

Hanover Action for Sustainable Living (HASL)

Annual Report covering the period December 2014-March 2016

Summary report of activities

It's now six years since HASL became a constituted group, and 2015 was another busy period of activities raising awareness and promoting sustainability with partners in the local community of Hanover and Elm Grove.

1. Background to HASL

Hanover Action for Sustainable Living (HASL) was established by a group of local residents. Our key aims are to:

- Bring people together to foster understanding of and take practical steps to promote sustainable living in Hanover
- Promote community spirit and alternatives to unsustainable consumption
- Link with the wider Transition movement
- Undertake activities to promote awareness of the impact of climate issues globally.

HASL works mainly through our sub-groups (as below) and a bi-monthly business-oriented General Meeting.

<p>Hanover 10:10 <i>Hanover10:10 is an Action Group to spread awareness of and involvement in the national 10:10 campaign at the local community level.</i></p> <p><i>We aim to work with residents and businesses in the Hanover & Elm Grove area to transform our lifestyles to reduce our collective carbon footprint, collaborating with others such as BPEC, Brighton10:10 and The Green Building Partnership.</i></p>	<p>HASL Film Group <i>We run a regular free film season in the community room of The Hanover pub, 242 Queens Park Road.</i></p> <p><i>We choose socially-relevant and community-oriented films around the theme of sustainability. We aim to raise awareness of particular issues and we invite the audience to join in with an informal discussion and social afterwards. Films are run on a donations basis and everyone is welcome.</i></p>
<p>Streets are for Sharing <i>This raises awareness of the problems of car dependency, pollution, health, speeding and parking issues in Hanover, as well as promoting social cohesion and in particular, children's outdoor play, through street-based social events.</i></p> <p><i>The group supports street-based events promoting walking, cycling, public transport and communities using their streets including for art, play, and social gatherings.</i></p>	<p>VEG (Vegetable Education Garden) <i>Our small community education garden is based in the Hanover Community Centre (33 Southover Street).</i></p> <p><i>We come together for weekly work days to learn how to grow things by doing it together and sharing in each other's skills. Our aim is to promote sustainability whilst building nourishing friendships over the vegetable patches. The space is an ideal example of what can be done in a small urban garden</i></p>

Key achievements in 2015 include:

VEG group

- Weekly garden day every Thursday at the Hanover Community Centre, open to the public to come and learn how to grow food sustainably as a community through-out the seasons.
- Creation of a gardening community of up to 15 adults and young people each week people learning essential skills to grow their own food

Hanover 10:10 group

- Hosted Zero Carbon Britain public talks in Brighton in February 2015 attended by over 280 people. Speakers and partners included local MP Caroline Lucas, the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales and Brighton and Hove Energy Services Company (BHESCo)
- Continuation of joint work with Hanover Community Association on carbon reduction and eco-retrofitting of the Hanover Centre building.
- Hanover Loft Insulation and De-cluttering Project (July 2015 to March 2016). Lesson learnt report to be prepared.
- Monthly Hanover10:10 Project meetings.
- Primary support to the Hanover & Elm Grove One Planet Living Project (see below) with the support of Bioregional, and their local Brighton-based worker Anthony Probert.
- Workshops on 3/10 OPL dimension of sustainability held so far, to flesh out vision to Short-Med-Long terms actions in a draft OPL Action Plan.
- Recruitment of 2 University of Brighton Student Volunteers (Oct. 2015-Jan 2016, and December 2015-May 2016) to support specific roles for the Hanover & Elm Grove One Planet Living Project.

HASL film group

- Many critically-acclaimed and influential films were shown in that last season including Cowspiracy, Trashed, Flow (in conjunction with WaterAid), Chasing Ice, and The Wisdom to Survive: Climate Change, Capitalism and Community. Naomi Klein's film 'This Changes Everything' was a major event on the HASL calendar, filling the Hanover Centre's ground floor with people from all over the city.
- Overall attendance for the 2015 film season was over 400 people
- Films are all on themes of sustainable living and/or awareness raising around the impact of climate change. Each stimulates a discussion and sharing of ideas and information after the showing.
- In addition to showing the films HASL has started a lending system where people are encouraged to borrow films they haven't seen, watch them at home and return them. There are occasional film reviews in the Hanover directory to share the ideas more widely in the community.

Streets are for sharing

- Belgrave St and Washington St held a joint play street in April 2015, closing the street from traffic and inviting residents to come and play tug of war, hopscotch, paint faces and share food in the street. At the same time the Washington St 'Greening the Street' initiative was taking place in Washington St with plants given away for people's doorsteps and back gardens.

Other HASL/partner initiatives in 2015 included:

Launch of the One Planet Living Hanover and Elm Grove initiative

This took place in November 2015 at a Visioning Workshop with 60 attendees. This will continue in development via Workshops on each of the specific 10 dimensions throughout 2016. So far three open workshops have been held in the community.

HASL is exploring the potential of monthly themed activities and information based on the outcomes of the One Planet Living Action Plan. A 'soft launch' of information on each dimension is being run throughout 2016 via email and social media information. The objective is to work with the local community to develop an action plan that reflects sustainable choices – this is a vibrant area of work in progress, and all are welcome to take part in workshops as they happen.

Food Waste Collective

A partner of HASL, the Collective saves surplus food from bins, raises public awareness of food surplus waste issues, offers education, recruit volunteers and take part in events.

Activities in 2015 included:

- Good Food for Good Causes

Good Food for Good Causes has been held 4 times at the Open Market where tons of surplus dried goods were repackaged and redistributed to local charities. FWC in partnership with other local food waste groups, B&H Food Partnership and B&H Council. On 29th October this partnership held Feeding the 5000 on the Level. Over 5000 people were fed, for free, from food that would have otherwise gone to waste, to highlight the enormity of the food waste issue.

The Food Waste Collective volunteers work with local business and local events, such as the Brighton Marathon, to redistribute unused or surplus food to local charities.

Community visioning meeting

HASL invited local Council candidates and HASL members and supporters to take part in a pre-election community visioning and discussion in April 2015. Twenty-five people took part, sharing ideas for what would make a more liveable, sustainable Hanover and Elm Grove.

HASL's reach (latest figures at March 2016)

- HASL social media: 278 members of our Facebook site, and 690 followers on our Twitter account @HanoverAction
- HASL Website (www.hasl.org.uk) – current unique weekly visitors average of 170, with peak website daily access reaching 1500 in September 2015.
- Emails to our 447 Members + Supporters.
- Monthly articles in page of *Hanover Directory*. Read by an estimated 10,000 Hanover residents.
- *HASL Annual Sustainability Bulletin* delivered to 4,000 households in 2015. Read by an estimated 10,000 Elm Grove & Hanover residents.

Visit our website www.hasl.org.uk

Facebook: Hanover Action

Twitter: @HanoverAction