scheme initially through HBC's Sustainable Working Action Team (SWAT).	SWAT & LA21 Forum.	1-2 years
Natural Environment	**Living Landscape Project - Seeing Nature Whole**: integrating natural history, gardening, food production, & arts and crafts; promoting new ways of thinking about nature; developing a centre to demonstrate possibilities.	Interreg, LIFE, businesses, community partners.	

Proposals from the Action Day (with the exception of the youth workshop morning workshops so fed into afternoon workshop results that they have been combined)

subjects	proposals	who	when
Communications Strategy	Push the key messages showing how they connect with other news items and daily concerns (eg climate change). Make use of existing networks and media such as community newsletters, Hastings Review, Health Promotion Unit, the arts community, churches, schools and colleges. Attempt to increase coverage by local press, radio and TV. As well as major events there needs to a constant stream of smaller scale LA21 news in the local media. Establish a new local paper. PR techniques can be effective if used carefully and non-cynically. Talk and listen valuing others' ideas - spread the word. Emphasise that 'we're relying on us' making people aware of how to get involved and how this will contribute to making Hastings a better place to live.	All involved. Graham Capper to do communications workshop. A specialist communications group to be set up.	Soon
		LA21 Forum to send a regular piece to *Observer.*	Soon
	Identify and endorse shops selling environmentally sound products.	Councils and LA21 Forum.	
	Create a public exhibition space with an award scheme (include work done in schools and colleges) perhaps in the new shopping development (a possible place for the suggested town centre map/notice board with locations of useful organisations, etc. indicated through lights).	Boots town centre shops and developers with voluntary sector help.	On completion of shopping centre.
Week of Action	A travelling exhibition (possibly on a milk float) with information on alternative energy. Promote domestic energy efficiency, show that LA21 is immediately relevant to people's lives with the long term aim of bringing about new patterns of behaviour. Dispel general ignorance of what LA21 is. Make common cause with all groups. The week could have a main theme or could inaugurate other themed weeks throughout the year, eg Recycle or Compost or Plastic-free or Car-free Week.	LA21 Forum, working groups.	Early 1997
	Create a 'green street'; make a LA21 film; set up a street market with local crafts and food (eg from allotments); close streets to traffic; make a large sculpture of locally collected rubbish.	Various.	1997
	Launch a LA21 shop with help desk and a 'green café'.	Hastings Council and volunteers.	1997
	Launch awareness raising campaign on green economics (credit unions and Local Exchange Trading Systems such as GEMS) through information sent with council tax demands.	Hastings Council, LA21 Forum.	
Future Structure	Develop a strategic approach within the Panel System and coordinated mechanisms for delivery working with both Panels and LA21 groups so that the latter are not marginalised. Establish links with Rother: link local plans; liaise through Rother's LA21 officer; create a joint LA21 team. At grassroots level 'Better Braybrooke' may be a model. Use existing groups and organisations within a new framework of enhanced mutual knowledge and cooperation. Enhanced networking and mutual aid saving reduplication of effort should be natural to the 'organic' structure of LA21. The LA21 Forum should attempt to attract more people to attend meetings, especially, perhaps, those who would not normally be seen to be 'green'. It should ensure that newcomers do not feel excluded with members appointed or taking turns as welcomers. The Forum's constitution could be based on the LA21 principles. The Forum could lobby other organisations to adopt the principles (which, of course, have structural implications). Common centres of communication are needed to strengthen community bonds: the Hastings Trust Community Resource Centre and other Centres and fora still at proposal stage, could be important catalysts as well as vital to the communications strategy.	Hastings & Rother Councils, LA21 Forum and working groups.	1997
		Transport Working Group to research rural transport and its problems for HVA.	1997
		Hastings Trust, SEAT, LA21 Natural Environment Group	Hastings Trust Resource Centre opens late 1997.
	Promote self-sufficiency for Hastings and Rother through local markets for local goods and local financial instruments (eg credit unions and local currencies such as GEMS).	Councils, local producers, GEMS and other LETS, etc.	1997
Young People	Appeal to, influence and involve children and young people to care for their future. Use a two-way non-patronising approach exploiting established groups and networks as well as youth and music festivals.	Hastings International Young People's Festival (?), schools, etc.	Begin 1997
	Build Agenda 21 principles into the training of young people.	Proposed 1066 Business Forum.	1997



Work & Economy Group

Proposal: a 1066 Regional Environmental Business Forum

Summary:

A business-led initiative which responds to the broader environmental issues facing Hastings and the surrounding area. It promotes the message that good environmental management makes business sense, leading to reduced costs and meeting the increased demands of customers and community, whilst protecting the environment.

Aims:

- To encourage and promote better environmental performance and to reduce pollution of land, water and air.
- To promote liaison between the regional business community, the local authorities, the regulatory agencies and other organisations locally, nationally and internationally.
- To provide environmental information and advice on technology, training, legal and policy matters, good practice and guidance
- To assist, in particular, the small and medium sized business to achieve higher environmental standards.
- To represent the views of the organisation and appropriate related bodies at a local, national and international level.

Procedure:

1 Organise a 1066 Green Business Conference (with one of the objectives being to set up an environment forum).

2 Establish a team or panel who would guide the formation.

3 Examine examples of existing Environmental Business Forums.

4 Propose constitution and structure.

5 Determine human and financial resource implications.

6 Find funding packages; seek secondments/ placements.

7 Launch initiative.

Proposal: a 21st Century Economy for 1066 Country

Summary:

Owen Nankivell's 1986 Report *A Hastings for the Twenty-First Century* has generated a growing demand for a follow-up that will strengthen the Local Agenda 21 initiative by revealing underused local human, material and financial resources. The Work & Economy Group therefore proposes an analysis and projection including the adjacent towns of Bexhill, Battle and Rye together with their rural surroundings. The broadened strategy will also be deepened to cover the social and environmental linkages with the local economy.

Aims:

To maximise local economic security and well-being while contributing to a sustainable way of life regionally and globally by maximising:

- the use of local knowledge, skills and income-earning work;
- the sustainable use of local material resources and
- residents' investment in the local economy.

Procedure:

1 Confirm Hastings Regeneration Partnership as the sponsor.

2 Form a team with the requisite skills and time.

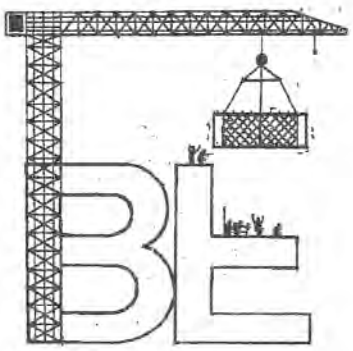
3 Research precedents and available studies.

4 Prepare a proposal together with key stakeholders.

5 Attract funds for implementation of the studies.

6 Carry out the work by stages together with key stakeholders.

7 Promote and service initiatives as opportunities arise.



Built Environment Group

Projects

The essence of the Working Group's Report, presented in *Our Future in Our Hands*, is that neither the renovation of the town's fabric nor the regeneration of the community can be achieved without a strengthened local economy; that better use of the town's human, material and financial resources, as well as attracting external investment, depend on the co-operation of statutory, commercial and community bodies; and that it is the Borough Council's duty to create an enabling framework which builds and sustains this three-way partnership.

Two Complementary Action Research Projects:

Renovating an Inner-Town Shopping Street & Neighbourhood:

By combating under-use and decay of the town's built assets, suburban spread over the countryside can be reduced, town centre life enhanced and, as confidence is regained, private investment will follow. The anticipated success of Priory Meadow, the new town centre shopping centre, must not be allowed to further weaken commerce and community in the existing centres of Hastings and St. Leonards. Improvements to streets and other infrastructures along with building renovation and the conversion of under-used space into 'over the shops' living space will: a) increase the mix of retail and other businesses, b) improve the quality of workspace and homes and c) create new work.

From Dormitory Suburb to Working Neighbourhood:

This project would build on local as well as national experience of working with residents of housing estates with poor social and commercial facilities and high levels of unemployment. Taking advantage of the opportunities opened up by tenants' organisations and the powers of housing associations, the action research project would explore ways and means of creating new work through improving the quality and mix of activities and the use of vacant land in and around the estate.

Organisation & Finance

The creation of Hastings Regeneration Partnership for the management of the Single Regeneration Budget provides an umbrella for subsidiary Partnerships. Their eligibility for central government assistance will be enhanced. Private investment will also be attracted by the confidence gained as 3-way Partnerships of statutory, commercial and community stakeholders are created to develop and manage the projects.

Comments about the Built Environment Group projects on the day

Dense housing is not necessarily lower quality - look at Kensington and Chelsea - high density and high quality.

How will LA21 link with SRB projects? Can we ensure that 'sustainability principles' are integral?

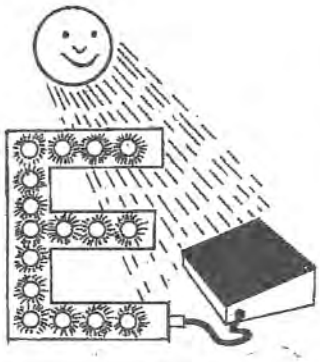
We need big stores to enable small shops and specialist trades to flourish nearby. (When a superstore at Hailsham was shut by a fire, nearby shops lost passing trade.) BUT big stores take their profits out of the town and bleed us of our money. Support the small, local shops!

In Hastings Observer 15.11.96, 'We're running out of land for homes', Paul Lewis, Chief Planner. Compare Tony Fry, Borough Planner, 1993, during preparation for Borough plan, 'there is enough land in Hastings for the next 20 years.'

What about refurbishment?

1 Develop local recycling skills
2 Maintain character and enhance area
3 Does not use up more space

Does rebuilding take on board people's basic needs (physiological, safety, sense of belonging, esteem, cognitive, aesthetic, self-actualisation)? Survival, comfort, efficiency, personal development, social development and administration are headings under which essential elements governing people in buildings can be considered. (Liz Coleman, Build Environment Group member)



Energy Working Group Projects

'Adapted' Ecohouse

Summary: And adaptation of an ordinary Hastings house to demonstrate the possibilities of living more sustainably for ordinary people

Aims: Accessible examples of money saving alterations that can be made to your own home at low cost

Ways to proceed: Identify likely empty HBC properties and liaise with 1066 Housing Association and Hastings Voluntary Action

Funding: Need for joint proposal

Costs and sources: Seek advice from examples below

Other examples: London Borough of Havering, Leicester City

Who is doing what? To be discussed at the Energy Forum

Timing: mid-1997

Contact: Jenneth Parker (01414 432792) Shelagh Wilson (01424 713792)

Energy Advice Centre

Summary: The Energy Forum could act as a catalyst and planning body for an Energy Advice Centre to meet the joint objectives of Community, Council & Business.

Aims:

- act as a drop-in information Centre for the public and tenants
- establish networks to train and inform building professionals
- work to provide energy efficiency advice for small and medium enterprises
- collect local information and reference systems
- house a library of expanding literature in this field
- administer grants
- establish a director of energy efficient and environmental service companies
- run public awareness schemes and house public exhibitions
- work with local schools and colleges
- carry out local consultancy and provide services
- provide information about energy labelling of appliances

Ways to proceed: Use the proposed Energy Forum to progress this project. It requires a partnership between Community, Council and Business.

Funding: Costs could be from a variety of sources money provided to help comply with the Home Energy Conservation Act
Department of the Environment funds

Lottery - Environment sector
Support in kind and cash from local utilities/associations etc.

Costs and Sources: Seeking advice from Centres (below)
Other examples: Oxford Energy Advice Centre Croydon Energy Advice Centre, London Borough of Islington, Bristol Energy Centre

Who is doing what? HBC is currently applying for funding.

Timing: Given the use of any of the empty properties in Hastings Town Centre, a Centre could be set up early in 1997.

Contact: Jenneth Parker (01414 432792) Shelagh Wilson (01424 713792), Malcolm Cook (HBC Environmental Services)

Ecohouse/Sustainable Living Centre

Summary: We recommend forming a partnership group from Council, Community and Business to develop a feasibility plan for such a Centre with a view to making

it a central plank in a Single Regeneration Budget bid.

Aims:

- provide a focus for environmental education tourism in the South East and North Western France (Ecohouses attract many thousands of visitors and the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales, although 'inaccessible', still attracts many thousands of visitors)
- attract Millennium funding (the Earth Centre in South Yorkshire has won funding to the tune of £50 million). There is no such facility available in the South East - GET IN THERE QUICK HASTINGS!
- provide local jobs
- provide a resource for local schools and colleges
- develop a research capacity in conjunction with local, South Eastern and North Western France colleges and universities

Ways to proceed: liaise with other working groups and projects

Funding: Could be from the following sources: Single Regeneration Bid, Millennium Fund, local traders and supported by entrance fees .

Costs: £100,000 upwards

Other examples: Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Wales, The Earth Centre, South Yorkshire

Who is doing what? SEAT is applying for outline planning permission on the Seaside Road site. HBC Environmental Services is investigating using the old school site in Bexhill Road

Timing: 1998

Contact: Jenneth Parker (01414 432792) Shelagh Wilson (01424 713792), Nigel Ray (HBC Environmental Services)

Energy Forum

Summary: Forum should be set up including representatives from Council departments, housing associations, community groups, residents associations, training and enterprise councils ('TECs'), Chamber of Commerce and fuel companies

Aims: establish an energy-saving culture
establish an Energy Management Unit

Ways to proceed: Initial Forum meeting early 1997 with presentation on thermal imaging

Funding: Initial meeting - Council and South Eastern Alternative Energy Group (SEAT). Funding proposal could be agreed at first meeting.

Costs and sources: members of the Forum should contribute to running costs

Other examples: Bristol Energy Club

Who is doing what: The Energy Working Group plus Council Officers will plan Forum meeting

Timing: Early 1997

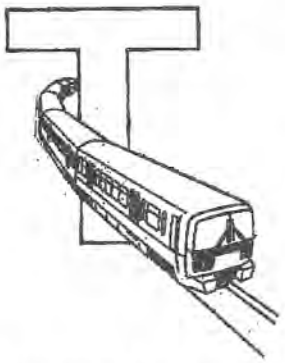
Contact: Jenneth Parker (01414 432792) Shelagh Wilson (01424 713792), Malcolm Cook (HBC Environmental Services)

Comments about the Energy Group projects on the day

Lobby Central Government to provide adequate funds to implement the Home Energy Conservation Act

Ecohouse like something out of Ideal Home - what about design for average flat dweller?

Leicester Ecohouse occupies a *lot* of land. Is this *practicable* here?



Transport Working Group Projects

Projects? The whole thing's the project

The principles of sustainability apply to all new developments and to managing what we have: specific projects are an expression of the complete approach. The working groups can recommend and research but the projects must belong to the community not the groups.

The Transport Working Group recommends that initiatives from residents to create local traffic management schemes should be one aspect of a single comprehensive approach to an area managed by a community group covering housing, green spaces, economy, energy use and waste (Braybrooke could become a prototype). At neighbourhood level techniques with practical results such as Planning for Real, which cut the talk, can be used. At Borough and County level partnerships between the voluntary, commercial and statutory sectors are needed to ensure balanced outcomes (the Regeneration Partnership as a beginning?)

Projects suggested by the Working Group and the Standing Conference on the Environment

Help children to walk or cycle safely to school

In peak periods 20% of all car trips have been found to be for children being driven to school.

No child is further than three miles from school in Hastings

This needs:

- The help of teachers, parents and not least the knowledge of children themselves to map the dangers.
- Education on the health benefits
- Advice from Sustrans drawing on their three-year Safe Routes to Schools project in partnership with York, Hampshire and Colchester councils

Make 'green' commuting easier and more attractive

A raft of measures is needed involving public, council, employers as well as train and bus operators:

- Provision of bulk season tickets to workers for big companies eg Boots, the Council, the Conquest Hospital. (The public transport provider benefits by the regular income.)
- Integrated timetables and ticketing
- Guarantee of taxi home if last bus cancelled or was missed
- More information on green commuting to be easily available
- Incorporate transport strategies into, for example, the Ponswood Industrial Estate Green Business Project
- Facilitate working at home
- More information readily available about bus/train times including real time information (matrix systems) in public places (Conquest Hospital, the new shopping centre, etc) as well as at bus stops and stations
- Car pools & car-sharing systems. Leicester has a computerised database of car-sharers that can match preferences - destinations/ non-smokers/ all women, etc.
- When planning encourage alternatives to the car. Change planning regulations - currently planning accepts the use of the car and requires car parking spaces. Ensure that alternatives are given priority and seek a steady decrease in car-parking spaces. Edinburgh is linking parking charges at a new development to ensure that one third of all trips must be made to it by public transport. If the target it not reached parking charges will rise.

Encourage more cycling and walking:

72.3% of journeys to work in Hastings are 4km (around 2 and a half miles) or less - well within easy cycling distance, in fact, nearly 40% of journeys to work are less than 2km (around 1 and a quarter miles) - well within walking distance. So how do the people who live in Hastings choose to get to work given these short distances? 62.8% go to work by car,only 1.2% cycle, only 16.5% walk and only 6% go by bus.

- As part of campaign for healthier people in a healthier environment
- To encourage more walking safer, better signposted, convenient, attractive, well-lit routes
- New road schemes to favour cyclists, disabled and walkers over the car

- Identify pedestrian networks within and to the main shopping centres (e.g. a link between Roberston Street and Cambridge Road)
- New cycle routes creating a network linking the town with different areas and Greenway(s). Some cycle tracks can be cheaply created by painting a white border when roads are wide and uncongested enough
- changing the cyclists' environment by provision at junctions, signage, traffic lights, advance stop, maps, information, etc. and changing facilities and safe storage. In Eastbourne police have provided money for storage recognising that it saves them money in the long run

BIG projects:

- Improve transport interchanges - St Leonards and Hastings stations - to make them into welcoming gateways
- A new station at Glyne Gap
- Reinstate the Pier landing stage and promote cross Channel and coastal boat links
- Exploit the European rail links
- Persuade Southern Water to remove the spoil from its drainage works by rail and also to bring in plant by rail
- To retain and promote the use of railway sidings for freight as part of the Broomgrove development
- A light tram system with potential to connect main centres in Hastings and St Leonards - and eventually Bexhill

Transport Challenges

Since 1970, the amount of car travel has almost dou - bled to an average of 6,500 miles per person per year, while travel on other road passenger vehicles, mainly buses and coaches, has reduced by a quarter to less than 600 miles per year...Since 1974, the real price of rail and bus fares has increased faster than 50 per cent growth in real disposable incomes. The real cost of motoring has fallen and car travel is therefore much more affordable than it was twenty years ago.
Indicators of Sustainable Development for the United Kingdom, DoE, HMSO

The Transport Group would recommend that King's Road, St Leonards be pedestrianised (illustrations by Mike Turner of how it would look were exhibited on the day). But we know that the traders fear that this would lose them trade. This is an old fear that has been expressed many times across Europe in the face of proposed pedestrianisations and is almost always unfounded. Usually trade increases! More information is needed and ways to get it to those who would benefit.

The planning system has to be changed to engage ordinary people and use their knowledge at the earliest stages.

The Transport Group will try to find the time to research this making use of experience from The Neighbourhoods Initiatives Foundation, Transport 2000 and Sustrans. Community consultations which avoid the dominance of talking and talkers so that all those affected can SEE the results of the actions that are needed.

Transport planning should favour walkers, cyclists, the disabled, and public transport over the private car.

This is still a challenge, as the foregoing quotation shows, although all current transport thinking is making it easier to meet.

Comments about the
Transport Group projects on the day

Supplement cycle route already on plan from Cinque Ports Way to Glyne Gap.

I agree (with above comment)

Perhaps Trinity triangle should be devoted to disabled badge holder parking only? If not pedestrianised.

If you pedestrianise you need free parking nearby

How to give *prosperous* firms *level* space to spread and grow? Get small firms out of industrial estates into small sites now unused (Bexhill has around 150 of them!) and leave the industrial estates clear for big firm's expansion.

Review job application forms which exclude non-car-owner/drivers. Work towards more 'out-reach' provision of services. Support mobile shops, libraries, etc.

Establish (in local press) a summer competition 'The Friendly Match' for the best example of an environmentally friendly overhaul of a previously chosen group of shops/nightclubs/hotels etc. Give good prizes.

1 Favour (in grant programmes, etc.) newer businesses where trade is in environmental technologies.

2 Teach BASIC skills in environmental management

Connect to SCEEMAS (DoE fund to help business 'green-up').

Explore the possibility of closing the promenade to traffic for a few hours on Saturday or Sunday between say April and October.

Trinity triangle. What is the point of allowing cars etc. round the three sides of the triangle and out again. Parking is impossible delivery vans block the street - it is madness. This area should be pedestrianised

Missed the point, no reduction of cars & CO2.

Cycle routes *throughout* the borough. Too many people are at risk from cyclists weaving across roads and pavements.

Dedicated cycle routes through predestrianised areas and one way streets (contrary to traffic flow).

New homes with access to public transport do not need provision for car parking or garages. Making a more efficient land usage.

A firm directive to HBC to actively reduce cars and car parking in the town.

Waste & Pollution Group Projects

Contact:: LA21 Forum and Chantal Lass Tel 01424 781369

Domestic Recycling and Waste Minimisation

Summary: To develop a door-to-door collection of recyclable waste material.

Aims: Minimise and recycle the Boroughs domestic waste to exceed the Governments target of 25% and to pro-actively develop a Borough wide waste minimisation and recycling educational package.

Ways to proceed: Identify partners to develop door-to-door recycling for all residents and to develop a Materials Reclamation Facility.

Costs and partners: Estimated cost £1 million. Private sector, DOE, European, HBC

Other examples: Adur, Bristol and numerous other focal authorities

Who is doing what? Unknown until specification develops.

Timing: 2-5 years

Commercial Recycling

Summary: Develop a strategy to encourage commercial recycling to reduce waste and costs by recycling rather than landfilling.

Aims: To enable and facilitate local business to both minimise waste generation and complete recycling initiatives

Ways to proceed: To offer waste audits ,seminars, green business awards, green business network and presentations.

Costs and Partners: Costs unknown include the creation of Green Business Manager Post? Private sector, HBC, DTI, DOE, SRB, Chamber of Commerce etc.

Other examples: Wigan, Oxford, Nottingham.

Who is doing what? HBC investigating possibilities of Green Business Manager.

Timing: 2-5 years

Scrap Store

Aims: Provide facility for collection and reuse of recyclable waste generated by local business enabling a creative play and recycling project ,facilitating part of an environmental educational programme with local schools.

Ways to proceed: see below

Costs and Partners: In development stage Sussex Kids Recycling and Play Project (SKRAPP) HBC, Hastings and Rother Play School, Social Services and RDC.

Other examples: Adur, Lewes

Who is doing what? as above

Timing: Immediate

Bulky Waste Re-use

Summary: Offer collection facility to residents for collection and ultimate recycling of their unwanted bulky household items.

Aims: Collect unwanted household items such as fridges, sofas ,beds ,electrical appliances .

Ways to proceed: Schedule free collections in partnership with the Boroughs waste collection contractors. To sort and donate to those on benefit and to develop a community workshop to repair and distribute.

Costs and Partners: Costs -unknown including building, vehicle, staff etc. HBC, Onyx (or other), ESPS Community Services Team

Other examples: Rochdale + others

Who is doing what? ESPS Community Services Team identified as possible partner, to seek funding.

Timing: 1-2 years

Green Waste Composting

Summary: An estimated 60% of household waste green waste could be converted to compost.

Aims: To establish a Borough wide green waste composting facility.

Ways to proceed: Identify a commercial partner to work together with HBC; to identify sufficient supply of green waste; to establish method of collection.

Costs and Partners: Cost £ 500 000 to set up (land, equipment etc.).Private sector

Other examples: Kent, Devon + others.

Who is doing what? HBC to establish feasibility and upon result seek commercial partner.

Timing: 1-2 years

Hastings Environmental Action Response Team (HEART)

Summary: To recognise areas small and large within the Borough where neglect, dumping or general lack of management is apparent . To work with others and encourage community care.

Aims: Improve the natural environment of the Borough by transforming areas of neglect or dilapidation and encouraging local community involvement.

Ways to proceed: establish a local environment action response team to transform those areas into 'pocket parks' for adoption by the community.

Costs and Partners: Project established costs to date £200 HBC, ESPS Community Service Team, LA21 Forum ,Hastings Trust

Other examples: None Known

Who is doing what? N/A

Timing: Immediate

Energy Awareness

Summary: Reduce energy usage and thus reduce emissions of atmospheric pollutants produced during combustion.

Aims: To inform and encourage all aspects of the Hastings community including business as to the opportunities of energy management.

Ways to proceed: Establish an Energy Forum and an Energy Advice Centre.

Costs and Partners: Costs unknown HBC, DTI, DOE, LA21 Forum, Hastings Trust, private sector.

Other examples: Croydon, Lancashire ,Newark & others

Who is doing what? HBC proactively seeking funding for Energy Advice Centre .

Timing: 1-2 years

Smoky Diesels

Summary: Smoky diesel exhausts are responsible for 90% of black smoke emissions in urban areas, resulting in unpleasant odour and smoke, blackening on buildings and posing a potential health threat .

Aims: To increase public awareness about how to report dirty diesels .

Ways to proceed: Publicise the dirty diesel "hotline" and promote a dirty diesel spotting campaign.

Costs and Partners: Costs £250, HBC, LA21 Forum and DoT

Other examples: Numerous local authorities.

Timing: 1-2 years.

Sun Safety Awareness

Summary: To inform and advise as to the reasons for and the effects of ozone depletion .To proactively seek to minimise those effects.

Aims: To promote sun safety awareness and offer installation of shade areas in schools

Ways to proceed: Establish a forum of interested parties and thereby identify possible action e.g. play schools, schools, health promotion unit etc.

Costs and Partners: Costs? Private sector, Health Promotion Unit ,DOE, HBC and others.

Other examples: Bournemouth

Who is doing what? To be decided

Timing: 1-2 years

Lift Share scheme

Summary: Road traffic is responsible for the emission of air pollutants which affect our health and damage buildings and the natural environment.

Aims: To reduce traffic pollution and congestion by developing a lift share scheme as a preliminary step towards a sustainable transport policy.

Ways to proceed: Initially through the Councils Sustainable Working Action Team (SWAT)and work with the LA21 Forum.

Costs and Partners: Costs? mainly administrative

Other examples: Nottinghamshire, Edinburgh, 'Freewheelers'

Who is doing what? HBC to investigate further

Timing: 1-2 years

Comments about the
Waste and Pollution Group projects on the day

We need cheaper fares on buses

Target the town's biggest employers and organisations i.e. Conquest Hospital, supermarkets, etc and found out how (or if) they are reducing waste and pollution.

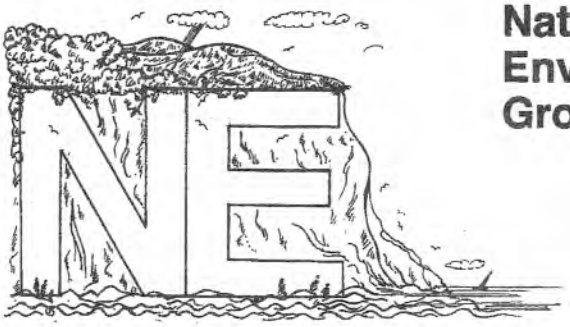
Ban PVC

re bulky waste reuse - could they liaise with scrap store - old mattresses may be unusable as mattresses but may have alternative use

Is the bulky waste reuse project linked to Hastings Furniture Services which is a local charity that already recycles furniture and household goods to people on benefit. if not already linked, it should be - wasteful and unnecessary competition.

Towns in Germany already have door to door collection of recyclables.

Establish (in local press) Winter competition 'Feel the Heat' for competing companies to insulate, etc homes/schools/Village hall in a 'Challenge Aneka' format. Award decent prizes (Scotch?).



Natural Environment Group

Living Landscape Project Seeing Nature Whole

Integrating natural history, gardening, food production, and arts and crafts
Promoting new ways of thinking about nature
Developing a centre to demonstrate possibilities

Aims:

- encourage community involvement and dialogue
- support and assist projects created by local communities
- realise the value of all open and green spaces for people and wildlife
- recognise and utilise local knowledge
- demonstrate sustainable living through practical horti cultural projects
- provide plants etc for community projects
- study local ecology and wildlife in local, regional, national and European contexts
- monitor local and regional ecological change
- coordinate local ecological records
- develop new methods of education about the natural environment
- communicate ideas and practice
- promote Hastings' natural assets
- contribute to the local economy by providing jobs and attracting visitors

What next?

- talk to people about what they want
- get funds for development work
- work on development plans
- find a site and envision its development

Sources of funding

- Europe (Interreg, LIFE)
- community shares
- business sponsorship
- UK government
- admission charges for non-residents

Coordinators
Andrew Grace and Judy Clark

Comments about the

Natural Environment Group project on the day

A brilliant idea!

Lovely idea - will it be somewhere with good passing trade - to catch the attention of the 'non-converted'?

Brilliant idea, would like to see it in or near Alexandra Park.

Community Map

Among the many ideas that emerged from the day this one from Connie Mager (Alzheimer's Disease Society) won a lot of support

Community Map

In response to discussions taking place in Hastings about the dissemination of information about Health and Environment issues I suggest:

1 That the new Priory Meadow shopping complex would be the obvious place for a small staffed central office where the public could obtain information from a data base according to their needs but with human contact. The various offices of the voluntary organisations are scattered all over Hastings and St Leonards and are not easy to find so I suggest:

- a large scale map in the window of the office (for when it is closed) with organisations indexed and pin-pointed

- a map situated in the shopping complex with the system of press button bulbs that this type of map usually incorporates

2 That Boots and other large stores coming to the complex be asked to fund this venture with due acknowledgments.

My reasoning behind these suggestions is concern that it is not easy for people living in the far-flung towns and villages to know what help is available or to find the various organisations when they are told the addresses eg CHC in Sedlescombe Road North, HVA for the Blind in Battle Road or the Alzheimer's Disease Society's own information centre in Claremont. More people will hopefully be coming into Hastings to the new shopping complex so this suggestion seems logical.

HVA for the Blind have, I am sure, helped hundreds of people with their information stall in the foyer of the Conquest Hospital but that only caters for the people who go to the hospital.

Appendix

The Natural Environment Group's initial drawings

It has only been possible to show here the ground plan of the Natural Environment Group's Living Landscape Centre. A drawing in colour of how the Centre might look when built was also exhibited on the action planning day but is unfortunately too difficult to reproduce. It showed

- solar panels on the roof
- accommodation for field study visitors
- a full-time caretaker's flat
- a circular verandah around the top of first level

It gave the following as examples of the range of activities at the Centre

- promote local groups and give them a voice
- link with national and international environmental organisations
- how to record sightings
- identification of flowers, trees, insects, birds and birdsong
- food information and projects
- woodcraft and woodland maintenance
- understanding sea and links with fishermen
- willow and hazel sculpture making
- understanding surrounding countryside and links with farmers
- time release photography of plants
- video recording of natural environment
- sound recording of birds, etc
- publishing information collated at Centre

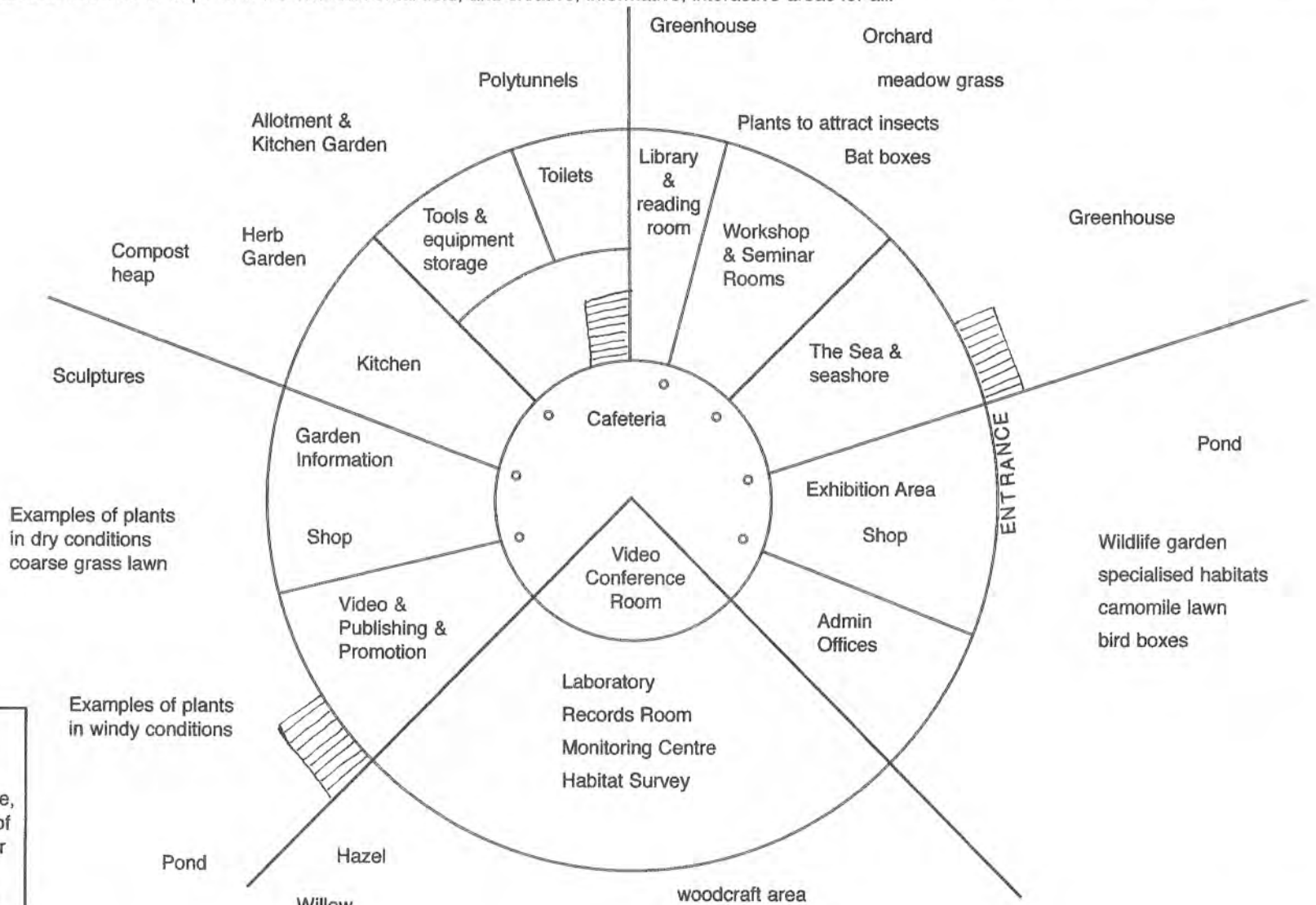
The drawing also lists as other types of garden

- grottoes - ferns and wet area plants
- medicinal plants
- historical
- seasonal

For more information please contact Caroline Kempster, tel 01424 432952

The Living Landscape Centre

The Centre is a unique and ambitious idea which needs detailed research. The Natural Environment Working Group's hope is to propose a site to visit that would appeal to locals and visitors, with specialised facilities for experts in the environmental field, and creative, informative, interactive areas for all.



Plan

This drawing only represents a tentative, hypothetical design of the space needed for our ideas. Any new building should take account of Local Agenda 21 principles.

not to scale

Participants	Organisations
Brian Adams	Coppiced Wood Products
Stephen Atkins	South Eastern Railway Heritage
Jennifer Ayres	Hastings Trades Council
Carol Bailey	Hollington Residents' Association, Tenants Consultative Group, Regeneration Partnership
G A Balamoan	LA21 Transport Group
Ernest Ballard	Hastings Borough Councillor
Jeremy Birch	Hastings Borough Councillor, ESCC Councillor, Wheels Project
Paul Boustead	Hastings Conservation Volunteers
Tony Boyle	Hastings Borough Councillor, ESCC Councillor
Pam Brown OBE	Hastings Borough Councillor, ESCC Councillor
June Cannon	Urban Design Group Public Participation Programme supported by the Department of the Environment
Graham Capper	Hastings Borough Council
Kevin Carías	LA21 Transport Group, Here & Now, GEMS, Hastings Trust
Marie Casey	Hastings Voluntary Action (Chair)
Mick Chantler	LA21 Transport Group
Mike Christopher	Here & Now
Judy Clark	LA21 Natural Environment Group, Hastings Urban Wildlife Group
Eileen Cleary	UNA, LA21 Forum
Liz Coleman	LA21 Built Environment Group
Richard Coppens	Infinite Arts
Sheila Crossett	
Peter Crouch	LA21 Work & Economy Group, Grove Partnership
John Cummings	Green Party, CAAT
Dave Currer	Hastings FoE, Green Party
Robin Deane	1066 Housing Association, Hastings & Rother Childcare Campaign
Linda Dootson	Hastings FoE, Hastings Urban Wildlife Group
Jackie Dowling	Hastings Borough Councillor
Hugh Driscoll	SEAT
Jack Finch	LA21 Work & Economy Group, Hastings FoE
Stephen Fitzguy	
Lynda Fletcher	Community Development Team
Ann Foley	Hastings & Rother Childcare Campaign, Hastings Voluntary Action
Brian Gasson	St Leonards Allotments Association
Roger Gates	
Anne Goddard	1066 Housing Association, Hastings FoE, LA21 Transport Group
Dave Goodman	
Andrew Grace	LA21 Natural Environment Group, Hastings Urban Wildlife Group
Shirely Green	
Val Greenwood	LA21 Natural Environment Group, BTCV
Audrey Guy	UNA, LA21 Transport Group
Colin Harmer	Rother Association of Parish Councils

Participants	Organisations
Bob Hart	Hastings Bonfire Society
Christina Harvey	Hastings FoE, SEAT
George Hay	
Jane Jackson	Technical Services, Hastings Borough Council
Tom Johnson	
Caroline Kempster	LA21 Natural Environment Group, LA21 Forum, St Helens Park Preservation Society, Better Braybrooke
Chantal Lass	LA21 Waste & Pollution Group, Environmental Services Department, Hastings Borough Council
Terry Leach	Grey Owl Centre
Dennis Leggett	Here & Now
Paul Lewis	Technical Services Department (Chief Planner) Hastings Borough Council
Rachel Lewis	LA21 Waste & Pollution Group, Environmental Services Department, Hastings Borough Council
Susie & Ian Lyle	GEMS, Pinehurst Centre
Connie Mager	Alzheimer's Disease Society
Rosie Manise	Community Service Volunteers (UK)
Mahin McCandless	LA21 Forum, Bahá'í Community
Mike McCandless	LA21 Forum, Bahá'í Community
Grace Mitchell	Fairlight Down Conservation Society
Evelyn Modlinger	
Jenneth Parker	LA21 Forum, SEAT
Sally Philips	Green Party
Sue Prochak	Rother District Councillor (Chair of Policy & Resources Committee)
Nigel Ray	Deputy Director of Environmental Services, Hastings Borough Council
Don Richardson	Hastings Trust
Melian Robertson	LA21 Transport Group, Hastings FoE
Stella Rock	Hastings Borough Councillor
Graham Rowland	
Harry Ruis	SEAT, Hastings FoE
Michael Sandaver	Hastings Borough Councillor
Geoffrey W J Sands	SEAT, Hastings FoE
Mark Sewell	Hastings FoE
Geoff Solley	Chief Ranger, Hastings Borough Council
Paul Swabey	Churches Together
Caroline Thomas	Here & Now
May Treu	Volunteer Ranger Group
Alan Turner	Hastings Greenpeace
Mike Turner	LA21 Transport Group, Hastings FoE, Hastings Tramway Company
Nick Wates	Urban Design Group Public Participation Programme supported by the Department of the Environment
Bob Wilkins	Head of Transport & Environment Department, East Sussex County Council