
Greenprint Forum Steering Group Meeting

Location: Online via Zoom

Date: Tuesday 9 November 2021

Time: 10:00-12:20

Invited: Betsy Reid, Daniel Wareing, Helen Buckingham, James Mallinder, Jane Healey, Laurence Moss, Luke Bennett, Nick Khan, Sue Hall, Susan Harvey, Chris Ryde, Anthony Taylor, Jason Beck, Laura Hack, Bridget Law

In attendance: Jane Healey, Laurence Moss, Daniel Wareing, Jane Healey, James Mallinder (to 10:10), Susan Harvey, Jason Beck (to 11:00), Laura Hack (to 11:00), Bridget Law (to 11:00), Nick Khan (to 12:00), Luke Bennett (to 12:10)

Apologies: Sue Hall, Chris Ryde, Betsy Reid

Agenda

1. Welcome/apologies – JH
2. Update on ESC Cycling & Walking Strategy – Jason Beck & Anthony Taylor
3. Update on Deben Site Passivhaus redevelopment – Laura Hack & Bridget Law
4. Steering Group matters – DW
5. Friends of Gardens initiative – DW/JM
6. Rewilding monitors proposal – DW
7. Update on ESC green agenda – DW/JM
8. Update on Nature First Small Grants Scheme – DW
9. Farming Today, Fit for Tomorrow – DW
10. AOB

Actions from last meeting:

1. Update on ESC Cycling & Walking Strategy

Waveney Cycling Strategy to be replaced with new Walking & Cycling Strategy for entire district. 1st document consulted on suggestions for areas of improvement from the

community. 1st draft of 2nd document now open for consultation in an online, interactive format.

1st part of document relates to Key Corridors identified through evidence bases such as Strava Metro. Document gives overview of current situation as well as recommendations for improvements. Some recommendations are mutually exclusive, some are not.

2nd part relates to leisure routes identified in Leiston area, 3rd area relates to site allocation recommendations. 4th section relates to recommendations from the community that arose through the initial consultation.

Next actions: A steering group involving ESC and SCC provides the evaluation framework to assess the outcomes of the consultations. ESC will filter conclusions prior to liaising with SCC on implementation.

Suggestion from NK – can routes to Minsmere involving bridleways off-road be incorporated into the leisure route section. The Strategy will link in with the Community Partnerships on transport related initiatives to optimise involvement in active travel. Social media and communication through parish councils has been used to promote and maximise feedback.

Steering Group members are encouraged to share the consultation with others in their own networks (deadline 17:00 10 January 2022): [East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy | Draft 2021 \(arcgis.com\)](#)

2. Update on Deben Site Passivhaus redevelopment

The redevelopment of the former school site will retain and refurbish two existing buildings whilst providing 61 new homes designed to Passivhaus standard. The proposed development seeks to provide an exemplar mixed housing and leisure scheme and sets the standard for future housing development in East Suffolk.

The site is a 4 ha mixture of playing fields and school buildings, in Garrison Lane in Felixstowe. ESC formally took on the site from Suffolk County Council in November 2020 as an initial leisure redevelopment of the sports hall – however they wanted us to have the whole site

Playing fields are protected and will be used as a Sports Hub for cricket. The sports hall will be repurposed into an indoor bowling facility and changing rooms for the cricket.

The main school buildings have been demolished, leaving the Assembly hall as a community building.

The scheme is situated within a sustainable location and has access to shops and other local amenities within walking distance or via public transport. It is 0.7 miles to The Triangle in the town centre.

The proposed design seeks to maximise the placing of green spaces and provide an opportunity for biodiversity within the development. Shared amenity spaces are overlooked to prevent antisocial behaviour. Views through communal landscaped areas and across the cricket green help to place landscaping and green infrastructure at the heart of this development. Walking routes connect pockets of green space throughout the site and link the existing park to the west of the playing fields.

The proposed layout encourages a relationship between the proposed housing scheme to the south and a new leisure facility to the north of the site.

The site has been designed to be tenure neutral with a mix of private sale, affordable rent and shared ownership across the site. There are no design differences across these tenures and all properties will benefit from the same passive technology. Of the proposed 61 units 68% are affordable homes and 32% will be for private market sale. There are 3 wheelchair compliant apartments and parking is proposed at a 1 to 1 ratio across the residential scheme.

The housing accommodation is arranged to reduce the visual appearance of car parking and promote green spaces and walking routes.

Passive design uses layout, fabric, and form to reduce the need for mechanical cooling, heating, ventilation, and lighting demand. Consideration to the properties' spatial planning and orientation, combined with a continuous ventilation system, allows the occupants to benefit from solar gain and maximises daylight without the risk of overheating. Collectively these design principles will reduce the properties reliance on mechanical systems and reduce the running costs to tenants.

The scheme has been designed as a pedestrian led environment with vehicle movement kept to a minimum. The proposals maximise green space and enhance biodiversity whilst still providing designated parking for all homes.

Integrated charging point for all homes with on plot parking.

Visitor charging point also provided.

The inclusion of "play streets" brings further emphasis to the pedestrianised nature of the site, creating a safe and welcoming spaces for residents to walk, meet and socialise.

Houses are arranged on a north south axis with back gardens to neighbouring properties to prevent overlooking. Balconies are screened to provide privacy for people when using their private outside amenity space.

Almost all properties have their own front door to create an inviting street frontage. This is a significant step change from traditional corridor apartments with excessive internal communal spaces.

There is a detailed landscape plan for the site, with a rain garden, community allotment, interesting design features planned.

3. Steering Group matters

Chris Ryde (Countryside Officer, East Suffolk Norse) has recently been approached by DW with a view to co-opting into the vacancy created upon recent retirement of Peter Ross from Steering Group. Admission of Chris to Steering Group proposed by JH, seconded by SHarvey.

All to review their own information on the Steering Group Profile and update if necessary and update/provide photo in advance of republication on the webpages.

DW to circulate most recent profile for updates from the group.

4. Friends of Gardens initiative

Idea from Councillor Louise Gooch to set up a network of "Friends of Gardens" group for east Suffolk to enable knowledge sharing and connections to be made between groups. LB noted that if further support is required to maintain a network this will require some resource. LM mentioned the existing network of Blue Heart gardens into which a network of Friends groups could connect. JH mentioned the Friends of Fen Meadow in Woodbridge, DW mentioned the Friends of Seafront Gardens in Felixstowe.

DW and LB to liaise to discuss approach.

5. Rewilding monitors proposal

Information on impact on ESC's policy of reduced mowing policy of public open spaces (Biodiversity Conservation Areas) on biodiversity remains lacking. DW introduced a proposal to recruit members of the community to gather this information by recording the presence/absence of key species at their local biodiversity conservation area and acting as a community advocate for the concept in their community to help communicate the principle and dispel any myths arising. As well as recruiting fully trained monitors the scheme could be widened to invite casual volunteers to download a recording form from the webpages and carry out self-led monitoring to reduce the need for direct guidance from the Steering Group or ESC.

JH suggested the provision of a digital app downloadable from the website to facilitate community recording. NK noted that ESC's IT team could help with generating something through GIS. NK suggested a photo competition to encourage submission of images from volunteers.

DW to amend proposal and circulate for further feedback.

6. Update on ESC green agenda

Alternative Vehicle fuel – an interim fuel solution to reduce fleet emissions

The ETG has encouraged the development of a 'meanwhile' solution using a Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel to replace the use of fossil diesel in the Council's fleet vehicles. Transport accounts for some 40% of the Council's carbon emissions. A report on this project was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 September when it resolved to:

- Approve changing the fuel used by all the Euro 6 rated diesel-powered vehicles in the Council's vehicle fleet from diesel to certified palm oil free Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel.
- Approve a procurement process in autumn 2021 for the supply of certified palm oil free Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil fuel meeting the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification.
- Require that other than in the most exceptional circumstances any replacement or new fleet vehicles (whether leased or purchased) are Euro 6 compliant.

It is anticipated that compatible existing vehicles on the fleet will begin to use HVO from the beginning of 2022, following a procurement process that will, as a prerequisite, specify that the fuel is certified free of palm oil under the International Sustainability & Carbon Certification programme.

Biodiversity and nature East Suffolk House (ESH) enhancements

Following high-visibility work completed during the summer to plant strips of wildflower meadows and erect insect shelters along the entrance to ESH, and erection of bird and bat boxes on many of the trees on the grounds, further work has been carried out to enhance provision for nature and the ability for members of staff working from the site to enjoy the surroundings and wildlife attracted to it. Additionally, in September work will be completed on providing a new planted outdoor seating area. The work highlights the importance of sharing our outdoor spaces with nature and can act as an example to other land managers.

Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning

An SPD has been drafted 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. A public consultation on the draft SPD has been launched. Once adopted, the Sustainable Construction SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Steering Group members are encouraged to share the consultation with others in their own networks (deadline 17:00 13 December 2021): [Draft Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document - East Suffolk Council, Strategic Planning Consultations \(inconsult.uk\)](https://www.inconsult.uk/consultations/2021/12/13/draft-sustainable-construction-supplementary-planning-document-east-suffolk-council)

Resource and Waste Strategy

The Government's Resource & Waste Strategy is expected to have a fundamental impact on the delivery of services and the council's resources to achieve this. However, beyond the need

to introduce separate food waste collections and increase the range of materials collected, the final legislative framework is not expected to be published until late 2021, with significant local decisions likely to be required by April 2022 in order to prepare for the potential need for implementation from April 2023. Research to assess the viability of delivery on anticipated requirements of RAWs has been undertaken by the SWP which indicates that either a co-mingled dry recycle plus separate glass collection system, or an alternate weekly separate stream collection system keeping glass, paper & card, plastics, and metal separate during collection, would be viable in principle with potential for c. 10% increase in local recycling rates. However significant issues lie ahead with likely higher operating and capital costs and resource implications and added complexity for service users and our delivery partners.

Delivering a sustainable Housing Portfolio

The Council is in the course of engaging a consultant team to commence a review of the full portfolio of current HRA stock. Information from the data-driven review will be used to prioritise 2 pilot schemes for retro fit and determine what additional actions we can take to reduce carbon emissions and contribute to our climate emergency objectives as part of a longer-term refurbishment programmes across the HRA Stock. The review will be data-driven. Data describes the fabric of the building and its components; roof, floors, windows, insulation, heating and energy performance. We have identified new software, "Intelligent Energy", that will improve greatly our capability to analyse this data and develop plans for improvements in energy efficiency and de-carbonisation of the housing stock. Whilst the HRA portfolio has been maintained to a good standard over the years the carbon neutral targets add significant strain to the existing maintenance programme. Much of the work required to decarbonise the existing HRA stock goes beyond the planned maintenance which has traditionally been done to ensure the homes are in a good condition and comfortable to live in. These interventions will give the properties a longer life span, reduce running cost for tenants and most importantly reduce the properties reliance on non-renewable sources of energy. Any proposed environmental enhancements will take into consideration the existing planned maintenance workstreams to ensure efficiencies can be achieved where properties are suitable for retrofit enhancements. This process will ensure the Council's housing portfolio positively contributes towards our carbon neutral ambitions whilst also provide truly sustainable and affordable homes for our tenants.

New 'Green' New Build Design Guide

The Council's Housing Development Strategy 2020-2024 identifies 'Environmental Sustainability' as an essential element in the creation of homes and communities in which people want to live and work. It notes that lowering the whole-life carbon footprint of properties will help tenants save money and deliver lasting environmental, social, and economic benefits. Housing, both our existing stock and new build programme, has a huge role to play in the current environmental challenges we are facing. The team are developing a new 'New Build Design Guide' which will outline our minimum requirements in terms of energy standards and environmental impact.

Assets

The Council is in the course of updating the EPC certificates of its built assets. All EPCs displayed in those assets that are open to the public are now up to date. A further 15 in non-public facing buildings are close to expiry and are in the process of being renewed. In the course of updating the EPC certificates the assets team are identifying those assets where opportunities for energy efficiency improvements exist and generate the business case for measures to reduce energy consumption and related emissions and improve the future EPC ratings of those assets.

Community Partnerships

CP for Bungay & Beccles has part funded half term activities for young people and adults including Forest School activities for grown ups.

7. Update on Nature First Small Grants Scheme

Over £8,000 allocated so far to 11 projects distributed throughout the district details of which have been published on the webpages [Nature-First-projects-funded-summer-2021.pdf \(eastsuffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-11/Nature-First-projects-funded-summer-2021.pdf). Balance remaining £11,734.81. To be relaunched in late November with next panel meeting in early 2022.

NK suggested mapping of projects to show distribution and progress.

8. Farming Today, Fit for Tomorrow

Preparation for event going well. SH to provide update on Quiet Lanes at event.

Action DW to promote event to NFU and CLA.

9. Date of next meeting

8 February 2022 10:00-12:00