

Update for February 2016



Natural Flood Management What can we do for Lewes? Well, probably lots! We can help Sussex Flow NOW – see below - and we can plan more for the future



Getting Naturegain into the Neighbourhood Plan – using L&Ove’s previous results and looking to Naturegain Assessments of proposed development sites



Where do you find wildflowers growing in Lewes Town? Work on this is progressing - wildflower L&Overs can help.....

Natural Flood Management



All the news of floods in Cumbria and Yorkshire seem to have struck a chord in Lewes There’s a group of people from TTL who are showing an interest in starting to try to do something to reduce flood risk to Lewes we want to look at natural catchment management for the Ouse – what can we do? where’s best to do it? who can we work with? and where do we start?

All of this is part of an open, on-going discussion within TTL Steering Group and, given that natural flood risk reduction is one of the issues that L&Ove has been raising for several years (in fact, ever since we started!) perhaps this is a project that L&Ove members will want to be active in?!

Well, Sussex Flow Initiative has been doing loads of things on this – they even got mentioned in the House of Commons (thanks to Caroline Lucas) recently during the national debate on the floods and what to do about them!

Here are some dates for helping with tree planting in the catchment. SFI have worked out where are the priority places to plant trees, negotiated with Landowners and are getting out there and planting trees specifically to help with flood risk problems. Here are some dates and instructions:

Hi all,

Thanks for showing interest in helping us with some tree and hedge planting this season.

Planting will be done over a number of sites (all Ouse based), and will be dependent on conditions (i.e. if soils are too wet or frozen we will postpone). All our trees are small whips, and most require slot planting, so shouldn't be too challenging!

There are a range of sites, and I am keeping options open so we can use the resource in the best places. They are mostly around Uckfield.

At the moment we hope to be planting on the following dates:

Tuesday 19th Jan (appreciate this is rather late notice!)

Thursday 21st Jan

Thursday 28th Jan

Tuesday 2nd Feb

Thursday 4th Feb

Tuesday 9th Feb

There may also be some dates later in the season TBC.

If you are able to help then please text/email/call to let me know you will be coming along. You are welcome to bring friends, but our sites may not be suitable for children - we may however add some family planting days later in February.

If you plan to come along you will need:

Warm clothes / hat.

Gardening gloves (not essential).

Wet weather footwear.

Lunch / drink.

We will provide tea / coffee / cake. I will be travelling from Brighton, and am happy to provide a lift if helps. If you plan to use your own car then please let me know and I will send specific directions.

Thanks again, and hope to see you! If you can't help this time, but want to be kept on our volunteering list then please let me know.

Best wishes,

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Sandra Manning-Jones

Project Officer

Sussex Flow Initiative

(Trees on the River Uck)

tel: 07795 116880

<http://www.sussexflowinitiative.org/>

www.treesontheriveruck.org.uk

If you want to join in, contact Sandra Manning-Jones of SFI and she'll tell you how, where and when you can help.

There is also a group from TTL discussing whether and how we might start to work on this to help increase Lewes's flood resilience – more next month! Watch this space!



Getting Naturegain into the Plan – We've used maps from the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan and put in picture cards from L&Ove's previous work to get Naturegain – the ecosystem services provided by our surrounding countryside AND green space within the town – included into the map of 'The Life of Lewes' in the draft Planning Policies Consultation Report (see www.lewes4all.uk) and, hopefully, from there it will find its way into the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan.

The next 'consultation draft' will soon appear on the Neighbourhood Plan website and that will be your chance to contribute to that map, suggest changes and improvements, etc.

Another exciting possibility is for people from L&Ove to carry out Naturegain Assessments of proposed development sites. Colin is going to start on this during February it would be really great to get a group of us who feel able to do this sort of thing, so if you'd like to help that'd be really welcome!! Contact Colin (tc09_at_gn.apc.org NB. Replace _at_ with @).



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There is a group set up by Green Party councillors who have been working on ideas and plans for this – contact Jo Carter for details (joanna.carter_at_greenparty.org.uk NB. Replace _at_ with @).

Colin is in touch with them to see if we can include things they're developing in the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan.

NEXT MEETING

There will be a Lewes & Ouse Valley eco-nomics group meeting coming up shortly Please keep an eye on the Events page of TTL website for date, time and venue! Look forward to seeing you there!