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Community Planning



Enabling 'green' architecture and communities under localism..?

## Context for the project:

Don't mention the 'S' word!

(Divisive, complicated, over-facing, utopian, polarized, absolute – too big!)



## Context for the project:

A “Green” and Pleasant Land....?

Land-locked islands

Targeting rural for disproportionate ‘gains’

Capable of substantial change – scale of the community



## “S” for Self-Sufficiency (a kind of sustainability)

Rural communities are engaged in ‘self – sustainability’ or community resilience (social, economic *and* environmental).

*“Is it the planet or us that needs saving?”*

Keeping the Post Office and pub open, affordable local housing, local economy etc  
(‘greener’ behaviour is often an unintended by-product)

= eco-logical



## Most of our sustainability concerns are introspective and localised (not global)

**“We need cardboard recycling”**

**“We must keep our shop and post-office”**

**“We have had our oil stolen”**

**“The hosepipe ban means a drought on the rec”**

**“The road has flooded four times this year”**

**“The bus does not run often enough”**

(Barcombe community survey 540 respondents 2009)



**Localism is here – hurrah!**

**Community right to buy / challenge / build**

**Neighbourhood plans (+ design statements)**

**Asset registers**

**How to enable the ‘lay-new architects and planners’ of their own communities?**

**Hard to reach groups**

**Online communities (half a billion)**



## Community Led Planning

Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS) have undertaken at least one community led plan with 70% of communities in East and West Sussex.  
*(Plumpton had 82% engagement with survey)*

Neighbourhood plans will be statutory

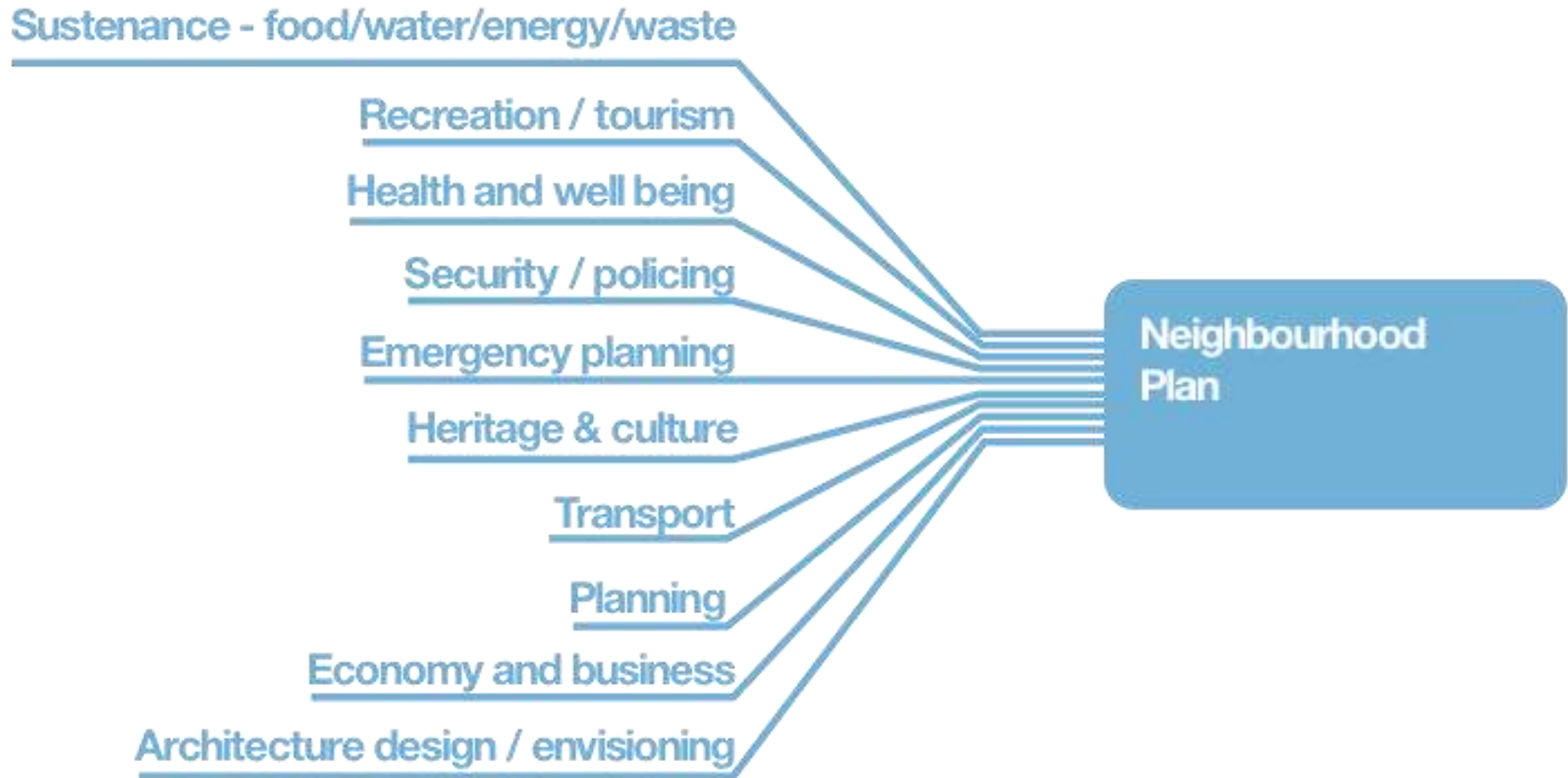
*“communities are the lay-architects and planners of their own communities”*

National Planning Policy Framework

*‘Sustainable Development’*







Community Resilience (self-sustainability)  
Social, Economic and Environmental

Not Just Planning with a 'capitol P'



Social network and neighbourhood planning tool for sustainable communities

## What is Community 21?

### **It's a process**

Of effective and inclusive community / neighbourhood planning and sustainable development for 21<sup>st</sup> century Communities.

*Based on 80 years experience of successful community - led planning experience (AIRS/RCCs) and Internationally acknowledged expertise in sustainability (UOB/HEI)*

### **It's a platform**

Providing unique tools for communities and service providers to facilitate effective community development and provide more efficient service delivery. Form valuable locally sourced data and communicate effectively with each other.

*Community21 gained nearly 500 registered members and represented over 1400 households from just 3 small pilot surveys*

*52% of individual public participants independently polled said they would use Community21\**

### **It's a network**

Of connected communities and service providers who learn from each other, share good practice and expertise and collaborate effectively in delivering co-devised objectives.

21<sup>st</sup> century, 'multi-local society'

*70% of Communities have undertaken at least one community – led plan with Action in Rural Sussex*

*Community21 is tool of choice with 15-30 new communities per annum in Sussex.*

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Wi-Fi



Wildlife



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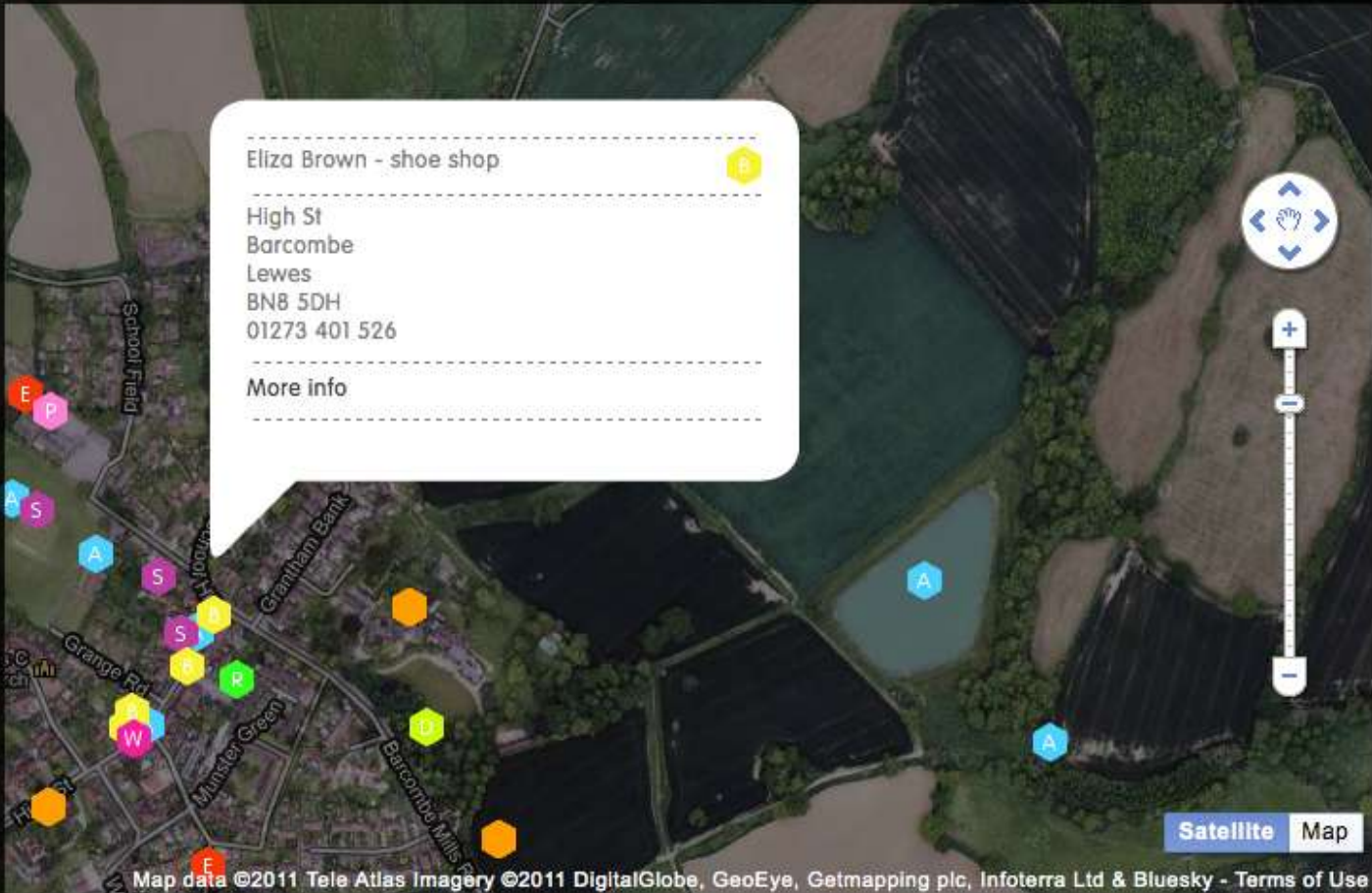
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## Eliza Brown - shoe shop

elizabethbrown  
CHILDREN'S SHOES

Specialising in contemporary high quality shoes for children this shop offers a uniquely personal service and ensures you get the right shoes for your child.

We stock a range of well known quality brands including 'start rite', clarks and burkenstock

<http://www.elizabethbrown.co.uk/>



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Knowlands Wood 

Knowlands Wood is part of a private nature reserve which includes the neighbouring farmland. There is one public footpath running through the wood.

More info

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## Knowlands Wood



Knowlands Wood is part of a private nature reserve which includes the neighbouring farmland. There is one public footpath running through the wood.

Mainly hornbeam and oak (but with some twenty species of tree), the wood is actively coppiced and has open spaces which attract birds, flowers and insects. In April there is a fine display of spring flowers, notably primroses, wood anemones and bluebells. In July, twenty species of butterflies can be observed, including Silver-washed Fritillaries, White Admirals and Purple Hairstreaks.

Fallow deer abound. There is a badger sett. Many birds nest in the wood, including four species of warbler.

At present, the philosophy of the owners is to allow access to local people who are interested in the natural history of the wood. It is not a public park. You are encouraged to bring binoculars and camera, move quietly and leave your dog at home. Young nature lovers are especially welcome



Silver Washed Fritillary



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## Water wells



rediscovered water wells

The Parish Council and interested parties in the community are planning to reinstate the 6 or 7 wells to service the allotments, Wild About Barcombe and the rec. These elegant circular brick structures were unearthed when work began on the aptly named Pump House Field. They are alledged to have serviced the village using the pump house to move water to a storage tower behind the High St. Anyone with further information about their history or use



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Heritage



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Recycling Points



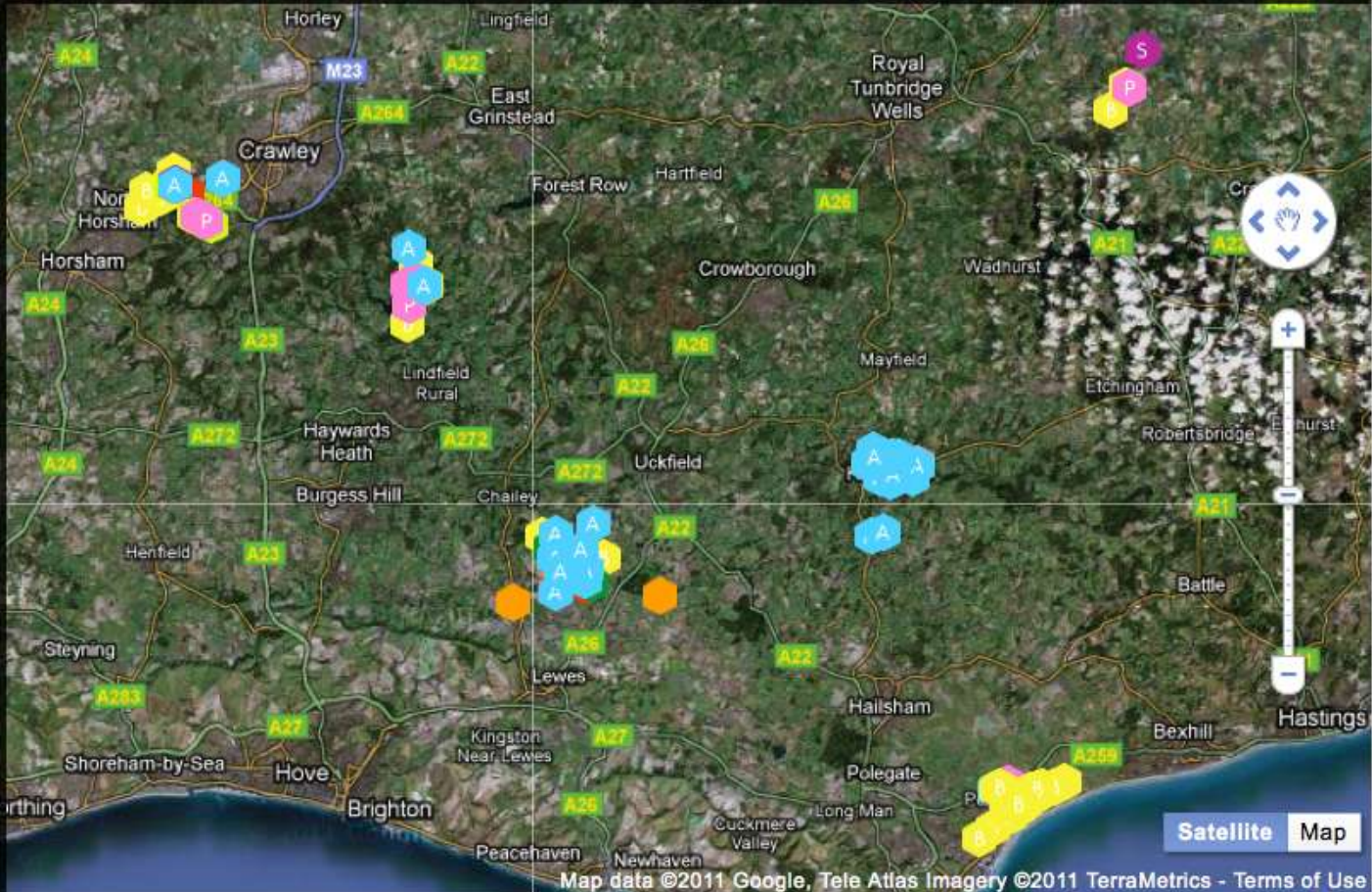
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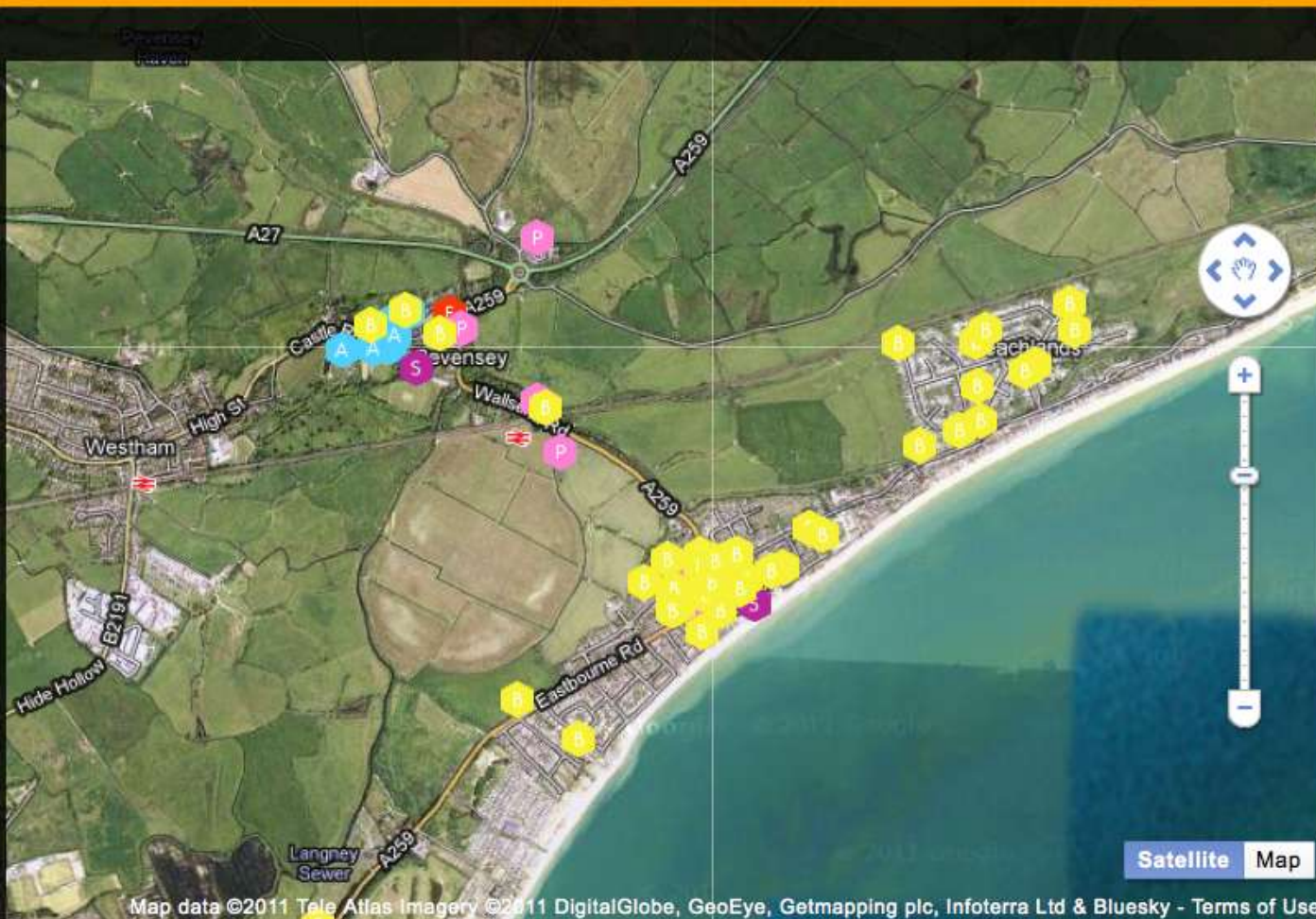
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 Environment Officer LDC



**76%** of communities want to nominate assets  
(only 6% said no 18% not sure)

*Source Parish Council representatives at the Wealden District Localism Conference 2011*

# Barcombe Community Action Plan



Wild About Barcombe taking shape



Wild About Barcombe Project close to completion

In the summer of 2009 Barcombe Parish Council undertook a formal consultation with the Parish by holding a number of meetings with village groups and by sending a questionnaire to every household.

## You had your say! And we listened!

The results of the survey, which recieved representation from 540 respondents, revealed key needs that have helped form a 'community led plan' and actions for Barcombe to undertake. It has also helped to steer the policies of the Parish Council and those that consult with it. So thank you for participating. Please see below for an update on progress of those important actions. Please feel free to comment on the message board.

## The Community led plan and actions for Barcombe:

**Action 1:** Further develop the Parish website to contain clubs and societies information  
**Status: Complete**

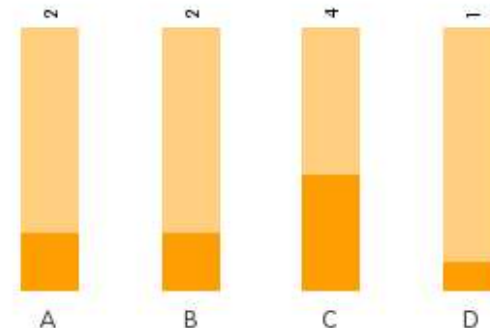
**Action 2:** Add history and treasure map to the site and promote it better.  
**Status: Complete** + we now have this site too!  
 Please see the 'map' page and explore!

**Action 3:** Form a new recreational area that is not just for a specific sport  
**Status: Complete / ongoing**  
 The Wild About Barcombe project which was supported by volentees and the Parish Council and received over £50k of lottery funding, has built a new recreational space for the village. It includes a pond, fire pit, picnic benches and a range of fruit and nut trees - find out more about this by looking for them on the map or in the directory. Well done Kate and team for all the hard work!

The Parish Council are also exploring reenstating a

# Results so far

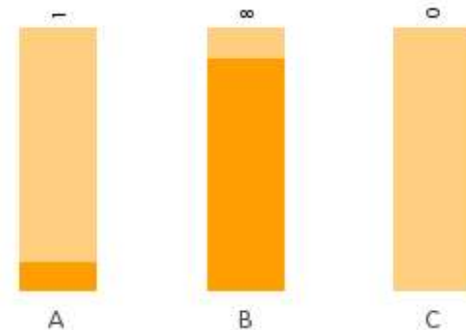
## How many occupants live in your household?



A - 2  
B - 3

C - 4  
D - 5

## How would you rate your energy use?



A - High consumer / have a home or lifestyle that demands use of lots of energy  
 B - Normal / use energy with little concern or few solutions to limit energy use  
 C - Low consumer / few children, use of energy and



## Barcombe Energy Club



Local Energy Assessment Fund Winners!



Tim, Ollie and the Saxby's with their new solar panel array

### BARCOMBE ENERGYTASTIC!

Barcombe Energy Group has won a bid for approximately £50k for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Low Energy Efficiency Assessment Fund (LEAF)!!

This is to carry out household energy efficiency assessments, a renewable energy assessment, community building energy assessments and a whole bunch of household retrofits. Its really exciting news for Barcombe we were just one of three communities within the South East to win this bid award.

**PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU BY FILLING OUT YOUR HOME ENERGY SURVEY FORMS DURING FEBRUARY AND POTENTIALLY GET YOUR HOUSE FULLY SURVEYED FOR FREE! (WORTH £500).**

YOU CAN FILL IT IN ONLINE HERE!

**Click here to fill in Barcombe Household Energy Survey**

During late January and early February we will be sending every household in Barcombe Parish a home energy assessment form – it should be really simple to fill out and not take too long.

We will be holding energy events in the village when you can come along and fill the forms out with us, get involved, lend a hand, sign-up to our village oil buying group, learn about plans for a wood buying hub and have some fun at the same time!

In March we will be organising a bunch of free retrofits for some chosen homes in the village – this will include trialling energy monitors, home draft busting makeovers, free insulation and much more.



## Barcombe affordable houses



Developed in response to the village housing needs survey and action plan feedback the scheme provides a range of properties for rent and part ownership build to high ecological / green specifications.

Related community initiatives:  
Affordable housing scheme



Parish Councillor Alex Macgillivry and representatives from Action in Rural Sussex



Scheme in construction

## Barcombe Eco Village Hall

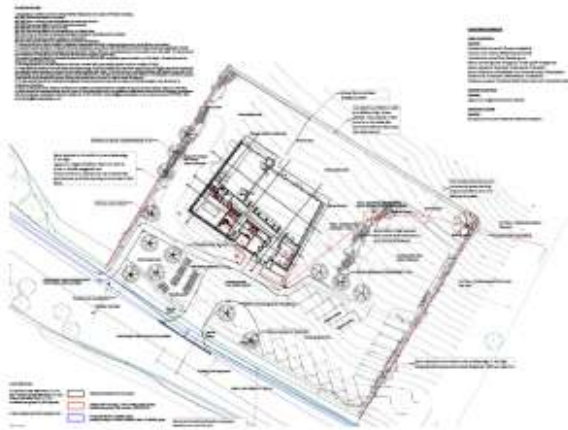


Barcombe Village Hall is designed to be user friendly, offer wonderful views but be kinder to the environment as well as cheap to run. A committed and long standing development committee used a sustainable architecture firm who specialise in green installations to help design the hall on a green field site. The building uses a range of initiatives in the design, building process and utilities to lower carbon emissions, but also to make it cost effective to run, no matter how small the group using it.

Link to [fundraising site](#)

Link to [landscaping scheme](#)

Link to [Satelite Architects](#)



Related community initiatives:  
[Sustainable Village Hall](#)



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## Welcome to Heathfield Future Village project 2011



Future Village Workshop at Heathfield Community College



Children's visions for Heathfield buildings in the future - click four grows shape to enlarge

The project is a partnership between Action in Rural Sussex the East Sussex Record Office and University of Brighton, School of Architecture and Design.

The team trained children and young people in historical research skills including oral history, and to then supported them firstly in looking back 50 years into their community's history. They have worked with older members of the community to gather their research around the changes that have taken place where they live - for example in population, shops and services, transport and employment. They then used this research to look 50 years into the future of their village and involve the whole community in making predictions about what it might be like to live there then, for better or worse. An interactive interface of the village ([see my community](#)) highlights the potential future proposals to tackle issues of resilience and sustainability; socially, economically and environmentally. Issues of isolation and loneliness are addressed through concepts ranging from new architecture, spaces and places to new communal economies that enable greater social cohesion and robustness.

The team used new technologies to create new visions of the community. Through computer aided design, movie making, drawings and animation 'virtual' realities were combined with the technology to combine audio and visual features to display collected documents, photos and oral histories to help to highlight the issues explored by the project.



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## Tilsmore / Markly Woods



Red kites and wild boar in Markly Woods

In 2061 climatic warming and conservation result in new species being permanent residents in the countryside around Heathfield.

These are likely to include:

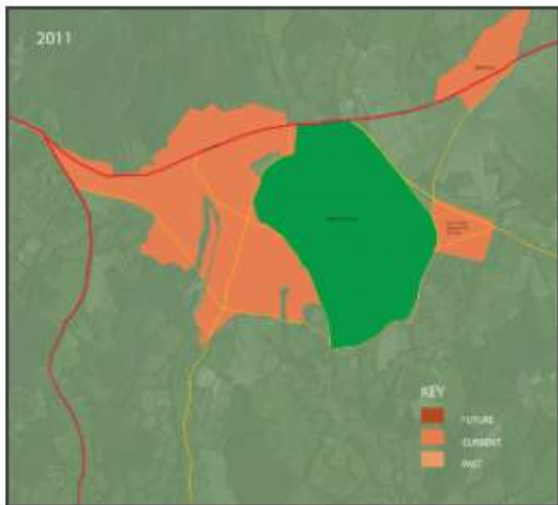
The managed reintroduction of Wild Boar results in brief encounters along the cuckoo trail and woodland paths through Markly Woods just North of the village and is a sort after source of local meat.



## Work / Live housing

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## Connor's Community Farm - click to enlarge images





*Communities don't mind development if:*

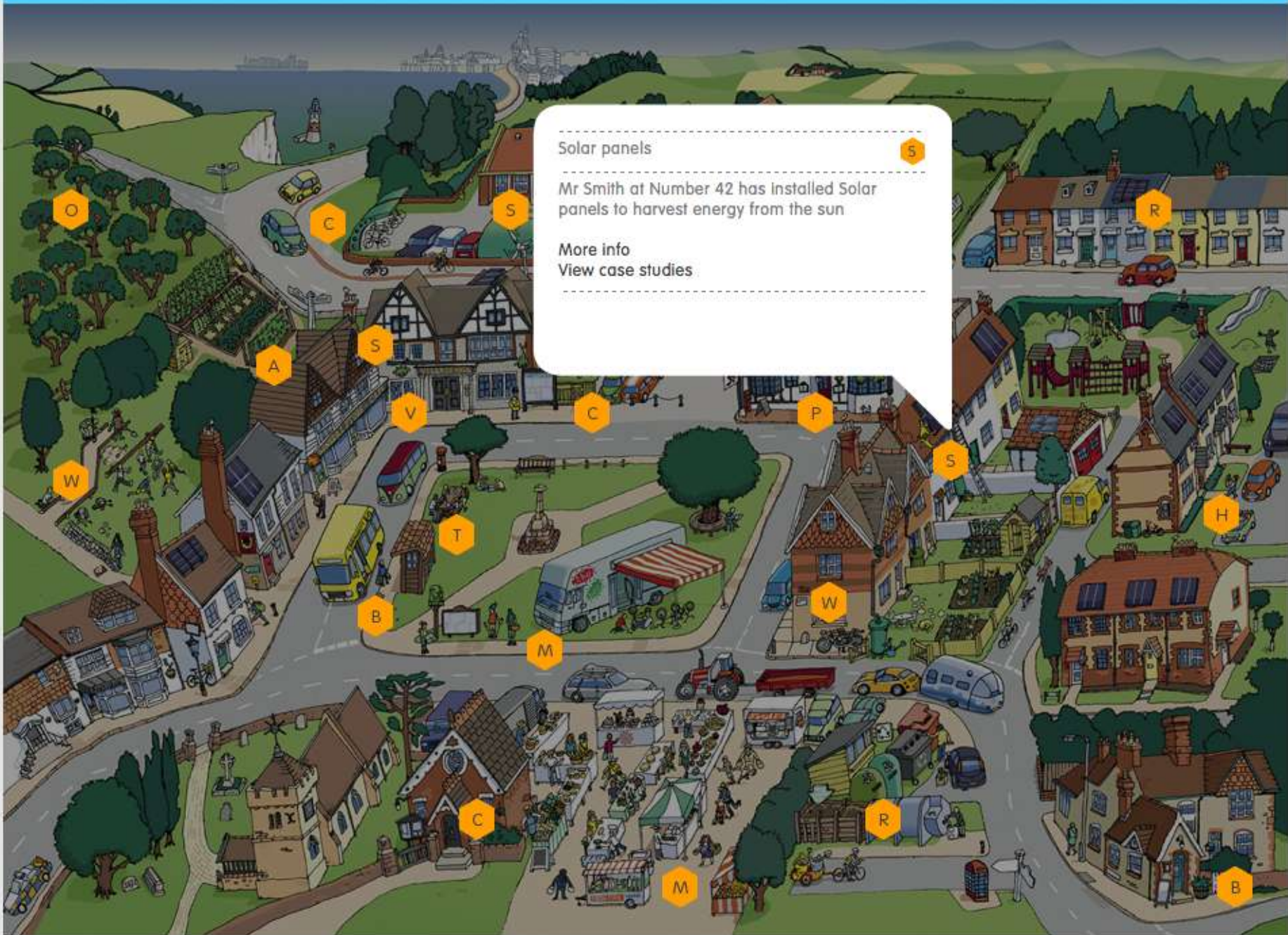
- *democratic identification of need (inclusive / fit for need and demand)*
- *offers benefit (affordable / efficient = eco-logic)*
- *co-designed (design statements – local materials & vernacular)*

**If facilitated inclusively and holistically through process of community-led planning sustainable design offers a 'softer' route to (sustainable) development**

**'Green' design is conducive with localism**







Solar panels S

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Mr Smith at Number 42 has installed Solar panels to harvest energy from the sun

More info  
[View case studies](#)

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## Solar panels in Barcombe



These solar thermal panels provide pre-heated water for our boiler at home - the effect has been to reduce our heating bill by about 55%. So we are pleased we installed it - we got a grant of £2000 towards the total cost, which was £5000.

[More info](#)

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## Solar electric / photo voltaic (for electricity)



Solar PV, Maresfield, East Sussex  
Providing electricity.

Solar PV

A domestic 2.1kw monocrystalline photovoltaic system providing electricity. We would anticipate the following performance:

Annual electricity output: 1657kWh

Annual cost saving: £816

Annual carbon benefit: 0.94t CO2

Supplier **Paynes Energy Solutions**

[More info](#)

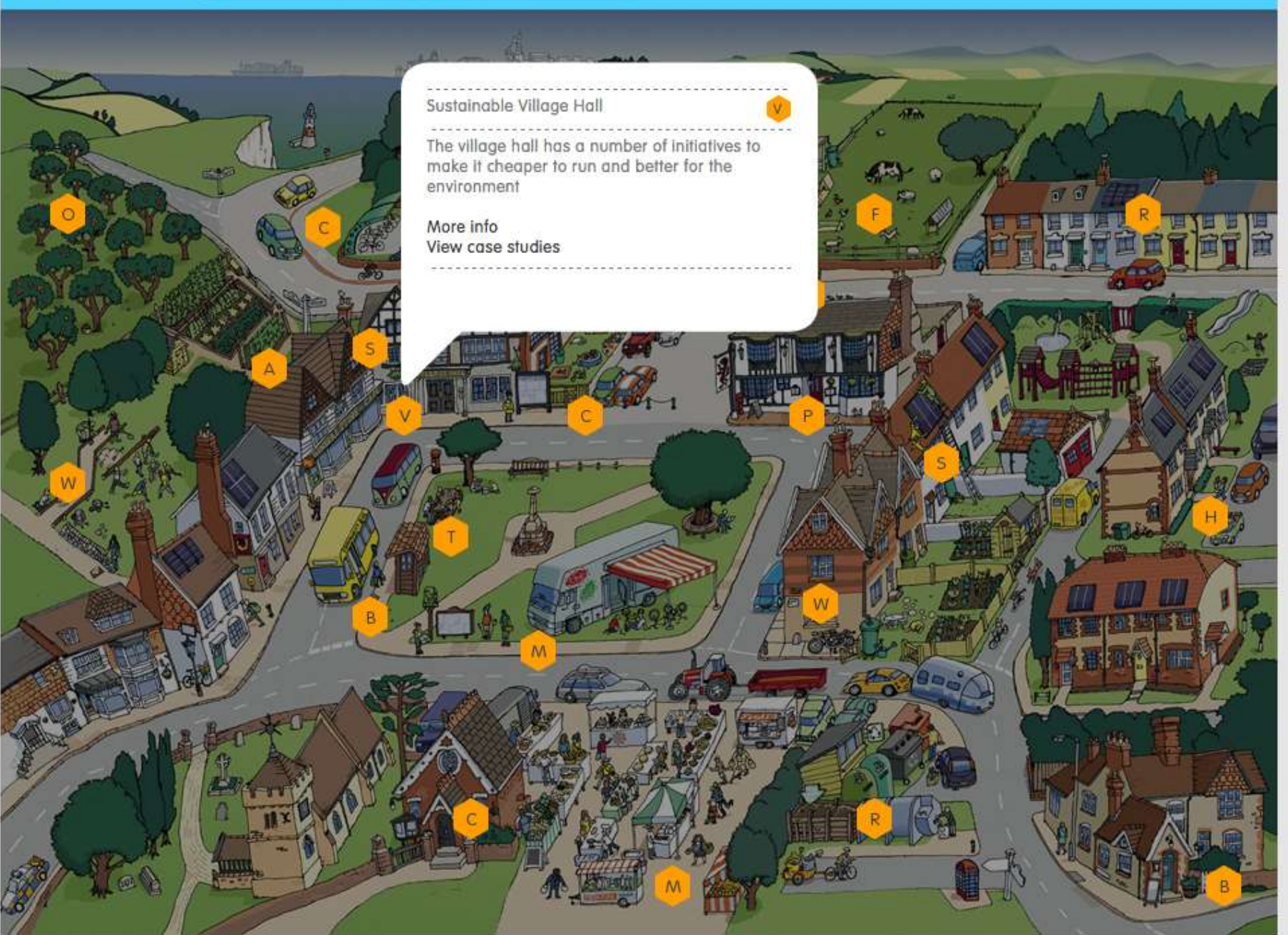
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## Solar bank for community energy capture



An energy bank can provide energy for more than one home and can be owned by a community as an



An aerial illustration of a village with various community initiatives marked by yellow hexagons with letters. The village features a church, a school, a bus stop, a playground, a market, and several houses with solar panels. A white callout box is overlaid on the image, providing information about the Sustainable Village Hall.

### Sustainable Village Hall V

The village hall has a number of initiatives to make it cheaper to run and better for the environment

[More info](#)  
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## Barcombe Eco Village Hall



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More info

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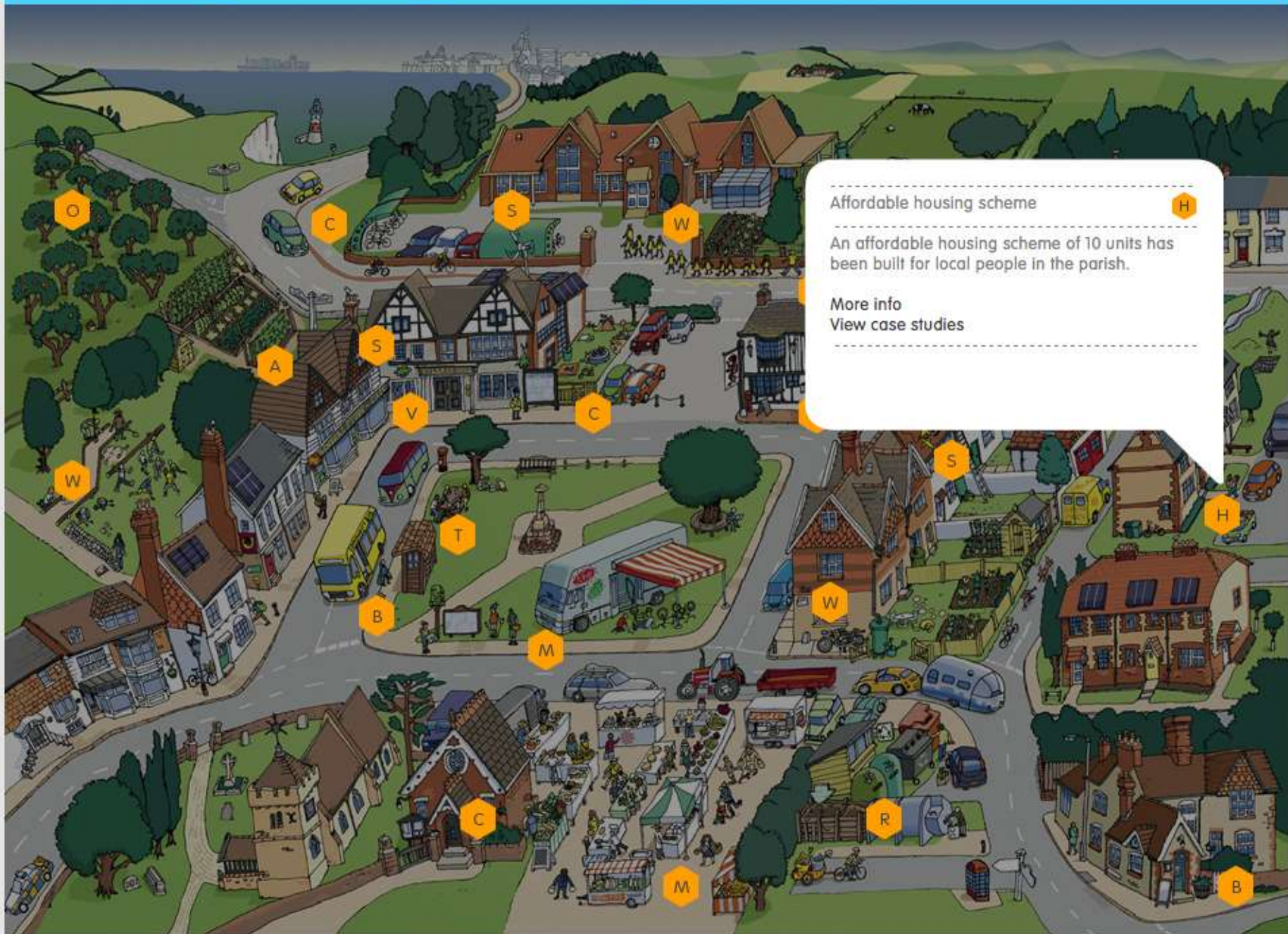
## Beechwood Hall (Hamsey and Cooksbridge)



A refurbished scout hut now a fully eco village hall

Link to **BBM Architects** website

More info



Affordable housing scheme H

An affordable housing scheme of 10 units has been built for local people in the parish.

More info  
[View case studies](#)

## Barcombe affordable houses



Developed in response to the village housing needs survey and action plan feedback the scheme provides a range of properties for rent and part ownership build to high ecological / green specifications.

[More info](#)

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## English Rural Housing Association



English Rural Housing Association (ERHA) is one of the leading researchers and developers of affordable village housing. It is a not-for-profit organisation registered with the Housing Corporation.

ERHA developments provide a mixture of homes for rent and for shared-ownership, with most schemes consisting of six to ten properties. We currently build up to 100 new homes annually across SE England. The majority of our homes are two or three bed houses, although some flats and bungalows have been provided where a need has been identified.

Restrictions also ensure that our properties can never be lost to the open market, in that our tenants do not have the Right to Buy nor the Right to Acquire and our shared owners can never own more than 80% of the equity.

The developments are managed through Service Level Agreement, which is held by Hastoe Housing Association. This ensures residents are supported by a network of Housing Managers. Our service is assessed by the Housing Corporation and



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**65%** of communities say they will want to undertake a neighbourhood plan  
(only 7% said No and 28% not sure)

*\*Source Parish Council representatives at the Wealden District Localism Conference 2011*



**Piloted in 8 communities**

**Large demand from communities and parishes + projects (e.g. LEAF)**

**Phase 2 development – based on independent valuation**

**Nationwide Community Council Network roll out / tool of choice for community development**

**Forming partner subscribers (County and District Councils / Sustainability CSR)**

**Build up the case studies**

**70% of communities within 5 years**