
Greenprint Forum Steering Group Meeting Agenda

Location: Online via Skype

Date: Tuesday 26 May 2020

Time: 10:00-12:00

Invited: Betsy Reid, Cathy Smith, Daniel Wareing, Jane Healey, Luke Bennett, James Mallinder, Peter Ross, Phil Gore, Sue Hall, Susan Harvey, Carolyn Barnes (ESC Transport & Infrastructure Manager)

In attendance: Betsy Reid, Cathy Smith, Daniel Wareing, Jane Healey, Luke Bennett, James Mallinder, Phil Gore, Susan Harvey, Carolyn Barnes (from 10:00-11:00)

Main Intended purposes of meeting

- Identify further opportunities for action on Travel
- To agree appointment to vacancy of Vice Chair and need for additions to Steering Group
- To discuss and where possible agree scope for action by Greenprint to promote positive “New Normal”

1. Apologies
2. Update on ESC Climate Action workstream – PG
3. Active Travel project update – DW
4. Vacancy of Vice Chair and scope for additions to Steering Group – DW
5. Letter to Westminster – DW
6. New Normal – adaptations aligned with green agenda associated with emergence from Covid-19 shutdown by ESC – PG; followed by discussion
7. AOB – associated with goals and vision either positive or negative that we need to be aware of and acting on

Notes from meeting

1. Apologies

Apologies received from S Hall.

2. Update on ESC Climate Action workstream

ESC is currently working with the Suffolk Resilience Forum on the local response to Covid-19, which is having an impact on all council activity. ESC is involved with coordination of stocks of PPE, Covid-19 testing at Copdock and Lowestoft, supporting the shielded, advising businesses, and will next be involved with track-and-trace. ESC will gradually ease the reopening of council offices for those who need to work from the office, those who can work from home will continue to do so.

PG and DW are currently drafting the ESC Climate Action Plan which will then be presented to the Environment Task Group (ETG) on 15 July followed by Cabinet in late summer or autumn at which point it will become public.

DW is currently collating the 2019/20 Annual Greenhouse Gas Report for ESC to apportion emissions to council estates and operations and track trends.

ESC has launched a new Housing Enabling Strategy and is producing a new planning guidance document to help advise developers and those improving their home or business property to do so in a way that aligns with our vision for Eco Friendly Development.

On behalf of ESC, East Suffolk Norse are trialling biodiesel in refuse collection vehicles and will present an update on the trial to the ETG. Norse also have several new electric cars and vans on the fleet.

The refurbishment of St Peters Court in Lowestoft, which includes efficiency measures such as triple glazing, is underway.

The refurbishment of Bungay Pool and Gym is also underway, a redevelopment which will include the use of Combined Heat & Power (CHP).

The SCCP Climate Change Action Plan is also in the course of being produced, with input from ESC.

ESC have bid for funding from Highways England for a recognition scheme, “Ecostars”, to encourage best practice, and fleet efficiency retrofitting measures, for hauliers at the Port of Felixstowe.

All parish clerks will soon be contacted by ESC proposing cutting of their verges and spaces once per year as per the trial.

3. Active Travel project update

Covid-19 impacting progress particularly of elements containing strong element of social interaction (walking buses, cycling, community transport volunteering) and also delaying decision from SCC regarding funding from 2020 Fund towards Quiet Lanes in East Suffolk and Babergh. Andrew Cassy is advancing discussions with SCC officers in bid to ensure that Quiet Lanes in East Suffolk can proceed regardless of outcome of bid to SCC 2020 Fund using the funding already secured from ESP as communities are keen to proceed apace.

CB provided a brief overview of certain related projects; **DW to liaise with CB** for further information:

- ESC are working with SCC to assess potential for putting forward Lowestoft for consideration as a trial area for the Government e-scooter trials;
- WTC are investigating solutions to restrictions on space in the Thoroughfare that prevent effective social distancing.
- Ultrafast broadband project in Lowestoft which will enable more working from home/working remotely.

Opportunity for Greenprint additional action identified through lobbying of rail operators to enhance accessibility of rail routes for cyclists. **DW to liaise with CB and draft a letter** aimed at operators to encourage uptake of measures such as cycle racks at stations, more space for cycles on trains, additional promotion by operators of rail travel as means to help cyclists cover greater distances and enable the last legs of journeys to destinations like Aldeburgh to be made via active means (particularly cycling). Envisaged that letter would be joint from Greenprint Chair and Cllr Brooks as relevant ESC Member.

Steering Group members to channel suggested questions to DW to help focus input from prospective SCC Transport representative to next Steering Group meeting to enable progress on issues requiring SCC

lead e.g. separation of cycle space on road network. Once questions agreed, DW to make approach to Paul Horne (SCC Senior Transport Planner).

4. Vacancy of Vice Chair and scope for additions to Steering Group – DW

Retirement of Andy Cassy from Steering Group duties has created the vacancy of Vice Chair. Vacancy not resolved at time of meeting.

Discussion held around potential additional Steering Group members, preferably those from community and business backgrounds. **DW to pursue as agreed.**

5. Letter to Westminster – DW

DW and PG are currently drafting a letter to Westminster to be sent jointly by JH as Chair of Greenprint and JM as Chair of ESC Environment Task Group. Input to be sought from Steering Group once drafted. **DW & PG to progress.**

6. New Normal – adaptations aligned with green agenda associated with emergence from Covid-19 shutdown by ESC

It has already been observed that car travel has reduced and air quality has improved during shutdown, and that people seem to be increasingly aware of the link between shutdown and environmental benefits. ESC is certainly conscious of the need to retain positives as we emerge from lockdown and already intend that staff who can work from home / work remotely will continue to do so and this may later lead to a reduced office footprint.

Reengagement with the natural environment is another key benefit and opportunity of shutdown through the encouragement of people to enjoy their gardens and local spaces as part of their daily exercise.

There is the opportunity to promote local shops, refills home deliveries, farmers markets, home growing and sharing.

To promote the benefits of concrete examples of what communities have been doing during lockdown on their own initiative, case studies to be produced which can inspire and educate others. Examples to include, for which the following Steering Group members will produce content:

- **Waldringfield home growing & sharing – BR**
- **Kirton Community Orchard and Kirton Community Allotments with social prescribing connection with Felixstowe surgery – S Harvey**

(Among others identified during meeting that Steering Group members are aware of but not directly part of, from the wider Greenprint Forum network, which will also be approached.)

In addition social prescribing is already happening through the ESC Community Partnerships. **DW to liaise with LB to identify scope for promotion through Greenprint.**

Outlets for case studies to include:

- Greenprint newsletter
- Greenprint social media
- Greenprint webpages – new case studies page
- ESC communications team
- Inside SCC

DW to collate content including video as well as textual/pictorial content, **provided by Steering Group as above.**

7. AOB – associated with goals and vision either positive or negative that we need to be aware of and acting on

Regarding establishment of baseline data for the verge rewilding project – Plantlife may be good source of survey template materials. County Records hold data which depending on coverage may be of value. JH mentioned RNRs (Roadside Nature Reserves) and making sure that once unusual species had been

identified by the recorders, steps be taken to create a new RNR to preserve the ecology. Rewilding efforts also needs to be communicated more, for example through additional signage. JM mentioned Hugh Somerleyton who is rewilding part of his estate and who is keen on 'Wild East' in relation to linking up larger rewilded area. **DW to enquire and also discuss with James Meyer (ESC Ecologist) and Simon Gilbert (ESC Contracts Manager).**

BR raised idea of Greenprint helping to examine the impact of agriculture on nature, and potential focus for Greenprint for 2021 on Food Security and Biodiversity as a reflection of local shops and producers adapting to Covid 19 and people using more local services. **DW to add Biodiversity Focus to agenda for future Steering Group meeting.**

8. Dates of next meetings:

18 August & 17 November. Both 10:00-12:00, and will be held remotely unless notified otherwise.