
Greenprint Forum Steering Group Meeting

Location: Blyth Room, East Suffolk House, Melton

Date: Tuesday 28 June 2022

Time: 10:00-12:00

Invited: Betsy Reid, Daniel Wareing, James Mallinder, Jane Healey, Laurence Moss, Luke Bennett, Susan Harvey, Chris Ryde, Andrew Jolliffe, Paul Mackie

In attendance: Luke Bennett, Jane Healey, Chris Ryde, Betsy Reid, Paul Mackie, Any Jolliffe, Laurence Moss

Apologies: James Mallinder, Susan Harvey

Agenda

1. Welcome/apologies – JH; including welcome to Paul Mackie
2. ESC Communities Partnerships – Green Communities – Andy Jolliffe
3. Discussion re. next event:
 - a. What do we want a resilient Suffolk to look like and what are we prepared to change about Suffolk in the course of adaptation? Resilience of communities to floods, drought, loss of biodiversity; adapting our homes retrofitting solar PV/ASHPs in sympathy with rural character of county.
4. Steering Group composition and profile – DW
5. Updates from Steerers – all
6. Update on ESC green agenda – DW
7. AOB

Dates of next meetings

27 September 2022

13 December 2022

28 March 2023

1. Welcome/apologies
Apologies noted from JM and SH. PM was welcomed to the group, as policy lead for ESC on environmental matters. PM introduced himself and his background in

sustainability and coastal protection, with the new role focusing on providing a strong strategic lead on environmental projects and policies across all aspects of the work of East Suffolk Council including partnership working with external agencies. PM will provide the Steering Group with a link with ESC at senior officer level.

2. ESC Communities Partnerships – Green Communities

CP for Kesgrave, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley has been exploring theme of “Environmental Care” as one of its three priorities set in 2019. The CP has explored what this theme means for their area and how to translate it into action. A virtual workshop was held to explore achievable actions against issues felt of importance to the community. E.g:

- a. Small grant scheme: £11,000 awards to recipients who mostly couldn't normally access grant funds;
- b. Martlesham and Rushmere Climate Action Groups on rewilding;
- c. Greener Communities – funding work to benefit the environment in a village taking replicable action sharing the knowledge for application elsewhere.

The CP took approach of eliminating reasons for not doing an action – once reasons such as lack of funding/resources etc eliminated, it can expose lack of will as the real reason.

A green communities document containing case studies and guides, including funding, learning, and outcomes, has now been produced and is aimed at other communities. E.g. Bredfield VH are happy to show visitors the solar PV array. Grundisburgh Playing Field now improved for biodiversity bringing nature to this community play area. Little Bealings Churchyard with engagement and education involving whole families (parents as well as children). Westerfield Station Wildlife Garden – station adopters already had an active project that needed a boost of funding which the CP provided. Volunteers from each of the projects are willing to talk to others to help guide them through and replicate successes elsewhere.

Next steps – expanding awareness of these schemes and how they can contribute to further action. ACTION – DW to promote via Greenprint newsletter and emails.

Have the projects been / are they being replicated in other CPs areas? With/without emphasis on environment priority/tailoring to other priorities of other CPs?

ACTION – AJ to circulate contact details for CP leads in each of the CP areas to members of the Steering Group. CP lead officers have all been briefed on the Green Communities Document.

BR asked if the electric minibus taxi service Katch could operate in Felixstowe – LB clarified it is a pilot still. It is subsidised on sliding scale (i.e. reducing over the 3 years of the pilot) overseen by the CP Board. The pilot is intended to inform potential for replication elsewhere in the county. Board is working with BACS and CATS (community transport schemes) to test other models in the Lowestoft and Saxmundham areas. SCC are focusing their efforts on this theme in East Suffolk due to the support of the CPs.

BR queried boundaries of CPs, with Waldringfield being in the Felixstowe CP rather than with Woodbridge. LB advised boundaries are based on member wards, but where issues are shared then these can be tackled on mutual basis between neighbouring CPs, or via the Board if the issue is district-wide.

3. Discussion re. next event

(Climate) Change Ready Homes Resilience vision was floated by LM for discussion. How do we find the balance, what are residents prepared to accept. LM has written to some installers of retrofit with a view to holding some sort of exhibition of local installers offering solutions for a range of retrofit (double glazing, solar PV, insulation) etc. Together with information about the solutions, grant/funding streams and opportunities, mythbusting. Would need involvement of planning officers, conservation area experts, community case studies (e.g. Martlesham Climate Action Group). ACTION – DW to follow up LM's approaches to installers and liaise with David Walton to obtain contact lists for installers through the SCEP home energy working group.

Suffolk Resilience Forum (raised by PM) key group for coordinating local resilience emergency response plans for incidents and events at parish levels. PM to make enquiries about scope of types of incidents/emergencies that the SRF are examining.

LB suggested Greenprint role to be to connect given scope and range of events, e.g. connecting to and promoting the Coastal Forum and the SRF rather than duplicating.

Greener Waldringfield are planning a retrofit campaign; Waldringfield homes mainly fairly modern but still require modernisation; the event GW have planned could be part of a programme of events Greenprint promote.

Focus of an event to be on rural villages with a traditional rural/historic character.

Event could then have reference to the new Sustainable Construction SPD.

IDEA agreed – launch event (possibly the event GW have planned?) to explore theme of retrofit and gauge interest in a subsequent mobile service (modelled on Rural Coffee Caravan).

Small subgroup to be formed involving PM, LM, LB, DW to pursue and develop a plan.

4. Steering Group composition and profile

ACTION – DW to follow up agreed proposals of prospective additions to the group.

All to provide their profile and picture updates for the SG profile to DW by end of week commencing 4 July 2022.

5. Updates from members:

JH – local food project 2021 leaflet circulated. Idea to flag up awareness of local producers within 21 mile radius and promote local retailers and restaurants who use local produce. Leaflet funded by Melton & Woodbridge TC and distributed to all households within the two parishes. Environmental awareness market planned for September. Woodbridge Repair Café still going 1st Monday of every month at the Church.

BR- GW hedgelaying project funded by Greenprint; volunteers have now become Tree Wardens. (Hedgeline is the website offering advice for management of hedges.)

GW to have two repair cafes annually; next one will be in October.

GW recently organised a tour of the EfW, which shone a light on the amount of food waste and whether that is the best route for it.

LM – Greener Peasenhall meetings in person due to resume soon.

6. ESC green agenda updates

Time ran out to cover this item verbally. The Group agreed that DW would supply a written update with the minutes instead as follows:

ESC built assets

The Council has updated the EPC certificates of its built assets. All EPCs displayed in those assets that are open to the public are now up to date. A further 15 in non-public facing buildings have been renewed.

In the course of updating the EPC certificates the assets team are identifying those assets where opportunities for energy efficiency improvements exist and generate the business case for measures to reduce energy consumption and related emissions and improve the future EPC ratings of those assets.

ESC fleet

A procurement of 14 refuse collection vehicles CVs has been carried out to replace older vehicles that cannot take Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel. These are now in service and the RCV fleet has been using HVO fuel since 6 June.

ESC HRA stock

The Council have undertaken some surveys to our current HRA stock on certain archetypes and this has provided us with an insight into the technologies we need to put in place to work towards the zero carbon agenda. We are currently looking at 2 pilot schemes, we are finalising the data collecting for these 2 pilot projects which will enable us to produce a project timeline for delivery. In addition to this we are also going to be creating a standard for any refurbishment works to the HRA stock so that it is bought to the appropriate standard when being refurbished.

ESC planning

The Sustainable Construction SPD was adopted by East Suffolk Council on 5th April 2022. The SPD provides guidance on the implementation of policies relating to sustainable construction in the East Suffolk Council - Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and East Suffolk Council - Waveney Local Plan policies. The SPD provides information on a range of topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and use of materials. The SPD is available to view online here:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/supplementary-planning-documents/

Air Quality

The Environmental Protection Team have recently recruited an Air Quality Technical Officer on a fixed term 1-year contract to review and update the Council's Air Quality Strategy and assist with technical aspects of the Council's legal obligations with regard to Local Air Quality Management.

Defra are recommending that the AQMA in Woodbridge be revoked and ESC are currently carrying out a public consultation on the proposed revocation of this AQMA which closes on 11 July.

Treebilee

As part of the Treebilee scheme launched by HRH The Prince of Wales to encourage the planting of trees to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, East Suffolk Council launched its own branch of the Queen's Green Canopy in February.

The project will form a lasting memorial in the form of 200 new oak trees to be planted around the district, with 186 of them being donated to 125 parish councils, including 2 parishes who lost trees during Storm Eunice, with each parish council also receiving a commemorative plaque. A primary school has also requested a tree and a plaque, and any spares have been requested by a local community group. All plaques have been claimed and all 200 trees that were purchased will be planted.

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership

Community Matchfunder now launched to assist charities, community interest companies, parish councils, voluntary groups and other not for profit organisations who wish to deliver community-based carbon reduction projects that contribute to carbon neutrality. It can fund projects that:

- Improve the energy efficiency of buildings
- Promote walking and cycling
- Promote the use of sustainable/recycled materials
- Raise awareness of climate change through events

The fund will support up to 50% of costs (up to a maximum of £10,000) for applications demonstrating that others in the community support the project in the form of contributions from multiple separate sponsors to make up the remaining project costs.