
Greenprint Forum Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Location: Blyth Room, East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT

Date: Tuesday 18 June 2019

Time: 10:00-12:20

Invited: Andrew Cassy, Betsy Reid, Cathy Smith, Daniel Wareing, Jane Healey, Luke Bennett, Peter Ross, Phil Gore, Susan Harvey, James Mallinder, Sue Hall

In attendance: Andrew Cassy, Betsy Reid, Cathy Smith, Daniel Wareing, Jane Healey, Phil Gore, Sue Hall, Susan Harvey, James Mallinder (from 11:15)

Central purpose of the meeting

- To set workplan for Active Travel.

Agenda

1. Apologies and introductions
 - a. Apologies – Luke Bennett
2. Addition(s) to Steering Group
3. Update on new ESC leadership
- 4. Active Travel**
 - a. Workplan**
5. SCC Climate Emergency declaration
6. Next board meeting of East Suffolk Partnership
7. Updates on Plastic Action Champions & Yellow Fish
8. AOB – associated with goals and vision either positive or negative that we need to be aware of and acting on
9. Date(s) of next meeting(s)

Action from preliminary discussion:

Some confusion over recent changes to recycling bin input specification, and reasons for changes, were raised at beginning of the meeting. DW to approach SWP for clarification on recycling/composting from home and circulate guidance to Steering Group and to all members of Greenprint Forum.

2 Additions to Steering Group

James Mallinder environment portfolio holder for ESC. As per the Constitution the Portfolio for the Environment is expected to be a member of the Steering Group. CS proposed, PG seconded. No dissent, JM admitted.

S Hall invited to meeting as guest. Sustainable travel credentials include extensive experience on travel related projects both professionally through Sustrans travel project in Ipswich, led Suffolk car chare for a year, and Suffolk Acre, volunteers as public transport liaison officer at Kesgrave TC, as well as as an individual being part of Wombat car share in Ipswich for example and doesn't own a car. DW proposed, S Harvey seconded. No dissent, S Hall admitted.

S Harvey – as she is no longer an elected member and is here as an individual JH proposed, AC seconded. No dissent, S Harvey readmitted.

S Harvey suggested that new Portfolio Holder for Transport Cllr Norman Brooks be invited as a guest to next SG meeting. **ACTION** - DW to extend invitation to Cllr Brooks and Carolyn Barnes in support from Planning on transport issues.

DW will update the profile document of Steering Group membership published on the webpages to reflect current personnel. **ACTION** – all Steering Group members to provide DW with a photo and short resume for inclusion.

Items 3 Update on new ESC Leadership & 5 SCC Climate Change Emergency Declaration were dealt with together by PG.

PG gave the Steering Group an update on the new Council. Cllr Steve Gallant is the new Leader, James Mallinder (JM) is the new Cabinet member for Environment. The new Council has a Conservative majority with 39 members, there are 7 Labour members, 4 Greens (3 in Beccles 1 in Melton), 3 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent. The Leader has set an inclusive agenda. Environment and digital enablement are set to be two additional strands to the Business Plan which will be updated for new council. The Council's Environmental Action Plan is also to be reviewed reflecting the authority's new business plan with further ambition with respect to the environment.

At the next full East Suffolk Council meeting on 24 July we are expecting a motion to be tabled asking the Council to declare a Climate Emergency which will be supported by the Leader and JM; PG is currently preparing background briefing to inform the Cabinet response to motion. If passed the ambition will be for the Council to become carbon neutral by 2030 and work with partners to achieve county wide carbon neutrality and to set up a Policy Development Panel (PDP) to monitor progress and set priorities. The Council intends to commission Groundwork to conduct an independent review of the carbon footprint of the Council's assets and activities and identify recommendations for action and what carbon neutrality will look like. Report will then inform the PDP and assist with formulating new Policies and an action plan.

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership to review shared targets in SCAP3 (due to be replaced by SCAP4 next year) in light of declaration by SCC and likelihood of others following suit.

4 Active Travel.

70% journeys are under 5 miles so there is clear potential here to encourage walking and cycling for short journeys but the perception of traffic danger is a barrier to people who might otherwise leave their cars at home and walk or cycle these short journeys instead if they perceived roads to be safer.

To investigate a reduction in the default speed limit on all urban roads down to 20mph, to calm traffic and create a perception of safer roads to encourage cycling and walking and lobby for Traffic Order to make the change. **ACTION** To contact Sharon Payne SCC to enquire about wider use of 20mph zones in urban areas and whether Community Self Help would be of assistance in implementation – DW/JH

WTC are consulting with SCC on proposal in their action plan to introduce 20mph limit round town (Quay St, Church St), but would not be enforceable unless made nationally. **ACTION** contact WTC to enquire about their plans and investigate whether there are any other towns working on similar projects we could learn from, and lobby groups Greenprint could join with to add to lobbying power – DW

EELG priority is for transport infrastructure around rural towns, **ACTION** to query with Norman Brooks what linking opportunity may exist here – DW

It was noted that there needs to be greater reflection in local neighbourhood plans not just on travel but all environmental issues.

What about use of natural features e.g. hedges – less aggressive management to encourage slower driving. Un-straightening, use of chicanes. Is this part of local requirements, Norfolk Quiet Lanes utilised half a million pounds funding for this sort of work.

IBC supports Ipswich Buses as major shareholder which gives council significant influence over services provided. Can ESC investigate making an investment into accessible mass community transit to replace those services lost when SCC cut 50% of its budget to support public buses. Can we make use of digital technology to plug the gap particularly in rural areas.

Connecting Communities have approached AONB for funding support for local community transport schemes, electric bus – Leader funding being explored but can ESC consider funding, and/ or consider engaging Norse Buses to provide employee bus service. **ACTION**

ACTION To enquire of WIs what ideas they have through their work on rural transport - JH

ACTION Can ESC raise with schools the possibilities for establishing walking buses through the anti-idling campaign, by helping identify local meeting points to divert those dropping off in cars outside schools to another more suitable site

nearly to ease congestion and get the kids walking part of the way and help the broader air quality agenda. DW/PG

It was noted that there is a risk that council funding towards provision of electric vehicle charging points is a form of subsidising private motoring potentially at expense of active travel and public transport whilst doing nothing to address issues of congestion or road safety or reducing the need for parking spaces which displaces nature, and concern over the environmental impact of mining lithium for EV batteries was also noted.

ACTION to promote what ESC are currently working on to enable better internet to enable more home working. DW/PG

Framlingham has appetite, can we trial a car club there. PG investigating.

6 ESP

Next ESP meeting on 10 July will be attended by AC. There will be an opportunity at subsequent ESP meeting on 11 September to present bid for funding to support Travel priorities.

15 November – 09:00-14:00 next ESP Forum.

7 Plastic Action

There are now 16 signed-up Plastic Action Champions with a second training session having been held in Lowestoft on 17.6.2019. Having attended Suffolk Show in May we will also have a presence at subsequent major festivals including the 1st Light Festival in Lowestoft on 22 and 23 June and Siren Festival in July or August (specific dates Champions/DW attending Siren are TBC).

We are about to commence on the next phase of Yellow Fish during 2019 following the successful pilot in Q4 of 2018/19. External funding for the project is coming from the East Suffolk Partnership, AONB Sustainable Development Fund, and the marine wildlife charity Sea Changers.

19 June is National Refill Day, the Council is issuing publicity in support of the initiative.

JM expressed a desire for more engagement with schools to promote the Plastic Action campaigns. **ACTION** DW to make direct contact with all schools to identify scope for engagement of relevant Eco-Councils or other groups within schools with the Plastic Action Champions network. DW is attending Felixstowe Youth Forum on 19 June to talk about Plastic Action.

8 AOB

W/C 24 June is National Swift Awareness Week.

9 Dates of next meetings

Tuesday afternoons preferred. **ACTION** DW to circulate suggested dates of subsequent meetings.