
Greenprint Forum Steering Group Meeting

Location: Online via Zoom

Date: Tuesday 9 February 2021

Time: Commenced 10:00, concluded 11:35

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

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

Apologies: Luke Bennett, Nick Khan, Sue Hall

Agenda

1. Steering Group membership update – DW
2. Update on ESC green agenda – JM
3. Update on Quiet Lanes Suffolk – DW
4. Update on Community Partnerships Travel Steering Group – DW
5. Update on correspondence with Government - DW
6. Structure of Nature First event (on Zoom) 22 March and ideas for additional Nature relevant events during remainder of year – All
7. AOB
8. Suggested dates of meetings for remainder of 2021/22 (all Tuesdays at 10:00-12:00):
 - 11 May 2021
 - 10 August 2021
 - 9 November 2021
 - 8 February 2022

1. Steering Group membership update

Laurence Moss invited by the Steering Group to the meeting as guest with interest in joining the Steering Group. A retired teacher with considerable experience in grass roots green volunteer activism and advocating biodiversity through key role with Greener Peasenhall as well as involvement with local Friends of the Earth and Stop Sizewell C campaign, and a

Greenprint Plastic Action Champion. Proposed as new member of Steering Group by JH, seconded by SHarvey, no dissent, LM duly admitted to Steering Group.

Cathy Smith took up a new role with Cornwall Council at the beginning of 2021, therefore she has stepped down as representative of the AONB on our Steering Group as well as Funding & Development Officer at the AONB team. Cathy's contribution as an active Steering Group member for several years and contributions to Greenprint projects noted. All wish Cathy well in her new role as Cornwall's Forests for Cornwall Project Officer.

Phil Gore has announced his retirement from his role as Head of Environment and Port Health for East Suffolk Council. As well as performing that role, Phil has been the Senior Officer contributing to the work of the Steering Group since 2003, providing crucial support to the activities of the Greenprint Forum throughout that time. Highly regarded by all those he worked with, his commitment and dedication to the Greenprint Forum and also to pushing the green agenda within the Council is recognised by the group, and with deep gratitude to Phil for his efforts, we wish him well in his retirement.

2. Update on ESC green agenda

- Paper on procurement for Housing Services was brought to Cabinet last week.
- East Bag initiative underway to help vulnerable residents remain active and mentally healthy and also communicates the green message through provision of wild flower seeds for residents to enjoy the flowers of.
- Pardon the Weeds We're Feeding the Bees – coverage of sympathetic verge and open space management regime to double this year on 2020 output. Alongside this the usage of glyphosate in playgrounds is being reduced.
- ESC is engaged with SCC Highways over ways to mitigate environmental impacts set to arise from proposed works on the A12.
- ETG continue to meet quarterly:
 - Local Energy Bill has been considered and conclusion reached that ESC better placed to support energy efficiency for residents than set up a community energy company of its own.
 - Deben redevelopment project will feature Passivhaus principles, features for biodiversity, provide for active travel modes and connect with local green spaces such as the local pocket park.
 - ETG emphasises cross party collaboration – Green Cllr Smith-Lyte conducted report into actions of other councils on green agenda to identify potential learning opportunities and Labour Cllr Gooch is working with DW and JM closely on further ideas around Plastic Action and education.
 - A draft fireworks policy, possibly similar to that on balloons and sky lanterns, is to be taken by officers to a future ETG meeting.
 - Clean Air Strategy expected to be launched in spring 2021
- Community Partnerships: Beccles, Bungay & Halesworth CP is supporting the development of projects in Beccles for a community orchard and in Bungay to restore

the old cemetery and its habitats. Kesgrave, Martlesham & Fynn Valley CP has allocated £10,000 to 11 environmental projects through its small grants scheme.

SHarvey asked how we can influence new school development in Kirton to consider space for nature, enable active travel and ensure access to the outdoors for pupils. JM: schools are controlled by SCC so it is SCC (and SCC Highways) who need to be engaged with, in conjunction with engagement with school governors and parents.

LM asked to kept informed about the Clean Air Strategy. JM stated commitment to share information with the Steering Group.

JH asked if there are any other active projects under consideration to include the Passivhaus principle e.g. the redevelopment of Melton Hill. JM advised currently of projects owned by ESC only the Deben redevelopment embraces Passivhaus principles but will find out more about Melton Hill.

JH asked how the impact of Pardon the Weeds project is being measured. JM & DW advised currently this is measured through mapping and coverage whilst officers are exploring options for involving members of the community in recording presence of relevant species on the sites.

3. Update on Quiet Lanes Suffolk

Designations for new Quiet Lanes in Snape and Glemsford (the Phase 1 self-help pilot parishes) having successfully passed local community consultation are now being finalised by SCC legal team and signage is expected to be erected soon.

Mass implementation will take place over three Waves as part of Phase 2 during remainder of 2021/22. 1st Wave set to commence with public consultation due to start 22 February in 16 parishes of which 8 in East Suffolk (Levington, Stratton Hall, Middleton, Kelsale cum Carlton, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Sweffling and Great Glemham) with target of April for implementation. 2nd and 3rd Waves to follow in summer and autumn.

QLS team are keeping in regular touch with parish lead volunteers including through informal fortnightly Zoom meetings to provide opportunity for parish leads to raise questions and issues.

Professional comms agency Spring have been appointed to run the comms campaign.

4. Update on Community Partnerships Transport Steering Group

Transport is one of the three key district-wide priorities for the Community Partnerships Board and as such a Transport Steering Group has been set up to focus on:

- i) Active and Sustainable Travel
- ii) Community Transport solutions
- iii) Rural Transport

They are taking a twin track approach to the Transport Priority:

Short Term:

- Develop short-term 'quick win' deliverables.
- Identify, develop and seed/match fund pilots and trial projects to test 'proof of concept' and assess their viability to be scaled up across the area.

Medium – Long term:

- Study transport and travel issues & gaps in East Suffolk to provide rigorous data and intelligence on which to base future work.
- Work with strategic partners to redesign parts of the system, and collectively lobby to influence for change.

A programme manager has been appointed and a delivery budget of £80k allocated by the CP Board from its 2020/21 budget to fund this.

The Board also agreed to support Suffolk County Council to trial an innovative new "Katch" EV Taxi bus service between Framlingham, Wickham Market and Campsea Ashe Station which had been due to launch in January 2021. (NB: Covid19 lockdown has forced a further delay on this launch, this is now scheduled to commence on the 1 April 2021)

<https://www.katchalift.com/>

The Transport Steering Group is chaired by Cllr Alexander Nicoll (SCC) with Cllr Norman Brookes (ESC) as Vice Chair, it also includes Steerers from Transport East, EdF, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, and council officers to bring together the right key players to enable coordinated action.

5. Update on Correspondence with Government

The joint correspondence by Greenprint Forum Steering Group and the Environment Task Group initiated in summer 2020 with BEIS has been continued with a further letter to BEIS as well as letters to DfT, Defra and MCHLG all sent in December. A response from MCHLG was received in February and the direction of further correspondence with Government departments will be determined once GFSG and ETG have seen contents of all responses once received.

Whilst all correspondence has been copied to the local MPs there has been no input from them to this process so options for engaging directly with them were discussed. **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. **Action Agreed for DW** to seek via email from the wider membership of Greenprint, suggestions of questions to put to MPs in an interview.

6. Structure of Nature First event (on Zoom) 22 March and ideas for additional Nature relevant events during remainder of year

Proposal of structure of Nature First event involving speakers, Q&A, and knowledge share from audience discussed. **Action Agreed for DW** to draft and circulate to Steering Group a proposed programme for comments.

Suggestion from LM to include in the event visual content supplied by membership base. **Action Agreed for DW** to invite visual content from membership when final programme circulated to members via email.

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.

Suggestion by SHarvey to arrange visit to Kirton Community Woodlands once Covid restrictions permit. To be reassessed in line with relaxation of restrictions.

7. AOB

None.

8. Dates of next meetings

11 May 2021

10 August 2021

9 November 2021

8 February 2022