



Business Plan 2021-22

OUR ETHOS

We are a charity who work with local groups in Steyning to plant trees to benefit the mental and physical wellbeing of members of the community, present and future.



Celebrate the power of trees to inspire



Plant for the future



Sustain landscapes rich in wildlife



Recover health, hope and wellbeing with the help of trees



Protect irreplaceable trees and woods



Charter
for Trees, Woods
and People



Grow forests of opportunity and innovation



Strengthen our landscapes with trees



Plan greener local landscapes



Make trees accessible to all



Combat the threats to our habitats

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Background

Steyping for Trees (SFT) is a small charity and community group founded in 2019 by a committee of 10 residents which operates in the district of Steyping and Bramber in West Sussex on the edge of the South Downs National Park. It is affiliated to The Steyping Society (founded 1963) which also hosts its website. SFT has its own constitution, bank account, meetings and AGM, and audited accounts.

Mission Statement: Aims and Objectives

1. to promote, plan and carry out the planting of trees and hedgerows in Steyping.
2. to help fight climate change and global heating.
3. to help reverse the decline in biodiversity.
4. to help support the mental and physical wellbeing of residents.
5. to help enhance the setting of Steyping, both rural and urban.
6. to help improve social and community cohesion.

Methods

1. raising funds from local organisations and private donors and spending those funds as follows, subject to maintaining reasonable reserves.
2. seeking sites suitable for planting trees, on both publicly and privately owned land. ("Public" being Parish, District and County Councils). *"The right tree in the right place."*
3. obtaining owners' agreement and working closely with them to plan and carry out planting.
4. using available arboricultural and ecological expertise, both within our committee and from specialist bodies, to assist in planning and planting. As well as working with other local groups with overlapping objectives.
5. selecting appropriate native species of trees and buying them from highly reputable sources.
6. encouraging residents to participate in our activities, and with their neighbours (e.g. street planting) to enhance community cohesion.
7. doing the planting ourselves where possible, with committee members and a list of other volunteers, and Grammar School and Youth Club. Paying 3rd parties where appropriate (e.g. larger trees).
8. publicising the fight against climate change, reporting our activities to residents and supporters, and encouraging others to plant, via Newsletters, stands, events, speakers etc. (Plain English wherever possible!).
9. keeping records of planting achieved, directly and indirectly, through our activities to compare with local and national objectives.

Finance and Budgeting

The audited accounts for the 9-month period ending 31 August 2020 reported income of £5880 and expenditure of £4023. (£321 was spent on advertising & promotional material, and the remainder spent on trees and planting.)

This represented the direct planting of 590 hedgerow trees, and 21 semi-mature trees, by us and by 3rd party planters respectively. Plus 340 whips (small saplings) given to residents for planting in their gardens (indirect planting).

Budgeting depends on (a) income for funding and (b) availability of sites for planting. But our objective is to grow by at least 50% in 2021. We already have the go ahead for a copse of 60 whips (planting delayed by Covid) and a waiting list for 18 semi-mature trees on verges.

Candidate Projects

We hope to be able to work with the following organisations and sites in 2021:-

- Steyning Town Community Football Club
- The Steyning and District Commercial Partnership
- Steyning Parish Churchyard – working alongside other organisations helping to reduce their carbon footprint
- Shooting Fields Green – permission granted to begin working with residents
- Planting on verges (with WSCC):
 - Shooting Fields
 - Penlands Vale
 - Andrew Close
 - King’s Stone Avenue
 - Newham Close
 - Rosemary Avenue
 - and existing sites Newham Lane, de Braose Way, and Ingram Road
- Planting a copse off Kings Barn Lane
- Planting Buckthorn to attract Brimstone butterflies
- South Downs National Park Authority - planting on farm

Committee

The committee of ten meets regularly with all discussions and decisions minuted, and an annual AGM. There are 2 officers (Chair and Treasurer/Secretary) and 3 signatories. Members are all active in other Steyning clubs, committees, and organisations.

Individual areas of experience and expertise:

- arboriculture (inc. 2 tree wardens)
- biology, agriculture, ecology, education
- horticulture (inc. RHS Diplomas + distinction)
- mental health, mental wellbeing
- poetry
- sales & marketing and advertising
- District Council
- senior management (public and private sectors).

And we have the affiliation and support of The Steyning Society which has worked to protect the heritage and setting of Steyning for nearly 60 years.

Trees

- Trees capture the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and lock up the carbon, helping to slow the rise in global temperatures.
- Hedgerow trees help to halt or reverse the catastrophic decline in biodiversity by providing homes for nesting birds and shelter for small animals and invertebrates, as well as extending wildlife corridors.
- Planting trees and hedges on verges provides both shade and the cooling effect of transpiration from leaves.
- Trees enhance our rural and urban settings and support our mental and physical wellbeing.
- Trees fight against flooding by taking up water.
- Trees absorb noise and pollution.

Testimonials

- "I am delighted to announce that the SFT initiative has been selected to receive a Countryside Award ..." *CPRE Sussex, 18/7/20*
- "Thank you so much for your work with tree planting. We are very pleased with our lovely prunus..." *VB, Ingram Road resident (verge), 21/11/20*
- "...Many thanks for this and all that you have done to ensure we have given this rare tree a home." *Clerk to Parish Council, 4/12/20*
- "I have finally remembered to thank you for organising the trees in Penlands Way. Don't they look splendid? I did not expect so many. You both work so hard, you are a real asset to Steyning." *PW, Penlands resident, 27/11/20*
- "Thank you so much for all your hard work with this important project. It was especially good to see the 'before and after' photos which I think shows how planting the trees enhance the verges no end and reinforces the character of the town." *Parish Councillor, 9/9/20*
- "Another great newsletter and such progress..." *VR, Abbey Road resident, 19/11/20*
- "Loving all the trees being planted in Steyning. Thank you." *KS, Spotted Steyning (Facebook). 11/20*

Steyning For Trees would like to thank to all our funders and donors for their support.

This document was created by committee members:

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- George Gordon: MA (Oxon) - *Treasurer & Secretary SFT. INSEAD Business School Fontainebleau. Headed businesses in UK, France, and internationally.*

With the help of:

- Henry Bagley MSc. - *a volunteer tree planter with experience in IT and Public Policy.*