

Greenprint Forum Newsletter, July 2018



None of us were very surprised when the [East Anglian Daily Times 2018 Suffolk Says](#) survey of 1500 people found that ‘beautiful countryside and wildlife and a good quality of life’ are the best things about living in Suffolk. Many of us have been surprised by the number of hot, dry days we have been experiencing. Water butts are empty and plants are showing signs of stress.

You can help wildlife by turning your outside space and allotment into a home for nature by doing simple things like topping up any birdbaths daily, creating a make-shift pond from a washing-up tub, compost bin lid or any other shallow sided vessel. But do put something like rocks in to ensure that creatures falling in can always get out (even cat drinking bowls can be a death trap to tiny creatures like young frogs).

If you need a quiet moment indoors and out of the sun have a look at this months newsletter. It includes: an interview with past paid intern Charlie Pike, the launch of #refill Suffolk, community energy in Suffolk, beach watch, Suffolk Waste Partnership’s litter solution trials, plastic free shopping and upcoming events.

Other good to reads include:

1) [Communicating Environmental and Sustainability Science](#): dialogue based engagement, framing the issues, narrative building, making science understandable with out over simplifying. The key finding being that further research and improved collaboration is needed between researchers, organisations and centres of expertise.

2) Suffolk Coast and Heaths 2017 Beachwatch Results. Together volunteers have removed 14, 110 items of litter, 75% of which is plastic. The results will results will be available soon on www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/volunteering/volunteering-learn-more/beachwatch/



in partnership



Greenprint Forum empowering the next generation



Photo and article by Charlie Pike

What is your current employment?

I currently work for the environmental department within East Sussex Council as a Data Analyst.

What environmental roles did you have before this?

During my time at university studying BSc Politics at the University of Southampton I was offered the opportunity to have a summer working within the council at East Suffolk. During my 3 months at the council I was working as a paid intern within Environmental Services. Some of the main tasks I was challenged with undertaking during this time were to create reports on the annual carbon footprint of the council, rewrite the Joint Environmental Policy as well as working with the team to host events for the Greenprint Forum.

How did the Suffolk Rising High Internship help you with getting this job?

My internship at East Suffolk was one of the key factors behind being offered my role at the East Sussex Council. A lot of my work during my internship was statistically driven, giving me the on-the-job experience needed to succeed in a data analysis role.

What would you say were the strengths of the Greenprint Forum having had a brief chance to get to know the network?

The Greenprint Forum not only provides an opportunity for the local community to become actively engaged in events and schemes that they might not otherwise know about, it also runs its own events, workshops and awareness programs to help enable community action. During my time working within the Forum we held awareness events on topics ranging from the protection of hedgerows to the increased usage of electric vehicles. This demonstrates the diverse scope of the forum and the fact there is something for everyone to become involved in.

Is there anything else you would like to say about your internship?

In addition to the skills I picked up during my time at East Suffolk, I would say that one of the most important aspects of the internship was that it gave me the confidence to go forward and start applying to other roles. Before my summer at Melton Hill I had never worked in an office environment and it really provided me with invaluable experience in that regard.

Is there any advice you would give to a young person starting to think about work?

Almost every bit of work in every department of the government be it at a local, national or international level links back the environmental sector; its importance cannot be underestimated.

#Refill Suffolk has been launched



Image thanks to Jason @Refillsuffolk

How Does it Work?

Participating café's, bars, restaurant, banks, galleries and other publically accessible businesses simply put a sticker in their window – alerting passers-by to the fact they're welcome to come on in and fill up their bottle – for free! Download the free Refill rewards app to see where you can Refill on the go.

Why carry a bottle with you?

While plastic has its place, single-use water bottles represent a waste of natural resources, time and effort to make and transport. Although they can and should be taken home to put in the recycling bin when we have finished with them, it is clear from litter-pick and beach-clear survey results and the contents of rubbish bins in organisations and on the streets that not everyone is doing this. To avoid wasted resources and the risk of them entering our waterways and making their way into the sea let us all make the switch to reusable today.

If you run a business in Woodbridge or Melton and would like to join Refill email twoodbridge@gmail.com

If you run a business anywhere else in Suffolk and would like to join email refillsuffolk@rubbishwalks.co.uk



Community Energy in Suffolk

John Taylor
Project Officer
Suffolk Climate Change Partnership



In Suffolk a great many of us value our natural environment and want to take action to reduce negative impacts, including cutting carbon emissions. Neighbourhood Development Plans give communities the opportunity to influence planning decisions within their area.

Neighbourhood plans can be used to set out the vision for an area including what type and where new development should be located, such as new homes. They can also contain policies to influence what new development will look like and to help protect local character. Once adopted the Neighbourhood Development Plan becomes a statutory plan and will be used alongside other Local Plan documents to help make decisions on planning applications in the area covered by the Neighbourhood Development Plan. More information on the process can be found on www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/preparing-a-neighbourhood-plan/.

On the 4th July 2018, the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and the Suffolk Association of Local Councils held a workshop attended by 40 parish councils and neighbourhood planning groups, launching a new community energy support campaign.

For those developing or thinking of developing neighbourhood plans this support offer includes:

- 1) Organising one event to be repeated in three locations across Suffolk
- 2) Helping you facilitate a community workshop to look at the potential for community energy in your area
- 3) Technical support in the form of feasibility studies
- 4) Links to key connections in UK Power Networks and Ofgem
- 5) Links to funding providers and support in reviewing quotes and completing applications
- 6) Shared ownership advice

4th July 2018, Community Energy in neighbourhood plans workshop

This first event was jointly organised by Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and introduced the tools, support and information required for local groups to take the lead and design low carbon solutions into their neighbourhood plans that are right for their community.

Local and national examples of how to incorporate included:

- Villages who have set up their own solar energy cooperative.
- Community centres who lead the way by fitting the latest green technology to reduce their bills and educate their users.
- Getting support to assess which renewable energy technologies are suitable for your community.
- Tackling fuel poverty and household CO2 emissions by retrofitting insulation and renewable energy into our homes.

The presentations can be found on www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/communityenergy/
A lot of useful information can also be found on <http://hub.communityenergyengland.org/>



Suffolk Coast and Heaths and Stour Valley Volunteers Beach Watch

Most of us will know by now the risks posed to birds by plastic litter. Knowing that an internationally important habitat in our area has also become a plastic litter accumulation point is of concern.

[Trimley Marshes](#) is an 85ha internationally important wetland site. Prior to 1990 it was farmland. It was converted to wetlands in a major civil engineering project to reduce the level of harm done by the loss of the internationally important Fagbury Muds in the expansion of the Port of Felixstowe. Now it provides a wide range of fantastic habitats and feeding places for wild fowl, marginal nesting birds and migrating waders. Sadly it has also become litter accumulation point.

On the 18th July 2018 Will Eden, Student Placement - Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Team, organised a beach clean audit and pick to identify the key issues and to remove that days accumulation. In just 1.5 hours the 22 people took part in the pick gathered 10 bags of rubbish weighing 18kg! The chart below shows that the majority of this was plastic.

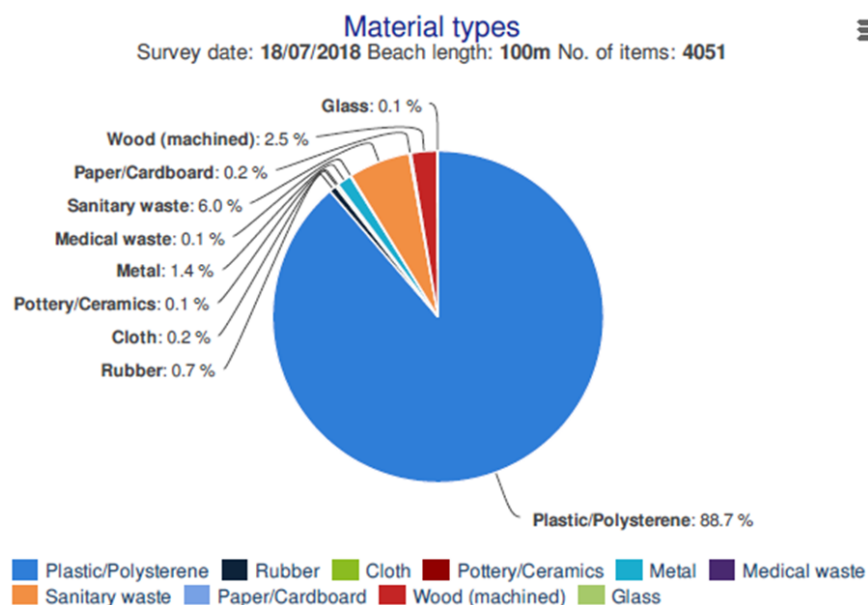




Photo of nurdles by Will Eden

Based on Marine Conservation data it is likely that 32% was littered by members of the public and nearly 6% came from items we are putting in our toilets (things like wet wipes, sanitary products and cotton buds). So these are things that are easily within our control. Others such as the nurdles shown in the image require us either to switch away from plastics all together or the plastics industry (particularly processors), transportation and ports to take even more action to prevent further escapes and ensure clean ups despite the low financial value of nurdles (250 = 1p). Innovation is also needed to collect and utilise those already in nature.

Nurdles are small plastic pellets about the size of a lentil (3mm to 5mm). Because they are about the same size and shape as a fish egg they present a significant risk to marine animals. They are the raw material which nearly all our plastic goods are made from. [Research](#) in 2016 commissioned from Eunomia Research and Consulting by Fidra, an environmental charity based in East Lothian, Scotland suggests around 53 billion pellets could be lost to the wider environment in the UK each year. That's the equivalent of 35 full tanker-loads of pellets spilled.

[Operation Clean Sweep](#) is an international voluntary scheme that those in the plastics industry can sign up to join efforts to work towards zero pellet, flake, and powder loss. Eunomia Research and Consulting have recommended an independent study to determine effectiveness and governments to consider enforcement if the industry proves unable to take sufficient action to effectively protect the commons.

What can you do about nurdles? If you holiday in Scotland why not go on a [Nurdle Hunt](#) and report the findings to Fidra to help them build the evidence of the need for greater action. Let us know if you do this and send a good photo and results to greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk as well. Your holiday could inspire others.

Trialling Litter Solutions



You may have noticed signs appearing on key routes, fuel pumps, council refuse freighters/sweepers and in large carparks. You may even have noticed the new bright orange gaping mouth bins in laybys at known litter hot spots along the A11, A12, A14, A140 and A146. This is part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership campaign to combat roadside litter. The four weeks of paid advertising campaign has now finished, there were 672,000 potential views of the adverts over the 4 weeks that they were displayed at 14 supermarket forecourts across Suffolk. Now a trial of remote devices to monitor bin fill levels and usage has begun.

If the technology works as expected this data will give operational staff more flexibility to schedule the emptying of bins when they are at their optimum fill level instead of being on a rigid emptying schedule and it should reduce risks of overfull bins and irresponsible people deciding to litter or stuff bins beyond capacity.

The remote devices are the final part of the project which is utilising a £10,000 grant from the [Government's Litter Innovation Fund](#).





A new start up company is raising excitement levels in Bredfield, Felixstowe, Rendlesham and Woodbridge by giving people the chance to buy goods without the guilt of plastic packaging.

Inspired by Blue Planet, long time environmentalist Mel Menhams is on a mission to help others cut plastic waste.

“When I found I couldn’t get nuts, rice, pasta and other staples locally in the volumes we need as a family without them coming in plastic I decided the best solution would be to buy in bulk and sell what I don’t need so that I help others whilst supporting my family with an ethical career.” said Mel Menhams.

“I only sell goods that I have tried myself and that I consider to be both affordable and ethical. My long term aim is to buy only goods that do not come in fossil fuel plastics and to buy as local as possible but in the meantime I ensure that I recycle all that can be and at least buying in bulk cuts the amount of plastic I have to deal with. “

To find out more and to buy goods go to:

Old Jet Market, Bentwaters Park, Suffolk, IP12 2TW www.oldjet.co.uk/event/old-jet-market/

[Crafted Artisan Fayre](#), Bredfield Village Hall, Woodbridge, IP13 6AX



Upcoming Events

30th July - 4th August 2018 Rubbish Walks Beach Clean Marathon to raise money for the Brain Tumour Trust. More details on <https://rubbishwalks.co.uk/beach-clean-marathon/>. The Greenprint Forum will be supporting on Monday 30 July – 9am – Lowestoft, Thursday 2 August – 1.30pm – Aldeburgh and Saturday 4 August in Felixstowe. Why not join us on those days to pick litter.

Thursday 2nd August 2018 Santa is coming to Felixstowe on his summer holidays Thanks to Plastic Free Felixstowe Santa will be arriving in a rickshaw at Felixstowe Pier at 1100. Children will then be able to meet him in his grotto on the Pier. Plastic free snacks are being provided. Admission will be free. Any voluntary donations will go to EACH (East Anglia Children's Hospice). There will also be music from the Felixstowe Community Choir and Fresh Gold Radio, plus special guest Mick Mills (former Ipswich Town player). The Greenprint Forum will be running a litter pick as part of this event and providing an elf.

Monday 6th August 2018 at 10am, A visit to Masons Materials Recycling Facility, Great Blakenham, a Suffolk Waste Partnership event run on behalf of the Greenprint Forum This talk and tour is expected to take between 1.5 and 2 hours. Please be aware that due to the strong magnets people with pacemakers and pregnant ladies are not advised to attend. This tour is not suitable for anyone under the age of 16.

Wednesday 29th August 2018 10am to 2pm Plastic Action Stall Felixstowe Triangle Pop and see samples of plastic free goods, meet Master Composters and learn about recycling. Bring your cracker and biscuit wrappers for recycling.

Sunday 2nd September 2018 Plastic Action at Art on the Prom Come and meet artist Margaret Wylie as she turns waste from the day into a sculpture and volunteer to help by collecting litter from the beach and from people buying food from local vendors. If you would like to volunteer contact Debbie on 01394 444747.

Monday 3rd September 2018 at 2pm Energy from Waste, Great Blakenham, a SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd event run on behalf of the Greenprint Forum The tour is expected to take between 1.5 and 2 hours; it will include a chance to explore the children's visitor centres and a tour of the facility. Please be aware on the plant tour we will walk about 1.5km, there are over 300 stairs – up and down. We will climb 23 levels and there are mesh walkways so this tour is not suitable for people with mobility issues or vertigo.

Thursday, 6th September 2018 Plastic Action Day, Kirkley Centre, 154 London Rd S, Lowestoft NR33 0AZ
Registration starts at 9.45am for a talk and screening of the Plastic Tide for those that have not seen it yet and a brief chance to ask questions and discuss basic household issues and solutions on plastic waste. After this the event will be a drop in one with stalls selling plastic free goods and providing advice and support on a wide range of community issues. At 1pm there will be the opportunity for up to 30 people to go on a litter pick in the local area.

Saturday 15th September 2018 Plastic Action beachwatch and street clean, meet at Manor Terrace car-park, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 2EL at 2pm.

Wednesday, 26th September 2018 Plastic Action Forum, Riverside, 4 Canning Rd, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ
Registration starts at 5.30pm with a buffet at 6pm and a chance for those who want to see a Plastic Tide and others to network and buy plastic free goods from local providers. This will be the official launch of our Plastic Action Champion scheme and will include talks and a chance to question experts and discuss issues and solutions.

Please email greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk with questions or to book for all of these. For Wednesday the 26th September please specify if you will want to watch the film and if you want to bring a stand.



Who we are

For those of you that don't know, the Greenprint Forum is a voluntary network facilitated by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils to help deliver their [business plan](#). Specifically enabling community environmental action to improve lives and strengthen our economy. Whilst our focus is on east Suffolk anyone, anywhere can join for free to help inform and learn from our thinking. Please do be aware that we have one passionate part time staff resource (two days a week dedicated to this), a steering group of 12 who give of their knowledge while being active in their own communities/ organisations and all other effort is voluntary or requires funding to be gained to pay for it.

How to contact us

www.twitter.com/GreenprintForum

www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/

greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

01394 444747

