



## Kesgrave Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association

### Community Environmental Action (CEA) Close Report

Produced by Suffolk Coastal District Council as part of the Community Environmental Action Project funded by Suffolk Coastal LSP and the Environment Agency.

5.5.2016

#### 1. Introduction

Kesgrave Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association was formally constituted in January 2009 with the prime purpose of securing allotments for Kesgrave residents. At this time membership fluctuated at 55 individuals. As there was no land available to the group in Kesgrave they managed to negotiate the rental of 5 acres of farmland near Kesgrave to establish a private community allotment site. The plots were opened to members in March 2012 and a website created to increase reach. It is worth noting that KALGA Ltd. is run by volunteers, many of whom have other extensive commitments.

On the 21 February 2012, at KALGA's request, the CEA advisor carried out a survey of those attending the annual general meeting to identify support for environmental initiatives the CEA fund would be interested in supporting. Only 13 out of 55 responded but it gave an indication of areas for the committee to consider:

- Online carbon foot print (12)
- Glut stall (12)
- Training (6-8): growing food, when to plant, what to plant etc., organic growing, low water use growing and permaculture.
- Bulk buying water butts (6)

Two of these were incorporated into an application for CEA funding. On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 it obtained £1000 in funds and support from Groundwork through the Greenprint Forum CEA project, which was funded by Suffolk Coastal LSP and the Environment Agency. A breakdown of eligible evidenced expenditure is contained in Appendix 1.

To obtain this money, in addition to using the money towards core costs to meeting its aims, which were considered compatible with the CEA remit of engaging people

in action to reduce carbon emissions and build local resilience to cope with climatic changes, it committed to:

- 1) Encouraging cycling to site
- 2) Running training events on growing techniques including low water use.
- 3) Working with the local community and school to encourage a 'growing your own' culture
- 4) Building noticeboards and wooden compost bays or getting a compost toilet
- 5) Attending and sharing their experiences at a Greenprint Forum meeting
- 6) Using its mailing list to share broader environmental messages.

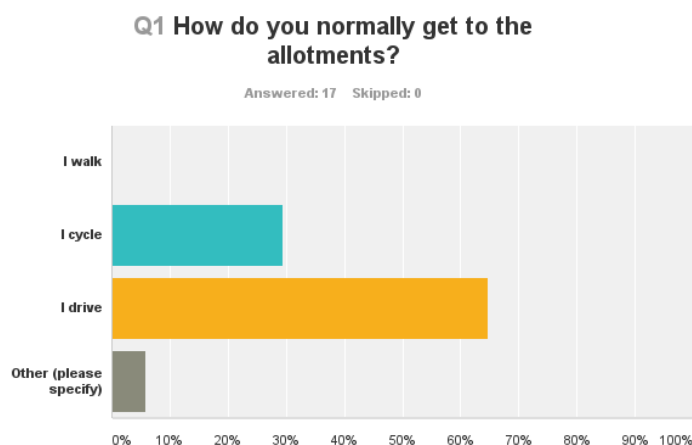
## 2. Progress against commitments

### 2.1 Encouraging cycling to site

Following a survey in Feb 2012 to determine what would encourage cycling the committee coordinated a bulk buy of sheds (this helps reduce the need to carry heavy equipment making cycling more viable). In addition a simple local cycle map was produced and low key communications to encourage cycling were included in a few newsletters and at AGMs.

Three people took up cycling to the site in 2012 and recorded their journeys between 1 May 2012 and the 1 July 2012. Together they avoided driving 99 miles, benefitting their health and avoiding 30kg carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.

In 2016 while most responding still drive the number of people usually cycling to the allotments rather than driving has increased to five. In one year alone these five people will have avoided greenhouse gas emissions associated with driving by a total of 50kg.



## 2.2 Running training events on growing techniques including low water use

Members onsite, including a Master Composter, have provided training and advice for free as and when requested and growing tips have been included within the newsletter. A bulk buy of water butts has helped to reduce pressure on borehole water.

## 2.3 Working with the local community and school to encourage a 'growing your own' culture

- The group helped Cedarwood school create a vegetable plot see Appendix 2 for photos.
- Two open days have been held, one in September 2013 and one in August 2014. These were promoted via the website, "Kesgrave News", "In Touch" and word of mouth.

## 2.4 Building noticeboards and wooden compost bays or getting a compost toilet

Individuals have their own compost bins on their plots or take compost home. The compost toilet was looked into and a portaloos was hired to gauge likely use. Because most people live so close the decision was that the level of use did not warrant the expenditure. Instead to reduce the embodied carbon from multiple strimmer purchases, enhance composting on site, enable general site maintenance and make plots accessible to first time allotment keepers a community strimmer was purchased.

A noticeboard is still to be purchased but quotes have been obtained and it will be in place before the end of 2016.

## 2.5 Attending and sharing their experiences at a Greenprint Forum meeting

A member of KALGA will be attending the Greenprint Forum on Monday 23 May 2016, 7pm - 9pm Butley Village Hall, Mill Lane, Butley, Woodbridge IP12 3PA to share experiences and tips for others wanting to help people grow their own in a low carbon way.

## 2.6 Using its mailing list to share broader environmental messages.

Articles will continue to be included in the newsletter and at AGMs as appropriate.

### 3 Recommendations for the Committee to consider in the future.

3.1 Use your website, monthly newsletter and the notice board to share tips on low environmental impact plot holding and cycling. An example has been produced for May. Join the Greenprint Forum Mailing list for further ideas.

#### May

#### Cycling – good for you and the environment



If just 30 additional plot holders decided to swap driving for cycling KALGA could reduce its emissions by 2 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year. As individuals we will benefit by reduced risk of coronary heart disease indeed according to the British Heart Foundation, cycling at least 20 miles per week reduces the risk of coronary heart disease to less than half that for non-cyclists.

#### Worried about carrying your produce?

Two plot holders have different solutions to this

Debbie plot 64 'I will drive when I have plants to pop in or when time limits me to dropping in enroute from work but otherwise I cycle with veggies and seeds in bags in my shop bought paniers and in my rucksack. It's a great way to work different muscles to those used on the plot'.

Kev Plot 51 'Many of you will know that I cycle regularly and have even created my own simple paniers using buckets to make it easier to carry veg and small tools. If you want to look at my bike and the paniers pop along to my plot while I am there, usually a Saturday morning – always happy to help'

### **Worried about the condition of the roads/cycle paths?**

Potholes can be more than a nuisance. They can be a danger to cyclists and others. Lots of work goes into maintaining roads and rights of way. Road and surfaced cycle tracks, even those which are a public right of way are, generally, maintained by Suffolk Highways on behalf of Suffolk County Council. They have a regular inspection frequency, every 1 to 12 months depending on priority. For example high priority or prestige walking areas such as high streets are inspected monthly. However to help them if you see a problem do take a note of the location, the type of problem and a photo and submit via <http://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk>.

### **Wondering where to get a cheap bike?**

The Green Bike Project in Ipswich rescues and repairs unwanted bikes from the general public and go about fixing them up with the help of our volunteers and service-users, providing training, life skills and work-based experience for people with learning disabilities. They then sell them on through the Stable Block in Holywells Park, Ipswich, they are open Tuesday to Saturday 9.30 to 3.30.

More info on [www.orwellmencap.co.uk/green\\_bike.html](http://www.orwellmencap.co.uk/green_bike.html)

3.2 Consider the requests made by those who currently drive to site but may cycle if the following options are available

- Sheffield stand (with space for a tandem) – one person suggested
- Covered bike parking – one person suggested
- Permission to use roads/paths from Playford end to cut journey distance and time – one person suggested
- Purchase a bike – one person suggested

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of data in this report Suffolk Coastal District Council employees may not be held liable for errors of fact or interpretation. In most instances figures have been rounded. This report may be used for research or education purposes, provided a reference to the source is given, and is not used in a misleading context.

## Appendix 1 Break down of Expenditure

Estimated on project start up

- 1) £200 Core costs for year 1: 08-Mar-12 to the 08-Mar-2013 after which the site will be self sustaining
- 2) £100 – majority of costs
- 3) Bulk buying of items to help members reduce carbon footprint  
£500 - Bushcutter and toilet trial
- 4) Community Engagement  
£50 – no evidence of payment
- 5) Encourage cycling take up  
£150 – nothing spent in this area

| <b>KALGA Eligible evidenced expenditure</b>           |              |      |
|---|--------------|------|
| Petrol Brushbutter                                    | 9.9.2013     | 415  |
| Kesgrave allotment and Leisure Gardens Insurance fees | Mar-13       | 65   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 15/4/2013                | 18.3.2013    | 20   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 4/3/2013                 | 18.3.2013    | 20   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 3/12/2012                | 30.11.2012   | 20   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 5/11/2012                | 1.11.2012    | 20   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 1/11/2012                | 25.9.2012    | 20   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 1/10/2012                | 25.9.2012    | 20   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 3/9/2012                 | 28.8.2012    | 20   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 6/8/2012                 | 6.8.2012     | 20   |
| Toilet trial  | 10.9.2012    | 49.2 |
| Toilet trial  | 6.8.2012     | 96.8 |
| Toilet trial  | 10.7.2012    | 92.4 |
| Toilet trial  | 11.6.2012    | 61.6 |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 11/6/2012                | 6.6.2012     | 20   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 30/4/2012                | 8.5.2012     | 20   |
| Kesgrave community Hall hire 2/4/2012                 | 2.4.2014     | 20   |
|   |              |      |
|   | <b>Total</b> | 1000 |