THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC SECTOR FOOD

Ali Ghanimi 23 Oct 2026

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FOOD SECURITY – SHOULD WE BE WORRIED?

change, warns government report

'growing threats', advisers warn

Cross-party committee warns that the UK is too reliant on [illegible] production.

12 July 2023







INDEPENDENT

UK 'dangerously exposed' to global food shocks, think tank says

The UK's food system remains vulnerable to international disruption, with heavier reliance on imports leaving the country at risk, a new report warns.

3 May 2023

FINANCIAL TIMES

Food security a defining challenge for the UK's future, say experts

Greater resilience, domestic production and a long-term strategy are needed to ensure a stable food supply, analysis suggests.

17 October 2023

sky news

UK food security under threat from climate change and global instability

Experts say the UK must strengthen its food system to withstand future shocks, from extreme weather to international conflict.

20 February 2024



The Guardian

More action needed to protect UK food supply, says National Audit Office

Government must do more to build resilience in the face of climate change, biodiversity loss and global uncertainty, watchdog warns.

9 November 2023



THE UK FOOD SYSTEM: KEY STATISTICS

The data shows a system under pressure.

40% IMPORTED FOOD

UK produced only **60%** of its food in 2022

Down from **78%** in 1984



HIGHLY CENTRALISED SUPPLY CHAINS

9 retailers control **94.5%** of food retail sales

Supplied through just **131** distribution centres

FOOD INSECURITY

14% of households

7.3 million adults experienced food insecurity in 2025



RISING COSTS

Food prices already **38%** higher than pre-Covid levels



CLIMATE VULNERABILITY

3 of the 5 worst UK harvests on record have occurred since 2020



A RESILIENT, SUSTAINABLE AND FAIR FOOD SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FUTURE.

BETTER DATA. STRONGER SYSTEMS. HEALTHIER PEOPLE. SECURE FUTURE.

VULNERABILITIES FOR SUSSEX

- Local production does not equal local food security
- Sussex food system depends on the national supply chains
- Local food infrastructure has declined over time

= less local capacity when national systems fail

EXAMPLE: DOWNLAND TRADITIONAL MEATS

2000
Local Farms & Businesses
£41M
Regional Economic Value

→

THE LOCAL PROCESSING LINK

LAST REMAINING ABATTOIR IN SUSSEX

→

ENABLES

LOCAL MEAT

CONSERVATION GRAZING

IF IT CLOSED

The effects compound across the local food system

1. GREATER RELIANCE ON CENTRALISED PROCESSING
2. LONGER DISTANCES TRAVELLED
3. POORER ANIMAL WELFARE
4. LOSS OF CRITICAL LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE

The loss would be especially significant in a livestock-producing county with limited variety in the food produced locally.

VULNERABILITIES FOR YOU

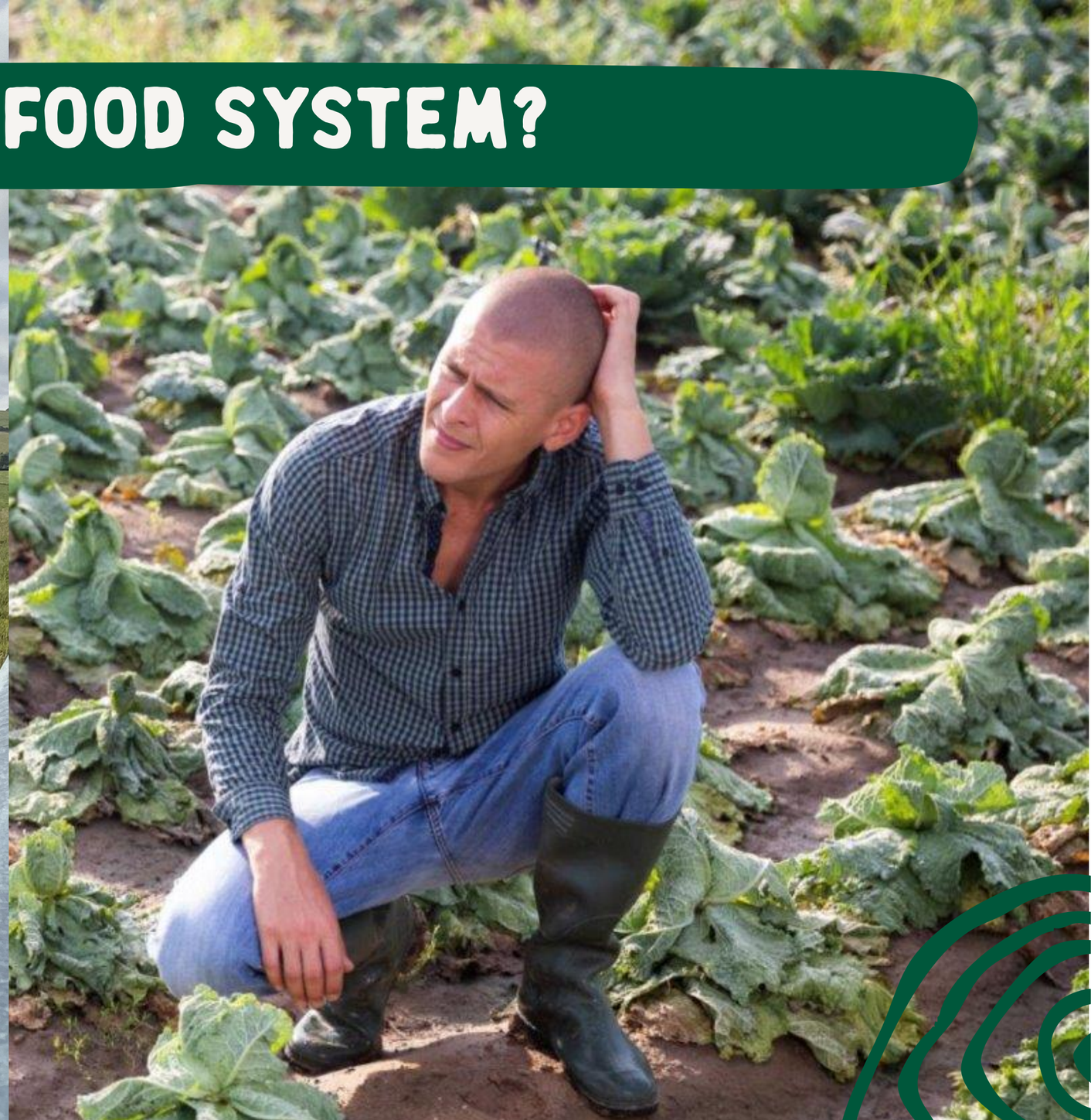
If your main supplier couldn’t deliver next week, what would happen?

How quickly could you adapt?



WHAT IS A RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM?





WHAT DO YOUR CONTRACTS PRIORITISE?

- Lowest cost
- Standardised products
- Large national suppliers

OR

- Diverse suppliers
- Strong local busine
- Seasonal / flexible
- Agroecological farm

You are already shaping the food syste

REFRAME THE QUESTION

☒ *Can we get exactly the same ingredients all year?*

☑ How *can menus adapt to what is available?*

THE BIG QUESTION

How do we ensure we can still feed patients, students and residents during future shocks?

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Could you use your procurement spend to maintain a diverse ecosystem of regional food businesses rather than concentrating purchasing through a small number of national suppliers.

- Increase supplier diversity
- Build regional infrastructure
- Create predictable markets for local producers
- Support production diversity
- Reduce dependence on vulnerable global supply chains
- Value resilience alongside price

SUSSEX SIX

23 October 2026

Hilary Knight
Co-director, Natural Partnerships CIC

Natural Partnerships CIC
RURAL & LOCAL FOOD PROJECTS

SUSSEX SIX

Promoting Local Sussex Produce

What is Sussex Six?

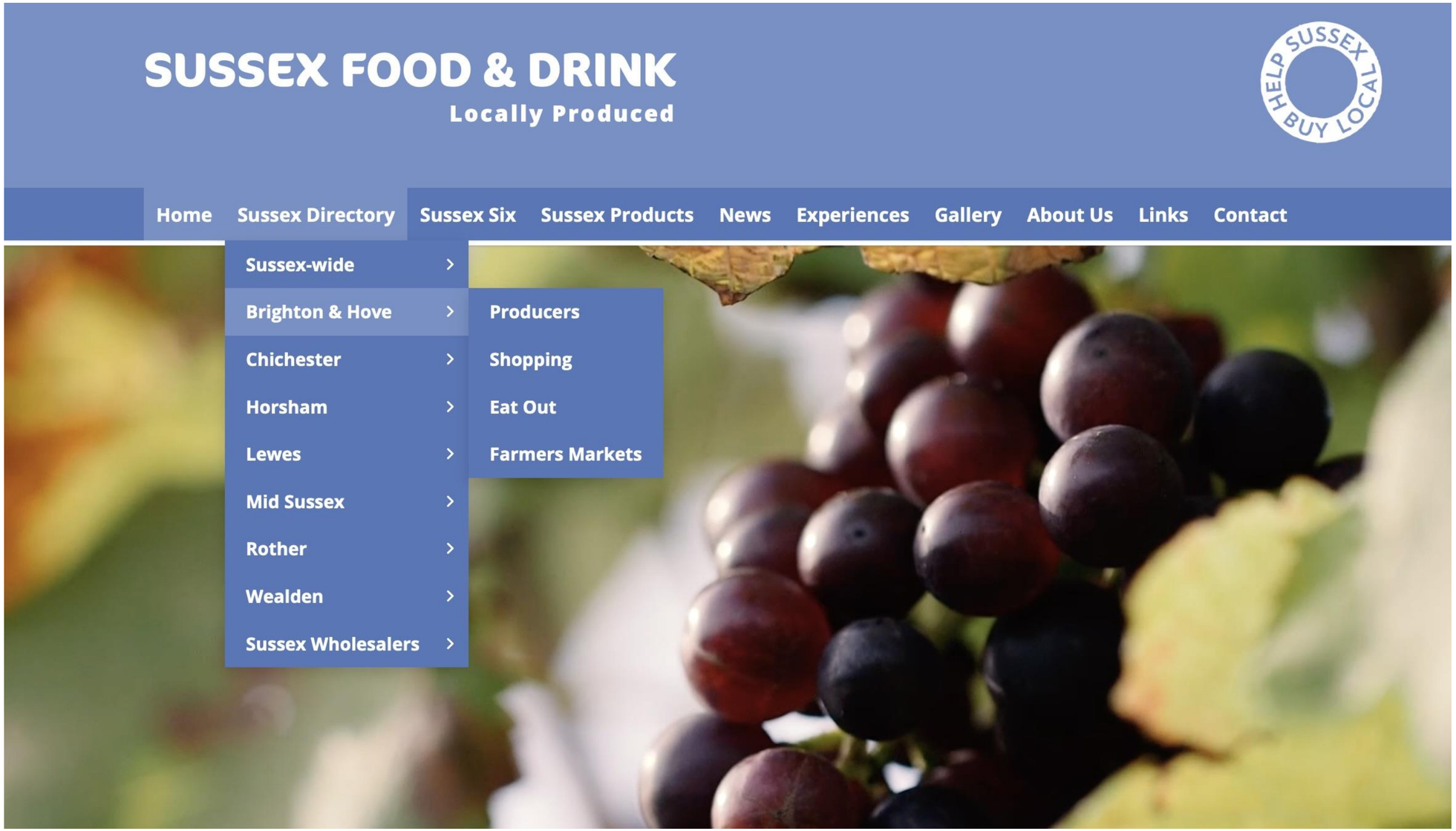
A campaign help get more local produce on menus and shelves across Sussex to support local food and drink producers

Help customers find those businesses selling and serving local food and drink

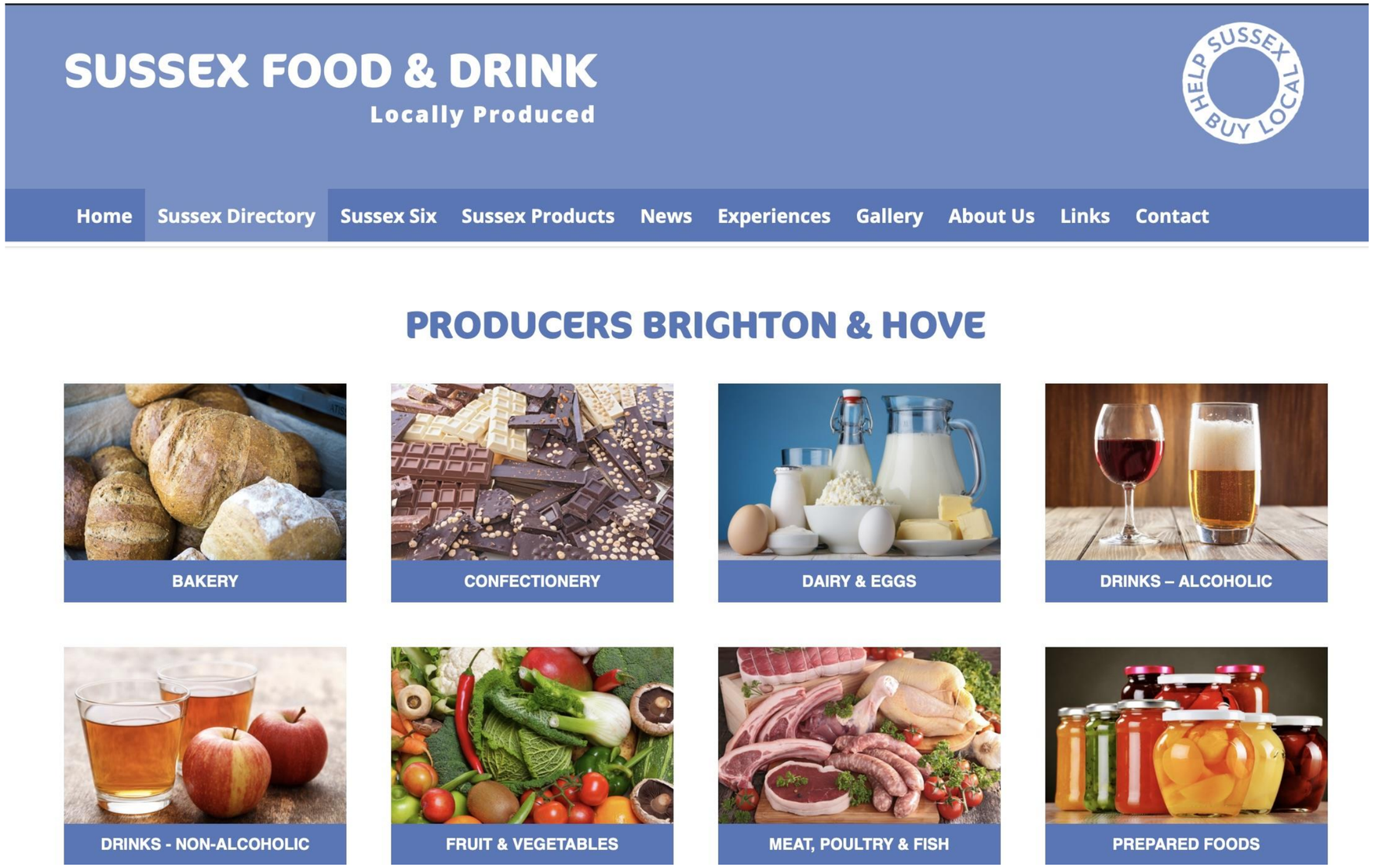
Started in 2023 and now we have 224 businesses making the ‘Sussex Six Pledge’ so far….

THE Sussex Food and Drink Directory – now with 800+ listings

Sussexfoodanddrink.org - Brighton & Hove Food and Drink Directory Live – Sep 2026



Each directory is broken down into catgories, making it easy to use for hospitality & retail buyers and consumers – including residents and visitors to Sussex



18 Brighton & Hove Hospitality & Retail made the Sussex Six Pledge to take on 6 more local Sussex food and drink products/ingredients

SUSSEX SIX

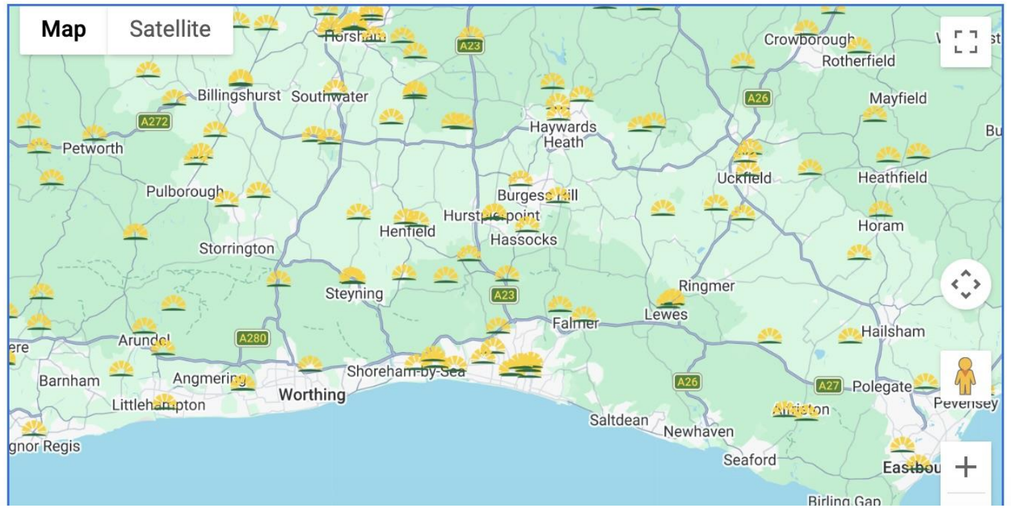
HELP SUSSEX BUY LOCAL

Home | Sussex Directory | Sussex Six | Sussex Products | News | Experiences | Gallery | About Us | Links | Contact

WELCOME TO OUR SUSSEX SIX CAMPAIGN!

Filter by

Sussex Six





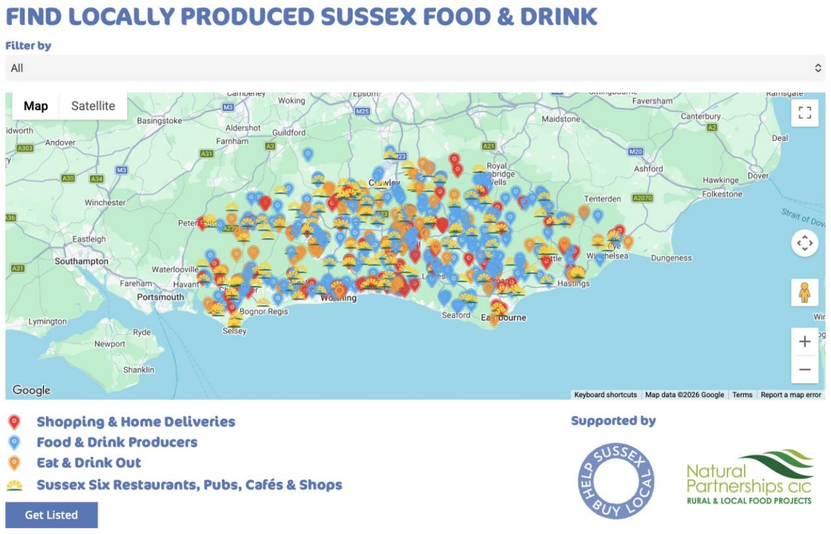
JOIN THE SUSSEX SIX CAMPAIGN

SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, PUBS & CAFES Commit to taking on six new Sussex products on your shelves or menu in the next year

Use our logo and window sticker in your business

Get listed as a Sussex Six business on our Sussexfoodanddrink.org directory

Sussex Six businesses receive ‘We Support Sussex Produce’ window sticker and publicity on Sussexfoodanddrink.org and Instagram @sussexfoodanddrink FB @sussexfooddrink





Stretch Hove by Brigi Stamber joins the Sussex Six

11/09/2026

Business News, News, Sussex Six Eating Out

Welcome to Stretch Hove, a modern, neighbourhood-focused pizzeria, located in the heart of Hove by two-time...

Read More



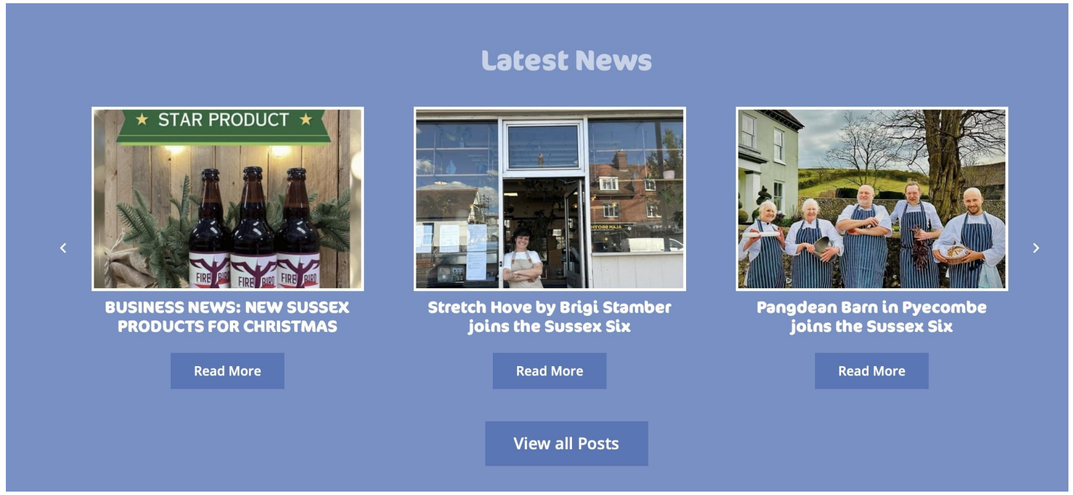
Mange Tout in Brighton Makes Sussex Six Pledge

12/08/2026

Business News, News, Sussex Six Eating Out

Mange Tout opened its doors in 2009 and has become one of Brighton’s favourite independent Bistros....

Read More



THE WINE CELLAR BRIGHTON JOINS THE SUSSEX SIX

29th July 2026 Business News, News, Sussex Six Eating Out, Sussex Six Shopping



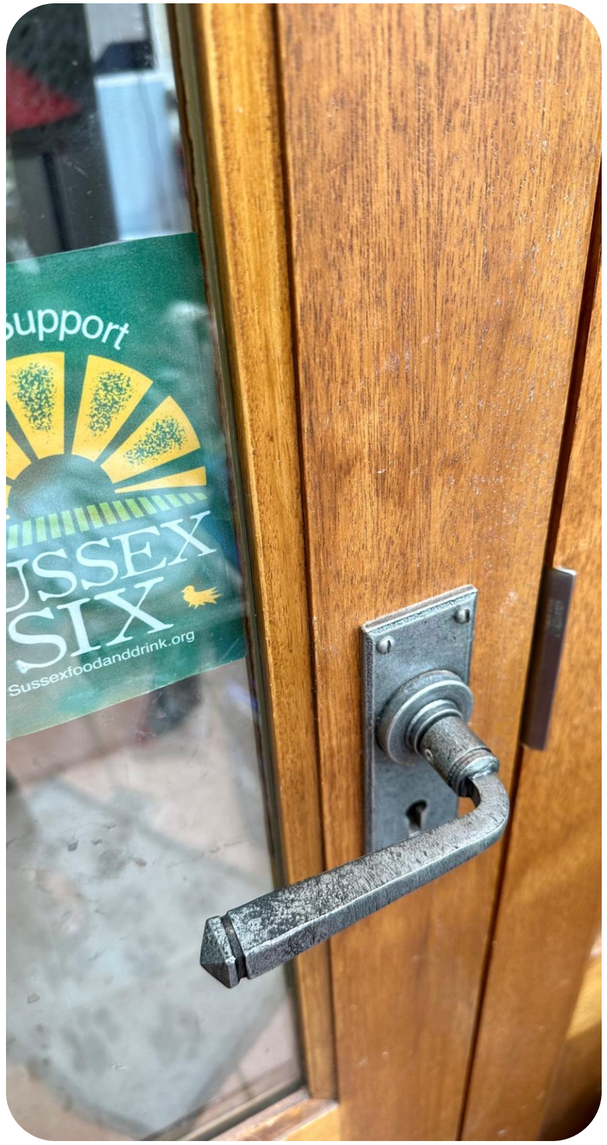
The Wine Cellar Brighton is the perfect venue for bringing people together through their shared love of exquisite wine. The Wine Cellar Brighton give their customers a huge range of wine to choose from. For every budget and taste, they source wines from Sussex to around the globe, bringing tastes from around the world directly to you from their fabulous bar and shop.

The Wine Cellar is holding over 1000 bottles that can be viewed and hand picked by you and their friendly team of experts will guide you through your wine journey all the way. Expect Sussex red, white, rosé, and sparkling wine highlights from their menu, including Highweald Lake Street Chardonnay 2022, Highweald Ghyll Valley White MV, Court Garden Ditchling White, Cradle Valley Pinot Gris 2023, The Bolney Estate Pinot Noir 2022, Ashdown Rose 2020, Nutbourne Nutty Vintage Brut 2018, and so many more local options to explore. Alongside their extensive wine list, The Wine Cellar serves a delicious menu of Sussex foods. Their amazing selection of locally sourced meats, cheeses, and snacks perfectly complement your chosen wine, and their knowledgeable specialists are always on hand to offer expert advice on the perfect accompaniments.

For more information about The Wine Cellar Brighton, their extensive wine menu, food pairings, opening hours, their online shop, and much more, visit their website at **https://thewinecellarbrighton.co.uk** and to see it all for yourself, visit them at The Wine Cellar, 17 Marlborough Place, Brighton, BN1 1UB.

BUSINESS BENEFITS:

- Free Listing, weblink & icon on map
- Digital marketing kit
- Window Sticker & point of sale merch
- Feature on Sussexfoodanddrink.org
  4500 average active users per month
- Instagram & Facebook – 35,000 reach
- Networking Events & Business Introductions
- Consumer publicity as Sussex Six







SUSSEX SIX EVENTS 26-27

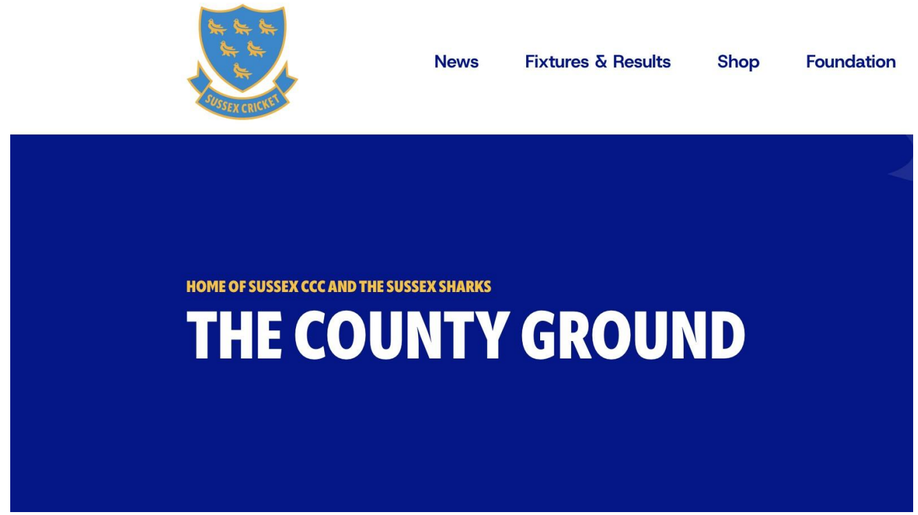
- Lewes Launch - July 2026
- Brighton & Hove Launch – July 2026
- Pre-Christmas New Sussex Products – Sep
- Great British Food Fortnight - Sep
- East – Sussex Six Meet the Buyer/Supplier Collaboration – Oct
- Sussex Six Summit – Brighton and Hove Feb 202
- West – Meet the Buyer/Supplier - Mar 2027







SUSSEX SIX FOOD & DRINK SUMMIT
Monday 1st February 2027
At Sussex Cricket County Ground



- Supporting and developing the local food supply chain
- Addressing the barriers to getting local produce onto menus & shelves in Sussex
- Participants: Sussex producers; Hospitality; Retail; Wholesalers; Distributors; Public Sector Procurement
- Talks & break out sessions - in development

We would love to see more local produce in:

- Nurseries
- Schools
- Universities
- Larger catering outlets



And be a Sussex Six outlet



Richard Lennard, Economic Partnerships Manager, Londo
Gatwick said: *"We are delighted to join this exciting campaign to support the local Sussex economy, by adding more local food and drink producers to our supply chain at London Gatwick.*
"It's important to us at the airport to support the Sussex community, and we are delighted to help our passengers discover the wonderful local produce that is grown and made across the region."



Kathy Caton, Founder & CEO, Brighton Gin said: *"From back in the day with the Sussex Food & Drink Awards (of which we're a very proud winner!) Natural Partnerships CIC has long championed our local food and drink producers. It's great news that there's now a dedicated directory reflecting Brighton & Hove's incredible food and drink scene, waving the flag for quality local producers like us and the fantastic restaurants, bars, pubs and cafés which make the food landscape here so exciting"*

SEASONALITY CAMPAIGN

- Focused on Sussex seasonality
- Database of local ingredients
- Part of “buy local” resource
- Articles shared monthly
- Connecting to Restaurants Brighton - specials
- Linking to procurement - training event in new year



CASE STUDY - LITTLETUMS

LITTLE TUMS

Sustainability

Little Tums strongly believes in only sourcing products from sustainable and responsible sources.

Procurement

Little Tums believes strongly in supporting local business.

Easy swaps can make a big difference



CASE STUDY - CHARTWELLS UNIVERSITIES



Easy swaps can make a big difference

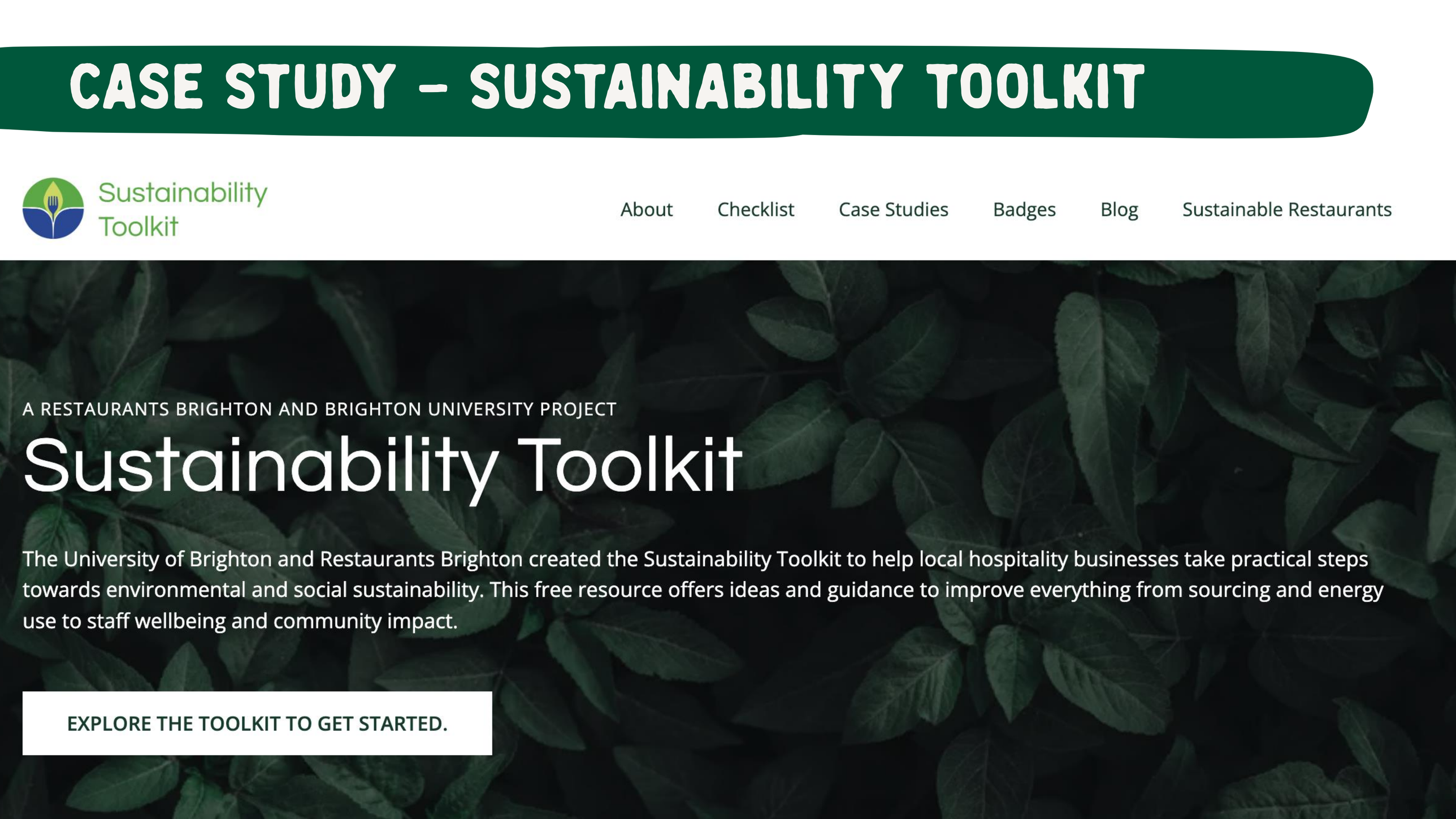
CASE STUDY – CHARTWELLS UNIVERSITIES





Easy swaps can make a big difference

CASE STUDY - SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



PLEDGES

You already play a key role in shaping the food system. You can make it more resilient!

Buy from more local, agroecological SMEs!!!

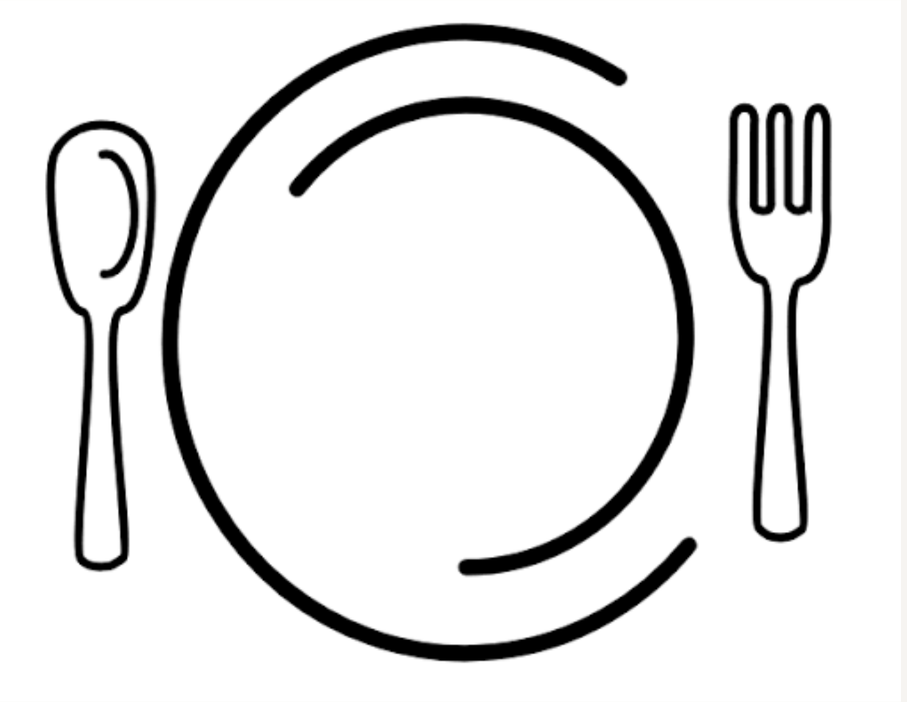
Actions for restaurants and businesses

1. Flip the menu order to read vegetarian, fish, meat
2. Buy seasonal and support the **Sussex Six campaign**
3. Offer small portion sizes and ‘doggy bags’
4. Evaluate your practices with the **Sustainability Toolkit**
5. Reduce single use plastics and sign up to **plasticfreepledge.com**
6. Support a **community food project**

ACTIVITY

Where are you now?

- HEPS
- UK Produced
- SMEs
- Seasonal menus



CONTACT US / FIND OUT MORE

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@btnkitchen @btnhovefood



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