
Greenprint Forum Steering Group Meeting

Location: Blyth Room, East Suffolk House

Date and time: 10:00-12:00, Tuesday 18 February 2025

Invited: Aimee McLachlan (guest), Andrew Jolliffe, Anne Westover, Betsy Reid, Chris Ryde, Daniel Wareing, Jamie Bretton, Jane Healey, Laurence Moss, Paul Mackie, Rachel Smith Lyte, Ruth Bishop, Sally Noble, Sam Kenward

In attendance in person: Aimee McLachlan (guest), Anne Westover, Betsy Reid, Daniel Wareing, Jamie Bretton, Jane Healey, Luke Bennett, Paul Mackie, Rachel Smith Lyte, Susan Harvey

In attendance via Zoom: Laurence Moss, Jamie Bretton, Sam Kenward

Apologies: Andrew Jolliffe, Chris Ryde

Agenda

Changes to Steering Group

- Sam Kenward and Andrew Jolliffe were welcomed to the Steering Group, and will represent ESC Communities on a role-share basis on the Steering Group in the wake of the departure of Luke Bennett who has recently retired.
- Anne Westover was also welcome to the group as a Volunteer Member. Anne is a Tree Warden and member of Wickham Market Parish Environment Group.
- Susan Harvey, Volunteer Member from Kirton, has recently retired from the Steering Group.

Introduction from new ESC Sustainable Travel Officer, Aimee McLachlan

- Working with Katch and Buzzabout, currently operating in Lowestoft, Framlingham... with plans to expand to Hacheston.

- Leading cycling, walking, and wheeling projects to connect towns and parishes.
- Overseeing project management to ensure delivery of transport initiatives.
- Andrew Burgess operates Katch, which has now been extended to Rendlesham.

Overview of and discussion on Neighbourhood Planning document relating to climate change – Ruth Bishop

- Ruth provided an overview of the Neighbourhood Planning document currently open to public consultation.
- A range of support documents have been made available online, along with new guidance and consultation opportunities.
- Topics covered in Neighbourhood Plans include:
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Design
 - Parking
 - Historic environment
 - Walking and cycling infrastructure
 - Allocating local green spaces
 - Identifying and protecting key views
 - Climate change, flooding, and coastal change
 - Infrastructure priorities

Benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan

- With a plan: Receives 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from developments.
- Without a plan: Receives only 15% of CIL and has a perceived reduction in influence on development decisions.
- Planning applications are assessed against the Local Plan when a Neighbourhood Plan is in place.

Climate Change Guidance – Objectives

- Help communities understand the role of planning in mitigating climate change impacts.
- Provide practical ideas for planning policies.

- Explain the role of community actions and answer common questions.

Key Updates

- Solar Farms: The threshold for a project to be considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) has increased from 15 MW to 100 MW.
- Green & Blue Infrastructure:
 - Green Infrastructure relates to plants and natural habitats.
 - Blue Infrastructure focuses on water bodies, including ponds and flood mitigation.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG):
 - Developed in collaboration with Suffolk Wildlife Trust.
 - Hadleigh has a 20% BNG target, which can serve as inspiration.
 - Plans could set BNG requirements to ensure quality and impact.

Next Steps

- Joint Consultation: 6-week period from 29th January – 12th March.
- Document Update & Review.
- Final Draft Presentation to LPWG in March.
- Adoption & Publication.

Ideas for visits/events around the tree and landscape topic – Anne Westover

- Strengthen connections with Suffolk Tree Warden Network.
- Improve information-sharing across networks via newsletters.
- Potential events showcasing local projects.
- Town & Parish Council Planning Forum: Invite tree wardens to discuss tree planning strategies.

Update for group ahead of Forum event of 24 Feb

- Speakers: (4 in total, 3 confirmed)
 - Martin Wilks – Climate Psychology Alliance
 - Rob & Sebastiana Black – Ecotherapy East

- Paul Hodgkin – HEAT
- Talia Hardie – SOS
- Each speaker will have 20 minutes.

ESC corporate update – Paul Mackie

- Glyphosate Herbicide: Phase-out paper to be published and shared soon.
- Trees & Hedgerows Strategy:
 - Working with Woodland Trust.
 - Call for landowners to participate.
 - Collaboration with the digital team to map existing trees and land ownership.
- EV Charging: Progressing with installations in town car parks.

Nature at Work Updates

- School Outreach: Encouraging participation in biodiversity projects.
- Signage Rollout:
 - 200 "Nature at Work" signs produced.
 - Potential to engage parish councils for land donations supporting the scheme.

Round-table updates

- BR attended a talk by Dr Adrian Cooper.
- Transition Woodbridge:
 - Earth Day Event – 26th April, featuring various activities (e.g., energy bike demonstration, Deben Climate Centre).
 - Open Wild Garden Event – 28th June, focusing on pond development.

Date of next meeting: 6 May 2025