

Sussex Nature Partnership

Feedback on first year of Local Authority Network (2021-22)

Organisation

14 Responses

Data	Responses
Lewes District Council	2
Lewes and Eastbourne councils	2
Adur and Worthing Councils	1
Hastings Borough Council	1
wealden Distirct Council	1
Wealden District Council	1
hastings b c	1
Arun District Council (Planning Policy)	1
WSCC	1
Lewes & Eastbourne Councils	1
Mid Sussex District Council	1
Brighton & Hove City Council	1

Organisation

Data	Responses
HDC	1
Adur & Worthing Councils	1
Horsham District Council	1
Rother DC	1
East Sussex County Council	1

Role of those responding

14 Responses

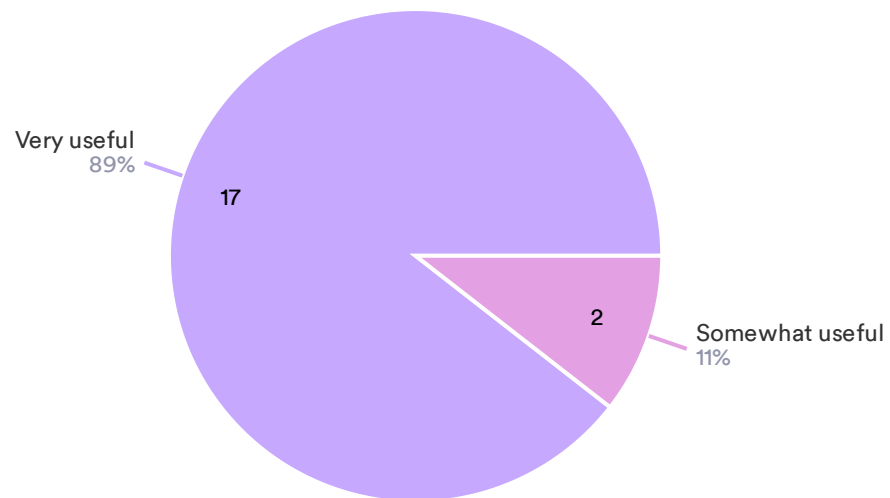
Data	Responses
Environment Lead	2
Sustainability Officer	1
Councillor	1
Environment and Natural Resources Manager	1
planner	1
planning policy officer	1
Biodiversity & Arboricultural Officer	1
climate change programme manager	1
Strategic Environmental Assessment Officer	1
Economic Development Officer	1
Senior Planning Policy Officer	1
Senior Planning Officer, Planning Policy	1
Carbon Neutral Programme Manager	1

Role of those responding

Data	Responses
Cabinet Member	1
Principal Planning Officer	1
Environment Programme Manager	1
planning policy manager	1
Public Health Strategic Lead - Healthy Places	1

How useful have you found the Local Authority Network this year?

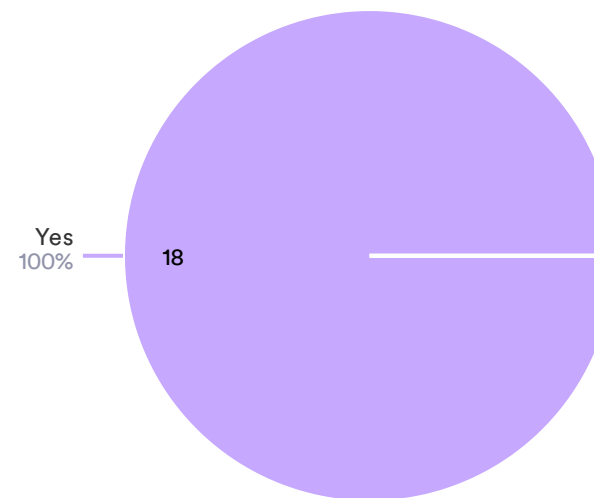
19 Responses



● Very useful ● Somewhat useful

Would you like to see the LA Network continue beyond its first pilot year?

18 Responses- 1 Empty



● Yes

If you have found it useful, what has been the most useful element, topic etc?

14 Responses- 1 Empty

Data	Responses
Grateful that you lead and manage consultation responses so expertly. The webinars are informative and practical and it's great that colleagues across disciplines come along. You help us to understand the national direction and where we all fit - as best you can in the circumstances - LNRS etc	2
Presentations on topics that I would otherwise have tried to seek out advice on.	1
BNG and other policy guidance	1
The seminars have been excellent and informative. Liaising with other LAs is great.	1
BNG	1
All topics related to BNG. I liked the session on viability of a 10%-plus BNG very much: clear presentation, real experience, useful information. It was also very useful to get to know colleagues at other LAs and learn from their experience.	1
Biodiversity Net-gain & Environment Bill	1
Combination of the deeper dives on particular topics and guest presenters, plus the sharing of useful informative links.	1
BNG, natural capital discussions	1
BNG, particularly session on viability	1
All the information and discussion has been interesting, informative and useful, but I have particularly found the sessions on biodiversity net gain beneficial. It has also been useful to receive the e-mail updates on consultations, funding opportunities etc.	1
Biodiversity Net Gain	1
BNG offsetting	1

If you have found it useful, what has been the most useful element, topic etc?

4 Responses- 1 Empty

Data	Responses
Biodiversity Net Gain Local Nature Recovery Networks	1
NRN, BNG - going forward the implementation of these and the Local Nature Recovery Strategies	1
BNG advice	1
Extremely useful, collaborative, insightful and networking	1

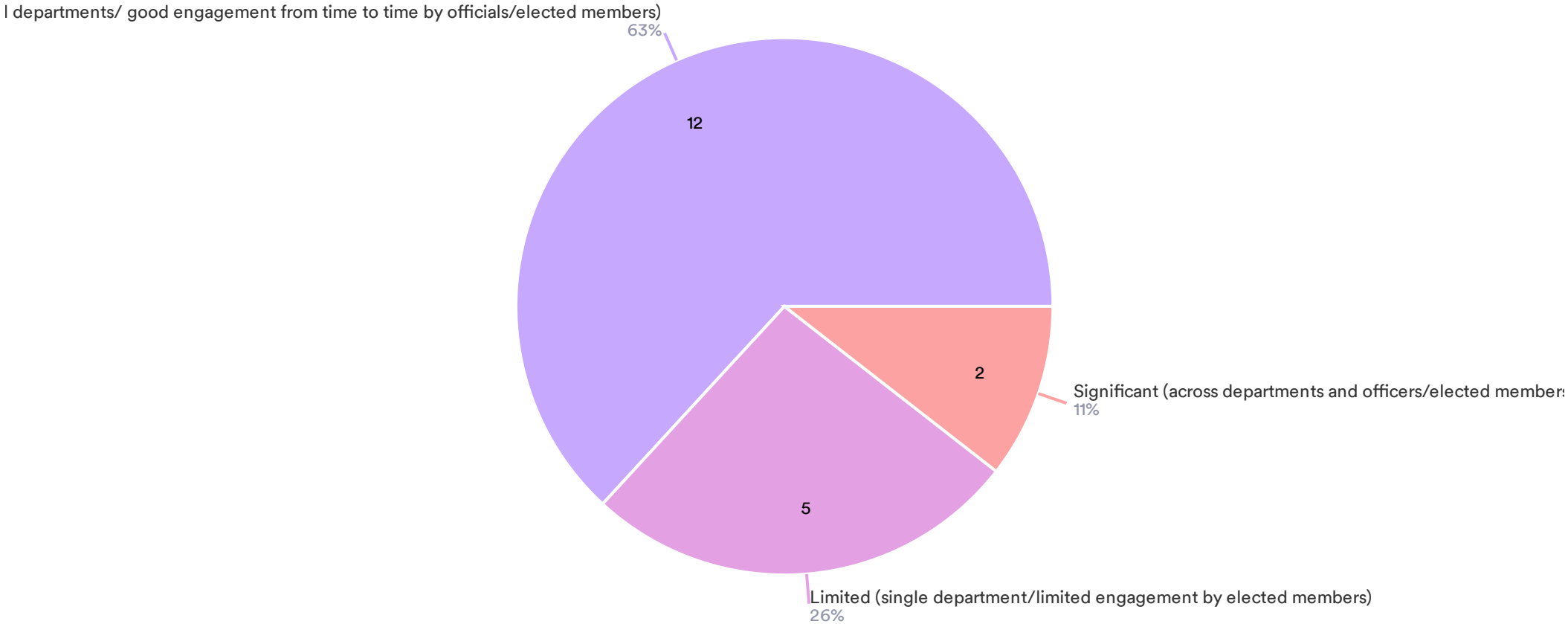
Is there anything we could do to improve its offer?

11 Responses- 8 Empty

Data	Responses
Honestly no, you do it so well - it's open, accessible and welcoming. I benefit from your expertise and the topics have all been relevant	2
A shared drive / chat to discuss potential projects/funds. Share info on accessing funding pots as a collective group/part of.	1
More local case studies, different examples of how different local authorities are tackling the same issues. Attempt to involve others.	1
It is clearly run by a great team who have their finger on the pulse.	1
It would be helpful to know better what will be presented in a coming session e.g. a 5 phrases summary instead of only the title/subject. Explaining why it is presented. For instance the session on ancient woodland - were there any new issues to discuss / get to know? I think there wasn't. That helps to focus (and un-focus).	1
Wider lens to cover topics relevant to more teams across the Councils e.g. from my perspective it would be good to hear more on topics with direct relevance to economy & business support e.g. carbon offsetting/insetting and applied examples of natural capital schemes.	1
The preparation of advice/ guidance notes on biodiversity net gain and nature recovery etc, especially to identify local priorities for habitats and species improvements that could be used when considering off-site biodiversity net gain and opportunities for nature recovery.	1
I would like to see exploration of: - Carbon sequestration in soils and environments such as city parks - recommended methods of measuring & monitoring carbon sequestration in natural environments, beyond Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Carbon Code. - carbon offsetting in local environmental projects - developing a pipeline of projects + engaging investors + potential for an informal carbon credits scheme - carbon offsetting in the Sussex Bay kelp project - what is the realistic carbon sequestration that can be expected from this project and how will it be divvied up between the multiple organisations that have invested funding / research efforts etc? - update on Surrey Local Nature Recovery carbon offsetting / bio-banking scheme - combining BNG with carbon offsetting outputs - Biodiversity Net Gain - assessment of actual improvements in biodiversity from BNG on development sites - are community environmental projects any good for carbon sequestration or are the outputs too small - update on SDNPA / national parks exploration of carbon offsetting Happy to discuss any of these	1
Keeping in touch with National Gov't white papers and legislation	1
Just keep giving us up-to-date information on this fast moving subject. We are all learning so it is good to do it together and also share best practice. Would be good to have a session/more information on nature based carbon offsetting; particularly once the SLEP project has been completed. The links to BNG and stackable finance would be good as well - this has been covered but it is a complex and fast moving topic. Training on BNG for non-planners & ecologists e.g. our Property Team	1

How much engagement with the network has there been across your organisation?

19 Responses



- Variable (several departments/ good engagement from time to time by officials/elected members)
- Limited (single department/limited engagement by elected members)
- Significant (across departments and officers/elected members)

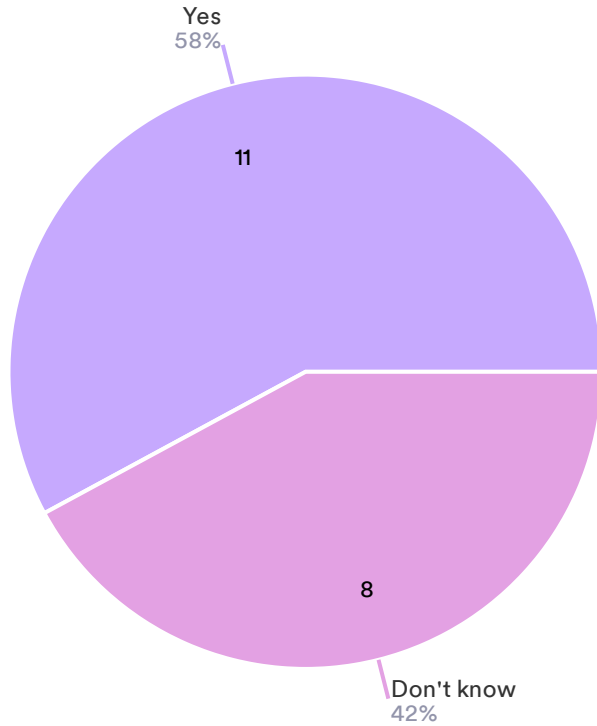
What could we do to help raise the profile of the LA Network in your organisation?

13 Responses- 6 Empty

Data	Responses
Perhaps a strategic overview designed for members and CMT (so they feel special) which might then encourage more of them to join in? That said, you have achieved very good engagement.	2
Sometimes Officers from the Planning Dept have come along, but sometimes not. If the sessions were shorter, they might come along. There will need to be more ongoing info and support around BNG.	1
Flyer? Not sure	1
As long as you have a list of key officers and Members, that should be sufficient. Although a seminar update on progress and way ahead, aimed at Members, would raise the profile.	1
Specific sessions aimed at Planners and/or planning committee members.	1
Though attendance by other departments tends to be good but variable, there is v limited attendance by Members with only 3 or so ever attending. Maybe a specific email to be circulated around Arun Members, as this is where there tends to be lowest attendance with only one or two now and then attending.	1
Reach out to directorates and teams to see what topics they would find most relevant and to advertise the merits of the group discussions	1
A short (one page?) quarterly (?) newsletter outlining what's coming up and summarising key learning from previous sessions. This might help to explain to colleagues the benefits of attending and demonstrate what has been learnt as well as share best practice.	1
Address topics / talks to parts of organisation whose main priorities are not biodiversity - for example planning teams, parks, maintenance teams, property, fleet. Address topics and talks to senior management	1
Email all elected members	1
Those of us that attend have a responsibility to encourage others to attend e.g. officers beyond planning, parks and countryside	1
Share with others	1

Were the 1-2-1 sessions at the start of the year useful?

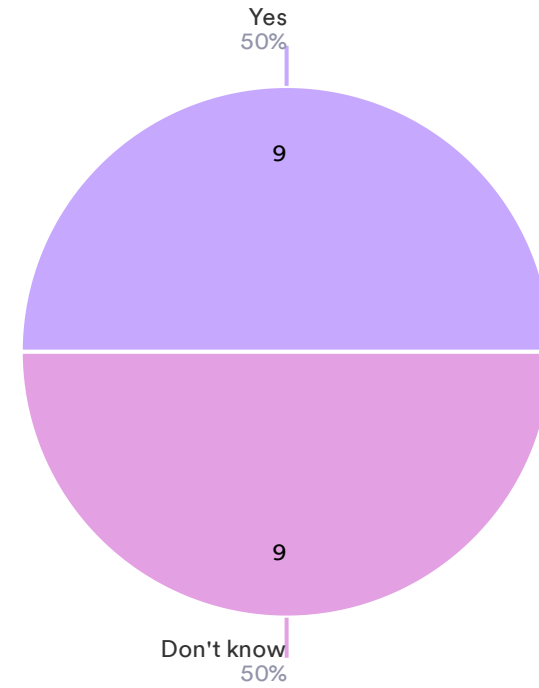
19 Responses



● Yes ● Don't know

Should we continue these as an annual part of the LA Network 'package'?

18 Responses- 1 Empty



● Yes ● Don't know

Are there any particular topics or issues you would like us to cover next year?

Data	Responses
Help us keep up to date as Defra requirements become clear and the timeline is established	2
SuDS / raingardens. Greening infrastructure / Building with Nature standards / greening public realm and new developments. Rewilding in parks. Citizen science projects.	1
More on habitat carbon and climate adaptation. Water	1
Again, you have your finger on the pulse. Perhaps widen to include LA management of land, and good practice etc?	1
Relation of LNR Network to (existing?) GI network. How to link it? What are the do's and don'ts? How to link GI-water quality within LNR network What are experiences of LAs with Marine ecology. Implications for policy?	1
One session to cover what is emerging with respect to the LNRS for Sussex Possibly a separate one on NRNs, explaining national situation and sharing what is being done on these locally. If limited this could be combined with above session Further session with SxBRC over LWS scheme; plus discussion on format of monitoring reports going forward	1
see above	1
Incorporating LNRS into local plan work	1
Local (Sussex?) priorities for habitats and species improvements that could be applied to biodiversity net gain and nature recovery; an introduction to protected species (i.e. what species and which legislation etc) and things that need to be considered (e.g. surveys, development, mitigation etc); carbon sinks, storage and sequestration; rewilding; soil health; how to identify and develop an ecological network/ corridor; evidence to support a greater than 10% biodiversity net gain	1

Are there any particular topics or issues you would like us to cover next year?

Data	Responses
<p>As above! I would like to see exploration of: - Carbon sequestration in soils and environments such as city parks - recommended methods of measuring & monitoring carbon sequestration in natural environments, beyond Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Carbon Code. - carbon offsetting in local environmental projects - developing a pipeline of projects + engaging investors + potential for an informal carbon credits scheme - carbon offsetting in the Sussex Bay kelp project - what is the realistic carbon sequestration that can be expected from this project and how will it be divvied up between the multiple organisations that have invested funding / research efforts etc? - update on Surrey Local Nature Recovery carbon offsetting / bio-banking scheme - combining BNG with carbon offsetting outputs - Biodiversity Net Gain - assessment of actual improvements in biodiversity from BNG on development sites - are community environmental projects any good for carbon sequestration or are the outputs too small - update on SDNPA / national parks exploration of carbon offsetting Happy to discuss any of these</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p>BNG updates</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p>Would be good to have a session/more information on nature based carbon offsetting; particularly once the SLEP project has been completed. The links to BNG and stackable finance would be good as well - this has been covered but it is a complex and fast moving topic. Training on BNG for non-planners & ecologists e.g. our Property Team</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>
<p>'Nature for Health'</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">1</div>

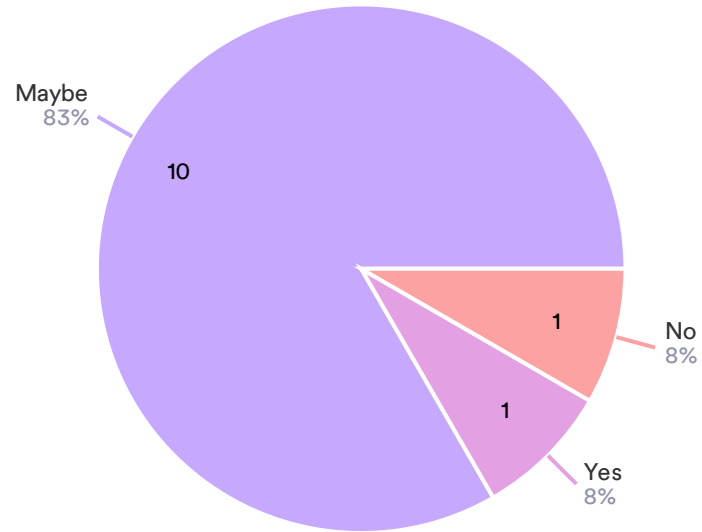
Is your organisation currently working on something that we could help share via the network next year?

12 Responses- 7 Empty

Data	Responses
Lots of work going on in Lewes on natural flood management plans for the future, building on current SFI programme, which might be ready to share next year	2
Adur River Intertidal Defra Test & Trial - about building blended finance models to pay for habitat restoration. Also, part of the Adur River Landscape Recovery bid. Habitat restoration projects at New Salts Farm (wetlands and meadow), Pad Farm (saltmarsh and mudflat) and Shepherds Mead (chalk grassland - issues with dog walkers). Sussex Bay.	1
Water Strategy	1
Blue green infrastructure study for the local plan looking at the parks and open spaces contract specification to support biodiversity/ habitats etc	1
Happy as previously discussed to share learning experience on BNG study. Further discussion would be needed over most useful form of this as aware Kevin (currently on leave) has done a rough briefing note for West Sussex Planning Policy Officer Group (PPOG), plus the reporting will now be scheduled for 24 November Planning Policy Committee.	1
Green Business Support programme - to encourage businesses to align their plans with net zero ambitions	1
The Coast to Capital natural capital project to pilot a site register?	1
Research with Anthesis on developing a framework for Local Authority Insetting (carbon offsetting in local projects - nature-based projects as well as other carbon reduction projects). Will be available in Spring 2023.	1
Wilder Horsham District	1
Call for green sites Developing GI / nature recovery plan	1
Wilder Horsham District - and the Weald to Waves project. If we are successful we could share information on the Landscape Recovery bid to DEFRA & how this funding for farmers will work	1

Would you be able to cover a modest increase in the subs next year (e.g. from £500 to £600-700)?

12 Responses- 7 Empty



● Maybe ● Yes ● No

Would your organisation be willing/able to support the running and administration of the network in any way next year? If so, provide suggestions.

Data	Responses
I doubt it, we have no admin resource, but I'd hope we could cover a modest increase in subs as above	2
Probably not, unless we recruit new officers (which there is currently a recruitment freeze).	1
Would have to discuss with officers	1
Thats a question for planning, I am afraid.	1
Don't know	1
Unknown (not authorised to say)	1
re money question - i dont have a budget but other teams may have e.g. planning policy, PO spaces	1
Unfortunately, doubt currently	1
Not for me to answer this question (or the above)	1
I think we would be willing to help depending on other priorities and commitments, but it may be easier to ask for help on a specific task which we can then assist with.	1
Don't know.	1
Not in my gift	1
The above comes from the Planning Dept budget so I cannot answer this question	1

Any other feedback for us?

7 Responses- 12 Empty

Data	Responses
Can't think of anything - thank you so much for your vision and energy	2
The more communication there is, the more we feel part of a coherent partnership, especially with the the continued implications of Environment Act.	1
Slightly alternate views may have been able to be sought if begun slightly earlier as this happened to hit the typical summer leave period.	1
We will probably be able to cover a modest increase in the annual contribution but I do not have the responsibility for the budget to be able to confirm this. I think the SxNP LA Network has been very helpful in increasing my knowledge and understanding of nature-related issues, and I have enjoyed attending the webinar sessions. Do you think it might be possible to do some site visits for the group to look at case studies for BNG/ nature recovery/ rewilding etc or to deepen our knowledge of ecology, e.g. by studying wild flowers, grasses, looking for protected species etc?	1
Thanks for what you are doing. This network is a valuable resource.	1
Keep up the good work!	1

Thank You!

Sussex Nature Partnership