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## Greenprint Forum Steering Group Meeting

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Location: Online via Zoom

Date: Tuesday 11 May 2021

Time: 10:00

Invited: Betsy Reid, Daniel Wareing, Helen Buckingham, James Mallinder, Jane Healey, Laurence Moss, Luke Bennett, Nick Khan, Peter Ross, Sue Hall, Susan Harvey

In attendance: Daniel Wareing, Susan Harvey, Jane Healey, Laurence Moss, Betsy Reid

Apologies: James Mallinder, Luke Bennett, Nick Khan

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### Agenda

1. Update on ESC green agenda – DW
2. Nature First event and next steps – DW
3. Proposed Greenprint Nature First Small Grants Scheme – DW
4. Update on correspondence with Government - DW
5. AOB

Actions from last meeting carried over:

#### Correspondence with MPs:

**Action Agreed for DW** to draft a letter to all three local MPs asking them what they are doing to progress the green agenda through Parliament and a request for an annual update on their actions; what their positions are on issues linked to the theme Nature First (e.g. neonicotinoids, balloons, sky lanterns, fireworks, trees, nature recovery networks); and an invitation to supply an article for Greenprint newsletters and / or submit to an interview with the Chair of Greenprint Forum. **Agreed to carry over**, with potential as a periodic exercise rather than a one off.

**Action Agreed for DW** to seek via newsletter from the wider membership of Greenprint, suggestions of questions to put to MPs in an interview. **Agreed to carry over**, with potential as a periodic exercise rather than a one off.

## Nature First:

Suggestion from DW to follow up the event with a series of short online seminars focused on subthemes such as wildlife gardening, hedgehogs, swifts, watching wildlife etc. to be delivered by external speakers under banner of Greenprint Forum Nature First. **Action Agreed for DW** to draft a list of suggested subjects for consideration by Steering Group prior to DW approaching potential speakers and establishing costs.

JH mentioned agroforestry project in Hacheston that could be of interest as part of the short online webinar to be developed – JH to provide details for DW to follow up. Fellowes Farm (Monewden) and Maple Farm (Kelsale) also potential for approaches.

### 1. Update on ESC green agenda

- As part of a successful consortium bid with the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, the Council received a shared of a £3million grant from the Government's Green Homes Grant to Suffolk authorities to provide energy efficiency measures for owner occupiers of properties with poor energy performance ratings. The projects to benefit are external wall insulation of 150 park homes in East Suffolk, 100 park homes in West Suffolk, and 70 Flagship Group properties; insulation and air source heat pumps on 100 homes in Babergh and Mid Suffolk; and internal wall insulation for 10 properties through Leiston Net Zero/EDF.
- The Council's policy of reduced mowing to promote wildflower growth and encourage biodiversity has been expanded to a further 60 public open spaces and verges for 2021, making a total of 100 such Conservation Areas. The Council has reviewed its policy on herbicide spraying to further encourage and protect local wildlife, as a result of which, such spraying has already been reduced by 45% across council-owned land and further trials will now be carried out using foam control on unwanted weeds, especially on pavements, to reduce it further.
- Under a new policy, to provide essential spaces for wildlife, some older and less frequently used sections of all cemeteries and closed churchyards managed by ESC will be left to grow and become 'wild spaces' for the benefit of conservation.
- Preliminary consultation ran during March and April on new Sustainable Development Supplementary Guidance Note to provide guidance on a range of topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, sustainable transport and use of materials, to support the implementation of the Council's adopted Local Plan policies. Following consideration of the responses received to this initial consultation, a draft SPD will be prepared and published for public consultation later in 2021. The draft SPD will be supported by Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment screening opinions and where necessary full assessments.
- The first new Quiet Lanes in Suffolk were designated in March in Snape (in East Suffolk) and Glemsford, as part of a scheme championed by the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum

and co-funded by East Suffolk Council. The new website has now been launched [Quiet Lanes Suffolk | What is a Quiet Lane?](#)

- Leisure Centres at Leiston and Woodbridge have swift nest boxes and sound systems installed.
- At Full Council on 24 May 2021 the Council passed a motion to refer the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill to the Environment Task Group “to investigate the aims of the bill and to in turn action the Council’s response.”
- The Council plans to undertake a consultation this summer on the possibility of restricting the use of fireworks on land owned by ESC as part of terms and conditions of hire of land for events by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties (mirroring the policy on sky lanterns and balloons) for reasons of disturbance to vulnerable people and animals.
- The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership’s Review of Activities 2021 contains a summary of actions undertaken by ESC on the green agenda since autumn 2018, along with summaries from all other partner organisations of the SCCP. [SCCP-Review-April-2021.pdf \(greensuffolk.org\)](#)

**Action agreed for DW** to invite ESC officer leading the project to redevelop the former Deben High School with Passivhaus principles to a future Steering Group meeting to deliver an overview of the project.

## 2. Nature First event and next steps

BR mentioned Great Garden Trail of Open Gardens in Waldringfield on 20 June; BR to circulate details to group. Blue Heart Campaign of letting gardens grow a little bit wild and promotes the use of a blue heart on a stake to help show that letting it grow is intentional and help start the conversation with neighbours.

## 3. Proposed Greenprint Nature First Small Grants Scheme

ESC has identified a budget of £10,000 available for the creation of a grant scheme proposed to be administered by ESC on behalf of the Greenprint Forum, for the benefit of community groups who would be able to apply to the fund for a grant to support grass-roots projects that contribute towards the goal of Nature First. The intention is to launch the fund in June 2021.

**Action agreed for DW** to check with ESC Democratic Services Team application of duty to declare interests for members of a panel determining funding allocations.

## 4. Update on correspondence with Government

A further [letter](#) has been sent jointly by Greenprint and ESC Environment Task Group to Defra on the subjects of neonicotinoids, fireworks, sky lanterns, and balloons.

## 5. AOB

LM mentioned an online competition of biodiversity photography being run in Peasehall.

BR raised the issue of the felling of an oak tree at Wladrington Heath crossroads which was not subject to a TPO. **Action agreed for DW** to find out from ESC arboricultural team the current process for members of the community to secure a TPO from ESC for trees that they may be concerned about.

Plastic Action – videos

Jason Alexander has produced draft proposal to create a series of short educational and instructional videos to communicate the plastic action message and actions people can take and share with others. Cost quoted of £600. **Action agreed for DW** to circulate proposal to steering group for feedback.

## 6. Dates of next meetings

10 August 2021

9 November 2021

8 February 2022