

Greenprint Forum newsletter late winter 2024/25

2025 has dawned and we have had a relatively busy start to the events season already, with members of our Steering Group having attended the Community Bake-Off held in Huntingfield by the Community Partnership for Framlingham, Wickham Market, Kelsale, Yoxford and Villages on 18 January, the inaugural meeting of Kelsale and District Wildlife Action Group (KADWAG) on 22 January, and the Volunteers Fayre held by the [The Live Well Hub](#) in Leiston on 31 January. In the spirit of the theme of the Volunteers Fayre, we led a small team of 7, including other stallholders and a visiting member of the community, on an impromptu micro-litter pick of the recreation ground at midday, clearing two sacks worth of litter in just 30 minutes!



Our own first Greenprint Forum event of the year is on the very near horizon – so join us at East Suffolk House in Melton on the evening of Monday 24 February for [From Anxiety to Empowerment](#), an exploration of anxiety of the environmental crises, its impacts and how we can face these with positivity. Speakers from Climate Psychology Alliance CAP, Ecotherapy East CIC and Hadleigh Environmental Action Team (HEAT) CIC will help us frame the issues and stimulate a discussion with those in attendance.

Then we are off to Woods Meadow Country Park in Oulton Broad on Monday 10 March for a session of conservation tasks with the council's Countryside Team. This will be an opportunity for anyone from our network to come along, get together and meet and chat with other like minded people whilst doing something positive for nature and the local community in an informal, outdoor setting. All are welcome, we'd love to see you there.

Then on Friday 21 March we have a limited opportunity for a small number of us to attend a guided tour of the Water Treatment Works in Lound to the north of Lowestoft; this is a repeat of a visit we made last September which was oversubscribed due to the limited numbers the visit can accommodate. Please note, priority attendance will be allocated to existing members. A short report summarising our previous visit is available here: [26-September-2024-Lound-WTW-Event-report.pdf](#)

To register for any of these events please register here: [Greenprint Forum event registration](#)

Update on Nature First – our small grants scheme for grass roots nature projects

Since relaunching our small grants scheme [Nature First](#) last autumn, our Panel have awarded small grants with a total value of £6722.41 to the projects below, we look forward to following progress of these in due course:

- Pathways Care Farm, for their community hub garden at their site in Lowestoft;
- Saxmundham Arts Station, for developing a community orchard;
- Gunton Community Hall, for their winter wildlife project at their site;
- Transition Woodbridge, working with schools to promote bat conservation;
- Yoxford Town Land Trust, for their project at Donkey Meadow;
- Kelsale & District Wildlife Action Group, for outreach of their Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Ecotherapy East CIC, developing their community work at Foxtail Meadow.



Applications can be submitted at any time, there is no deadline as the Panel will convene approximately once per month (subject to the need) to consider applications on an ongoing, first come first served basis until the funding has all been allocated.



An update from the Steering Group

After many years of voluntary service, Susan Harvey has retired from Steering Group duties. We are sure that the wider membership will join us in thanking Susan for her service to the group over the years, including previously acting as the volunteer environmental representative on the Board of the East Suffolk Community Partnerships, and as a volunteer member representing the Greenprint Forum Steering Group on the award-winning project team for [Quiet Lanes Suffolk](#) throughout the entire duration of the delivery of that project.

We also bid farewell to Luke Bennett, who has recently retired from his role as Community Partnerships Manager for East Suffolk Council and with it his position on our Steering Group. We are grateful to Luke for his commitment and advocacy for the environment and his long service to the Greenprint Forum.

We now welcome to our Steering Group two new members, Sam Kenward and Andy Jolliffe. They are both employed as Community Officers for East Suffolk Council, and will share Steering Group duties between them according to the need. We look forward to working with Sam and Andy strengthening the connection and collaboration between Greenprint and the wider Community Partnership work.

Recycling at Emmanuel Church Bungay



As part of our Going Green Environmental Project which began in 2007, our congregation and friends around the Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership have been collecting up some of their rubbish which would normally go in the wheelie bins.

We collect various different commodities under the Terracycle scheme and either send them to Terracycle directly or take big bags full to other Terracycle collecting points. This includes plastic bread bags & all bakery plastics, cheese wrappers, crisp packets, coffee & tea packets, biscuit & cake wrappers, Pringle tubes and writing implements.

We also collect used printer cartridges, old bras for Bra Aid, old spectacles for Vision Aid and kitchen roll tubes, Pringle lids & plastic bottle tops to sell on Ebay for art & craft materials. Many schools, groups and individuals buy them for their projects including one customer who melts them down to make jewellery.

We were contacted by a company up in Coventry who make competitor medals out of recycled plastic, asking if we had a load of surplus bottle tops that we could let them have. We ended up sending them over 11,000, three very large boxes full. In thanks for our support we have received a plaque made from recycled plastic

The plaque says – “This plaque made with recycled plastic bottle tops donated to Team Recycle who make recycled medals for sports events around the world”

We were pleased to support this project as it gives a very clear message to all the competitors, supporters etc... around the world that plastic is recyclable.

Graham Gibbs – Going Green Co-ordinator, Emmanuel Church Bungay

[Emmanuel Church, Bungay](#)



Blyth Woods the story so far

Blyth Woods was formed in 2012 as a result of the Wenhaston Energy Project with an aim of creating woodland to provide a space for wildlife, people and a source of firewood in the future.

It took five years to find a suitable piece of land and a small arable field of 2.2 acres (0.9 ha) now known as Grove Piece, was purchased from the Church. As it is adjacent to the ancient woodland of Vicarage Grove it was decided to plant half the field with native trees but allow the half next to the wood to regenerate naturally.

A further 1.6 acres (0.6 ha) was added in 2020 when we were able to buy another adjacent odd shaped field from a local farmer which came complete with a large overgrown pond. This field is called by its old name of Malsters Little Field. The pond has been restored and is home to great crested newts, an area of grassland is slowly becoming a wildflower meadow and one area is planted with hazel and sweet chestnut with a view to coppicing in future.



The local primary school has been involved from the beginning, growing and planting trees from local seed and using the area as an outdoor classroom.

It then made sense to take on the management of Vicarage Grove and so we agreed a peppercorn lease with the Church which is renewed every seven years. This brought the total area of woodland under our management to about 7.5 acres (about 3 ha). In 2021 we restored the large pond on the north boundary of the site which necessitated felling some ash which had succumbed to Ash die back (Chalara).

Seven years on what were small poor barley fields are now beginning to look like woodland and the whole area is well used by local people.

Not resting on our laurels in winter 2024 we took on another 4.5 acres (1.8 ha) of former arable, leasing it from the Wenhaston Town Estate Church Charity. Adjacent to public footpaths and close to the centre of the village the site is being planted with around 2500 trees, the ditch system is being modified to prevent flooding into the village, an area will be turned in the long term into a wildflower meadow and a tree nursery established again with the local school children. The site is connected to our other woodland by a hedge network with just a narrow country lane splitting the connection.

Blyth Woods is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) run by a small group of trustees and steering group. Work parties can consist of between 10 – 18 volunteers and two of the trustees are also the village Tree Wardens.

Our website is www.blythwoods.org where you can find details of all our projects and how to get involved

Alan Miller - Chair of Blyth Woods



Get into the Refill Habit

Hi, I'm Karen, a lifelong resident of Felixstowe and the proud owner of Karen's Pantry, our town's first refill shop. For as long as I can remember, I've dreamt of running my own business. Over time, my passion for making a difference in the environment and reducing plastic waste became the inspiration behind opening Karen's Pantry.

Located in the heart of Felixstowe town centre, my shop is designed to make sustainable living easier for everyone. Felixstowe is such a beautiful place to call home, and I've always been inspired by the amazing small businesses and community-focused ventures in our area. However, I noticed there wasn't anywhere nearby where you could buy just the amount of food you need, free from single-use plastics. This sparked the idea for Karen's Pantry: a place where people could shop with purpose, reduce waste, and support local crafters.

Supporting Sustainability and Local Talent

At Karen's Pantry, the concept is simple: bring your own containers, refill what you need, and avoid unnecessary packaging. We offer a wide range of pantry staples—like pasta, rice, spices, and nuts—as well as cleaning products and toiletries, all available in the quantities that suit you. By cutting out single-use plastics and reducing food waste, we're helping our community live more sustainably.

But the shop is about more than just refilling jars. I'm passionate about supporting local talent, so we also showcase beautiful, handcrafted products from skilled makers across Suffolk. From reusable homeware to unique gifts, these crafters represent the incredible creativity and dedication to sustainability that thrives in our region.

A Journey of Learning and Community

Starting Karen's Pantry has been an exciting journey full of learning. One of the biggest lessons I've discovered is how many people genuinely want to live more sustainably but need practical ways to make it happen. I've seen firsthand how small, simple changes—like refilling a jar instead of buying a new packet—can inspire people to think differently about their impact on the planet.

My hope is that Karen's Pantry becomes more than just a shop—it's a space where the community can come together, share ideas, and take steps toward a greener future. If you're in Felixstowe, I'd love for you to visit. Whether it's for a refill, a chat, together we can make a difference — one refill at a time.

Karen Utting, Karen's Pantry

173B Hamilton Road, Felixstowe

[Home - Karen's Pantry Felixstowe](#)



Editor's note: the Suffolk Waste Partnership are aware of a number of shops and mobile vendors who offer refills of various products around Suffolk, and you can view their directory here: [Suffolk Refill Locator - Suffolk Recycling](#) If you know of a vendor who doesn't appear on the list please let them know via waste.management@suffolk.gov.uk so they can help raise awareness of refill opportunities in the county.



An update from Net Zero Leiston



Background:

Net Zero Leiston (NZL), launched in 2020, represents a pioneering initiative with an ambitious goal at transforming Leiston into one of the UK's first Net Zero town.

Our project aims to create a significant reduction in carbon emissions and foster a sustainable, eco-friendly environment for Leiston residents.

Across 2024, significant progress has been made to maintain the pace of ambitions. Going into 2025, Net Zero Leiston is progressing with a variety of initiatives supporting the community even further. (netzeroleiston.info/)

NZL-Citizens Advice Energy Efficiency Partnership Programme:

NZL have formed a contract partnership with Citizens Advice East Suffolk for an energy advice hub dedicated to Leiston. This builds upon their energy advice hub (citizensadviceeast Suffolk.org.uk/energy-advice-hub/) which is available to those across East Suffolk.

The programme is funded for two-years during which time services will help vulnerable people engage with energy providers and learn how to manage their usage and reduce energy loss in their homes, helping alleviate financial pressures and the resulting anxiety this causes for people.

The Leiston branch of this initiative will launch on 3 February.

NZL Shop Greener Shop Leiston initiative:

NZL are on a mission to change people's shopping habits and open their eyes to the benefits of shopping locally in Leiston.

In 2024 NZL launched a campaign called "Shop Greener, Shop Leiston". The initiative showcases local businesses who are helping the community to be more sustainable alongside supporting a key Net Zero Leiston goal of reducing carbon emissions.

Since its launch last October, the campaign is already promoting 17 businesses that are committed to sustainability and are providing local shopping benefits to local residents. netzeroleiston.info/shop-greener-shop-leiston/

Supplied by the Net Zero Leiston Team

Continued over



NZL 2025 Transport Initiatives:

Further into 2025, Net Zero Leiston is hoping to launch two initiatives that will support our sustainable transport aspirations for Leiston which are a) an EV Charging Network with 2 new public charging sites, and b) a Leiston Cycle Scheme, with the opportunity to pick-up/drop-off and hire an e-bike for short periods to use around town.

NZL Carbon Assessment Report:

NZL has commissioned a refresh on its carbon assessment for Leiston. This will help refocus efforts for the next phase of the project.

This report will lead to an updated “net zero pathway” and provide further guidance to achieve the community’s Net Zero goals. The report updates current CO₂ emissions covering details across:

1. Land emissions
2. Transport emissions
3. Built environment emissions

This will be published on the NZL website soon!

NZL Community Thermal Imaging Project:

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership has funded a thermal imaging camera to carry out thermal imaging surveys of properties across Suffolk, and it is Leiston’s turn in February.

Residents will receive a free 20-minute survey which will identify any areas where heat is escaping from their home. They will then be provided advice about how they can keep the heat in.

This can save residents money on their energy bills, keep families warmer and can make homes more carbon conscious.



Community Thermal Imaging Project

Funded by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership



Supplied by the Net Zero Leiston Team

NZL Contact Details:

Email: getinvolved@netzeroleiston.info

Website: [Home - Net Zero Leiston](#)



An update from Felixstowe Citizen Science Group

Felixstowe Citizen Science Group have been collecting data on the ways in which the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe can be recognized as a therapeutic landscape.

Felixstowe's Citizen Science Group was founded in April 2018 and can be found on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/people/Felixstowe-Citizen-Science-Group/100063740970696/>. Their principal aim is to conduct impact analyses on the work of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve. This [link](#) shows you their first major impact analysis. However, alongside that primary aim, they do many other kinds of project too.

The group defines itself as a learning organisation. This [link](#) explains what they mean by that term.

Over the last 18 months, the citizen scientists have been creating their own maps, containing the types of data and information which are of interest to their members. Their first major work on re-mapping was at the [Newbourne Springs Nature Reserve](#). More recently, they have developed other re-mapping work at the [Abbey Grove](#) woodland area in Felixstowe.

A different kind of re-mapping has also been explored where the group has re-worked maps from other organizations. This [link](#) provides a good example.

Next year, the group will be focusing on therapeutic landscapes, and in particular, the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe. This [link](#) introduces that work.

An investigation of the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe as a therapeutic environment Project conducted by the Felixstowe Citizen Science Group (28 October – 1 November 2024)

Following the publication of our first re-mapping of the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe on 22 September 2024, the most frequent set of feedback which we received from local people focused on that place as a therapeutic / healing environment. We therefore wanted to conduct an initial investigation of the main ways in which the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe can be regarded as a therapeutic / healing environment.

To complete this investigation, Felixstowe's Citizen Science Group conducted telephone interviews with one hundred randomly chosen members of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve (FCNR). We asked those FCNR members the questions listed in the left hand column of this sheet. In doing so, we asked the interviewees to express their response to each question using a scale from 0 – 10, with zero indicating no agreement and ten indicating complete agreement with the question. The values located to the right of each question below are the average responses from the one hundred interviewees. We conclude that the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe is a therapeutic environment but with the nuances illustrated in this data. Further investigations of the therapeutic qualities of the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe will be explored later in 2025, and possibly beyond that date.

Questions	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Do you find that time spent at the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe is good for your physical health? Examples might include the benefits of walking along the shore, and breathing clean fresh air .										9	
Do you find that time spent at the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe is good for your psychological health? Examples might include feeling less anxious, more calm, de-stressed, quiet and still.										9	
Do you find that time spent at the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe helps to focus on priorities? Examples might include identifying the most urgent and important challenges in your life.							6				
Do you find that time spent at the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe is good for your social life? Examples might include the opportunity to meet friends and talk with them and to laugh.									8		
Have there ever been times when you think about the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe in a positive way when you are not there? Examples might include happy memories from a weekend spent there either alone, or with family and friends. Other examples might include happy memories there from your childhood.									8		
Do you find that time spent at the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe has caused you to reflect upon your life from a broader perspective? Examples might include what you find to be most important to you, such as the love in your life, the need for calm, happiness, contentment, and fulfilment.							6				
Are you confident in the environmental stability of the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe in your life time? Examples might include minimal rises in sea level, and minimal house building near by.		1									
Are you confident in the environmental stability of the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe in the life time of your children?	0										
Are you confident in the environmental stability of the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe in the life time of your grandchildren, nieces and nephews?	0										
Are you content with the range of facilities at the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe? Examples include the provision of restaurants, bars, toilets, sailing, meeting places, facilities for children								7			

Continued over



Re-Mapping the Deben Estuary, Felixstowe, September 2024

Authors: Felixstowe's Citizen Science Group

Core data on the River Deben Estuary

- Location: 51.98933, 1.39145
- River Deben: Length: 54 kilometres
- Source 1: Beddingfield, Suffolk
- Source 2: Debenham, Suffolk
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- SSSI Area: 981.1 hectares (2,424 acres)
- SSSI status mainly arises from its overwintering waders and wildfowl, and its diverse saltmarshes
- Ramsar Site (as a wetland habitat)
- Special Protection Area

The Deben Estuary at Felixstowe as a sanctuary from the Anthropocene

- This is an environment where visitors try to escape their worries about the wider environment ie pollution, habitat loss, wildlife population decline, climate change.
- Visitors structure their understanding of the Anthropocene under three geographical scales: global, national and local / regional. All those interviewed are pessimistic about the environmental future of the River Deben Estuary.
- Visitors often describe the Deben Estuary as a therapeutic environment. That is, time spent here has been known to bring calm, and a broader sense of perspective on life.
- However, with rising sea levels all around the world of between 0.5 – 1 meter, this search for a sanctuary from wider environmental concerns is only superficial.
- Visitors mainly engage with the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe by walking, pausing, and visiting the Ferry Boat Inn and cafes.

The Deben Estuary at Felixstowe as a sanctuary in which to develop individual science projects eg birding, botany, landscape change

- Birding: waders and wildfowl
- Botany: Plant successions
- Landscape change ie liminal landscapes and ephemeral features

The Deben Estuary at Felixstowe as a sanctuary in which to create art (inc photography)

- Styles: illustrative art as well as abstract
- Each artist interviewed carries a pocket sketchbook
- Everyone interviewed approved of the idea of an Artist in Residence for Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve

The Deben Estuary at Felixstowe as a sanctuary in which to listen to the environment (Project pioneered by the Sunshine Map Makers) Sounds recorded:

- Bird song
- Children's laughter and shouting
- Adult conversations
- Breeze
- Waves lapping on the shore
- Engine sound of the Bawdsey Ferry

The Deben Estuary at Felixstowe as a sanctuary in which to reflect on progress concerning local community-based conservation work

- Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve
- Felixstowe Citizen Science Group
- Innovations to these organizations

Conclusions

- This re-mapping project has identified types of data which should be more widely employed in maps (eg sound data, visitor emotions, memories, experiences of environmental beauty).
- The River Deben Estuary at Felixstowe is an environmental sanctuary of two kinds: (i) a sanctuary from the Anthropocene; (ii) a sanctuary within which personal / group projects are conducted. The main examples are: solitary science (eg birding, botany and landscape change); creative writing; art; music (composition), and the further development of larger community-based conservation projects eg Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve
- Walking is the main way visitors engage with the Deben Estuary at Felixstowe.
- The sense of place here is constructed through multiple narratives (including childhood memories, family memories, literature, art, media sources (eg TV reports on BBC Look East).
- All adult visitors interviewed for this re-mapping expressed a concern over the consequences of sea-level rises at Felixstowe.
- There is a close relationship between this re-mapping exercise and the work of Furtherfield's 'Coastal Town Reimagined' project (by Ruth Catlow and Ann Light).
- The Deben Estuary at Felixstowe has also inspired the Sunshine Map Makers to develop some initial work.
- Further questions which arise from this work include how this re-mapping will develop as the seasons change.

Dr Adrian Cooper, Felixstowe Citizen Science Group

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Felixstowe-Citizen-Science-Group/100063740970696/>



The Suffolk Food Summit



THE SUFFOLK FOOD SUMMIT

Suffolk's first Food Summit, was hosted in the beautiful setting of the Food Museum on Tuesday, the 12th of November by Community Action Suffolk and Suffolk County Council. This event, funded by the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group, brought together people across the food systems – from local authorities to farmers and academics, to celebrate, debate, and share knowledge and experiences around all things food.

Attendees heard from local producers balancing profitability and sustainability, uncovered the complexities of ultra-processed food, and explored innovative solutions like FarmStarts and introducing venison into the supply chain. Workshops also highlighted the importance of healthy food at community projects, the role of diversity in resilient food systems, and the need to engage youth in food production careers. You can read summaries of the workshops [here](#).

The event ignited impactful discussions, brought together a diverse community of voices, and will play a pivotal role in shaping the action plan for the newly established Suffolk Food Partnership, driving forward a collective vision for a sustainable and thriving local food system.

"We were thrilled to be part of the Food Summit, an event like this is vital to hear the voices of the food sector and it allows us to strengthen our work in assisting food projects and local community groups across Suffolk. A truly inspiring event", from Hannah Reid, CEO of Community Action Suffolk.

"To see all this passion, knowledge and ideas in one spot was a great step to change", said Roz Scott, Gleaning Coordinator at [Still Good Food](#), and stakeholder in the Suffolk Food Partnership.

There are high hopes for the future of the partnership with the ambition to join the [Sustainable Food Places](#) network next year.



If you would like to join or find out more about the Suffolk Food Partnership, please get in touch with:

sara.azeem@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk or Maisie.dyvig@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk.

To learn more about the wider work of the Community Food Team at CAS visit [Suffolk Community Food Team - Community Action Suffolk](#)



Sara Azeem, Community Food Partnership Officer, Community Action Suffolk



More than £75,000 of grant funding now available across Essex and Suffolk



**Suffolk & Essex
Coast & Heaths
National
Landscape**

An annual grants scheme that sees more than £75,000 awarded to community projects across Essex and Suffolk has opened for applications.

Every year, the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape hands out more than £75,000 in grants to individuals, organisations such as schools and wildlife conservationists, and community groups to fund projects that help to conserve and enhance the special landscape.

The Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape stretches from Kessingland in North Suffolk, down to the River Stour Estuary in North Essex, and is protected for its national importance and natural beauty.

There are four grant funds open for applications, each offering different levels of funding for varying purposes. Applications are welcomed from projects that represent the widest range of society possible and the funds support equality of opportunities to access grants.

Previous examples of projects funded include wildlife areas in primary schools, photography workshops for people with mental illness, species and habitat conservation projects such as swifts, spoonbill and woodland regeneration, enhancing nature reserves through accessible paths, mobility scooters and improving visitor experiences to natural and built heritage sites.



Photo: National Landscapes

Whether you have a project that covers topics such as wildlife conservation, access and diversity, climate change, health and wellbeing, learning, the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape welcomes your application.



Photo: National Landscapes

For more information about the various grants that are open and available, and the criteria and funding guidelines, please visit www.coastandheaths-NL.org.uk or contact Oka Last, National Landscape Grants Officer, on 01394 445225 or grants@suffolkandessex-NL.org.uk

Tom Fairbrother, National Landscapes Communications Officer



Last Air Quality Management Area in East Suffolk removed

The last remaining Air Quality Management Area in East Suffolk – located on the A12 within Stratford St Andrew – has been removed following significant improvements in air quality.

To meet national air quality objectives, local authorities must regularly review and assess air quality in their areas. If a location is found where the objectives are not being achieved, the local authority must declare the area an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and develop an Air Quality Action Plan to reduce air pollution.

The AQMA, located at four properties close to the A12 within Stratford St Andrew, was established in 2014 after high levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) were detected. Studies undertaken suggested that southbound traffic accelerating just prior to the end of the 30 mph speed limit in Stratford St Andrew – originally located at the end of the Long Row houses – was a cause of increased emissions and a large part of the problem.

In 2017, after the 30/50 mph speed limit change was moved further south out of the village and away from the houses by Suffolk County Council, NO₂ concentrations within the AQMA fell below the national objective level and have continued to decrease year-on-year.

As a result, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) requested that the AQMA be revoked, and an assessment was carried out in 2024 to establish whether removal of the AQMA was appropriate. The revocation assessment considered the historical monitoring data, projected NO₂ concentrations over the next five years, local and national trends in NO₂ emissions, and local and regional factors that may impact on the AQMA. This included the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) expected to commence within East Suffolk – including Sizewell C, and the East Anglia One (North) and East Anglia Two offshore windfarms.

The findings were discussed by East Suffolk Council's Cabinet on 1 October 2024, and following a six-week public consultation, the AQMA was revoked on 18 December.

Fiona Quinn, East Suffolk Council's Head of Environmental Services and Port Health, said: "Poor air quality negatively affects health & wellbeing

of our residents, and so it is great news that the air quality at this location has significantly improved to such an extent that the AQMA is no longer necessary.

"This will not alter our monitoring regime. The Council will continue to monitor air quality in Stratford St Andrew and along the A12.

"This is particularly important as the early years works have now started for Sizewell C, construction associated with cabling has begun for the EA3 Offshore Windfarm, and initial surveying work has started for both the EA1N and EA2 offshore windfarms. We will be keeping a close eye on NO₂ concentrations at this location, and across the district, and working closely with each project individually and cumulatively.

"With the removal of our last AQMA our air quality focus is now able to shift, and we will be updating the East Suffolk Air Quality Strategy to reflect this. We want our residents to help shape the strategy by telling us their air quality priorities and we will be conducting public engagement in early March."

A copy of the revocation order is available online.

[Stratford St Andrew AQMA – Revoked](#)

Supplied by the Environmental Protection Team, East Suffolk Council



FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS!

Have you got a project in your local community to care for the environment and educate about biodiversity? If so, then you can apply for funding towards it from your local Community Partnership!

-  You can apply for any amount although we suggest a limit of £1,500-£2,000
-  We are keen to hear about projects that are having or looking to have a real impact to your local environment
-  Supporting projects to develop and expand with some additional funding - this may be new projects or existing projects wanting to develop further
-  We want to support projects that are thinking outside of the box to enable people to care for the local environment and learn about biodiversity

To apply for funding, contact Sam for an application form and it will be considered for funding between October and March - please send in your application to Sam by the 1st of the month (October-March inclusive) for consideration.



Please email the Communities Officer Sam for more information and to submit applications
Sam.Kenward@eastsoffolk.gov.uk



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships
Bringing ideas to life

Framlingham,
Wickham Market,
Kelsale, Yoxford
& villages



EASTSUFFOLK
COUNCIL



Editor's note: the small grant scheme shown above is only available for projects located in parishes covered by the Community Partnership for Framlingham, Wickham Market, Kelsale, Yoxford and Villages. It is separate from, and additional to, the Greenprint Forum's similar small grant scheme [Nature First](#) which is available to projects located anywhere in the district of East Suffolk. Projects in the area of the Community Partnership mentioned above can apply for both grant schemes.



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships
Bringing ideas to life



Suffolk
Creating the Greenest County

Offroad EV Charging Trial via Charge Gully & SCC

For those with no offroad charging capability for EVs then a trial initiated by SCC alongside Charge Gully and with the participation of Felixstowe resident Mark Cheeseman is about to take place to assess its suitability for being adopted elsewhere in future.

To date home charging had been accomplished at a neighbours property via the CoCharger App and while this has been an almost seamless arrangement for Mark and his neighbour, Adrian Dickerson, for the last two years some fore thought is required in requesting a timeslot for charging plus dropping off and collection of EV for it all to happen. Following some prompting with ESC, then, once finally approached by SCC to see if he would be interested in the trial the opportunity of being able to charge from his own house and energy supply was simply too tempting to resist.

Relevant paperwork is nearing completion and a date for commencement of work now anticipated.

Adrian Dickerson, Felixstowe

Editor's note: This is part of a project led by SCC to explore the potential local applicability of a range of examples of cross-pavement EV charging solutions. For more information about the trial visit:

[Electric vehicle charging channel pilot project - Suffolk County Council](#)



Introducing Aimee McLachlan



It is with great privilege I am supporting and representing sustainable and active travel for East Suffolk. I am well and truly immersed in exciting projects such as the [Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Strategy](#), being part of a hard-working and dedicated team across ESC and Suffolk County Council creating safe, accessible and diverse travel access for pedestrians who walk, who walk with pushchairs, for wheelchair users, cyclists, horse riders and that is not exhaustive!

I am project-managing the rural Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) bus service pilots [Buzzabout](#) and [Katch](#), for which I am thrilled to have secured additional funding from Suffolk County Council for a further year to keep developing Katch keeping local communities and visitors connected to rail travel, towns, education, family and employment.

I am incredibly passionate about health and the freedom that getting out and about under your own steam gives you! I am a keen cyclist and member of the Ipswich Bicycle Club, as well as a runner, having completed a number of brilliant local running road and trail races in and around Suffolk, it truly is a wonderful opportunity to develop and make active and sustainable travel easier to access and safe to try for everyone at any age or experience.

Aimee McLachlan, Sustainable Travel Officer for East Suffolk Council

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Up to £200 off Loft Insulation for anyone in Suffolk!

Spread the word in your community! Residents of Suffolk can get a 50% discount (up to £200) and free delivery on eco-friendly, itch-free thermal insulation rolls, from High Loft, the UK's leading eco loft insulation brand.

To claim their discount, residents can visit www.bit.ly/suffolkloft and fill out the short form, or phone High Loft on 01706 248203. This limited-time offer is open to anyone living in Suffolk and will close when the allocated funding has been spent.

According to the [Energy Saving Trust](#), an uninsulated home can lose up to a quarter of its heat through the roof and this offer provides an excellent way for residents to make their homes warmer, reduce their energy bills, and make a positive environmental impact.

Help keep others in your community warm by sharing the message. You can:

- Include [this article](#) in your local newsletter/magazine
- Share our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) posts
- Share the details in your local Whatsapp groups or Facebook group.



The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership has teamed up with High Loft to provide this fantastic offer.

<https://www.greensuffolk.org/what-we-do/projects/suffolk-loft-insulation-offer/>



Aldeburgh land transferred to council

A dedicated group of volunteers will play a key role in boosting biodiversity on a patch of land adopted for public ownership in their community.

The 3.2 ha plot, divided by Prevetts Way, at Church Farm, Aldeburgh, has been transferred to East Suffolk Council as part of a planning obligation by housing developers.

It means that the open green space, commonly used by dogwalkers and residents accessing the town on foot, will be maintained by East Suffolk Services Limited in partnership with a newly formed community group.



The transfer of ownership completes an outstanding planning obligation, now known as a Section 106 agreement, with developers of the adjacent Church Farm housing development. A capital sum has also been transferred, in accordance with the same agreement, to cover a 10 year maintenance period.

East Suffolk Council commissioned Suffolk Wildlife Trust's ecological consultancy team, Wilder Ecology, to conduct a survey of the site to record existing habitats, identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity and create a longer-term management plan for the area. Future projects and management proposals included the introduction of wildflowers and restoration of a pond within a wooded area of the site.

The Council then met with local residents to discuss options for the site and agree the formation of a 'Friends of' group to support management of the land as an open space for the enjoyment of the public.

Anyone interested in getting involved in managing the site going forward can contact operations@eastsoffolk.gov.uk.

East Suffolk Council has been encouraging more people to get involved as part of the campaign [East Suffolk's Amazing](#).

The Council will support local communities and groups by lending equipment for litter pick events, including hi-vis vests, litter pickers, bags and bag hoops. A range of information about how communities can get involved in schemes, as well as a range of tips and advice, can be found on the East Suffolk Council website.

Supplied by East Suffolk Council



Consultations

We are aware of a few current consultations, two from ESC, one from IBC and four from Central Government, that may be of interest to you or others in your own networks, please feel free to share onwards as you deem appropriate:

- [Planning policy consultations » East Suffolk Council](#)

East Suffolk Council are developing two guidance documents for neighbourhood planning groups to assist them in producing planning policies when producing or reviewing **Neighbourhood Plans**, one related to **climate change**, and the other related to **housing**, and are consulting for feedback on the draft of each of the two documents. Each consultation seeks views on the proposed content of the document. The questionnaires include questions on each of the sections of the guidance, followed by questions about whether any topics have been missed, and whether any additional glossary entries, case studies or external links would be helpful to include. **Deadline for responses to consultations on both of these ESC documents is 12 March.**

- [Ipswich Borough Council Draft Ipswich Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan | ipswich.gov.uk](#)

Ipswich Borough Council is consulting on their draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan the purpose of which is to encourage more travel around Ipswich by means of walking, cycling, and wheeling. **Deadline 6 March.**

- [Planning Reform Working Paper: Streamlining Infrastructure Planning - GOV.UK](#)

The Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government have published a Planning Reform Working Paper “Streamlining Infrastructure Planning” and are inviting views on how the Government could reform the process for consenting Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP). The Planning Reform Working Paper “proposes a number of measures that could be taken to streamline the consenting process for national infrastructure and to enable faster decision-making, whilst ensuring the process is fair and certain”. There is no formal deadline.

- [Consultation on Reforms to the Energy Performance of Buildings Regime - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#)

The Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government are consulting on proposals to reform the Energy Performance of Buildings Regime in five critical areas: updating EPC metrics, refining requirements for Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Display Energy Certificates (DECs), improving data management protocols, strengthening quality control, and revising Air Conditioning Inspection Reports (ACIRs). **Deadline: 26 February.**

- [Improving the energy performance of privately rented homes: 2025 update - GOV.UK](#)

The Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government are consulting on proposals to raise the minimum energy efficiency standard required of privately rented homes in England and Wales to the equivalent of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C by 2030. **Deadline 2 May.**

- [Land Use Consultation - Defra - Citizen Space](#)

Defra are launching “a national conversation about land use, to minimise trade-offs and optimise the use of our land” in advance of publishing a “Land Use Framework”. **Deadline 25 April.**

Green job opportunity: Net Zero Delivery Officer



Are you, or is someone you know, looking for a new role in the green economy? East Suffolk Council is advertising for a new role will drive the creation and delivery of the ESC Net Zero Plan, focusing on key decarbonisation projects; support a new East Suffolk community renewable energy programme; and collaborate on county-wide initiatives to support the transition to a low-emissions Suffolk. **Deadline for applications 3 March.**

[Net Zero Delivery Officer - East Suffolk Council Jobs Careers](#)



Contributors

We would like to thank all of our stellar contributors to this issue: **Adrian Cooper, Adrian Dickerson, Aimee McLachlan, Alan Miller, Graham Gibbs, Karen Utting, Sara Azeem, and Tom Fairbrother**, plus **Net Zero Leiston**, the **Suffolk Climate Change Partnership**, and the **Environmental Protection** and the **Communities Teams** at East Suffolk Council.

The editor would also like to thank **Jamie Bretton**, Apprentice for Climate & Sustainability at East Suffolk Council, for collating the content, and acting as Guest Editor, for this issue.

Of course, whilst there is as always plenty in this issue, there will be lots more that we have not captured; the environmental world is always an active one especially in eastern Suffolk where we are so lucky to have so many active groups and individuals taking the initiative.

This newsletter is of most value when content is informed by its members. If you have a story about action you are taking or enabling that contributes to our shared vision that you would like to share, or would like your project (whether established, new, or emerging) highlighted in our newsletter, we would be delighted to hear from you via greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

GREENPRINT FORUM VISION



New members welcome!

If you are already a member please share this newsletter with and 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, **membership is free and open to all**.

The easiest way is to go online and register via: [Greenprint Forum membership form - My East Suffolk](#)

You are very welcome to share this newsletter. 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/or omissions.

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

