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**SENS ACTION PLAN 2021: Draft V6 - July 21**

1. **BACKGROUND**

The Sustainability and Energy Network for Staveley (SENS) is a community group with 15 years’ experience in catalysing and organising local action on sustainability issues. With a dedicated committee and a wide network of volunteers in the community who readily engage, the group has helped to raise the profile of climate change challenges within the Staveley community by delivering action projects on travel options, food growing, home energy efficiency and enhancing biodiversity.

We are active members of the Cumbria Sustainability Network where we work with other community groups to share good practice, information and ideas to be more effective across the wider area.

For further information about SENS and the Sustainable Staveley partnership which includes the Parish Council, local businesses and active residents, see our website [www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk](http://www.sustainablestaveley.org.uk)

**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

* SENS has developed this Action Plan in response to both the LDNPP Management Plan for the National Park and the Staveley with Ings Community Plan (the Community Plan).
* SENS own priority actions will link to the objectives and actions in these plans to ensure that there is no duplication, rather efficient collaboration with relevant partners towards shared objectives.
* SENS will also consider prioritising suggested projects/initiatives that were put forward at a series of ‘pop-up’ discussion meetings in 2020, attended by local residents.
* SENS will review our Action Plan on a 6-monthly basis, to ensure that we are on-track and taking forward the most important actions in the most effective ways.
* SENS has limited resources however we can act as a catalyst, facilitator and enabler. A key objective of this Action Plan is to promote the work we aim to deliver, and lever in financial resources and involve local people of all ages.
* As Covid lockdowns are lifted, SENS would like, as a priority, to establish a series of practical projects, in partnership with other local organisations and people. We hope that this will provide an ‘accessible entry-point’ for both SENS members, and others in the community to get more involved in general with sustainability issues in the village.
* There is also a potential opportunity to work with the National Park Management Plan Partnership on the delivery of one or more pilot projects, as integral parts of the Action Plan.

**3.0 SENS ACTION PLAN (2021 – 23)**

This plan outlines a series of proposed activities for SENS. There are some general principles and actions that apply across all the proposed activities as below:

* Investigate funding sources and apply for grants for priority actions and core costs, as appropriate.
* Develop a range of short, medium and long term projects covering different topics to appeal to, and involve, as many people as possible. For instance from practical projects for a primary school child, initiatives that capture the imagination of young adults, accessible actions for a busy family, initiatives that involve the local business community and projects that are suitable for a pensioner (ie not necessarily physical activity based).
* Document and monitor the impact of any work undertaken in terms of carbon savings, in support of SLDC carbon pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.
* Share the results of any work undertaken, including both the positive and the negative lessons learnt with other communities and/or strategic partners as examples of what can be done (or should be avoided!).
* Keep it straightforward, manageable, positive and fun for everyone involved.

**4.0 WORK AREAS**

These actions can be broadly divided into direct activity for SENS, and ‘watching brief’ work, as outlined in the seasonal calendar, on a rolling programme. In practice it is likely that there will be planning, preparation and evaluation work outside of the allocated months for each project but this gives an indication of the bulk of the work/focus of activity.

At the end of each year we will review progress and refine/build on this list of proposed activities in the light of our experience and the current circumstances.

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| *Fig 1: SENS ACTIONS 2021 - 23: ‘Rolling’ Seasonal Calendar* | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sept** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** |
| **Biodiversity** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Home Energy** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Active Travel** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Local Growing & Farming** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Flood Management** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Renewable Energy** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Communications** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | COP26 |  |
| **Planning** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Partnerships** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **KEY** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Seasonal rolling calendar of activities – main focus of work / actions | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | On-going, less intense phase of work for specific projects – planning, preparation, evaluation etc. | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | On-going, watching brief/admin activity | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. **BIODIVERSITY**

In response to the Community Plan Priority Action 6 to: “*Become a nature friendly place that encourages a variety of plants and wildlife”:*

* Undertake an audit to collect information about what biodiversity is present and the opportunities to increase biodiversity eg in the public realm, in gardens, in allotments and more widely, in partnership/guided by local experts such as Cumbria Wildlife Trust.
* Seek to encourage community involvement in the audit through a variety of interactive activities, including a series of walks, talks and events to celebrate Green Week in September.
* Based on the results of the Biodiversity Audit, develop and activate a series of practical projects to protect and enhance local biodiversity, which are manageable for people to get involved whether they can spare just an hour or two or make a continuing commitment, eg tree planting, wildlife habitat creation etc.

***(Ref: Community Plan Priority Action 6; first phase of proposed Lake District Management Plan pilot project – Biodiversity***

* 1. **HOME ENERGY**
* SENS has begun to work with Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) and with Staveley Women’s Institute to promote home energy saving initiatives, such as Cold-to-Cosy Homes, a scheme funded for those who are potentially vulnerable. This offers free advice on energy savings together with other practical initiatives including free insulation measures, LED light bulbs and possibly a new boiler, as well as checking the potential savings which could be achieved by switching energy provider.
* Further advice could be provided although action is currently limited by a shortfall in government funding and a lack of local accredited providers.
* Home energy remains a high priority, and this activity should be developed if/when government policies are in place to support more efficient energy usage.

***(Ref: Community Plan – Nature and Environment Working Group; SENS Pop-up meetings 2019/20 proposal)***

* 1. **ACTIVE TRAVEL**

In response to the Community Plan Priority Action 5 to ‘*create welcoming and attractive villages, with spaces to meet up and chat and routes to walk safely’:*

* Lead a community discussion based on tried and tested methodologies (eg Living Streets/Healthy Streets) to identify key walking/running/cycling functional and recreational ‘desire lines’ that link key destinations in and around Staveley
* Create a check list of minor works (eg. dropped kerbs, widening, signage) required to upgrade/enhance these routes and destinations.
* Build on the ‘desire lines’ project (*see Short Term Actions section*) to: develop information about potential recreational & utility routes; research and submit applications for funding, and work with local funding bodies to build into their plans and budgets; engage with relevant partners and businesses to promote active recreation opportunities.

***(Ref: Community Plan Priority Action 5; SENS Pop-up meetings 2019/20 proposal; first phase of proposed Lake District Management Plan pilot project – Travel & Transport)***

* 1. **LOCAL GROWING & FARMING**

In response to the Community Plan Priority Action 10: ”Promoting and marketing of local produce:

* Deliver practical projects to encourage more local growing and sustainable farming eg better use of individual gardens, allotments, working with the Big Onion, learning from experience elsewhere.

***(Ref: Community Plan Priority Action 10)***

* 1. **FLOOD MANAGEMENT**
* Engage with the Community Plan Flooding and Sewage Task Force to continue the joint working/sharing of information about engagement with strategic partners and ensure that natural flood management upstream is considered as part of any proposals.
* Gather and share information gather information about natural flood management (eg Ullswater) and other measures, including measurements / evaluation techniques and results to help inform what could happen in Staveley.
* Continue with film ‘Mapping the Watershed’, to add to suite of films about Staveley.
* Investigate potential to get river designated as ‘bathing’ river as they did in Ilkley.

***(Ref: Staveley Community Plan Priority Action 2; first phase of proposed Lake District Management Plan pilot project – Natural Flood Management; SENS Pop-up meetings 2019/20 proposal)***

* 1. **RENEWABLE ENERGY**
* Continue to explore opportunities for small-scale, hydro production in the Mill Yard.
* Continue in attempts to add PV to school roofs and help to integrate into school teaching.

***(Ref: Community Plan – Nature and Environment Working Group; SENS Pop-up meetings 2019/20 proposal)***

* 1. **COMMUNICATIONS**
* Work in partnership with the Community Plan Communications Project to develop a complementary PR/Marketing Plan for SENS – the main objective being to engage with more groups and individuals in the community and encourage them to take part in our proposed activities.
* Develop partnerships, projects and associated promotion that focus on engaging/supporting younger people, busy families and older people to get more involved in local, sustainable initiativeseg. via the school, bursaries, other organisations.
* In 2021 we will have a particular focus around COP26 at the end October – we will co-ordinate a series of media/communications activities to raise the profile of local issues that are being discussed at a national/international level at COP26.

***(Ref: SENS Pop-up meetings 2019/20 proposal; Community Plan Priority Actions 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 14)***

* 1. **SUSTAINABLE PLANNING**
* Work with the Parish Council on the development of a Staveley with Ings Response to Planning Applications Guide to ensure that sustainability is a core, assessment principle.

***(Ref: Community Plan Priority Action 4)***

* 1. **PARTNERSHIPS**
* Support the Nature and Environment Working Group (Community Plan) with practical projects that encourage and support action against climate change
* Work with other local groups and organisations to support each other’s work

***(Ref: Community Plan – Nature and Environment Working Group)***