



**WEAct**

**Working Environment Action**

# Woking Environment Action AGM - Agenda

6.30 Welcome

6.35 Introduction to Planet Woking from Cllr Kevin Davis – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change/Strategy

6.45 Q and A with Cllr Kevin Davis – Woking Borough Council Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Climate Change/Strategy and Environment and Sustainability

7.00 Woking Environment Action Update and AGM

7.30– 8.00 Opportunity for attendees to ask questions/register interest in joining

# What is Woking Environment Action?

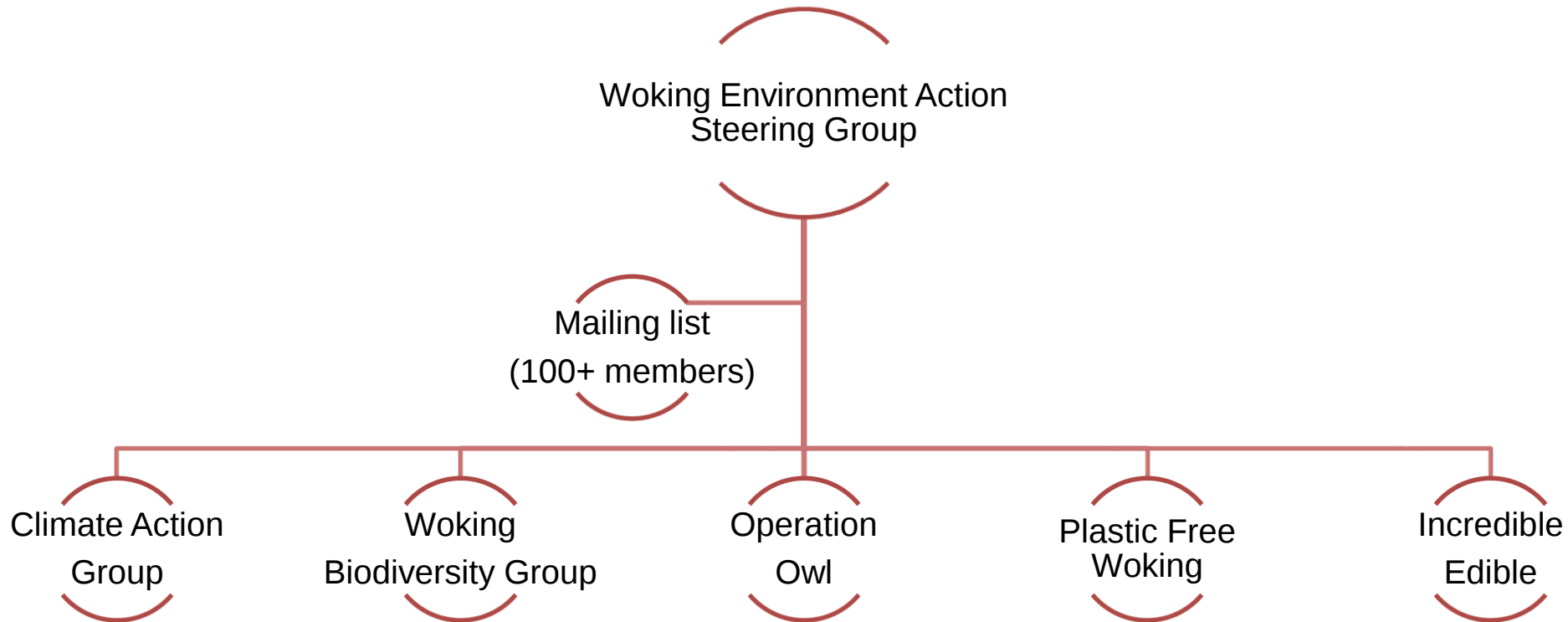
- Formed in 1994, a group of volunteers tackling global environmental concerns on a local scale – we are now over 25 years old!
- Encourage sustainable living and working in Woking through spreading awareness and carrying out projects
- Work in partnership with Woking Borough Council to support their Climate Change and Natural Woking strategies
- Works with local organisations, businesses and local residents
- Free membership open to all - sign up today! We will keep you updated on local sustainability initiatives and volunteering opportunities.



**Guest  
Speaker:  
Cllr Kevin  
Davis**

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# Woking Environment Action structure





# Our Projects

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# Climate Action Group



A new Climate Action Sub-Group within Woking  
Environment Action



# Principles of Strategy

Analyse policy gaps, biggest opportunities

Ideas: for Policy, **Top-Down**  
Local Initiatives, Best Practise  
from elsewhere

Ideas: for **Bottom-up** local  
initiatives

**Engagement with councillors**  
Lobby. Debate. Advise. Convince.

**Raise awareness**

Meaningful policy change & concrete action by local council.  
Resulting in genuine reduction of carbon footprint

Change Public / Individual  
behaviour resulting in reduced C  
footprint

Woking (→Surrey..) to reach net zero emissions by 2035

# Current Ideas

| APPROACH  | Renewable<br>Energy Generation                                                        | Buildings<br>(Planning & E Efficiency) | Transportation                              | Business                    |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| TOP DOWN  | <u>LARGE</u> scale: Heatmap &<br>location feasibility study<br>(eg like Guildford BC) | Framework for businesses               |                                             | Plastic Free Woking         |
|           |                                                                                       | Subsidised LED lighting                |                                             |                             |
| BOTTOM UP |                                                                                       | Planning Influence<br>Campaign         | Street Design for E-<br>Vehicle Competition | SME Emissions<br>Calculator |
|           |                                                                                       | Town Visioning Exercise                |                                             |                             |

# Sustainability frameworks & reporting methods

- There is a dizzying array of organisations, standards and acronyms
- A beginner's guide is offered below:

| Type of Organisation / System | Purpose                                                                     | Examples                                                                                                                                       | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Frameworks & standards        | Propose methods of measurement, a 'common language' like ISO <i>methods</i> | <b>GRI</b> (General Reporting Initiative)<br><b>CDP</b> (Carbon Disclosure Project)<br><b>SASB</b> (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board) | These 3 dominant organisations announced a joint effort in 2018, aimed at simplifying reporting standards to align with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, a global group established by the Financial Standards Board after the G20 summit in 2015. |
| Standards / Certifications    | Intended to certify a minimum standard                                      | ISO 14001 / 50001<br>Ecovadis                                                                                                                  | And plenty more sector-specific examples                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Indices / Rankings / Ratings  | Independent attribution of relative scores to compare a group of companies  | FTSE4Good, DJSI, ECPI, MSCI, Sustainalytics, ISS, Ecovadis                                                                                     | Although Sustainalytics and MSCI were most often mentioned by investors in a poll, but there is no single go-to rating for all investors. CDP and ISS were often mentioned for quality and usefulness. Also ROBECOSAM (system which drives the Dow Jones Sust index)                              |

- SMEs may be under the radar for the major indices, feel it is less relevant to have a 'citable' score, and/or may not have the resources to rigorously apply a formal framework.
- **Fine ! Do it Yourself !**



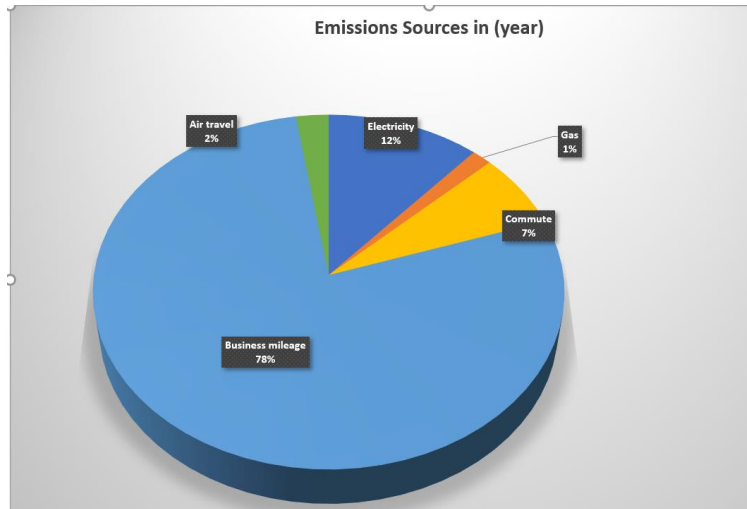
# Sustainability Reporting in SMEs

Limited resources: a barrier to developing of a sustainability strategy?  
Consider instead:

- Likely easier and faster to embed sustainability into a SME than a large one. Simpler structures and change can be implemented more quickly.
- Sustainability-related tasks can be added to the current functions of employees.
- Many people *want* to be part of a journey to contribute to a better environment and society –common feature of corporate volunteering initiatives.
- Get engagement, involve people, explain implications, offer training, seek volunteers to balance with their current tasks.

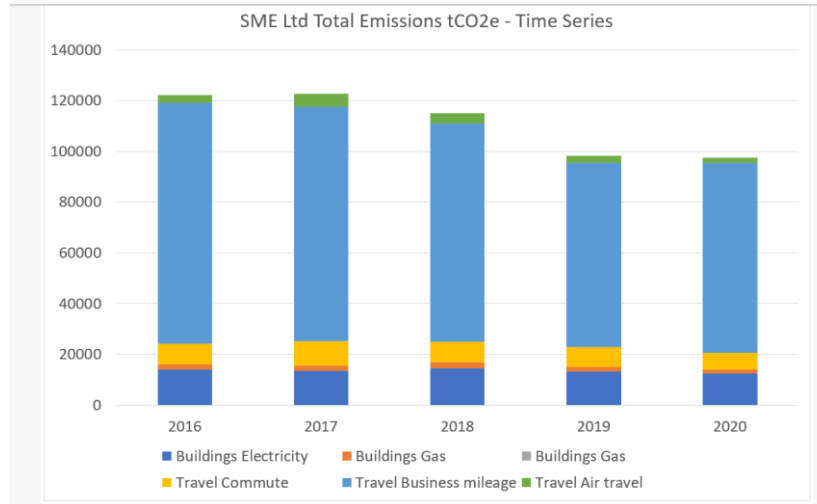
# WeACT Carbon Tool :

## Screenshots



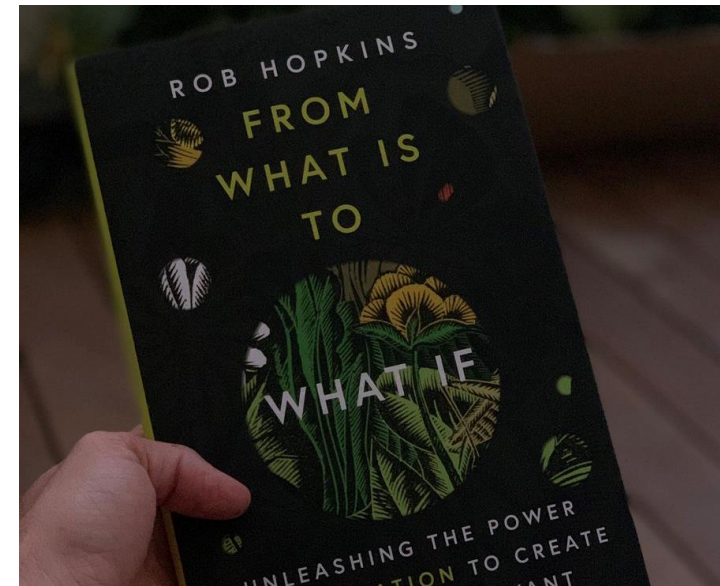
|    | A                                                                                           | B           | C         | D        | E                 | F      | G         | H        | I          | J      |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|--------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|
| 1  | Employee Commuting (list individual employees or groups by region or commute distance band) |             |           |          |                   |        |           |          |            |        |
| 2  |                                                                                             |             |           | Year     |                   |        | Year      |          |            |        |
| 3  |                                                                                             |             | Avg miles | Days com | Vehicle en        | kg CO2 | Avg miles | Days com | Vehicle en | kg CO2 |
| 4  | Employee (group) 1                                                                          | <5 miles ci | 3         | 940      | 0.26              | 1,466  |           |          |            |        |
| 5  | Employee (group) 2                                                                          | 5-15 miles  | 10        | 564      | 0.26              | 2,933  |           |          |            |        |
| 6  | Employee (group) 3                                                                          | 16-30 mile  | 23        | 282      | 0.26              | 3,373  |           |          |            |        |
| 7  |                                                                                             |             |           |          |                   |        |           |          |            |        |
| 8  |                                                                                             |             |           |          |                   |        |           |          |            |        |
| 9  |                                                                                             |             |           |          |                   |        |           |          |            |        |
| 10 | TOTAL Car Commuting                                                                         |             |           |          |                   | 7,772  |           |          |            | -      |
| 11 |                                                                                             |             |           |          |                   |        |           |          |            |        |
| 12 |                                                                                             |             | Avg miles | Days com | Emissions, kg CO2 |        |           |          |            |        |
| 13 | Employee (train)                                                                            | 10          | 94        | 0.052    | 98                |        |           |          |            |        |
| 14 | Employee (train)                                                                            | 20          | 235       | 0.052    | 489               |        |           |          |            |        |
| 15 | Employee (train)                                                                            | 30          |           | 0.052    | -                 |        |           |          |            |        |
| 16 |                                                                                             |             |           |          |                   |        |           |          |            |        |
| 17 | TOTAL Train Commuting                                                                       |             |           |          |                   | 587    |           |          |            | -      |
| 18 |                                                                                             |             |           |          |                   |        |           |          |            |        |
| 19 | TOTAL Commuting Carbon                                                                      |             |           |          |                   | 8,358  |           |          |            | -      |

|    | A      | B                            | C                    | D       | E      | F       | G      |
|----|--------|------------------------------|----------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1  |        |                              | Conversion to Carbon | Year    |        | Year    |        |
| 2  | Site 1 |                              |                      | Measure | kg CO2 | Measure | kg CO2 |
| 3  |        | Electricity consumption /kWh | 0.256                | 25000   | 6400   |         | 0      |
| 4  |        | Gas consumption /kWh         | 0.184                | 10000   | 1840   |         | 0      |
| 5  |        |                              |                      |         |        |         |        |
| 6  | Site 2 |                              |                      |         |        |         |        |
| 7  |        | Electricity consumption      | 0.256                | 30000   | 7680   |         | 0      |
| 8  |        | Gas consumption              | 0.184                | 0       | 0      |         | 0      |
| 9  |        |                              |                      |         |        |         |        |
| 10 | Site 3 |                              |                      |         |        |         |        |
| 11 |        | Electricity consumption      | 0.256                |         | 0      |         | 0      |
| 12 |        | Gas consumption              | 0.184                |         | 0      |         | 0      |
| 13 |        |                              |                      |         |        |         |        |
| 14 | Site 4 |                              |                      |         |        |         |        |
| 15 |        | Electricity consumption      | 0.256                |         | 0      |         | 0      |
| 16 |        | Gas consumption              | 0.184                |         | 0      |         | 0      |
| 17 |        |                              |                      |         |        |         |        |
| 18 | TOTAL  |                              |                      |         |        |         |        |
| 19 |        | Electricity consumption      |                      | 55000   | 14080  | 0       | 0      |
| 20 |        | Gas consumption              |                      | 10000   | 1840   | 0       | 0      |



# Future Thinking Walks: What could Woking be like in 2030?

- Inspired by Street Wisdom, and “From What Is to What If”:
- *Unleashing the power of imagination to create the future we want*
- A series of guided small-group **walking tours** of Woking, each one taking in different landscapes: e.g. town centre, railway lands, suburban housing, high-rise, canalside, Horsell Common
- Using the physical surroundings as a guide, steered by guided open questions, to consider (broadly): “what could a sustainable future Woking look like?”
- Facilitated by 1-2 question leaders; recorded in imaginative ways (notes, but maybe also video; artistic interpretation; poetry)



# Engagement with Councillors/MPs

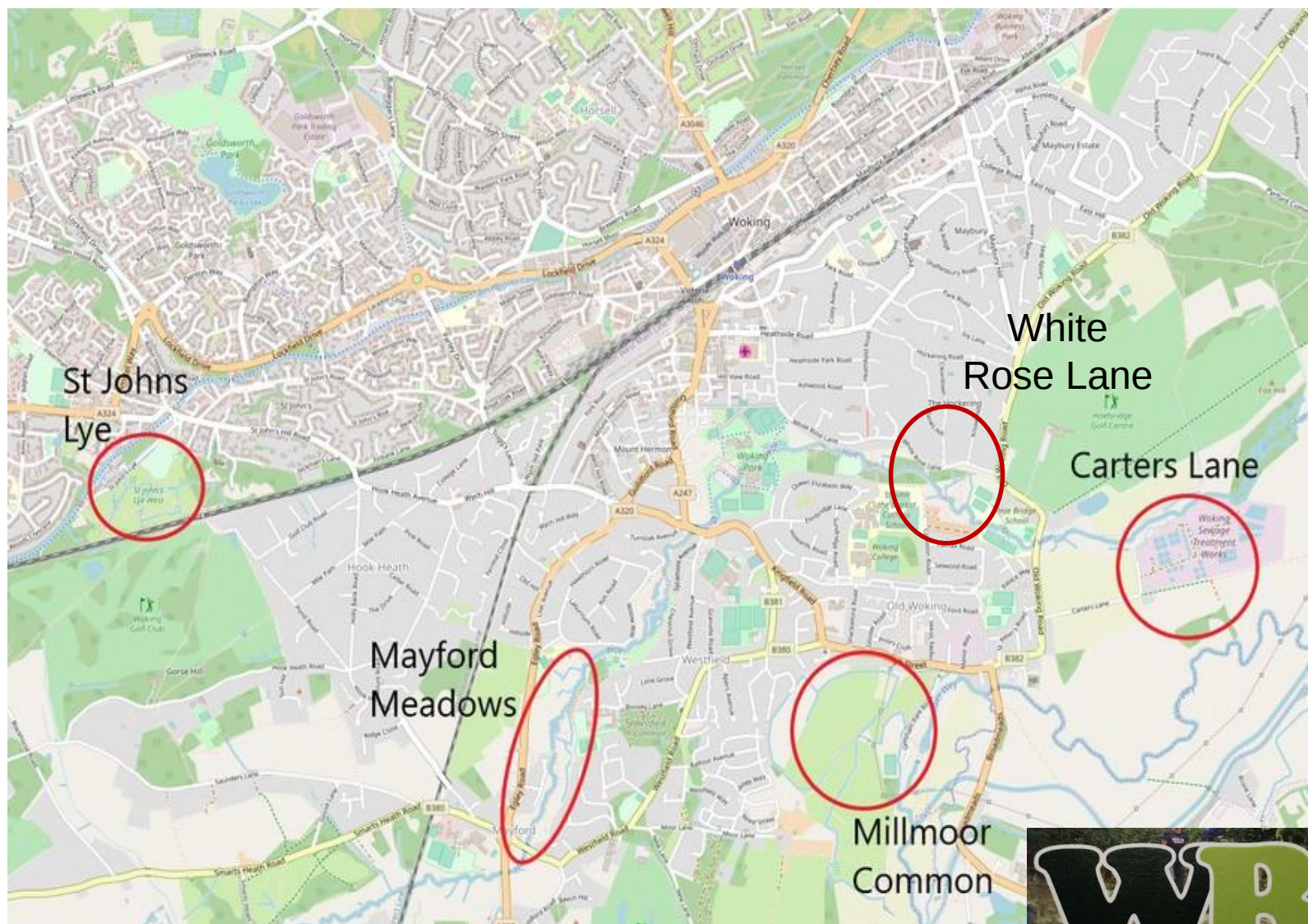
- A member of WEAct sits on the Council's Climate Change Working Group.
- We are able to feed into these meetings and suggest ideas directly to Councillors.
- Jonathon Lord MP has agreed to meet with WEAct group members in January 2021 (Date TBC).



## Mission statement:

*To improve biodiversity within Woking through practical work days, strategic partnerships and engaging and mobilising the local community*



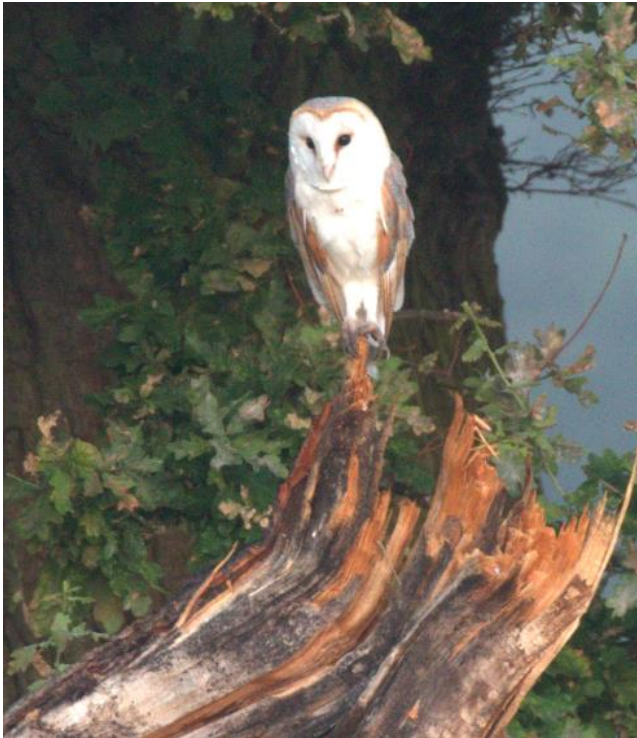


# St Johns Lye

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# Millmoor Common – Old Woking



# Mayford Meadows and White Rose Lane



# Thames Water – Carters Lane



# Wildflower Areas





Find out more at -  
<https://wokingla21.wordpress.com/woking-biodiversity-partnership/>

Contact us -  
[Woking.biodiversity@outlook.com](mailto:Woking.biodiversity@outlook.com)

### Join us!

- Regular Sunday work parties at St Johns Lye and Millmoor Common.
- Wild flower planting and maintenance.
- Summer 'Balsam Bashing'.
- Equipment and refreshments are provided.





**WEAct**  
Woking Environment Action

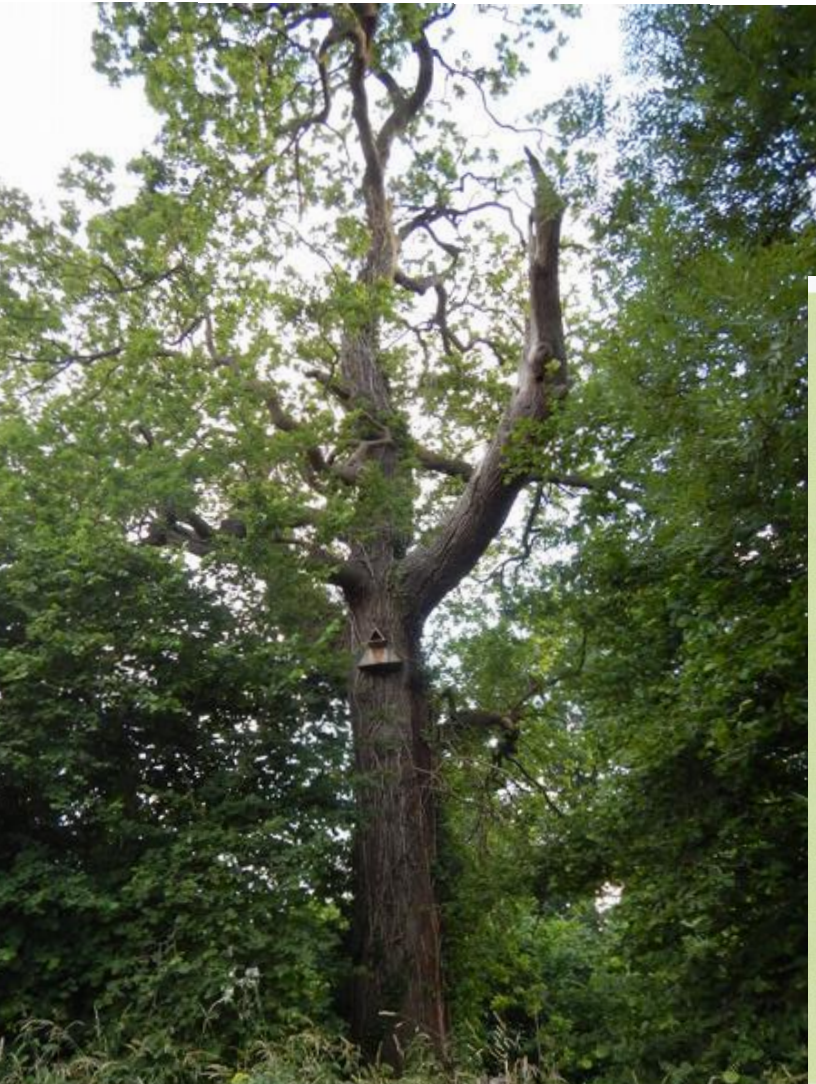
# Operation Owl

- Set up in 2014, Operation Owl now looks after approximately 20 owl boxes in Woking
- Nesting boxes for tawny, little and barn owls
- Owl box wardens monitor for nesting activity
- Winter maintenance to encourage nesting



# Operation Owl

- We need your help!
- Nesting box maintenance
- Updating box records and nesting activity
- Box wardens and monitoring.



**OWL SPECIES**  
The 3 species of owl that Operation Owl is trying to help to breed are the Tawny Owl, The Barn Owl and the Little Owl. A different box has been designed for each bird to cater for their size and needs.

## LITTLE OWL



## TAWNY OWL



## BARN OWL



## BOX WARDEN DATA SHEET FOR OWLS

To learn more about British owls, we recommend looking at the Hawk and Owl Conservation web site - [www.hawkandowl.org](http://www.hawkandowl.org)



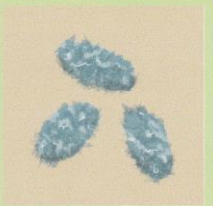
### THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR...



Look for wear on the lip of the box entrance



Watch for owls flying to and from the box at nightfall



Check for pellets on the floor beneath the box

### ALSO WATCH OUT FOR...

Chicks/Owlets may sit at the entrance to the box after a few weeks of hatching



Listen for noise near the box, especially in early spring, when owl pairs are bonding



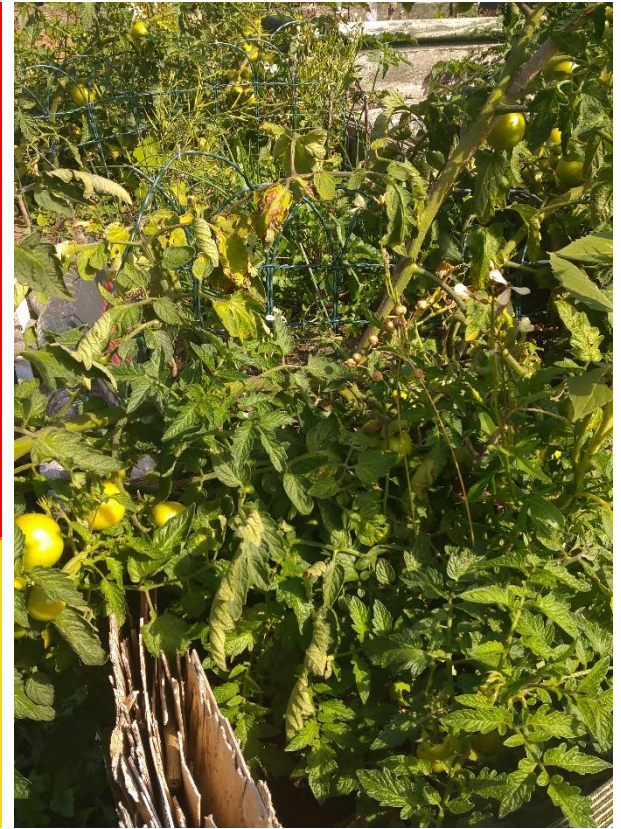
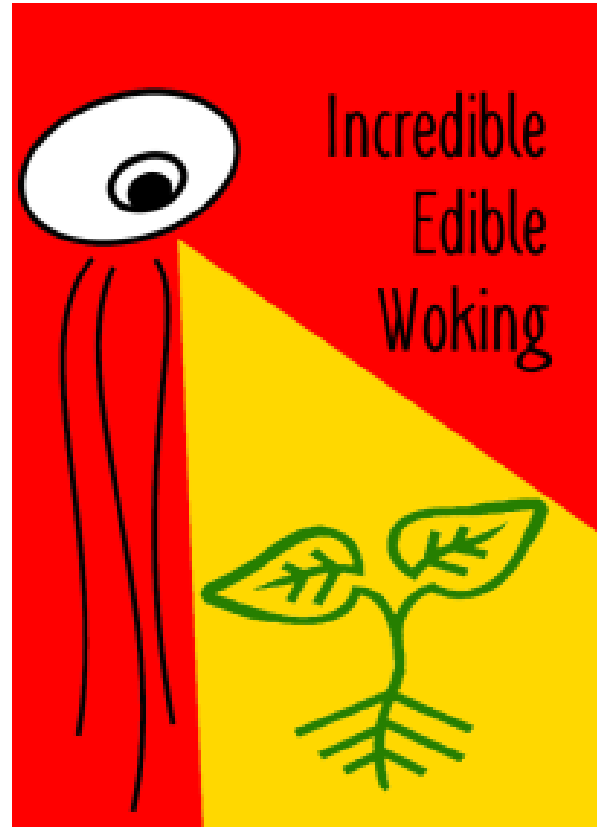
DO NOT attempt to look inside the box or shine a torch on it. If you suspect it is inhabited, please ring David Askew on 01932-402051. He will in turn contact an authorised ringer, so we may be able to ring some of Woking's new generation of owls.

We would also encourage you to record any of your bird sightings on the British Trust for Ornithology Bird Tracking site - [www.bto.org/volunteer-survey/birdtrack](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-survey/birdtrack)

# Planning Campaign

- We have created a leaflet with environmental planning considerations for applicants within the Borough.
- Our volunteers have been uploading the leaflet to various planning applications within the planning portal this autumn.
- So far we have commented on 110 Planning Applications.





# Incredible Edible

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# Incredible Edible

- Incredible edible is a community food growing project – designed to bring together local people and turn disused plots into healthy food.
- We have two plots – one in Rydens Way, Woking and the other next to Knaphill Post Office.
- Our Rydens Way plot are meeting every Saturday at 10am – why not join them?
- We would love more volunteers for our Knaphill Post Office site – would you like to get involved?



# Plastic Free Woking

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# Plastic Free Woking

- Working to achieve 'Plastic Free Community' status for Woking.
- Working with schools, business and community organisations to support them to reduce their plastic usage.
- Hosting events such as 'Mass Unwraps' at supermarkets and canal cleans.
- Sadly our project lead has had to step down this year. Could you help re-launch this project?

# Woking Sustainable Directory

- We would like to create a directory of local sustainable shops, projects and recycling points.
- Help us start collating ideas today by adding post it's to our notice board!

<http://note.ly/wokingenvironmentactionyahoocom>

# Help with a Project

- You're welcome to join one of our project teams
- You can give as much or as little time as you can spare, and it's free to take part.
- Plus there are lots of benefits, for young and old
  - Make friends
  - Learn new skills (great for the CV)
  - Give something back
  - Health and wellbeing – get out into the great outdoors!
- We are particularly keen to find volunteers to help support Plastic Free Woking and our Woking Sustainable Directory - Could this be you?!

# Have a new idea?

- We're always open to new ideas.
- If there's an environment or sustainability-related issue you'd like to tackle, get in touch and come along to a steering group meeting - we may be able to help you take steps in the right direction!
- Woking 2021 Innovation Competition – join our mailing list for updates.

# Formal Business

WEAct Steering Group: Oversees and develops WEACT projects and activities.

Election of Steering Group for 2021:

- Norman Johns (Chairman)
- Andrew Halstead
- Beate Shaw
- Ian Gammans (Communications)
- David Askew
- Stephen Cardis (Treasurer)
- Trixie Schoenfeld (Communications)
- Kate Kett
- Rupert Devereux
- Rachel Basham (Secretary)
- Mary Tobin (Communications)
- Toby Heppenstall

Anyone involved in a WEAct project, or looking to become involved, is welcome to attend a WEAct Steering Group meeting – but only WEAct members are able to vote.

# Approval of Constitution

- Woking Environment Action has a constitution which guides how we work.
- We have proposed some amendments to our current constitution, to emphasise our focus on promoting awareness of the climate emergency and supporting Woking Borough Council to achieve net zero.
- The amended constitution has been distributed to everyone on the Woking Environment Action Mailing List. Is this agreed?

# For more information

**Main website:** [wokingla21.wordpress.com](http://wokingla21.wordpress.com) [Soon to be updated]

**Mailing list:** Click 'Follow' on top right of the website to be added to our mailing list

**E-mail us:** [wokingenvironmentaction@yahoo.com](mailto:wokingenvironmentaction@yahoo.com)

New members and volunteers always welcome!

You can also find us on social media – follow us through our new Twitter account or Facebook



# The end.....!

- Thank you for coming to our virtual AGM....
- Our Steering Group will remain on the call for anyone who has any questions.
- Otherwise, thanks for attending and stay safe -we hope to connect with you again soon.

