

Greenprint Forum Newsletter—Summer 2020

As I write the introduction to this newsletter my garden is enjoying the benefit of what has so far this summer been a rather rare and therefore very welcome shower of rain. The water butts have been topped up and the froglets have been cheerfully frolicking in the wet long grass.

I hope that you've been making the most of any opportunities you might have had to get outdoors for your socially-distanced exercise, given how lucky we are to have an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in our part of Suffolk. Local [Plastic Action Champion](#) Dale, who regularly visits the beaches of Nacton, Levington and Felixstowe and clears any litter he finds, has send in this fabulous shot of the River Orwell which reminds us, as if any reminder were needed, of the value of a pollution-free environment and why we strive to achieve this through wise consumption of resources, careful disposal of waste and removing litter when it does enter nature—and crucially helping others to do the same.



Photo: Dale Robinson

From the other end of the district, Plastic Action Champions Pete and Emma tell us how they have applied their ethos of treating rubbish as a resource on their community allotment. Elsewhere in this issue, read about Aldeburgh's Amazing Swifts; Covid-19 Green Recovery Grant; Pardon the Weeds, We're Feeding the Bees; Renewable Energy Fund; a hedgehog rescue newsflash; and more.



Message from Jane Healey

On 30th June, 11,000 people and over 270 MPs made history in a mass virtual lobby of MPs arranged by the Climate Coalition #TheTimelsNow. A number of Suffolk Coastal constituents met virtually with Dr Therese Coffey to put their questions to her. These covered issues such as active travel / safer cycling / electric bikes / electric buses / public transport, Sizewell C, HS2, what advantages she saw in a green and fair recovery, steps being taken to increase wind / solar renewable energy sources so we could power down from all other sources of energy, energy efficiency retrofitting to houses and industries, improved zero carbon building of new homes: Passivhaus standards, modernisation of the electricity grid, food security, tree planting, wood burners, carbon capture.

We also asked her to support the following asks:

- Unleash investment in cleaner, greener homes, public spaces and transport, creating green jobs that support millions out of the recession
- Put nature on the path to recovery at home and abroad
- Support the most vulnerable abroad

It was a most constructive meeting and definitely worth thinking about repeating! Many thanks to Dr Coffey and all my fellow constituents for taking part!

Jane Healey: Chair of East Suffolk Greenprint Forum; Transition Woodbridge

Message from James Mallinder

As we come out of Covid-19 we are at a cross roads and we need to focus not only on rebuilding our economy but making sure the legacy of this national crisis is in the making of environmentally sound decisions. A new consensus needs to develop across all political parties placing the environmental impact on policy as important as the financial cost and cost to residents. The pause in normal behaviour has allowed us all to look and understand what is important. Bird song, a butterfly, the flowering of the garden, suddenly has a different meaning, and feel somehow more relevant. As a society we are very good at valuing something when it has gone, but less so in valuing what we have. This once in a lifetime engagement needs to be harnessed now before we return to pre-Covid-19 behaviour. Economic and environment priorities should now coexist. East Suffolk has made the Environment a key principle of the strategic business plan and subsequently all decisions will take into account the environment. Our recovery plan will be a green recovery plan just by process of formation and delivery.

Bobby Kennedy stated 'people see things as they are and ask why, I dream of things that never were and ask why not'. Policy makers and residents alike need to stop and ask the question do we as a society want to carry on with past behaviour? The time to question and take a different journey is now.

**Cllr James Mallinder: Greenprint Forum Steering Group member;
Chair of East Suffolk Council Environment Task Group;
Vice Chair of Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Steering Group**



Goodbye and Thank You James!

At the end of May, James Sullivan completed his first 8 month placement through the [Suffolk Graduate Partnership Scheme](#), as a Graduate Project Officer working in the Environmental Protection team at East Suffolk Council. During this placement he has completed work across a range of environmental topics such as air quality, plastic pollution, and climate change. As he is now moving on to his second placement, with ESC's Housing Team, we asked him about his environmental placement for the Greenprint newsletter. Thanks James and all the best for the future!

What work did you do?

JS: My placement involved working alongside the Environmental Sustainability Officer and the Environmental Protection Officer responsible for air quality monitoring. Some of the key projects I have worked on include raising awareness in local primary schools about plastic and air pollution, analysing data on the mileage claimed by East Suffolk Council staff travelling between offices, and the ways the council could assist or promote reducing emissions with haulage firms local to Felixstowe.

What were the benefits of the placement?

JS: This placement has been effective at helping my personal and professional development. For one, it has tested a wide array of skills, such as research, report writing, data analysis, carrying out a survey, and presenting.

In addition, I have been given responsibility for the work I have carried out. This has included deciding on the approach, design, content, and ultimately carrying out the projects I have been working on, whilst also listening to and incorporating the feedback of my colleagues.

Finally, this placement also allowed me to learn about the role of local government in environmental issues through the opportunities I have had to attend key meetings, events, and training sessions, as well as shadowing colleagues.

What would you say were the strengths of the Greenprint Forum, having had a brief chance to get to know the network?

JS: I have been impressed by the size and scope of the Greenprint Forum, particularly its unique role as a community forum. Having attended key Greenprint Forum events and meetings, it has been interesting to observe how community input is used to help decide priorities, approaches, and projects. As environmental issues continue to garner increased attention, I can see that the Greenprint Forum is going to play a crucial role in helping support the local community to make key environmental changes to their lifestyles.



Left—James (centre) delivering Plastic Action lesson at Grange Primary School
Photo: Raquel Monteiro

Right—James “mucking in” during ESC staff lunchtime volunteer litter pick in March
Photo: Louise Burns



Aldeburgh's Amazing Swifts

If the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us nothing else, we now know how wide two metres is. Put into avian terms, this is the width of the average wingspan of a Golden Eagle or twenty-two wrens or five Swifts lying next to one another.

On their crescent shaped wings, our Swifts travel thousands of miles on their annual migration to Africa and back, arriving in the UK in early May and staying for just a few months, principally to raise a family.

Known for never landing except to nest, Swifts may spend the first three years of their life in the air - sleeping, feeding, drinking and even mating on the wing and with the ability to fly at speeds of up to 70mph, they are the fastest birds on the planet in level flight.



But whilst the world was in lockdown, the return of the Swifts was evidence that the earth's migratory system was still working and this year more than most, people have been observing and experiencing the joy and wellbeing that all of our wildlife can bring. The sight and sound of Swifts screeching around our rooftops is truly uplifting and here in East Suffolk we are fortunate to have many towns and villages that provide welcome homes for these amazing aerial acrobats.

Swifts once nested in holes in trees and cliffs but they have evolved into urban birds and now make their homes under roof tiles or in bespoke nest boxes. However, the roof repairs that we undertake to insulate our homes are a major contributor to the loss of their nesting sites. Swifts make delicate nests from feathers gathered on the wing, are quiet when in the nest, never overstay their welcome and don't make a mess, so they make ideal tenants.

Swifts lay up to three eggs which take about twenty days to hatch. The chicks need at least six weeks to fledge and do press-ups in the nest to strengthen their wings ready to make their epic journey to Africa.

Conservation groups around the county have sought to encourage house owners and builders to install nest boxes and whilst this has been a most welcome development, Swifts have also been hit by the reduction in our insect population. Fortunately the rural environment and extensive areas of marshland in Suffolk provide the habitats necessary for insects to thrive, untouched by the pesticides that are so often used. To ensure the balance of nature is maintained, it is vital that we continue to fight the loss of these habitats, particularly in our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Continued over



Aldeburgh's Amazing Swifts (continued)

In the past few months, more than ever, we have seen the importance of respecting and cherishing our wildlife to ensure that we and future generations can continue to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Swifts, our truly amazing summer visitors.

And you can help preserve our swifts for the future.

Install a nest box, instruct your builder or architect to provide for a Swift hole in the roof during your refurbishment or install a Swift brick in any new building; and the great news is that they don't make any mess! And remember any roof repairs could block a Swift's nest. So please call if you are about to do some roofing work and would like some advice on what measures can be taken to preserve a nest.

If you live in Aldeburgh and have a nesting Swift at your house, please call Alan Collett on 07762 300050 or e-mail alan.collett6@btinternet.com so that we can draw up a map of known nest sites.

Article and photos by Alan Collett, Aldeburgh's Amazing Swifts

aldeburghsamazingswifts.co.uk **Swift conservation & rescue**



Editor's note—this newsletter coincides with Swift Awareness Week 27 June—5 July so it's a good opportunity to add that wherever you are in Suffolk you can also go online and submit records of swift nests and your sightings of swifts prospecting for nests online at the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) website and clicking onto the [Suffolk Swift Survey](#). If you have a smartphone you can also use the [RSPB's Swift Mapper](#) to report your sightings anywhere in the UK.

And for more information about how you can help swifts visit:

<https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/swifts>

Kirton Community Allotment Project

Greenprint Steering Group member Susan Harvey, and Carl Fisher, have produced a short video to introduce their Community Allotment initiative in Kirton. This is a project for the benefit of local residents, particularly those who are socially isolated or recovering from mental or physical illness as well as providing quality, local food. The video can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum/videos/vb.262633657115184/600497240886971/?type=2&theater>



We hope to soon produce a new area on our webpage bringing together a range of cases studies of grass roots action, to help educate and inspire others. If you would like to record and send in a video clip of your community environmental projects for potential inclusion, please get in touch: greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.



Pardon the Weeds—We’re Feeding the Bees

Forty new conservation areas are being created to help play a part in sustaining a recovery of biodiversity such as wildflowers and pollinators as we emerge from the lockdown period.

As a result of Covid-19, non-essential grounds maintenance, including grass cutting, was suspended in April to ensure the safety of staff and the public. During this time, only grassed areas which presented a safety, visibility or access issue were cut.

Some of the areas where grass was left to grow longer over the past two months have started to ‘re-wild’, with anecdotal examples of increases in insect and pollinator levels, and an increase in the numbers of wildflowers.

As restrictions begin to ease, East Suffolk Council is now reviewing the way these spaces are managed going forward. Forty areas across the district have been identified as ‘wild spaces’ where grass will be left to grow, wildflower seeds will be planted, and the area will not be cut until the end of the season. These areas, which are large enough to provide an environmental benefit and do not present any safety issues for local communities, are being marked with new signs to make residents and visitors aware and ask them to “Pardon the Weeds—We’re Feeding the Bees!”

In addition, a trial of managing grass more sustainably in some churchyards has been well received, so this will now become permanent.

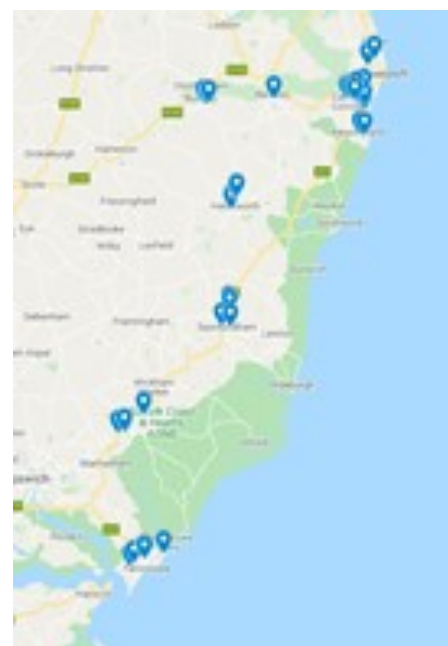
The Council’s short-term goal is to establish 100 conservation areas forming corridors across the district by next year so if you are aware of any areas that you feel would be suitable for a more sympathetic management approach, please contact your Town or Parish Council who are responsible for collating suggestions from their community and forwarding nominations to East Suffolk Council.

Any help from members of the community in keeping their local conservation area clear of litter will also be hugely appreciated!



The map below right shows the locations of the conservation areas, a full current list of which can be found here:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/conservation-areas-identified-across-east-suffolk/>



Above left—James Mallinder with one of the new signs. Photo: James Mallinder



Below left—conservation area at Grange Farm Avenue, Felixstowe. Photo: Daniel Wareing



Greenhouses from rubbish

One of the 'problems' of taking over an allotment is *rubbish* – bits of wood, torn netting, wire, bits of old plastic cloches. However, even though some of it has to be taken for recycling or energy-from-waste, we see some of it as a valuable resource. Our aim at the allotment is to try to never buy anything new and to always re-use what we can.

We run a community allotment project—[Lowestoft Fork to Fork](#)—where people come who might not have much experience of *DIY* and who may lack confidence in their own abilities, therefore an advantage of using *waste* is that it does not matter if it does not go right. The wood and plastic costs us nothing, and people are less nervous about cutting up scraps of old materials than they would be if they were new. In addition, none of us tend to have a lot of spare cash to buy new materials anyway, so showing people what can be made out of waste helps save money and the environment. Our ethos is not about getting it perfect but about people getting the confidence to *have a go*. Another benefit of using slightly rotten wood is that it is easier to saw through.

All photos:

Lowestoft Fork to Fork

Greenhouse One

Adjacent to one allotment was quite a good wooden structure that had been used as a greenhouse. However, the glass had smashed and the plastic had disintegrated.

We used the waste plastic that was left on the site to cover it. We avoided using any thin plastic sheeting since this tends to *photodegrade* too rapidly in the sunlight and disintegrate into lots of smaller bits of plastic.

We also obtained some glass windows from a local company that installs windows. When they remove the old windows they take them back to the yard, smash them and put them in a skip. We went down and *saved* some and used them on the lower part of the greenhouse. We did a couple of trips with the bike trailers to fetch them, and also found a couple of large discarded polycarbonate sheets that went on the bike trailers too (it is amazing what can be carried on a trailer!)

The door was made from a discarded shower door, and the roof was mainly made from old plastic cloches held in place by metal strips that were originally part of a metal framed greenhouse that had collapsed and been discarded.

Although the greenhouse isn't perfect it helps us produce a good crop of tomatoes, cucumbers etc.

Continued over



Greenhouses from rubbish (continued)

Greenhouse Two

A friend of ours replaced his windows and saved them for us. We still had some other bits of plastic and windows stored at the allotment. This gave us the opportunity to do some more construction over the winter when there is usually not so much to do at the allotment.

This time we had to build the frame as well. We had a number of pallets including one large one that we were given by the local college.

We did not have a clear design before starting, but made it up as we went along. This was partly to enable the people who come to the allotment to have a go at using their creative skills to work out how it should go together.

It does take a bit more time to re-use old material than buying new. However, sitting by the pond, in the sun, listening to the birds with the smell of the wildflowers while pulling out old nails is a good way to spend an afternoon.



All photos:

Lowestoft Fork to Fork

Community Allotment

Our community allotment project is open to all and runs at the Better Together allotment at the allotments in Water Lane, Lowestoft, opposite the sports centre. It runs most Fridays from 11am to 12:30pm but please phone to check beforehand if you are not on our email list. For more information see our website: lowestoftforktofork.wordpress.com or phone Peter on 07552 122901



Article by Pete Lux and Emma Bateman

Lowestoft Fork to Fork



Covid-19 Green Recovery Grant fund for businesses



Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Anglia provides grants and support to businesses in Suffolk and Norfolk to help them reduce their carbon footprint and cut energy costs. The grants can support SMEs (<250 FTEs) with any carbon saving measure. Businesses have used the grant for everything from electric vehicles to heat recovery to solar panels to industrial process efficiency.

A special new Green Recovery Grant pot to support a green recovery from Covid-19 means that until the 31 July, local businesses can benefit from an enhanced rate of up to 50% towards the upfront costs of carbon saving measures (above the usual 40% maximum for BEE Anglia grants). The deadline for this higher 50% grant rate applies to when an application is submitted, so businesses can still take advantage of the higher grant rate even if they won't be able to actually complete the work yet.

For further details about BEE Anglia visit the website: www.beeanglia.org and to register your interest in a grant email beeanglia@groundwork.org.uk or call 01473 350 370.

Renewable Energy Fund for businesses

Interested in solar panels, but cannot justify the upfront cost? The [Renewable Energy Fund](#) from Suffolk County Council may be able to help.

If you are an organisation in Suffolk with a large daytime electricity demand and big roof, the fund could provide the capital for a solar PV installation and sell the electricity generated back to you at a cheaper rate than your provider can offer, cutting your costs and carbon footprint.

Above right: 70kWp solar PV array at Nirvana Health & Fitness in Lowestoft enabled by this scheme. Photo: Suffolk County Council



Green light for expansion of Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB !

Three extensions to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (SC&H AONB) have been designated increasing the size of the existing AONB by approximately 38 sq. km or 9.5%. The areas now confirmed as forming part of the SC&H AONB are: the Stour Estuary including the estuary itself, northern estuary valley slopes at Brantham and the majority of the southern estuary valley slopes in Essex; the Freston Brook Valley, a tributary of the Orwell Estuary which extends inland from the existing AONB boundary westwards and includes surrounding plateau woodlands; and the Samford Valley, a tributary of the Stour Estuary, which extends further inland from the existing AONB boundary at Stutton Bridge and includes some areas of neighbouring Shotley Peninsula Plateau.

If you would like to have further information, including maps indicating the new boundary you can find these at: Press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-picturesque-landscapes-as-suffolk-coast-and-heaths-area-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-extended>

Designation order: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/areas-of-outstanding-national-beauty-aonb-extensions-to-the-suffolk-coast-and-heaths-aonb>



Twin a Toilet

Whilst on a conference in Birmingham, I noticed the venue had a “Twin a toilet” sign in their bathroom. I thought this was a nice idea, and so went on the web to see how this could be done. Toilet Twinning raises funds to build toilets in poorer communities in order to provide basic sanitation and help to prevent the spread of illness.

In my “spare” time I am unit leader for a group of Guides and thought this would be a good fundraising opportunity for them. I ordered a Uniformed Group resource pack for us to plan an evening to raise money. We arranged a “bake for a bog” evening where families were invited to come in for a coffee evening, and the guides brought in homemade cakes to sell. We raised enough to sponsor two toilets at £60 each, and was even able to raise money via gift aid, too.

I liked the idea of supporting this concept, so at Christmas I suggested to my colleagues in the Environmental Protection team that we could all put in a donation and hopefully raise enough to Twin a Toilet, instead of sending Christmas cards or doing secret Santa. We raised enough to buy one toilet, and now there is a Twin a Toilet sign displayed outside the accessible toilet at East Suffolk House, to promote the good work, and hopefully inspire others to do the same. Our toilet is twinned with a latrine in Kindu, Maniema, Democratic Republic of Congo.

The website is also currently running a Twin a Tap appeal to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus in poorer communities. This is very topical at the moment, and funds can be donated without even moving from your sofa! Find out more about twinning a toilet or a tap with your club, organisation or friends and family! See <https://www.toilettwinning.org/>.



Article by Michelle Stimpson, Environmental Health Officer



Photo: East Suffolk Council

Pre-lockdown Plastic Action litter pick

Just before the March lockdown, on 13 March, 2020, staff at East Norfolk Sixth Form College decided to give back to the community on one of their well-being INSET days.

I gathered together a team of six willing colleagues (Jill, Emma, Ros, Kirsty, Helen and Kelly), and with the help of co-operation between East Suffolk Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council, the staff managed to remove several large bags’ worth of litter from a local Gorleston Park.

Lots of fun was had in the process and the park looked much happier afterwards!

Article by Louise Gooch
Teacher at ENSFC; ESC Councillor & Plastic Action Champion



Don't forget to water your hedgehogs

On 2nd May we found a wobbly hedgehog in the garden during the day, which is a warning sign that something is wrong. We rang [Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue](#) who advised us to take it to the vets. So off we went to the vets who diagnosed dehydration and that this male hedgehog would need to go on a drip. We were told that it would take a couple of days or so before they knew if he would recover, and that they would only contact us if the news was good and he could be taken home.

A week later, we had not heard from the vets, so we had assumed the poor little mite had passed away, but then received a call on the 13th May to say he had recovered and that we could collect him and then release him after one night in our outhouse acclimatising.

I'm very pleased to be able to say that we subsequently released him back into the garden and presume he is still among the various hedgehogs we are lucky enough to have foraging nightly during the months of hedgehog activity.

So the lesson is—if like us you are lucky enough to have wild hedgehogs visit your garden, please remember to offer them plenty of water for them to drink.

There are of course other things you can do to help hedgehogs. One easy action is to make a hedgehog highway—this can simply be a 13x13cm hole cut in the fence at ground level—to allow hedgehogs to access your garden to expand their foraging opportunities. Also always check for hedgehogs (and frogs, toads and other animals) before strimming or mowing, and keep pea netting 22-30 cm off the ground so hedgehogs don't get tangled in it.

Loads more detailed advice for helping hedgehogs in your garden is available from the [British Hedgehog Preservation Society](#).



Photos: Daniel Wareing



Improving Air Quality in East Suffolk

As part of our wider effort to improve air quality in East Suffolk, officers from the Environmental Protection team have been visiting local primary schools to talk with parents and children alike about our air quality. This includes providing advice about anti-idling (turning off your car engine whilst stationary), providing assemblies to primary school years three to six, and providing downloadable Air Pollution Lesson resources on our new [Environment Learning Zone](#) on our website. The lesson resources include a presentation, quiz, word search and a “My clean air superhero” drawing resource! We hope that these resources are useful for parents home-schooling during lockdown, as well as teachers.

Air pollution can affect our health by causing short- and long-term effects, often to our respiratory system. The World Health Organisation (WHO) report that 4.2 million deaths every year occur as a result to ambient (outdoor) air pollution.

We want everyone, of every age to get involved and help to improve our air quality. We can all make small changes which collaboratively could have a positive impact – such as staying local and buying local, choose walking and cycling instead of using a car and choosing to use sustainable, cleaner products which are better for our environment. All these things will help improve our air quality as well as our local economy and environment.

Air quality does not only matter outside, we also need to think about air quality inside the home. Indoor air quality can be improved by using cleaner technologies and fuels for cooking, heating, and lighting as well as improved housing and ventilation design. We can also make a conscious decision to use fewer products which contain volatile organic compounds (VOC’s) such as paints, aerosols, candles, and incense. Recycling and composting our waste appropriately instead of burning it in fire pits and bonfires will also help prevent causing a nuisance to others, too. Making sure you ventilate your home regularly will also improve indoor air quality.

Improving East Suffolk’s air quality has to be seen as a community intervention- we all need to play our part to obtain the maximum effects. More information on our work to improve air quality in our district can be found here: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/environmental-protection/air-quality/>.

**Article by Michelle Stimpson,
Environmental Health Officer**



Photo: East Suffolk Council



Still time to contribute to Community Climate Action Survey

Are you interested in taking climate action in your community? Do you need more support to help mobilise your community? The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, are actively looking at ways in which Suffolk can become carbon neutral by 2030, and they need your help!

Communities across Suffolk are being invited to take part in a Community Climate Survey to determine what climate action is currently being taken by their community and what additional support is needed to enable them to achieve their climate goals.

The survey is being delivered by Groundwork East who already provide community support services on behalf of the Partnership.

The results of the survey will help the Partnership and Groundwork East determine what appetite, need and demand there is for a "Climate Community Support Initiative" and what that might look like.

The survey can be completed online or over the phone. If you would like to complete the survey by telephone then please contact Sarah Gill on 07720 098980.

The deadline to take part is **Sunday 12 July 2020**. Please share widely with your own networks and contacts in the community.

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership factsheets

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership has produced a series of short factsheets intended as a useful resource for all Councillors, whether in the course of fielding queries related to climate, or indeed whilst proactively taking the messages around encouraging and promoting positive action and opportunities on the green agenda to a range of audiences. The series includes separate factsheets tailored for different audiences: residents, community representatives, schools, parish councils, and businesses; as well as backgrounds to the Climate Emergency and the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership itself.

Whilst aimed at Councillors, the content in these resources will be of interest to anyone involved in engaging and inspiring action on green issues so please feel free to download and use and share content with others. All seven factsheets are available online:

<http://www.greensuffolk.org/about/suffolk-climate-change-partnership/>

England Tree Strategy Consultation

The Government are currently consulting to develop an English Tree Strategy -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-a-tree-strategy-for-england>

The consultation seeks views on how we can increase tree planting and woodland creation; increase protection for trees and woodland; bring more woodland into management; maximise trees' role in supporting the economy; and engage more people with trees and woodlands.

It will use these views to develop the England tree strategy. The strategy will provide a basis to support work on 25 Year Environment Plan commitments; nature recovery; clean growth; and net zero goals to 2050.

The consultation ends on **11 September 2020**.



Keeping up Plastic Action during lockdown

During Lockdown I have kept in touch with everyone on my WASAPP group “Plastic Paws”. I set this up at the end of February 2020, inviting friends and family to join the group. I post a message every Sunday, spreading the word about the impact of single use plastic, encourage people to reduce their use of single-use plastics and suggest alternatives.

This has been great at keeping in touch with people over this difficult period, some of whom were self-isolating, and I always included messages about washing hands and staying safe too. One week I asked the group to clap for members of the group who were key workers, when clapping for carers on a Thursday evening. On two occasions I invited people to be a “guest editor” for the week, which gave them something else to focus on rather than the predicament we were all living in and one week we had the proverbial Quiz which everyone enjoyed.

Before lockdown Nigel and I went to a quiet picnic site for a walk with the dogs, to find it full of litter and vowed to return with litter pickers and bags, however, the pandemic put paid to that, but as soon as restrictions were lifted we ventured out. After an hour the dogs were exhausted and our bags were full, three bags of plastic waste, one bag of glass bottles, including old milk bottles and a bike frame. We vowed to return again to finish off and emailed the local parish council informing them of what we had done. When we returned two weeks later the site was spotless and I emailed them again thanking them for finishing the job for us.

Article by Sarah Pawsey, Plastic Action Champion



See it—report it

Whilst Suffolk has not, thankfully, been subjected to the appalling scenes of litter covering the beach at Bournemouth, levels of litter in our part of the world have increased dramatically. If you’re reading this newsletter then it follows that you are already in the habit of taking your own litter home and possibly also doing (socially-distanced) litter picks – so what else can you do?

Well if you actually see an incident, confronting the offender might not be a good idea—people don’t always react well to having their misdemeanours pointed out, even prior to the added stress of Covid-19 times, and it won’t always be obvious until it’s too late if they’re also under the influence of drugs or alcohol. But if you can take notes whilst keeping safe, this can potentially enable official action to be taken against people who trash our beautiful district, so please do not hesitate to report any incident that you witness as soon as possible. https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/flytipping_or_litter_report
If you see an incident, the following items are useful to note:

1. Time, date and location of incident;
2. Description of person(s) dumping waste or dropping litter;
3. Description of vehicle(s) from which the litter or rubbish is dropped or dumped, including registration numbers;
4. Description of the waste dumped or item littered;
5. Description of events i.e. what you actually saw happening.



If you report to the Council an incident of littering or flytipping that you witnessed, Council officers may wish to speak with you and may ask you to provide a formal written witness statement to enable an investigation, and potentially enforcement action, to be taken.



GREENPRINT FORUM VISION



Closing note from Editor

If you are reading this for the first time, the Greenprint Forum is a voluntary network facilitated by East Suffolk Council to help deliver their business plan specifically enabling community environmental action to improve lives and strengthen our economy. Whilst our focus is on east Suffolk anyone, anywhere can join for free to help inform and learn from our thinking.

The hexagonal icons relating to our vision and used throughout our newsletter are freely available for you to use for events and activities that take forward the vision of the Greenprint Forum in east Suffolk. The icons are in .png format and are on a transparent background and are downloadable via: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/useful-links/downloadable-icons-relating-to-our-vision/>

Thank you to all who have contributed and remember the Greenprint e-newsletter is most relevant when you are helping inform its content. Please email me at greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk with action you are taking towards our vision and would like to share to inspire others—I will try and include wherever space allows and if I cannot fit it in the newsletter, or if it relates to an initiative due to take place before the next newsletter is ready then I will wherever possible share via the our Facebook and Twitter accounts you can find us @GreenprintForum. If you're not already following us on social media please feel free to do so and feel free to share any posts to your own networks.

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