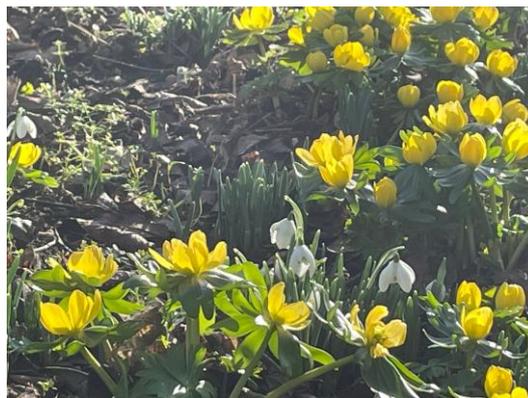


Greenprint Forum newsletter winter 2021/22

Welcome to the winter newsletter for members of the Greenprint Forum. As I assemble this newsletter during the final weekend of January the sun is shining and it's been slightly milder of late – almost a return to the T-shirt weather we experienced around the turn of the New Year. East Suffolk is of course home to some gorgeous landscapes with lots of excellent routes to explore and enjoy a brisk winter walk – the AONB team have a wealth of suggested walking routes and guides on their website: [Visitor Guides – Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB](#) .



Are you up to date with the Highway Code?

There is important news for anyone who uses our roads – whatever the mode of travel. Effective from 29 January 2022, there has been a significant overhaul of the Highway Code which is intended to make our roads safer for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders by codifying greater courtesy on the part of all road users. The hope is that this will contribute to an environment that encourages modal shift to forms of active travel.



A significant change is the introduction for the first time of a Hierarchy of Road Users, reflecting the need for those whose mode of travel poses the most potential to cause harm to others to be especially careful towards them. In rural areas, we would hope that this helps to reinforce the goal of [Quiet Lanes Suffolk](#) – a project funded by East Suffolk Council on behalf of the Greenprint Forum, and by Suffolk County Council – to help preserve the tranquillity of the many narrow rural lanes that are being designated as Quiet Lanes under the project, for the benefit of those who want to enjoy our country routes by active means.

Many of the changes simply clarify and formalise standards that one would hope all road users would already abide by out of common courtesy and good sense.

The authoritative source of the full current Highway Code is [The Highway Code - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code) and the key changes can be seen on <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022> . So now is a good time to refamiliarise yourself with the Highway Code and I would urge all readers to share this widely.

East Suffolk Council Cycling & Walking Strategy

Whilst on the theme of travel, thank you to everyone who responded to our consultation on our draft East Suffolk Cycling & Walking Strategy which closed on 10 January. East Suffolk Council officers, in collaboration with Suffolk County Council officers, are considering all responses and will amend the draft to take account of comments. The intention is to publish the final strategy later in the spring or summer.



Oak Tree Wildlife and Education Group (part of Oak Tree Community Farm), by Robin Morris-Denholm

We were overjoyed to have our funding bid approved last autumn by the Greenprint Forum! Since we received confirmation of our successful bid we have been busy at work creating our vision.

The farm has been a very successful Community Supported Agriculture scheme for some time, and over the years we have had some enjoyable school visits who were interested in how to grow organic food.

Our group, which formed earlier last year, originated from one of the farm's directors, Tom Wilmot. A number of our members are educators and were keen, along with Tom, to build on the successful visits and create a designated space at the farm for outdoor education. As we already have a small area for teaching pupils how to grow vegetables, we decided to focus our efforts on our biodiverse landscape.



Our project space, which we are in the midst of creating, will include a pond dipping area with an adjoining bog, beetle banks, wildflower meadow, wild hedgerows, a storage shed and a learning area with benches. As you can see in our picture, we are finishing off the pond and are on our way to sowing our wildflower meadow and building our beetle banks. We will then create educational packages aimed at different age groups around these areas and create links with local schools. We hope to begin offering these opportunities this summer!

If you work in a school or have children at a school who you think may be interested in visiting our farm, please email: hello@the-oak-tree.co.uk

Also, if anyone is interested in joining our CSA or want to know more, visit our website: <http://www.the-oak-tree.co.uk/> . We look forward to updating you on our project as the works progress!

Robin Morris-Denholm,
Oak Tree Wildlife and Education Group member, Oak Tree Community Farm,
Rushmere St Andrew



Editor's note: The Greenprint Forum's small grants scheme, Nature First, remains open for applications for grants towards community projects that promote and/or enhance biodiversity in east Suffolk. For more information, to see details of projects that have already been awarded grants, and to apply, visit: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/supporting-community-environmental-action/nature-first-small-grants-scheme/>

Educationalists may also be interested in this article by teacher Katie Foster about how Warren School in Lowestoft has provided for nature in the school grounds and made it part of the learning experience: [Urban Greening - How To Make Our Schools Wilder \(wildeast.co.uk\)](http://wildeast.co.uk)



Grants for businesses responding to the net zero challenge

Is your business planning a project to help cut your carbon footprint? Check out the new Road to Net Zero grants from the New Anglia Growth Hub which can offer grants from £1,000 to £25,000, of up to 75% of eligible project costs, to businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Projects can be wide ranging and include, but not restricted to, energy efficiency, clean energy, supply chain engagement, behaviour change/education, and reducing waste.

There is a limited pot of funding available, so the Growth Hub are looking for businesses to bring forward investment projects that will have a significant impact on their business, and grant applications will be considered by the panel on “first-come, first-served” basis.

The projects must be completed in full by 30 April 2022 so they are looking for projects that are ready to proceed immediately and are not dependent on planning or any other permissions, and which have confirmed delivery and completion dates.

To speak to the New Anglia Growth Hub’s Net Zero advisers and to apply for the scheme, call 0300 333 6536 or email info@newangliagrowthhub.co.uk – more information, including [FAQs](#), is available on the website: <https://newanglia.co.uk/grant/road-to-net-zero-grants/>

Road to Net Zero Challenge Fund



The Road to Net Zero Business Support Programme is a pilot initiative designed to pro-actively pivot business support and grants on a net zero future, building business advice expertise, and developing a portfolio of tested interventions which can be rolled out further in future.

The Net Zero Challenge Fund will enable the programme to support a small number of flagship business projects at 100% of project costs. The Fund is offered on an Open Call basis and will be assessed collaboratively by key partners. The Challenge Fund is designed to bring innovative and creative ideas and the testing of technologies in the private sector to help solve public sector net zero challenges.

Businesses are now invited to apply for the Challenge Fund. Again the timeline is very tight - the Growth Hub are seeking fully costed proposals for activity and/or technology pilots to be carried out between 1st March and 31st May 2022, with all claims for funding required by the end of May 2022, with a deadline of 18 February 2022 for submissions. For full details, [visit the Growth Hub's Tenders page here.](#)



Climate Change and Nature Conservation – the links explained, by Stewart Belfield

A recent climate emergency summit in Woodbridge included a talk by a representative of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The talk, which was largely about nature habitats and wilding, was interesting and galvanising, but I noted that there was no mention of ‘climate change’ in the whole talk. I suspect that the speaker assumed that everyone in the audience knew and could trace the connection between tackling climate change, on the one hand, and nature conservation, on the other. However, I fear that this may be a rather optimistic assumption. When I’ve talked to people about climate change and being wildlife-friendly, I usually get a good response, but I have been asked “how can being wildlife-friendly in my garden, or your garden, help tackle climate change?” A good question, and we shouldn’t assume that everyone can trace the connection between the two. Let’s see if we can connect the two things - climate change and being wildlife-friendly - in a manner that is clear and convincing. First, we need to return to the basics and remind ourselves what is causing current climate change.

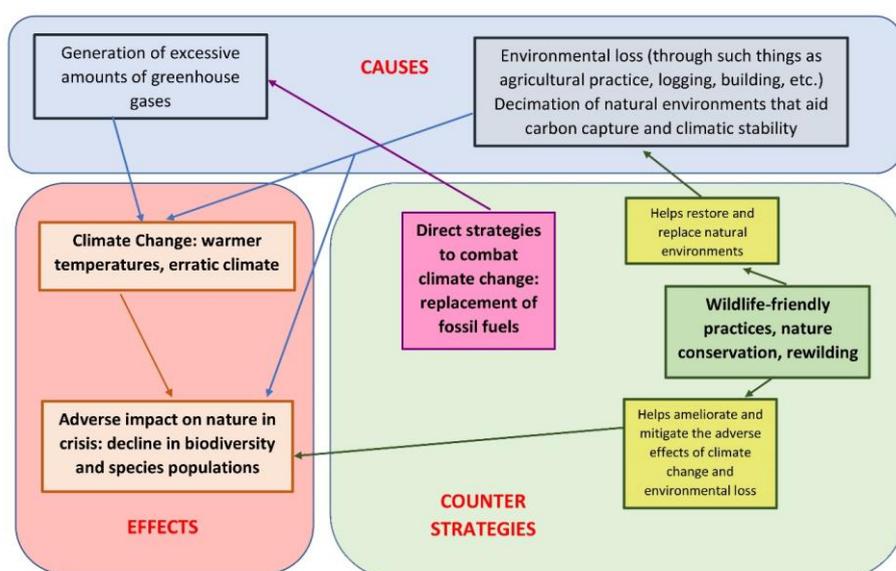
Greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide, methane and others - have always been present; always been generated. The crucial point about greenhouse gases is not that they are new, but that they are now present in excessive amounts. The current amount of these gases in the atmosphere is a result of two things: increasing production of these gases (largely through burning fossil fuels) and declining resources for absorbing carbon (forests, cold and nutrient-rich oceans, non-arid soils, etc). The natural balance which made Earth so perfectly habitable (the ‘just right’ Goldilocks effect) is now increasingly out of kilter.

When we talk of ‘declining resources for absorbing carbon’ we are, in large part, referring to the destruction of habitats where nature has previously thrived. Conservation strategies aimed at stopping such environmental damage, or aimed at habitat restoration (such as planting trees), will usually have a positive climate impact in terms of increasing natural resources for carbon sequestration. In this respect, nature conservation is a direct and potent strategy for tackling climate change.

However, other nature conservation strategies may lack, or appear to lack, this direct link to tackling climate change. To take an example close to the heart of what we are trying to do in [Bredfield](#), wildlife-friendly gardening (including feeding birds and planting bee-friendly flowers) is unlikely, in itself, to help the fight against climate change in any direct sense.

This doesn’t mean that it is not worth doing, or not worth including in a broad collection of strategies aimed at tackling climate. The point about being wildlife-friendly, or engaging in nature conservation by any other name, is that it helps ameliorate or mitigate the impact of climate change on the natural environment. Let’s look more closely at this. (You may find the diagram on the left helpful in tracing the causal connections.)

continued on next page



Climate Change and Nature Conservation – the links explained, by Stewart Belfield (continued)

Nature is in severe danger. The decline of plant life, invertebrates and vertebrates is now thoroughly researched and [well-documented](#). Of course, not all of this decline is a result of global warming. Much of decline has been caused by environmental loss and chemical pollution (which, as mentioned above, also contribute directly to global warming). However, increasingly warmer temperatures and erratic weather will have an additional adverse impact on nature. Nature has evolved to exist with largely predictable patterns of seasonal change in temperature and rainfall. (Consider the timings of migration, breeding, pupation, hibernation and so on.) When regular climatic patterns are severely disrupted, nature will suffer further. In this catastrophic situation, nature needs all the help we can provide. By providing wildlife-friendly spaces (gardens, woodland, meadows, connected hedgerows, etc) we are helping plants and animals survive under the impact of environmental loss, pollution and climate change. This will not, in itself, reverse climate change (other, industrial and consumer-related changes are needed), but it will certainly help ameliorate or mitigate the impacts of climate change. Put another way, if we do eventually find a lasting solution to climate change, this will not be cause for great celebration if we have already lost so many of our plants, insects, fish, birds and mammals, because we left it too late to help them survive.

So, we must ensure that nature conservation and wildlife-friendly practices form part of any green strategy to tackle climate change. But make clear that, alongside the aim of removing the causes of climate changes, we also need to reduce and ameliorate the impact of climate change on nature – before it is too late.

Stewart Belfield
Bredfield: Wildlife Friendly Village



[Bredfield Wildlife \(bredfieldwfv.org.uk\)](http://bredfieldwfv.org.uk)

[Bredfield: Wildlife Friendly Village | Facebook](#)

Editor's note: there is a wealth of information and advice online about practical things we can do to accommodate nature in our homes and gardens including:

[Nature on your Doorstep – Wildlife-friendly Gardening | The RSPB](#)

[Wildlife gardening | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#)

And there are also local community groups who you might find worth connecting with on wildlife and other environmental matters, check here for the list of local groups we're aware of:

[Environmental community groups » East Suffolk Council](#)

If you know of a relevant group who contributes to our vision but who isn't listed here, please let me know and wherever possible I will get them included.



Warm Homes Suffolk Fund to help make cold homes warmer this winter

Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm, can contact a new project which offers funding and free advice at www.warmhomessuffolk.org.

Suffolk's councils have joined together to establish Warm Homes Suffolk, which launched in late January 2022. The team are on hand to offer expert advice on reducing energy bills, energy usage and identify benefits that residents may be entitled to, to help keep their homes warm.



The work of Warm Homes Suffolk will also help the county towards its target of net zero by 2050, as the project aims to better insulate homes and provide more efficient heating, meaning less carbon is released into the atmosphere.

A successful bid was made to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for £2.7m of funding to run Warm Homes Suffolk – The Warm Feeling Fund. This is part of the Government's (Local Authority Delivery phase two) LAD2 Scheme, designed to improve the energy efficiency of Britain's homes.

For eligible residents, the scheme can offer a range of home upgrades, including cavity, loft and external insulation, installation of solar photovoltaic systems and switching central heating to more efficient low carbon heat pumps.

The scheme is available to homeowners, those renting, and landlords. There are some conditions to meet before being able to access funding, which is aimed at residents who are:

- earning under £30,000 per annum
- and/or currently receiving benefits (or think you may be eligible)
- living in homes with a low energy rating

Further information can be found on the [Warm Homes Suffolk website](#), or by calling **03456 037 686**. Lines are open Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm. If you know someone who might benefit from this scheme please share this information with them.

Need help clearing the loft to be insulated?

If the loft needs clearing before insulated, help is available from Lofty Heights CIC who provide a dignified service. They can be contacted to arrange for an estimate, on 01473 245301 or visit their website for more information: <https://www.lofty-heights.org/>



Helping local charity cut emissions and save money

A charity in Lowestoft has been able to implement measures to reduce its environmental impact and its running costs thanks to funding from local district councillors.

Cllrs Peter Byatt, Janet Craig, Louise Gooch, Malcolm Pitchers, Linda Coulam, Andree Gee, Frank Mortimer, and Trish Mortimer have jointly donated over £7,500 from their Enabling Communities Budgets to Citizens Advice in Lowestoft, allowing it to make environmental improvements to St Margaret's House, its distinctive Grade II listed building in the town centre.

The charity approached the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership's [Community Advice Service](#) in 2018 to learn more about reducing its carbon footprint, lowering its energy bills and making its Victorian building more comfortable for staff and visitors.

After receiving support grants for modern radiators, roof insulation and LED lighting (£20,000 from [UK Power Networks Power Partners Fund](#); £2000 from Green Suffolk Grant; and £1500 from [Thrive Renewables](#)), an additional funding of £7,527 from the Councillors' [Enabling Communities Budgets](#), boosted by a grant of £15,000 from [The Geoffrey Watling Charity](#), meant the charity could also install secondary glazing, which was the last of the four recommendations from the survey.

Speaking on behalf of the Councillors who made a donation, Cllr Peter Byatt (*pictured right*), local ward member for Kirkley and Pakefield, said: "Citizens Advice is a very worthy charity so we're extremely pleased to have been able to support it with a donation that has the twin benefits of cutting carbon emissions and saving money on electricity - money that can be better spent elsewhere on the charity's activities." Janet John, the Chief Executive from Citizens Advice North East Suffolk said; "We were very appreciative of the initial environmental survey report that highlighted where we could make changes and thrilled that with various grants we have been able to make all the recommendations a reality."



"This last activity, the installation of secondary glazing throughout, has not only meant we can keep heat in the building and make it draft free, the extra glazing keeps traffic noise from the outside to a minimum too. In fact, the impact was immediate. The day the secondary glazing was installed to coin a phrase from an old song "the silence was golden"!! and the whole building feels much more comfortable already.

"We are very grateful to the East Suffolk Councillors that made this possible and we look forward to welcoming the residents back to our cosy building and providing the advice and support they need once covid restrictions are lifted and face-to face meetings return."

Carbon savings from the changes made to the building are expected to reduce its carbon footprint by 15tCO₂e supporting a key strategic environmental aim of East Suffolk Council, whilst financial savings to the Citizens Advice should be in the region of £2500 - £3000 per year once the building is fully occupied again.

Each district councillor has an Enabling Community Budget of £7,500 per year to spend on community projects or to develop new projects in their ward to tackle local need. Community groups wishing to apply for the funding should contact their district councillor or visit:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants-and-funding/enabling-communities-budgets/>



Kirton Community Woodland

Kirton Community Woodland have been trying to find a suitable site for many years. They have now taken on a half acre site of the village's Charity Land. They planted a hedge last year and have recently taken delivery of another 163 trees and hedge saplings which will be planted by the end of February. The new saplings have been supplied with eco friendly tree guards.



This will eventually become a lovely community space, with a wildflower area included, bordering a new housing development on one side and the paddocks let out for grazing on the other with access from a public footpath. We benefit from the knowledge of several local people locally who are knowledgeable about woods and wild flowers, and our wonderful subscribers and donators who provide the funding for our work.

We have more planting planned in February involving the local scouts and we will welcome anyone who would like to come along and help. If you'd like to support us please get in touch.

Susan Harvey susanbharvey29@gmail.com



Saxmundham Green Team

We have had a busy start to the new year. The tools funded by the Greenprint Forum's small grants scheme Nature First have helped us to plant more trees in our Community Orchard. Saxmundham 1st Scouts helped plant the trees too which was fantastic.

In March we have some more trees (mixed native hedge species) coming from the Woodland Trust so we will be out

Volunteers to join our Green Team and help in our activities are always welcome – if you'd like to support our work please contact us, we'd love to hear from you – contact Amy Rayner.



Saxmundham Town Council are encouraging the residents of the Town to plant 750th trees to celebrate the anniversary of the Market Charter.

This will be linked to the Queen's Green Canopy project which is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

If you would like to get involved and are planting a tree in 2022 please contact the Saxmundham Town Clerk to make sure your tree is counted.

Amy Rayner, Environment Co Ordinator, Saxmundham Town Council

amy.rayner@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk

Roz Barnett, Saxmundham Town Clerk townclerk@saxmundham-tc.gov.uk



Deben Community Farm winter update

As it gets colder and we move into winter we have been preparing for the ponies and donkeys to come back to the main farm and have had a big delivery of hay and straw for extra bedding. All the donkeys and ponies have moved onto the farm for the winter, and they've got new rugs to help keep them warm and dry throughout the winter.



Looking smart in their new rugs!

The ponies and donkeys had the farrier come and trim their feet for the winter. Their stables have been prepared for them ready for the colder months. We've cleaned the stables and put fresh bedding down, cleaned and filled all the water buckets and filled a hay net for everyone. They have now moved into their winter housing at the main part of the farm with stables at night and a field on the farm during the day.



Thank you to everyone who donated their Christmas trees, all the animals have been loving them especially the goats.



We are open to the public free of charge on a Sunday afternoon 12noon to 4pm, you are welcome to visit or to help out.

We also welcome volunteers at other times of the day, we are especially keen to take on volunteers to support the early morning feeding and to undertake regular muck picking of the field. Please remember that we are a working farm and we ask that children under the age of 12 are accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. We are currently fund raising to extend the driveway and put in additional drainage to help take some of the run off water away from the pig pens – any donations are gratefully received.

The Community Farm hosts a Care Farm, Forest School, Home Education classes and volunteering experiences, enabling cross experience learning through the different elements of the project, which will include animals, growing plants and vegetables, and the exploration of nature.

Please call Heather on 07732681125 if you would like to find out more.

David Chenery, Heidi Dalby and Heather Heelis

Deben Community Farm, Melton

<http://www.debencommunityfarm.co.uk/>



Celebrating our trees, by James Mallinder

Trees are our tangible connection to our past and they are our footprint into the future. As the queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee a major part of the celebration is the creation of a living memorial in the shape of a “Treebilee” where residents and communities across the UK are being urged to plant trees.

Trees are so import to help tackle climate concerns and so this has proven a perfect opportunity for your district council, East Suffolk, to focus on our vision on delivering environmentally sustainable communities and we are playing our part by giving each town and parish council the opportunity to register for their complementary oak tree. This oak tree will be provided by East Suffolk and will include instructions for care, biodegradable protection and a commemorative plaque to celebrate the occasion.

Oaks in particular are a beautiful tree and are vital for a colossal number of species for food and shelter. According to research published by the UK Centre for Hydrology and Ecology in 2019 [Oak trees and wildlife - Woodland Trust](#), a mature oak can sustain up to 2,300 different species of birds, bryophytes, invertebrate, mammals, fungi and lichens.



By working together we will support, champion and protect our wonderful natural environment and create a lasting legacy for all of us who call East Suffolk Home.

ClIrr James Mallinder,

Cabinet Member for the Environment, East Suffolk Council

Contributors

Special thanks to Robin Morris-Denholm, Stewart Belfield, Susan Harvey, James Mallinder, Saxmundham Town Council, and the team from Deben Community Farm, for providing articles for this newsletter.

The newsletter is always best when content is informed by its members. If you have a story you’d like to share, or would like your project highlighted in our newsletter, please drop me a line on greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

New members welcome!

Membership is free and open to all so if you are already a member please encourage others in your network to join, and if you have received or found this newsletter and are not yet a member why not join us. The easiest way is to go online and register via:

[Greenprint Forum membership form - My East Suffolk.](#)

You are welcome to share and use content. The editor makes no claims or promises about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of this newsletter and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions.

Editor – Daniel Wareing, Environmental Sustainability East Suffolk Council; Secretary of Greenprint Forum

GREENPRINT FORUM VISION

