

## Constitution for Blackwater Valley Friends of the Earth Local Group 2021

### **Name and Objectives**

1. The name of the group shall be Blackwater Valley Friends of the Earth.
2. The group shall work within the geographical area encompassed by Rushmoor Borough Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Hart Borough Council, Ash Parish
3. The group shall operate within the terms of the Local Groups Charter and Trade Mark Licence Agreement agreed by the group and Friends of the Earth England Wales and Northern Ireland.
4. The aims of the group are: Making life better for people who are living, working or visiting the Blackwater Valley area by inspiring solutions to environmental problems by working alone or with groups of similar aspirations. Campaigning and raising awareness on environmental issues at local, regional, national and international level, prioritising the Climate Emergency.

### **Membership**

5. Membership of the group is open to any person supporting the aims of the group. The membership fee is by donation. A suggested donation for a waged person is £10.00 per annum and £12.00 per family per annum. Membership is free for unwaged and those on a challenging budget. The recommended donation/fee shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting of the group.
6. Membership is open to all persons without discrimination.
7. Only local group members can participate in the election of postholders to the local group and vote at the Annual General Meeting of the group.

### **Meetings and Officers**

8. The group shall have at least six meetings a year; to be known as Public Meetings. Members shall be notified of all Public Meetings at least 3 days in advance. A Public Meeting shall be the forum at which the major policies of the group shall be agreed. A record of all decisions taken at meetings shall be kept.
9. A Public Meeting shall have a quorum of four, to be reviewed annually by the Annual General Meeting of the group. If that quorum is not met, major group policy cannot be altered or formulated, and an expenditure of up to £20 can be passed but the amount must then be sanctioned at the first subsequent quorate meeting.
10. The group shall have at least two organisational group positions (a Co-ordinator and a Treasurer). The duties of these will include; managing the finances of the group and keeping accounts; distributing information to the appropriate postholders within the group; supplying Friends of the

Earth Limited with a mailing contact and address for receiving information from Friends of the Earth staff; supplying Friends of the Earth Limited with a telephone contact name and number for receiving information from Friends of the Earth staff; supply Friends of the Earth Limited with a telephone name and number and/or postal address which can be made available to members of the public. The minimum age at which people can act as postholders of the group is eighteen.

**11.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for presenting the accounts of the group at least once a year to the Annual General Meeting, and also to any other Public meeting if requested to do so by a previous Public Meeting.

**12.** The group shall open a bank or building society account in the name specified above. At least two of the elected organisational group positions shall be signatories to the account.

**13.** Policy decisions on a specific issue shall be discussed at a Public meeting and may be delegated to the relevant campaign team. The campaign team shall be elected at a public meeting and shall report regularly to the membership at the public meeting or if time is short by email.

**13.** The group must hold an A.G.M. every year and re-elect positions every year.

#### **Resignations and Terminations of Membership of Group**

**14.** If any postholder wishes to resign (s)he shall inform the Public Meeting in writing (email) and/or verbally. When necessary a group member can be co-opted to carry out that postholder's duties until the next Public Meeting. Election of a new postholder may take place at the following Public Meeting.

**15.** The group has the right and responsibility to suspend or expel a member who has contravened the licence agreement with Friends of the Earth EWNI, or brought the name of the local group into disrepute, or been deemed to work against the aims of the group. Such a decision can only be made at a quorate meeting of the group, after at least one months notice has been given to all members.

**16.** Each member has the right and responsibility to call the attention of Friends of the Earth EWNI to any of the group's activities which in his/her view contravene the licence agreement, provided s/he has the written support of at least two other members of the group.

#### **Termination**

**17.** The group shall be wound up by a vote at an Annual General Meeting or by an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose. Notice of intention to wind up the group must be sent to all members and Friends of the Earth EWNI at least one month before any such meeting. At the meeting where it is decided to wind up the group, a decision shall also be taken as to what shall be done with any remaining funds. In the event of a decision not being taken, the money will revert to Friends of the Earth Limited