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## Greenprint Forum Steering Group Meeting

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Location: Alde Room, East Suffolk House

Date: Tuesday 25 July 2023

Time: 10:00-12:00

Invited: Betsy Reid, Chris Ryde, Daniel Wareing, Emily Knock, Jane Healey, Laurence Moss, Luke Bennett, Paul Mackie, Rachel Smith Lyte, Sorcha Barnes, Susan Harvey

In attendance in person: Chris Ryde, Daniel Wareing, Jane Healey, Luke Bennett, Rachel Smith Lyte, Sorcha Barnes, Susan Harvey, Paul Mackie (from 11:05)

Apologies: Betsy Reid, Emily Knock, Laurence Moss

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### Agenda

1. Welcome/apologies
  - a. apologies from: Betsy Reid, Emily Knock
2. Consider topic of next evening Forum (or subsequent Fora) e.g.: - All
  - a. Farming best practice
  - b. Climate anxiety
  - c. Eco Churches
  - d. Other suggestions are welcome
3. Update on SCEP Collaboration Sub Group – DW
4. Updates from Steerers – all
  - a. Waldringfield Green Infrastructure Workshop – DW
5. Updates on ESC Green Agenda – PM
6. Any other business
7. Dates (and venues?) of next meetings (remote/in person?)

#### 1. Welcome/apologies

Apologies received from Betsy Reid, Emily Knock and Laurence Moss

Sorcha Barnes welcomed as observer, gave introduction to the group along with an overview of her internship and projects she is working on (including Motion for the Ocean, environmental communications plan, and rewilding).

CR mentioned Woods Meadow now has Green Flag status. Criteria for Green Flag:

- A Welcoming Place.
- Healthy, Safe and Secure.
- Well Maintained and Clean.
- Environmental Management.
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage.
- Community Involvement.
- Marketing and Communication.
- Implementation of Management Plan

## 2. Topic of next evening Forum

### a. Farming best practice

This topic was suggested at the first meeting of the newly elected Environment Task Group on 12 July 2023, with the action to discuss delegated to this meeting of the Greenprint Forum Steering Group as a potential theme for a Greenprint Forum Conference.

Future Landscapes is an initiative relevant to farmers situated within the AONB.

**ACTION: LB** to find info on the past work involving NFU and the AONB, this could be a potential basis for a revisit.

**ACTION: DW** to engage with NFU to start conversation about whether they would be interested in an event that follows on from the report from Future Landscapes.

iFarm are 3 villages in north Suffolk/south Norfolk with integration between farmers and locals/residents.

The Swan in Worlingworth is where farmers and farm hands meet up and talk and exchange favours with local people, adding a sense of community that can integrate previously quite separate parties.

**Actions** were assigned to the following members of the group to approach potential hosts/speakers:

- iFarm – **RSL** to contact Joolz Thompson.
- Anna Beames (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) – **DW** to contact
- Minette Batters (regional lead for NFU) – **DW** to contact
- Worlingworth Swan – micro economy – **RSL** to contact

Agreed by group to tackle the topic of farming best practice as the first priority with a view to holding this as an event in person, potentially hosted by an external speaker, or at the council offices, as our next Greenprint Forum conference.

### **b. Climate Anxiety**

This was considered to be a topic likely to be of more appeal to young people than other potential topics.

Potential partners to engage with – Siren/Incredible Oceans, MIND.

Potential to follow up on Youth Climate Forum held at WSC recently.

The group discussed the need to incorporate interactivity into the event to try and keep spirits and attitudes positive as lecture style meet may result in increased climate anxiety or depression.

Aim to make it activity based around solutions and ideas, with some team work – Incredible oceans could come up with ideas for an activity.

Venues suggested:

- The Cut Arts Centre, Halesworth; close proximity to railway station and reasonably accessible from Lowestoft, Bungay, Southwold and Beccles.
- Discovery Centre, Minsmere; excellent outdoor facilities great for an 'active' meet with things to do and a lovely reserve to look around afterwards too.
- Closest station is Darsham and then Connecting Communities (CATS) could help with minivans from the station. This would need to be sorted out before hand.
- Riverside, Stratford St Andrew; again no railway station close but adjacent to A12 and at geographical centre of district.

**ACTION: DW** to contact Mind and Incredible Oceans to scope out appetite to be involved and potential activity for the event, and to contact Abigail Blake at SCCP to scope out opportunity to follow up the Youth Climate Forum.

The group decided to make this the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority of topics floated, and the format could take the form of a hybrid meeting in person with remote tune in optional.

### **c. Churches**

What are we doing about listed buildings many of which tend to be drafty and challenging to retrofit? There are also many Conservation Areas (Planning) around Suffolk which may restrict the application of retrofit actions.

Historic England could have transferable advice about retrofitting castles, whilst Emmanuel Church Bungay has gold status under A Rocha Eco Churches many other churches particularly

ancient ones may find gold status extremely challenging to achieve. The Suffolk Preservation Society may also be potential speaker organisation.

However the group noted that many more building are not “Listed” than are so queried whether we should be prioritising this relatively small proportion of the building stock if it is of limited relatability to the wider population.

The group concluded that a preference would be to broaden this theme out into a wider discussion Forum topic on Planning, a bit of a follow up from the event we held in autumn 2023.

RSL noted that Greens are represented on Planning Committee now. Local Plan up for renewal in 2025, **ACTION:** DW to liaise with Planning Team to enquire as to channel for Greenprint Forum to have an input to development.

LB noted that Chris King has reserved a spot at ESC Forum 2024 to engage with parishes. **ACTION: DW** to enquire of CK of attendance at a Forum to explain the position and channels and NPPF; i.e. a skilling-up session to help delegates to better understand how Planning works, correct common myths, and how to engage effectively with the process.

Agreed this would be 3<sup>rd</sup> topic to tackle, as a session online which would be recorded and made available on the Greenprint Forum’s Youtube channel; Steering Group members to suggest questions to cover.

Kevin McLeod (Grand Designs) showcases sustainable design in homes; the group noted pros and cons to the programme (pros: demonstrates actual examples of innovation; cons: perception of programme as being by the wealthy and for the wealthy constrains relatability).

**LB suggested** that we liaise with the Demand Responsive Transport Scheme (e.g.CATS) for the respective area of any future event held in person, in advance of an event to provide an opportunity for DRTs to provide responsive travel solutions.

### 3. Update on SCEP Collaboration Sub Group

Community Stakeholder Engagement events are proposed for the autumn. The proposal is for the first two events to be held in the autumn at a large scale, for the purpose of providing an opportunity for networking and connecting communities with the overarching Suffolk Climate Change Partners, and showcasing best practice. Members of the wider Suffolk network have been consulted on the format and venues for the events, as well as having been invited to express interest in hosting, facilitating or speaking at further grass roots to be held during 2024.

Dates and venues have been scheduled for the first two events as follows:

- Saturday 4 November, 10:00-14:00, Market hall, Saxmundham

- Wednesday 8 November, 10:00-14:00, Unitarian Meeting House, Bury St Edmunds

Greenprint Steering Group are invited to provide a representative to join the Collaboration Subgroup to help develop and deliver these and other initiatives. JH stepped forward and agreed by the group to offer to represent Greenprint on the group. **ACTION: DW** to request that Claire Ling adds JH to the Subgroup.

#### 4. Updates from Steerers

**JH** – bat recording project – about 80 recorders have been put up on poles around Woodbridge and Melton to record sounds of bats to help identify what is present and where. 80 people attended debrief of results in June (including 36 of the 80 households hosting the recorders). 5 species recorded. Project highlighted importance to bats of sites including Porters Wood, Bromeswell Lake, Melton Playing Fields, and Naverne Meadows. To be repeated this year. The fact that bats find these sites important indicates that the sites also support a diversity of invertebrate life to support the bats.

Potential indicator of ecology and biodiversity for the Planning Team – **ACTION: DW** to put JH in touch with ESC Ecology Team.

May – Open Wild Gardens weekend to showcase residents’ gardens and their wildlife friendly initiatives, dedicating some part of the garden (ranging from as simple as a washing-up bowl pond, to leaving the whole garden to self-wild).

**SH** – Grant from Field to Fork for 3 raised beds (alongside one self-funded) for Kirton allotments, on conditionality to let some for social prescribing. Sure Trust engaged to deliver social prescribing but couldn’t find eligible residents who would benefit. However, the top soil was donated free from a kind digger man who found the project really exciting. Additionally, one man was given the self-funded raised bed and consequently one more and has reportedly found the project invigorating.

**BR** – (update given by DW in absence of BR) about the Green Infrastructure Workshop to be held on 30 August involving a range of key stakeholders organisations (including ESC Planners) to develop a draft Nature Recovery Plan for the parish councils involved (Waldringfield, Martlesham, Kesgrave, Newbourne, Hemley, Purdis Farm, Rushmere St Andrew, Foxhall, and Brightwell). The intention is that the draft Plan produced provides a template replicable by other parish councils elsewhere.

**CR** – to advise the group on circumstances when trees might be removed by ESC, pertinent as some have been removed recently by ESC and this can raise concerns and queries, as it is sometimes necessary when trees are stressed or diseased such as those at Bawdsey Picnic Site. Also dying trees may be thinned out to open up habitat for other species.

**LB** – next ESC CP Annual Conference to be added as agenda item for next meeting (ideas for workshop/seminar from Greenprint at the conference). **ACTION: DW** to add to next agenda.

## 5. Updates on ESC Green Agenda

ESC now has seats on regional climate change group and engaged with Portfolio Holders Group of SCCP.

BNG (2023) and local nature recovery strategy (2024) coming forth, ESC will be exploring opportunities to apply and are working on habitat mapping currently.

Engaging actively with external stakeholders on a regional water quality and availability strategy particularly from Planning perspective. SH mentioned holistic water approach at Falkenham and the Rivers Deben and Kingsfleet – a private initiative of about 7 farms in the locality. Captures water run off from roads, and when clean is used for watering crops. Initial funding was from EU but farmers are now covering the costs themselves.

Nature First fund – outcome of pitch to CFO awaited.

Actively learning from neighbouring authorities on aspects including EV charging infrastructure and taxi licencing.

Projects under development include working on position statement for EV charging, work with green schools and parish councils on nature, Ocean Recovery Plan, and scaling up of (and more proactive management of) sites managed for biodiversity.

## 6. Any other business

SH mentioned holistic water approach at Falkenham and the Rivers Deben and Kingsfleet – a private initiative of about 7 farms in the locality. Captures water run off from roads, and when clean is used for watering crops. Initial funding was from EU but farmers are now covering the costs themselves. RSL and JH expressed desire to visit, ACTION SH to coordinate a visit for RSL and JH.

## 7. Dates of next meetings

- **24 October**
- **23 January**
- **23 April**

Future meetings to be held in hybrid form (in person with facility for others to tune in via Zoom if needed) if held at ESC offices, unless held at a community venue with or without a site visit combined in which case it would be in person only.