

East Suffolk Greenprint Forum

20 Year Celebrations Combined Notes of Meetings Held on the

23 May 2016 and 20 June 2016

Key elements of presentations

- Thanks given to all, especially members of Steering Group from previous Chair Andrew, Luke and Phil.
- Our roots are important to remember as we move forward (see Appendix). 1972 – 1992 – 1996. Evidence based priority setting followed by action: Landscape Hedges, Species most at risk, business/agriculture sector support and engagement.
- Our landscapes are special because of the wide range of diversity in a relatively small area: from vegetated shingle, heathlands, woodlands, forest to estuaries, marshland and open water. They also have species that are of national importance: a quarter of the UK's rarest plants and animals are found in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads.
- There are many organisations that are actively working to engage people on and drive/support action on protecting and enhancing our natural capital (e.g. Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Broads Authority, a key strength of the latter is that it is a special statutory authority in its own right) There is much more to be done however - Our environment is in decline, now more so than ever before and we need reverse this while continuing to cater for needs/aspirations of a growing population.
- A sample of actions undertaken:
 - ❖ Beach walks and litter picks with local communities (over 1500kg of litter collected including 22,000 plastic leads, over 600 surveys conducted)
 - ❖ Sandlings walks, home to rare wildlife
 - ❖ Low power lines moved underground in 2008 to improve appearance of the Blythburgh landscape
 - ❖ Bringing communities together for projects (e.g. Coastal Community Fund 2015 to end of 2016; bird boxes; good dog initiatives; Touching The Tide 2013 & 2015; STEP and Balance)
 - ❖ Work with estuaries in 2013 and 2014 after flooding
 - ❖ Lottery Funds Scheme to help pass down traditional conservationist skills to the younger generation
 - ❖ Sustaining our waters - Lake management (e.g. reed bed conservation and biomanipulation), water mills and marshes (£4.5 million to spend in 5 years from 2018 on draining marshes)
 - ❖ Work to clear the open fens that once dominated the Suffolk landscape

Focusing on the future: key items from the floor

- 1) How do we hang onto where we have got to?
 - ❖ Drop in funding for projects
 - ❖ Support organisations that are struggling, especially with the decrease in funding
 - ❖ Disappearance of some key local groups and their voices when local action is essential
 - ❖ Potential for significant change in regulation/policy framework
 - ❖ Lack of interest/time from younger generations
 - The forum needs further support from ‘movers and shakers’ in communities and organisations to continue to develop from within and spread our ideas/messages even further and enable us to support/lead on action.
 - Support/engage existing successes to keep them flourishing e.g. Communities such as the allotment community are tightknit groups, demonstrated by the recent fires, they offer low-cost family fun whilst providing education concerning the environment and its wildlife (specifically younger children). Teapot project in Ipswich, run by people in their 20’s to use surplus food to reduce waste while providing food for those who do not have much money to buy.
 - Focus on engaging school leavers who are not considering university and need experience, are taking a gap year or want to gain experience as an Intern.
 - Find gaps at key change points where people may be more receptive - Estate Agents, Retirement advice
- 2) We need to create a giant Suffolk Community Nature Reserve through planting and managing all or at least 3 square yards of all gardens, parks, allotments, railway lines, private land and community spaces for wildlife.

Note: This could link into: The Government’s National Pollinator Strategy 2014, Networking Nature Suffolk Wildlife Trusts, B-Line Buglife, Groundwork, Friends of the Earth, and the insect pathways’ along which they are restoring and creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones. They link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network, like a railway, that will weave across the British landscape. This will provide large areas of brand new habitat benefiting bees and butterflies— but also a host of other wildlife. - See more at:

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns-and-our-work/habitat-projects/b-lines#sthash.QIAirD2G.dpuf> Wild Anglia.

Next steps:

- What is already being done?
- Is it enough?
- Are there any gaps where the Greenprint Forum could play a role? A coordinating marketing/funds for planting initiative/ seed share events/ plug plants – cutting regimes etc.
- Is there anyone within the Forum willing and able to take a lead?

3) Creating Sustainable Self Builds with Community Land Trusts

- What are they?
- What is already being done?
- Is it enough?
- Are there any gaps where the Greenprint Forum could play a role?
- Is there anyone within the Forum willing and able to take a lead?

4) Reframing the value of natural environment so that young people (age 12 -21) recognise that they can tackle their key issues (skills development and mental health) through action on the natural environment

- What is already being done? School Cool Arts; Friends Of The Earth on projects such as Bee World, which uses social media and apps to keep it interesting/relevant; Eastfeast/Groundwork; Forest schools
- Is it enough?
- Are there any gaps where the Greenprint Forum could play a role?
Suggestions included: Guide and Scout green action badge summer projects, immediate micro-volunteering. Duke of Edinburgh Award, young people are required to go out and volunteer for around 6 months, if the forum communicates with schools, particularly of a secondary school age, there is a possibility of developing a network of volunteer work.
- Is there anyone within the Forum willing and able to take a lead?

5) Promoting waste reduction at source to avoid the need to manage it.

Knowledge sharing – conversation

- 6) Tackling time pressures to free up people in their 30s to 60s for community environmental action
- What is already being done?
 - Is it enough?
 - Are there any gaps where the Greenprint Forum could play a role?
 - Is there anyone within the Forum willing and able to take a lead?

7) Enabling and promoting Slower, Safer, Greener Travel

An event focused on case studies with people already working with particular. What are the challenges. Recognising the current costs of infrastructure – therefore how can you make the best of what you have. Electronic Signs. Technology event. Debate not about why is there is not enough.

8) Greening buildings to improve energy efficiency – Sharing research on current thinking (Sheffield University)

Event UEA?

9) Is there/should there be a limit to tourism?

- Develop a focus on shoulder seasons
- Work towards a more sustainable form of tourism, aim for a balance between economic development and sustainability
- Construct a mechanism by which to encourage private sector investment to add to the growth

Raised outside of the meeting but of relevance

10) Encouraging Greener Businesses: Visit to Felixstowe and ABP ports to compare and share environmental good practises - tie back to carbon charter. Greening Supply Change. BEEEA. Archant Green 100. Greenest County Award – fringe.

11) Access to land for walking – permitted access

Appendix One – Notes for Guy's Presentation

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL GREENPRINT ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM 20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SLIDE 1

The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) was launched at the Stockholm environmental conference in 1972 when for the first time acknowledgement was given to the fact that something serious was happening to our environment and it was over time to get started in arresting the problems.

1. The UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda,
2. promotes coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system
3. and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment

Twenty years later the initial wake-up call became real and the 1992 Rio Earth Summit was convened with the express objective of getting nations to actually do something about the threatening effect of abuse in the global environment by most nations across the world. A total of 172 governments were represented with 2400 delegates attending, including a contingent from the United Kingdom.

SLIDE 2

The Rio Earth Summit 1992

The ideology was that nothing less than a transformation of our attitudes and behaviour would bring about the necessary changes. The principal themes were environmental and sustainable development

- 1, Develop the theory of Agenda 21, a wide ranging blueprint for action
- 2, State the Rio Declaration on environmental development
- 3, Make a statement on Forest Principles
- 4, Create the UN Framework Convention on climate change
- 5, State the objectives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity

6, Devise a follow-up mechanism by the Commission on Sustainability Development, an Inter Agency committee and High Level Advisory Board.

Some of the main themes targeted were patterns of production, alternative sources of energy, public transport, scarcity of water, human rights-population-social development and health.

What happened next was in 1994-5, when the Blair administration in central government eventually got round to the idea brought back from Rio by the UK delegates, that in England and Wales specifically and in Scotland if they were so minded, that there should be a UK initiative to develop at County level, a new Biodiversity Action Plan which should outline the priority issues in the environment, conservation, habitat and species at risk areas. This was achieved in Suffolk by meetings of a newly formed Biodiversity Action Partnership with members from the Suffolk Biological Records Office, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, English Nature [as it was so called at that time, now Natural England], CPRE, RSPB, SCC, the Environment Agency and individual specialists attending as required. Over time, they analysed that in all the aspects at risk in the County, the landscape hedgerows and 116 species of wildlife were most at risk and needed urgent action for conservation, preservation and development.

Contemporary with the County initiative, central government also required District councils to work up their own Local Agenda 21 as they saw their own priority issues. As a direct and urgent result, SCDC convened its first inaugural meeting on 6th February 1996 when the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Forum was constituted. Chris Opperman from BBC Radio Suffolk 'cut the tape', Councillor Viv Mason chaired the event and Trevor Gibson was the keynote speaker launching the background to the Greenprint initiative. The meeting was attended by 49 representatives from local parish councils, ramblers association, River Deben Association, Suffolk Coast and Heaths, Woodbridge Society, East Anglian Trails, Felixstowe Society, Woodbridge RSPB, Aylesford Newsprint Ltd, Suffolk ACRE, Alde and Ore Association, Greenways Countryside Project, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Plastoplan Ltd, Forest Enterprises, National Trust, Aldeburgh Society, 7 officers from SCDC and 6 District Councillors. There were also 10 apologies from FWAG, Langard Point, Suffolk LEA, Burgh, Westleton, Sutton, Westerfield and Bramfield parishes and village projects.

After brief talks by the SWT and the RSPB, the meeting went directly into workshop mode to run up ideas on aims and objectives, Forum membership, Needs and Priorities and Localising action.

The first draft of the Mandate and Terms of Reference Aims and Objectives for the Forum was drawn up as follows. It was strangely similar in many ways to the earlier documented terms of reference from Stockholm and Rio! It did however cement the

provenance behind Greenprint and formed a rock solid base upon which to build our enterprise.

SLIDE 3

To improve the environment of Suffolk Coastal District by assisting with the implementation and preparation of the Council Action Plan. This will be achieved through

1. Communication between groups, local authorities and business
2. Encouragement and coordination of individual and collective environment action
3. Raising awareness by environmental education for all
4. Organisation partnerships and projects to achieve the objectives of Local Agenda 21
5. Advising on environment issues and suggesting areas for activity within the District
6. Recognising local action towards Local Agenda 21.

[adopted at meeting no. 2 on 11 June

1996

Not surprisingly, without conferring with County, the Greenprint Forum decided that our landscape hedgerows were of immediate priority and the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey was launched soon after. Also a Guidance Pack was developed and distributed to local schools, The Woodbridge Farmer's Market was initiated and a research model regarding the recording of the skill pool in Felixstowe was devised.

Since the start, the Greenprint Forum met four times a year with attendances ranging between 6 and 180, inspired by qualified and experienced speakers from the widest range of work and leisure activities imaginable. In summary:-

Together since 1996 we have:

- Organised 130 events/forums covering a wide range of environmental topics at the request of members from climate change to waste to wildlife to water and weather with between 6 and 180 attending.
- Helped shape Council Policies on climate change, energy, transport, sky lanterns and balloons and the environment.

- Responded to consultations and called for action on single use plastic bags,
- Initiated the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey which started in 1998 and engaged 317 Parishes, 2400 volunteers and surveyed 38295 Hedgerows
- Initiated and promoted the Suffolk Farmers Markets – the Woodbridge one started in October 1999
- Created and presented environmental information packs for schools and businesses
- Supported 15 communities with their environmental action through C-Change and CEAF funding and other resources
- We gained funds to enable the supporting of 35 community buildings through the Thriving Community Building Fund
- We supported the ECCE project which received a grant of £338,524 from the European Regional Development Fund and provided advice and support to 200 SMEs.
- We received funds from Essex and Suffolk Water Living Water Branch Out fund and Waveney District Council to run a project called Wake Up and Smell the Coffee. The project aimed to provide an opportunity for a community, that had not been reached previously by the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum, to come together to reduce social isolation and engage with environmental and social care professionals; with the ultimate aim of inspiring action to improve the environment while enjoying being outside within Lowestoft. A community event which 61 people attended, with some follow up work, led to two litter picks, the housing of 15 bird boxes: which have proved popular with Blue Tits, 1 bird feeding station, two bug biomes and a compost bin.

There is at the appendix a chronological listing of some of the topics and main speakers and events, certainly not by any means complete but giving a strong indication of the span of subject matter right across the environmental spectrum. It gives a firm insight not only into the vast range of subject matter but it also illustrates the immense workload performed by the Forum, alone to start with, but latterly also by the Steering Group and the admin and management support, provided by Morag Chafer until 2007 when Debbie Wargate the Environmental Sustainability Officer for SCDC and WDC took over.

It was particularly gratifying for the Steering Group members who put in so many voluntary hours of dedication to the Forum output and performance that on the 7th March 2013, SCDC Greenprint Forum was re-designated as the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum with a place on the East Suffolk Partnership Board and a remit to cover Waveney as well.

During the 20 years of Greenprint, we have had three chairs Viv Mason, Mary Dixon and Andrew Cassy who have tirelessly and unselfishly given all they could to the progress and success of the Forum. We are also indebted to our growing numbers of members past and present who have contributed to the enterprise in so many different and challenging ways over the last 20 years and continue to do so.

SLIDE 4

A great deal of work has been done by Forum members in session throughout the 20 years contributing to workshops with ideas and structured comments and challenges on the programs of speakers, subject matter, organisation of Forum meetings and visits and general comments on future subject for discussion and talks. These workshops have been an essential engine room contribution for the Steering Group to take on board and act upon. These workshops have not been listed in the appendix but illustrate the enormous work output of the assembly generally.

We now constantly need new ideas, thoughts, plans and aspirations for the next 20 years and look to you to encourage, develop, inspire and energise more residents, parishioners, friends and colleagues to join our Forum, get involved and become not only movers and shakers in their own communities but sources of inspiration and knowledge to help others.

On the evening of the 13th day of the Cuban crisis, an important American statesman was reported to have said,

“Our most common basic link is that we all inhabit this planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future, not only for now but for all time. And we are all mortal.”

He finished with a short prayer,

“ Dear God, thy sea is so great and my boat is so small”

That just about sums up what we have been about over the last 20 years and what is to come.

GLA. 12.05.16

APPENDIX TWO: GREENPRINT FORUM 20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY - LIST OF TOPICS COVERED/EVENTS OVER THE YEARS

1996.

LA/21 Workshops

CLA County rights of way

BT sponsor Environmental Week

Tree preservation orders

1997

Youth and Community Forum

Guided walk round Foxburrow SWT nature reserve

Recycle 2000, brainstorming workshop.

Felixstowe tree survey

Plastics recycling

Forum invited to join the Local Strategic Partnership

Green Audit pack for local businesses developed

Link formed to Sustrans

Visit to BT labourites at Martlersham

1998

Louise Wilby talk on Suffolk ACRE on community action plans

'Mapping Suffolk's Future' questionnaire

Farlingaye School 'young people finding a voice'

LA/21 Small Business audit

Minsmere reserve guided walk

Suffolk Air Quality Assessment over 88938 hectares and 118700 population

Suffolk Coast and Heaths, 'countryside capers for kids'

10 week adult course on 'energy conservation & renewal techniques'

Lowestoft College

Shoreline Management Plan, Chief Engineer SCDC

Concerns over predicted sea level rise (RSPB speaker)

SCC Travel Plan, county road safety officer

Landfill Tax & Environment bodies, Suffolk Waste Disposal Ltd

Pollution Control at SCDC Alan Dunn, Ast Director,

WI Millennium Challenge, Steve Ratcliffe SCDC and Forum member

1999

Energy Development Cooperative, Oulton Broad

Visit to Parham Hall, Michael Gray

Recycling & waste water management, Alan Dunn

Green Audit pack for local businesses - launched

2001

Business Forum, Environment development, energy efficiency & regeneration

Grey water, John Barratt

Fuel poverty, warmer homes, better health, grant aid schemes, Teresa Howarth

2002 Composting trials, green household waste, dual vehicle collection

Glass recycling, RMC Aggregates

Sea Defence Coastal Erosion, EA.

Solar and wind energy

Nuclear power option, Colin Tucker

Power station at Diss Eye airfield

2003

Farming issues & the CAP, John Cousins, The Wildlife Trusts, London

Solar panels, photo voltaics, heat pumps, wind power, bio mass technology

Foxhall waste recycling centre

2004 Wind energy, Bill Richmond and Phil Ridley

National Energy Foundation, Low Impact Energy, Phil Hunt

Contaminated Land, Brownfield sites

2005

Estuary Management Plan, Gemma Costin#

2006

Presentation by SWT on local nature reserves, Steve Aylward

Decommissioning of Sizewell A magnox reactor, Plant Manager

Visit to Gt Blakenham, Viridor

Challenges of Farming, H5NI Aviation Flu outbreak, Defra rep

Nottingham Declaration, Suffolk CRED partnership

2007

Local Strategic Prtnership

An inconvenient truth, film by Al Gore, US VP

Woodchip fuelled boilers, Anglia Wood Fuelled Bentwaters Park

Carbon Footprint training, Melton Hill

Carbon Footprint Delivery, Wenhaston

Vidor Masons Materials Recycling Facility, Gt Blakenham, Ipswich, Suffolk

P6 ONVV

Use of straw for energy supply, West End Nursery, Leiston

The Greenest County, Melton

2008

Climate Change, Coastal Erosion and Wildlife, Melton Hill

Environment Agency Flood Response arrangements

Community Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP) funded by the Big Lottery Fund in the 'changing spaces program' with project development grants available.

Boyton CRED footprinting initiative

Green Light Trust visit

Biogonix In-Vessel compost facility at Parham

Planning and Green Infrastructure Strategies, Melton Hill

Organic Farm visit at Thorington

Foxhall landfill site and Household Waste Recycling Centre

Community Strategy Consultation and Business and the Environment

Port of Felixstowe, Gavin Reeve and Paul Bradford

Climate Change and practical action to take at home

2009

Fuel Poverty, C-Change Coastal and Recycling, Melton Hill

Plastics and Marine Environment

Climate Change Strategy Consultation

Foxhall landfill site and Household Waste Recycling Centre

Beach Watch Bawdsey

2010

Tastes of East Anglia, Greenest County Awards, Greenprint Forum member elected

Green Community Hero,

Alde and Ore futures project

Evergreen Ecosystems, Foxhall Road

RenEnergy Holistic Approach Awareness Course, Blofield Heath, Norwich,
NR13 4EY

Local Food and Climate Change, the role of communities

Traditional and Green, Halesworth

Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership, Gen Broad

Alde and Ore Futures

Nightjar walk

Bawdsey Beach Clean

Greener Sax Fair, Community Environmental Support Fund, (CEAF)

Peak Everything

Resilient Sustainable Communities

2011

Cradle to Cradle, European Union project, Michael Gray

Transition training

Friston Energy day

Trees and Woodlands, a community resource

Permaculture Design principles

Embedded emissions action you can take

Bio-Gas and Adnams visit

Apple pressing

Wakelyns Agroforestry & community woodland visit

Local food and packing, East of England Coop, plastic bags, Mark Pryke

View Suffolk's green buildings

Future Landscaping Project, East England NFU and Otley College

Suffolk Traditional Orchards survey, Paul Reid

Emergency Planning as a way of building community resilience to climate
change

Countrystyle group in-vessel composting facility, Parham

2012

BT's work to reduce Carbon Footprints and Local sustainable community toolkit

Carbon footprint training

State of the District Workshop

Water framework directive

Owning and managing a community woodland

Skill Share

E. Anglia Offshore Windfarm, landscape effects

Suffolk Coast and Heaths, Nick Collinson

Greenprint Forum survey questionnaire, results report, Debbie Wargate

Joint Environmental Sustainability Policy and Action Plan, SCDC and WDC

Local MP surgery on Sizewell C development

Bawdsey Beach watch

Transition 2

Adnms Bio Energy renewable energy facility

Suffolk Hedgerow Survey, East Suffolk Partnership briefing

2013

Fairtrade and local food

Transition Streets introduction

Greenest County Awards seminar, Bury St Edmunds

Greenprint Forum membership recorded at 104 and 115 in March 2013

Touching the tide and tourism strategy, AONB, Simon Amstutz

Felixstowe and Woodbridge litter picks

Formal launch of Suffolk East Coast Greenprint Forum 7 March 2013

Improving lives through environmental action

Plan Eat film

Action on our estuaries

Trimley nature reserve beachwatch

Green building, green behaviours

Health and the Environment and volunteer tourism

Suffolk Climate Change cycle ride

Waveney Community Action celebration

Cookpole Energy Action, community progress

Press release and launch of Suffolk Hedgerow Survey report, SCC
Endeavour House

2014

Garden Wildlife and community environmental action

Fun and Food Fair, Beccles

Cycling safety and fun

East Coast Volunteering Tourism Scoping project

Thriveability audit concept

Walk and Prosper, Farlingaye School, Live Well Suffolk

Private nature reserves

Trees in Suffolk Hedgerows, Jon Stokes, Dir. Tree Council

Waveney Tree Wardens seminar

Parish Council & Community Advice in Suffolk for the Natural Environment

LEADER funding in Suffolk

Energy from Waste, SITA

WALGA community composting

Community Infrastructure Levy, public consultation, Mark Edegeley

Litter picks in Lowestoft, Pakefield and Felixstowe

2015

Langard Nature reserve

Stanney Farm Iken, visit, (prior chair of SWT)

Minsmere work party

Young trees at Henham

More than honey, film narrated by John Hurt

Swaffham wind turbine visit with 350+ steps

Gunton Woods visit

Love every drop, Anglian Water

Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan

Howard nurseries visit

Suffolk Energy from Waste visit

Permaculture Design Principles

Circular Economy

Volunteer tourism

Green Suffolk Fund, John Taylor

Community Preparedness, Winter Gritting program

East Suffolk Communities to value natural capital

2016

Wildlife and Community Action

Trees and Woods in Suffolk, Gary Battell

Suffolk Coast Greeters and volunteering opportunities, AONB

Visit to Staverton Woods, veteran trees and bluebells

Appendix 3: Attendees

	Name	Parish/Org representing
1	Anne Thomas	CEA
2	Alexis Smith	WALGA
3	Ali Crawford	
4	Annette Dewing	Lowestoft and District Allotments
5	Ben Mcfarland	RSPB
6	Betsy Reid	WALGA
7	Bill Parker	
8	Charlie Pike	SCDC
9	Chris Abraham	CAS
10	Cllr Ann Betts	Southwold Town Council
11	Cllr Ian Shaw	Yoxford Parish Council
12	Daniel Wareing	SCN
13	David Steward	KALGA
14	Deborah Wargate	SCDC and WDC
15	Dr Adrian Cooper	Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve
16	Emily Roden	JEPU
17	Fran Crowe	Fly in the Face
18	Gary Lowe	Groundwork
19	Geoff Doggett	Waveney River Trust
20	Guy Ackers	SHS
21	Jamie Murphy	Groundwork
22	John Carpmael	Boyton Community Group
23	John Forbes	Martlesham Parish Council
24	John Grant	EADT
25	John Taylor	SCCP
26	Katie Carr-Tansley	Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council
27	Keith Fawkner Simpson	JEPU
28	Keith Moore	EA
29	Liz Mark	Bawdsey Parish Council
30	Luke Bennett	ESP
31	Michael Friend	Hollesley Parish Council
32	Michael Laschet	SSCC
33	Neil Winship	Quiet Lanes
34	Nick Hubbard	SSCC
35	Peter Langford	JEPU
36	Phil Gore	SCDC and WDC
37	Rachel Fulcher	Suffolk Coastal FoE
38	Shirley	Lowestoft and District Allotments
39	Simon Hooton	Broads Authority
40	Simon Weeks	CEA
41	Val Frost	
42	Veronica Falconer	Woodbridge Town Council
43	Zoe Mair	CEA