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## Greenprint Forum Steering Group Meeting Notes

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Location: Online via Skype

Date: Tuesday 17 November 2020

Time: 10:00-12:00

Invited: Betsy Reid, Cathy Smith, Daniel Wareing, James Mallinder, Jane Healey, Luke Bennett, Nick Khan, Peter Ross, Sue Hall, Susan Harvey, Andrew Cassy (Guest), Jason Beck (Guest)

In attendance: Betsy Reid, Cathy Smith, Daniel Wareing, James Mallinder, Jane Healey, Luke Bennett, Nick Khan, Sue Hall, Susan Harvey, Andrew Cassy (Guest), Jason Beck (Guest)

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### Agenda

1. Update on ESC green agenda workstreams – James Mallinder
2. Main items:
  - a. Update on Quiet Lanes Suffolk – Andrew Cassy, Volunteer Secretary of Quiet Lanes Suffolk (Guest)
  - b. ESC Walking & Cycling Strategy – Jason Beck, ESC Planning Officer (Guest)
  - c. Update from Community Partnerships Travel Forum held 4 November – Nick Khan
  - d. Conversation around opportunities (All)
3. Correspondence with Westminster – Daniel Wareing
4. Events – Daniel Wareing
5. AOB
6. Date of next meeting

## Notes from meeting

### 1. Update on ESC green agenda workstreams

ESC have been working on the following since the last meeting:

- Draft Climate Action Plan for ESC considering the carbon footprint of its estates and assets has been approved. Key projects to be prioritised concern initial investigations into opportunities relating to housing stock improvements, a redevelopment exemplar scheme, vehicle and facility alternative fueling options including hydrogen and biomethane, EV charging infrastructure, and recycling and waste reduction.
- Package of ESC local planning consultations launched in October with clear links to environmental/community action:
  - Walking & Cycling Strategy to encourage active travel insofar as ESC can influence this (see item 2b below for detail)
  - Draft Statement of Community Involvement  
ESC is keen to increase people's engagement with the planning process. A draft document, known as the 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI) has been prepared which details how residents could be involved in the production of planning policy documents and have their say on planning applications. Residents are invited to complete a short questionnaire and comment on the draft SCI.
  - Draft Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy  
ESC is also inviting comments on a new Supplementary Planning Document which looks at how to reduce the impact of new housing developments on protected habitat sites. The Suffolk Coast Recreation Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) is a partnership between East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. Its aim is to lessen the impact of increased levels of recreational use on habitat sites, due to new residential development in the Suffolk Coast area, and to provide a simple, coordinated way for developers to deliver mitigation for their developments.
- Small Grants Schemes with environmental benefits launched by Community Partnership for Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley (small grant for environmental care projects); and the CP for Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Surrounding Villages (small grants for projects on active/community/sustainable transport).
- EV charging points in place at Ufford and Rotterdam Road depots to support additions of EVs to operational fleet, and Port Health to support addition of EV pool car at the Port.
- Works underway at East Suffolk House to create an outdoor space to accommodate and promote biodiversity incorporating bird boxes, hedgehog shelters and insect hotels due to be complete in spring/summer.
- Development of a non-statutory Environmental Guidance Note providing guidance on sustainable development for developers and renovators to support a forthcoming Supplementary Planning Document on sustainable construction materials.
- Currently investigating opportunities for ways in which ESC can support local energy projects if Local Energy Bill gets through Parliament. The ESC ETG has written to Peter Aldous MP setting

out its support of the Bill: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Green-Issues/Local-Energy-Bill-letter.pdf>

- Alternatives to Glyphosate under investigation for grounds maintenance.
- Clean Air Task Group forming early 2021.
- Zero Carbon Communities pilot project now running in Hollesley with Groundwork and SCCP with support of ESC with objective creating a net zero plan for Hollesley and developing a process applicable for other communities seeking to go Zero Carbon. The project was highlighted at a recent online event held as a fringe event during the Community Partnerships Virtual Forum which included a panel discussion on the role of zero carbon communities post-Covid which can be watched here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfKtDvHPCag&list=PLpNXLpOEzHOoJo9FLGESX-GHIMmVUH8A &index=9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfKtDvHPCag&list=PLpNXLpOEzHOoJo9FLGESX-GHIMmVUH8A&index=9)
- Stakeholder engagement workshops underway as part of SCCP consultation process to develop and identify opportunities for delivery of Climate Emergency Plan for Suffolk as a whole. Members of both this steering group and the wider Greenprint network are directly involved in these workshops.
- A running update of key progress so far since ESC declared its recognition of the climate emergency in 2019 is available here: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/east-suffolk-environment-task-group/work-so-far/>

## 2. Main items

### a. Quiet Lanes Suffolk – update from Andrew Cassy

Grant from SCC of £235000 received to enable delivery of the project Suffolk-wide in addition to the funding already secured to boost project in East Suffolk. Congratulations extended by JM towards AC and the QLS Volunteers.

Call for nominations of potential new Quiet Lanes from Town and Parish Councils is still open, until 30 November. Demand is high with 252 lanes from 107 parishes, totalling 325km, nominated thus far – ESC share is 126 lanes from 49 parishes totalling 141km. Initial validation process under way to discard non-qualifying nominations; remainder to be subject to local consultation led by nominating parish council. Those lanes forming school routes being prioritised in the event of over-subscription of qualifying lanes.

First new designations under the self-help model devised by the team expected in place in new Year with further waves of mass implementation to follow during

2021 with target completion by October 2021, with target to establish ca.200 new Quiet Lanes county wide.

Launch of awareness raising campaign “Expect and Respect” planned for the New year anticipated to coincide with implementation of changes to Highway Code which would require reference.

Suggestion for campaign to include “nudge principle” positive behavioural change type imagery, for example a van driver interacting positively with family of active travellers on a Quiet Lane. The signage would benefit from explanation in the substance of the communications.

Opportunity being explored by QLS of working with Sat Nav providers to ensure QLs are flagged to drivers (as are speed cameras) to remind them of the need to proceed with extra care. Also suggested opportunity to work with Google Maps to explore potential highlighting of Quiet Lanes on their maps.

**Action – DW** to draft letter to DfT to lobby specifically on point of recognition of Quiet Lanes on Sat Nav systems.

Suggested potential to explore opportunity to follow up if successful, with a Home Zone scheme type project in the towns.

**b. ESC Walking & Cycling Strategy – overview from Jason Beck**

ESC have a launched a digitised interactive consultation seeking to establish an understanding of walking and cycling in the district, the key routes within and between settlements, gaps in provision, issues faced by pedestrians and cyclists, and identify opportunities for making the network more cohesive insofar as ESC is positioned to influence improvements, with an intended outcome to develop an implementation map of what has been and can be improved and by/in partnership with whom.

It is intended that the strategy refers to the existence of Quiet Lanes as part of the network facilitating active travel, and that when determining any improvements

to be made that routes are considered in their entirety, including junctions and other interruptions.

Suggested improvements and solutions to overcome barriers are invited from participants and these will be assessed using a multi-criteria analysis approach including:

- Contribution to modal shift utilising the Propensity to Cycle Tool;
- Impact on connectivity;
- Impact on safety;
- Impact on the environment.

It was suggested that health impacts are also considered as part of the assessment.

Fully segregated improvements would, where feasible, take priority over shared schemes.

External funding sources to be brought together to enable delivery of improvements identified through the process including through SCC's rolling 5 year plan utilising government funding; development mitigation funds from developers e.g. s106 and s278 funding; ESC Community Partnership funding; AONB funding.

Integration with public transport is beyond remit of this consultation so has not yet been factored in but can be considered as part of assessments of suggested solutions.

The new Walking and Cycling Strategy is expected to be published in late 2021 and will remain under review and subject to development.

**c. Update on Community Partnership Travel Forum held 4 November – update from Nick Khan**

Two sessions were held on Travel each attended by 40-50 delegates, both supported by Transport East, SCC and ESC, and recordings of both sessions can be viewed via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERv2W-aaKAw&list=PLpNXLpOEzHOoJo9FLGESX-GHIMmVUH8A>

AM session focused on the community on-demand travel solution provided through a new EV taxi scheme due to launch in the new year to shuttle users between Framlingham and Wickham Market, subsidized by SCC and delivered in partnership with local taxi company. The scheme will have EV charging points at each end. If successful it is anticipated as potential model for replication elsewhere. Scheme intends to have positive benefits for those affected by rural isolation, mobility for young people, rural businesses, as well as having a low environmental impact.

PM session focused on active travel and highlighted options for intervention including: Bury rickshaw scheme providing lifts in the community; Low Traffic Neighbourhoods; temporary road closures during school times or weekends (School Streets, Play Streets); bridleway upgrades; cargo bike loan scheme.

d. **Conversation around opportunities**

As the ESC Community Partnerships Board has tasked a sub-group to discuss and develop ideas to take forward on theme of active and sustainable travel, **Action Agreed** that all are to channel ideas for the sub-group to consider via DW.

**3. Correspondence with Westminster**

A response from BEIS has been received to our joint letter with the ESC ETG. Follow up letter to be written seeking fuller response, along with separate parallel approaches to DfT, Defra and MHCLG on our asks within the remits of those Departments. Drafts have been circulated to this group and will also be subject to approval by ETG and Leader of ESC. **Action** – any feedback to be channeled back to DW as soon as possible.

Once the letters are issued members of the Steering Group and wider Greenprint network are invited to raise the issues covered in the letters through their own groups with their local MP. **Action** – DW to collate a summary of the issues for sharing with Greenprint members for this purpose.

#### 4. Events

Continuation of discussion from previous meeting – all present **agreed** that focus for Greenprint Forum in 2021 should be Nature First and **agreed** that next forum event should focus on Nature First to dovetail with projects in progress/planned by ESC including the establishment of verge management approaches to benefit nature and their investigation into opportunities to involve communities. **Action** – DW to set up online Zoom event to be held in February 2021 and approach speakers.

#### 5. AOB

Channel for these meetings –noted that Skype for Business is hard for some to access and several group members expressed preference for Zoom which facilitates users to see other participants not just active speakers. No objections raised to conducting these remote meetings via Zoom. **Action** - DW to set up next meeting on Zoom.

#### 6. Date of next meeting:

9 February 2021.