

## HAILSHAM AND POLEGATE COMMUNITY NETWORK



The fifth Hailsham and Polegate Community Network meeting was held on 28 June 2018 at Eco Hub near Hellingly. **33** people attended. Participants arrived for registration and refreshments in the Eco Hub cabin. They then walked down

through the Italian Garden and gathered under the gazebo. Fiona Morton from 3VA welcomed everyone. Fiona then handed over to Ben Trowell who told the story of Eco Hub, its development and plans for the future.



Eco Hub is becoming a place for the local community to gather and to grow new activities.

Participants divided into five groups and set off to explore the Eco Hub site and its projects. There was a walk through the woodland nature trail built by volunteers from the University of Brighton and four short talks followed by questions and discussion.



Three of the Eco Hub volunteers: Tracey, Steve and Jamie talked about their contributions to Eco Hub and what they had gained from being involved with the projects.



The five projects presented were: Men's Shed, Compass Community Arts Lodge, FSN Rural Outreach Volunteer Training Empowerment and Biodiversity/rocket composting.





Everyone came back together under the gazebo. There was time for a rest, respite from the heat and networking with participants who were attending for the first time. Lunch was kindly funded by 3VA cooked by the Community Oven mobile Pizza Van.

The meeting finished with evaluations. Here is what people had to say about the day, Eco Hub and how they can help to grow this valuable community asset.

- Beautiful place, sense of peace and activity community cohesion
- Huge potential both here and elsewhere
- Excellent network use of Eco Hub to re-create similar services within a care home setting
- Connection made with other group – sharing and creating vision of support in the community – no labelling.
- I thought I knew everything and everybody until I came to the Eco Hub event today
- Thank you so much. This has been a great opportunity to meet people, share ideas etc.
- Love this place! Well done!
- Inspired by the wonderful Hailsham Community.
- Development of communities cannot happen without infrastructure. We begin to lose our culture if we don't stand together.
- Great day. Will be looking for more community gardens and sharing ideas.
- Eco Hub is amazing.
- Absolutely loved it. Having to think about how Wealden District Council can help.
- So many people with diverse ways of supporting this community- All truly inspiring and coming together in this amazing place.
- Amazing space. Wonderful team. So much potential.
- It's fantastic to see the amount of activities on offer and the amount of time everyone gives to make it all work.
- Fabulous day. Enjoyed the teamwork. Making of the compost was very interesting. Enjoyed meeting new people.
- It was great to meet a new range of diverse groups.
- Great space – good to hear about what the future of this site can hold and the opportunities we can link with.
- Inspired by the atmosphere very therapeutic
- Access to site seems to be a difficulty
- I am inspired to spread the word about Eco Hub.
- I loved meeting with everyone. Eco Hub was great.
- Great ideas linked to woodworking and art activities with mental health issues.
- Commitment of the staff. Jamie attitude and get up and go – wonderful. Eco Hub great opportunity very much needed. I wish you well!
- Inspired by the huge amount of community groups available in this area. Great people to network with and solve my volunteering needs!

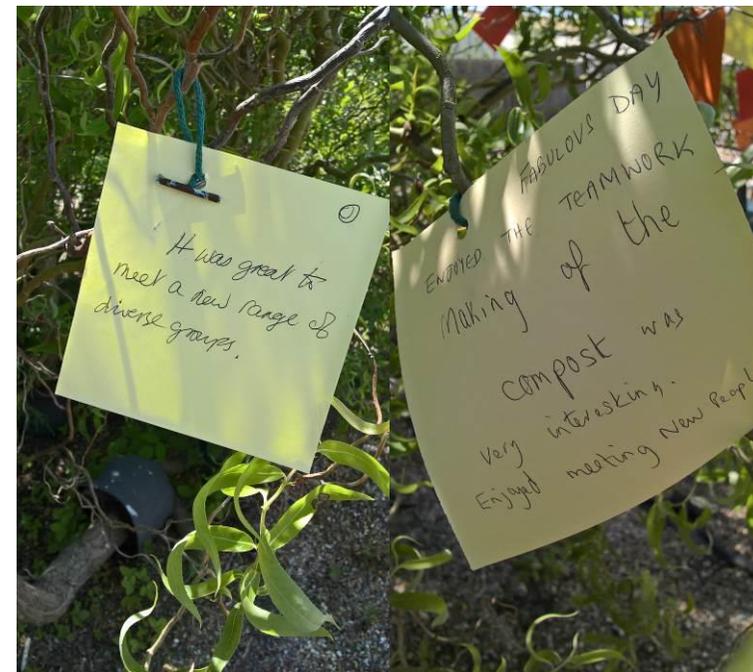
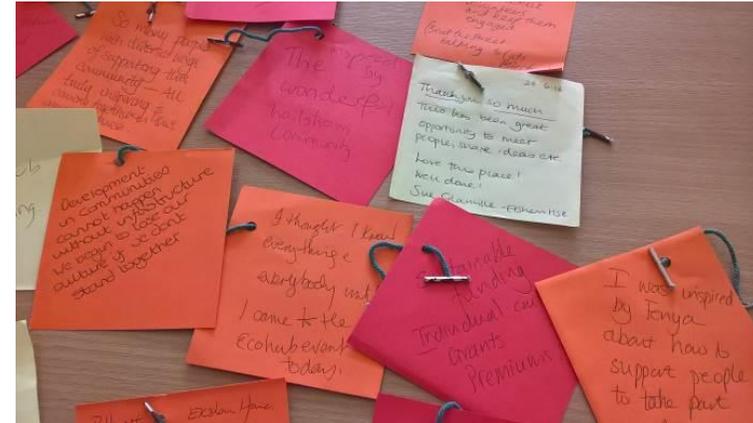
- The Community Groups forum is sooooo needed elsewhere.
- Layout of Eco Hub will help so many people. On my side spreading the word/concept of Eco Hub. We will wherever we can promote your concepts/projects.
- Really useful to share ideas on how to recruit volunteers and keep them engaged. (Beat the Streets talking to Cats Protection).

### Participants at the event rated its usefulness.

Out of 33 people with 19 evaluation forms returned to us, no one said that the meeting was not useful.



### Participants decorated a tree with their comments.





## Hailsham and Polegate Community Network

**ECO HUB, HELLINGLY - 28TH JUNE 2018**

Thank you to all who participated in the event, and to those who made it happen. We hope you enjoyed the day.

Our next event will be held on 21st September and booking is open on the 3VA website.

