



**Minutes of the
East Suffolk Greenprint Forum
9th February 2015, Melton Hill, Council Chamber
Notes taken by Tom Andrews**

Present:

1. Amanda Aufenast Bawdsey Parish Council
2. Andrew Cassy BT
3. Anne Pilgrim Bredfield Parish Council
4. Bob Axford Individual from Foxhall
5. Carol Brason Rendlesham Parish Council
6. Carol Steptoe Transition Woodbridge.
7. Daniel Wareing SCS
8. David Greenacre Greener Fram
9. Liz Mark Bawdsey Parish Council
10. Guy Ackers Suffolk Hedgerow Working Group
11. John Taylor SCCP
12. John Forbes Martlesham Parish Council
13. Keith Dickerson Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council
14. Michael Friend Individual from Hollesley
15. Michael Laschet Sandling Safer Cycling Campaign
16. Phil Gore Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council
17. Rachel Fulcher Suffolk Coastal FoE
18. Rachel Smith-Lyte Transition Woodbridge
19. Cllr Mark Rutherford
20. Mrs D V Carr
21. Mr P W R Carr

Apologies:

Alan Tinline	Charlie Zakks
Alexis Smith	Gillian Benjamin
Andrew Nunn	Jane Healey
Betsy Reid	Jenny Eckersley
Jill Daines	Joan Nortin
Joanne Mudhar	Katie Carr-Tansley
Kim Hoare	Luke Bennett
Nick Hoare	Nick Hubbard
Bob Spruce	Catherine Smith

Love every drop – Julie Leggett – Castle point voluntary services:

- Deposits of fat and other things put down plugholes and flushed down the toilet are a real problem. A video was shown called Lottie's vlog that outlined the problems <http://youtu.be/4ILCRwOOfhY>
- Since the "Love Every Drop" campaign sewage blockages have decreased by 80% in Peterborough with an average of 52 per cent reduction in the areas that Keep It Clear has been working – correction note from AW added 16.2.2015
- Out of the 362,000 national blockages of which there are 30,000 in the AW region over half were avoidable; this is mainly due to people flushing things down the toilet that they should not. correction note from AW added 16.2.2015

Enabling Community Action – Wil Gibson and Deborah Wargate

- £4,000 has been allocated to councillors in Suffolk Coastal to provide funds to people wanting to kick start schemes in their communities which support [one or more of Suffolk Coastal's strategic priorities](#). . The deadline for submissions to be in from Ward Councillors is 27th Feb after this the programme will be closed until after the May elections. So if you have a community project that has support and fits approach your Ward Councillor ASAP to chat through your plan. More info on: <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/enablingcommunities/enabling-communities-budget/>

All other points from the presentation are captured on slides.

Key Updates & Questions:

- 1) Concern was expressed about household cleaning chemicals and the impact they have in the water treatment system and in our watercourses. –
Supplementary question after the evening: has Anglian Water looked at this? How serious an issue is it? What messages should we be sharing as a forum? Should we cover this at a future Forum meeting and if so who would be a good speaker?
- 2) Getting the Keep it Clear messages out there:
 - Utilise local media – EADT, Lowestoft Journal, Look EAST, BBC Radio Suffolk, Castle Radio, Felixstowe Radio etc.
 - Use the cost of cleaning chemicals, cost of calling out drain engineers to catch people's attention or turn around and identify typical savings made by not flushing non degradable/disintegrable items down the loo.

- Share any evidence of less blockages resulting from communication campaigns – if possible linked to costs.
- Check use of language – wipes are flushable they are not degradable/disintegrable within our sewage systems however.
- Ensure multiple publications in multiple languages and formats (e.g. large print) go out.
- Utilise health and housing providers and visitors, carers and doctors surgeries
- Engage care homes – a significant number of wipes are used for elderly people.
- Remember that in rural areas a significant proportion of people are on septic tanks so well aware of what should not be flushed.
- Target communications at immigrant populations e.g. farm workers?

3) What is happening in the world of Greywater recycling? Is Anglian Water looking at this at all? What messages should we be sharing as a forum? Should we cover this at a future Forum meeting and if so who would be a good speaker?

- Greywater bath valve outflow mentioned

4) Water pressure raised as an issue. Is there any information Anglian Water could share with the Forum on this?

5) Query raised over the current efficiency leaflets going out to householders as there seems to be a mixed message over the phone about whether or not potential applicants need to be on benefits. **John Taylor to follow up**

6) Discussion noted that sustainable Building measures we expect to see on all new builds, especially Solar PV are still missing. The New Mill heath housing estate in Martlesham was used as an example.

7) Transport raised as a significant local issue which is affecting people's ability to get to work (particularly when on a low income), college and medical services. Rendlesham have highlighted this in their Neighbourhood plan. While traditional bus services were clearly favoured there was a recognition that communities and the organisations supporting them will have to look more and more at non traditional provision:

Dial a ride – experience from the floor was that demand is too high thus restricting availability/usefulness

Carshare either through online system like Liftshare or a local neighbourhood support network – concern was expressed about insurance (not an issue if it is not a commercial transaction although insurers recommend you check with them), over

dependence from those with out cars on a few people with cars - particularly as they get older themselves.

Taxis – too expensive for those on a low income.

Pooling transport – sharing a car, garage, tools etc.

The local community solutions would be eligible for an Enabling Communities Grant. There is a need to have discussed with the relevant ward councilor for them to apply before the 27 Feb 2015 to ensure consideration before the silence around the elections kicks in.

8) The ever increasing pressure on volunteers and community organisations was noted and the risks associated with cuts that run too deep to sustain vital support. The need for long term, reliable support to build trust in a service and to really benefit those who need support and to protect 'the commons was raised.

9) Community Solar PV – learning tips from Kelsale cum Carlton

- Ensure VAT is factored into fund/share raising, although Parish Council's can claim it back it will still need to be paid upfront to get the invoice from the supplier which is needed to claim the Feed in Tariff.
- Be prepared for the paperwork associated with feed in tariff applications – they are about 20 pages long and if you cross two suppliers (e.g. Scottish Power and British gas) you will have double the paperwork.

10) Community swap and mends - learning tips from Greener Fram

- Having people give whatever they want (if anything) as a donation is sufficient to cover room hire (£20) and refreshments and enable a little to go towards other Greener Fram costs/projects
- Over 100 people turn up and bring and take what they want – mending is often done off site and then returned.
- Use this as the way to engage people in other initiatives.

11) Community Woodland Management- learning tip from Cookpole Energy Action via John Taylor

- To increase the number of volunteers willing to help enable them to take some of the wood they cut back home.

- 12) Transition Woodbridge are setting up their allotment as a permaculture allotment to use it as a knowledge share and skill development base. As this develops the group will share more information.
- 13) Bawdsey Village Market was established last year to put local food producers together with consumers to support local businesses and reduce the environmental impact of food miles. **Amanda will share more information with the Forum over time.**
- 14) **Rendlesham**
Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan, the first Neighbourhood Plan in Suffolk passed its and has been recommended to proceed to Referendum by the Independent Examiner, who was very complimentary about the significant, proactive and sustained community effort in engaging the wider community and in developing it over a number of years, its focus on keeping it local rather than fitting a standard format. It will go to referendum for Rendlesham residents on THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2015. This is a significant achievement and will have long term community engagement benefits which will have knock in environmental ones e.g. viable local services to reduce travel.
- 15) **Run on Sun** is a national competition run by Friends of the Earth and supported by our local branch, giving primary schools the chance to win free Solar PV panels by creating a piece of artwork. The competition has been extraordinarily successful. There were 36 highly imaginative entries, and thousands of people voted for their favourite one, and now the competition is down to just six finalists, two in London, one in Birmingham, one in Warwickshire, one in Northern Ireland, **and one here in Suffolk – Stutton Primary School**. The pupils at Stutton Primary School created a colourful piece of artwork formed from different images of the sun, all set in a spiral. Friends of the Earth have raised £15,000 to pay for the lucky winning school to have Solar PV panels installed. Now the public can vote on which of the six finalists they'd like to see win the competition. You can see Stutton Primary School's entry and vote for them at <http://www.foe.co.uk/page/run-sun-competition-gallery>. Voting ends on Tuesday 10 February.
- 16) Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership's Autumn and Winter 2014 newsletter packed with biodiversity stories is now available on our website at <http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/news.aspx>
- 17) Suffolk Coast and Heaths update:
- a) Grant award to Suffolk Coast of £490,000 from DCLG's Coastal Communities Fund**
- The AONB supported the development of the successful bid to the Dept of Culture and Local Government and will deliver two of its projects: A promoted circular walk going north of Southwold from the pier and a new working holidays initiative on the coast. The scheme is designed to create 6.6 Full Time jobs and support a further

140 as well as supporting practical conservation work and improving the visitor offer to the coast. See EADT report: <http://tinyurl.com/nbglr7d>

b) LEADER Heritage Coast and Wool Towns: Two c£2M bids

The AONB is anticipating a positive outcome from the Leader bids worth nearly £2M in each AONB for investment in projects to help small and micro enterprises; increase farm productivity; rural tourism; forest productivity; rural services and local business support and cultural and heritage activity. Further details on Dedham Vale website: <http://tinyurl.com/l4jznr6> or Suffolk Coast & Heaths website <http://tinyurl.com/kmau3fz> The bids are based on a Local Development Strategy which is available from the AONB team.

c) AONB Grants

Grants are now available. Applications invited from communities, organisations, and conservation group for projects that benefit the two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Deadline for applications is Sunday 22 February 2015 (please note earlier than usual deadline) for projects being completed by March 2016.

Please circulate this information. Details at:

<http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/grants-and-funding/sustainable-development-fund/> <http://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/grants-and-funding/>

d) Touching the Tide, HLF funded Landscape Partnership Scheme

The first TtT Beachcombing for Beginners walk in Felixstowe was a success with hornwrack, seaweed, sea coal, shipworm eaten driftwood and even a native sponge being found as well as the usual plastic rubbish which was also collected & disposed of properly. Details of other events at: <http://www.touchingthetide.org.uk/events/>

9. Suffolk Estuaries

e) The Bawdsey Coastal Partnership held its first public meeting on 26 Jan.

Levington saltmarsh restoration phase 2 has started, silt is being used from work at Suffolk Yacht Harbour. The public consultation on the Deben Estuary Plan has completed, see <http://www.debenestuarypartnership.co.uk/>

18) Greener Sax

On Saturday 7th February, at 10 a.m. Greener Sax of Saxmundham hosted a meeting in the Market Hall, Saxmundham, on the impact of climate change on Suffolk Coastal communities. The lead speaker was internationally renowned author, **Andrew Simms**, one of the nation's "top 100 environmentalists" according to the Independent. Over 60 people attended and useful discussions held.

19) Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership

A list of the events mentioned is on <http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/events.aspx>

20) Suffolk Spring Clean

Being coordinated across the whole of Suffolk to be launched in the next couple of weeks to remind all residents that District Councils provide litter pick equipment and

pick up services. For more information contact your local council or visit their website.

- 21) Materials Recycling Facility – no resource for educational visits at the moment however as an interim measure they are training the waste reduction officers across Suffolk to meet demand. The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum has been asked to put forward names of those willing to go and trial this provision.

Next meeting:

The next East Suffolk Greenprint Forum is a joint event being led by Transition Woodbridge on Monday the 9th of March at Melton Hill Council Chamber from 19:00pm – 21:30pm. There will be a showing of **'More Than Honey' Free Film night**. A discussion including local experts will follow film. Tea, coffee & cake will be available (donations to Transition Woodbridge welcome)