

Greenprint Forum Newsletter—Autumn 2019

Now we're heading into autumn and the main growing season is over many of us will be thinking about clearing the spent growth from our gardens or allotments ready for the winter season.

While we're doing so it's a good time to remember the wildlife too; for example if you provide a bird nest box it's a good idea to take it down and clean it out with boiling water or give the birds a nice parasite-free place to raise next year's chicks. Once completely dry if you place a handful of clean hay (not straw) or wood shavings inside, small mammals might like to hibernate or small birds may roost inside. Be sure not to use flea spray or insecticide! From: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/cleaning-nestboxes/>

For more ideas to help wildlife in autumn see <https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/10-ways-to-help-garden-wildlife-in-autumn/>



Be seen—be safe

And of course for those of us who travel by bicycle whether as our main way of getting about or just on an occasional basis it's especially crucial that as we head into longer hours of darkness we check that our lights are working and ensure we are visible whilst we are travelling actively and sustainably.

Hold the date for next public Greenprint event! “Show the Love”—inspiring a new vision for a better future in face of climate change

Now an important date for your diary—on the evening of **Monday 3rd of February 2020** the Greenprint Forum will hold a public Forum event on the theme of climate change and talk about how we can form a positive vision of how we could meet the challenges of adapting whilst seizing the opportunity to consider positive actions we could take for a better future. The event will be held at Riverside offices in Lowestoft so hold the date and watch out for more information as it becomes available.

New Steering Group Profile available

As there were some changes to our Steering Group earlier this year, we have updated our profile with a bit more information about all of the Steering Group members: <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Green-Issues/Greenprint-Forum-Steering-Group-members.pdf>



Climate Emergency—what is East Suffolk Council doing about it?

James Mallinder explains

This summer East Suffolk Council declared a climate emergency. This combined with the declaration by Cllr Steve Gallant, leader of the Council, that the environment is to be one of the top priorities clearly illustrates that this new council will not only be responsive to residents' needs, but the needs of the environment. The environment is not just about the grass and trees we see through the window, but is also the jobs we do, the houses we buy and how we travel, the food we eat and the resources we consume – we all depend on a healthy environment for these things. Our environmental policy will be developed through the prism of our strategic plan, and will complement our economic policies.

As cabinet member of the Environment it is my ambition to be proactive and champion the nurturement and preservation of the environment but this has to be consistent with infrastructural works, house building and a strong economy for all stakeholders. Protecting the environment and promoting development are not a binary choice but must work together, for example by ensuring that we continue to deliver the services that our communities need but by using less of our planet's resources in doing so. As we adapt to a changing climate, we must seize the opportunity to reconsider the ways in which we do things and find better, cleaner, more environmentally friendly ways to ensure East Suffolk continues to be a great place to live, work in and visit.

As a direct response to the climate emergency, East Suffolk hasn't wasted any time in being proactive, and at our last cabinet meeting I presented a paper establishing our new Environmental Task Group . This will be cross party, meet regularly and will analyse the policies inherited from Suffolk Coastal and Waveney and importantly highlight issues that require further investigation in order to make recommendations to cabinet.

As well as big issues we will look at small changes in our working practices, as these small changes can, together, make a big difference. The Environment Task Group will on occasions be opened to all ward members and Council officers, especially when we have invited guest speakers and workshops, and will truly develop a Council-wide vision to ensure that our environment is respected and secure a better future for us all.



Cllr James Mallinder—East Suffolk Council Cabinet Member for the Environment; Greenprint Forum Steering Group Member



Active & Sustainable Travel update

What have we been doing since the Active Travel Forum on World Environment Day 5th June? Taking on board the feedback from delegates we have requested some funding support from the East Suffolk Partnership to develop some projects to increase uptake of active and sustainable travel and are delighted that the ESP have indicated funding support for our project, in principle.

So what are we proposing?

- A recruitment drive calling for more volunteer drivers to improve the resilience of community transport schemes
- Work with schools to promote walking buses and deliver cycle tuition for pupils
- Establishment of more Quiet Lanes to make country roads more appealing to those wishing to travel by non-motorised means

In the coming months we will be collaborating with other organisations to develop more detail into these plans and will be contacting schools to gauge interest in the schools-related projects. If your organisation or community would like to be involved, offer support or help with match-funding please let me know greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk



Student Action litter pick at Lowestoft Sixth Form College!

On Wednesday the 26th of June, several green-fingered teens took part in a student-organised litter pick on an area, local to the college grounds, which had faced a significant amount of neglect for many years.

Supported by several staff that also expressed concern for the environmental quality of the area, the students set out to target the sheer amount of waste that had accumulated on the site. With help from the 'Love East Suffolk' scheme, equipment was borrowed from the council in order to carry out the litter-pick itself, something of which students were very

thankful for.

The site itself, upon initial inspection, was heavily littered with a mix of plastic, glass and even some newer eco-friendly materials!



Over the course of a few hours (and a few cups of tea), the students emerged from the walkway with 20 bags of rubbish and numerous miscellaneous items (as shown in the picture.) The most 'vintage' piece of litter found from the pick was a tin can from the 70's, yet several students were amazed to find items that were of similar age to themselves.

One student commented:

"The litter pick has really broadened my perspective about how we need to take care of the environment."

Organised via the Student Committee at the college, this was the first of many more eco-initiatives to come now that the academic year has recommenced.

In particular the students are starting to show concern towards the use of plastic cutlery in the college cafeteria, something of which is actively being campaigned against by the Student Committee.

Archie Roberts—Plastic Action Champion



Greenprint plastic action

While on the subject of plastic action, one of our other Plastic Action Champions, Laurence Moss has created a website and blog to help raise awareness of the issues and how to act—check out his webpages and if you wish sign up to receive his blog alerts here: <https://actionplasticchampionsuffolk.home.blog/>

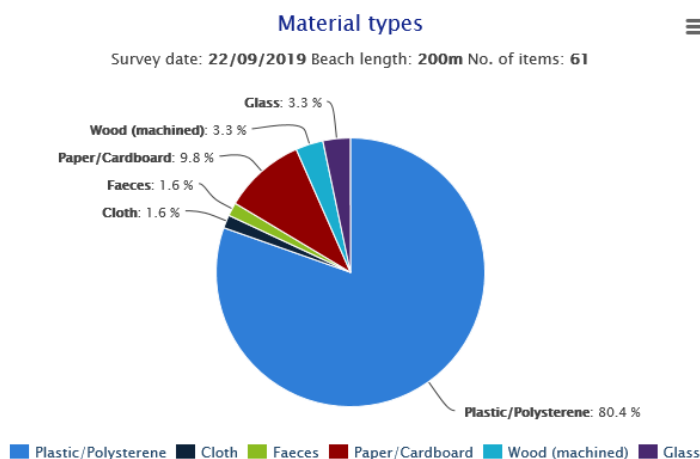
Want to join the movement and become a Plastic Action Champion?

If you want to be part of the network of Champions helping others in our communities to reduce their dependency on plastic too, there's good news as we are running some more training sessions in October—dates on the events list at the end of this newsletter—email greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk to book your place.

Greenprint Beachwatch Event

A total of 11 of us turned out to clear and survey the marine litter on Southwold beach north of the pier on 22 September, including a family of seasoned Beachwatchers from Ipswich and an inspiring couple who were in Suffolk on holiday and who do a beach clean every time they have a holiday by the seaside.

We were pleased to see so little litter on our transect, in particular relatively few plastic fragments and no plastic pellets at all. If it had not been for a mass of tangled netting and rope—a significant hazard for marine wildlife—we would have removed much less than the **1.96KG** of litter gathered from the transect. The pie chart below shows the composition of the litter we found here and the full data can be seen here: <https://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/beach/southwold-north-pier/survey100m/2019-09-22/summary>



First time central heating systems for Suffolk residents



Suffolk's local authorities have secured funding from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund to install over 700 first time central heating systems in eligible, fuel poor households across Suffolk by 2021.



Around four million UK households are in fuel poverty, unable to affordably heat their home to the temperature needed to stay warm and healthy. As well as being on low incomes many of these households are also faced with the additional burden of relying on heating systems that are inefficient and expensive to run.

The project has already installed over 200 systems. A resident who received a central heating system said:

"Many thanks for all your help and enabling me to be warm this winter and in the future - without which I don't know what I would have done".

To find out more about the project:

- visit www.greensuffolk.org/whf
- call the Council Warm Homes Healthy People Team on **03456 037 686** (local rate)
- complete the online enquiry form at www.greensuffolk.org/seaenquiry
- or email whhp@east Suffolk.gov.uk quoting the 'Warm Homes Fund'.

Community Buildings Advisory Service—now available East Suffolk-wide!

This service, previously only available in West Suffolk and the former district of Waveney, is now available across all of the new East Suffolk district.

- **Community Building Energy Audits:**

A free assessment of your building, identifying ways to cut your running costs and minimise your greenhouse gas emissions. Whether you've got refurbishment plans in mind or not, this audit can help you make an informed decision about the best future for your community space.

- **Help to upgrade your heating system:**

Worried about an unreliable boiler, or have expensive electric heaters that are good at warming your head but leave your feet in the cold? The service can help you find the right green heating option for your building, from air and ground source heat pumps to biomass, microCHP and condensing boilers.

- **Grants and Funding:**

The service can signpost you to the latest funding options and put you in touch with installers so you can obtain suitable quotes. Moreover, the savings identified in the audit can be useful evidence when making grants applications.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this free, impartial service from the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, please contact: **Jamie Murphy 07720 098980** jamie.murphy@groundwork.org.uk



Improving Council land for nature and wildlife

James Mallinder explains

In less than 100 years we have lost 97% of our wild flower meadows in Britain. This has had a profound impact on our wildlife especially insects and pollinators.



The effects of climate change are not just seen in some far away country but are on our door step and we need to reverse some of the trends from our history. An important aspect of this is to increase the amount and quality of species-rich grassland.

We at East Suffolk are responsive to the needs of our residents and the environment and are pleased to be one of the first councils across the UK to commence this re-wilding. At our July full council meeting I presented a paper which gave me the authority to pilot such a scheme in the areas of Saxmundham and Southwold. We have collated a list of the land that East Suffolk manages and passed this to the respective town councils and in turn the town councils will consult with residents and stakeholders to see if they would like the grass cut less. It is as simple as that .

I do wish to emphasise that no cutting does not mean no maintenance - if land borders roads a narrow verge the grass will be cut to prevent obstructions to drivers. Also to involve the local community, the town councils will be asked to establish volunteer groups who will monitor litter and invasive species.



During this pilot period we will also look at less spraying and study alternative methods to weed killers across paths and round sign posts.

Less cutting of grass land not only increases insects, especially pollinators, but visually will look impressive and improve the wellbeing of residents engaging them with nature and will be a great example of how small changes can make a real difference over time.



New Community Partnerships for East Suffolk

Community Partnerships are an innovative new way for the Council, partners and communities to work together to 'bring ideas to life' by taking a solution focussed approach to local priorities.



East Suffolk
Community
Partnerships

Bringing ideas to life

Before the 8 new partnerships hold their first formal meetings in 2020, each of them will be holding a workshop to decide what priorities each partnership will focus on for the next 12 months.

Whilst the Greenprint Forum Steering Group will of course have an input to this process, many of the wider members of the Greenprint Forum are of course representatives of other local groups and organisations and may have valuable contributions of your own reflecting the local priorities of your own communities.

If you are the representative of an organisation such as a community group, voluntary organisation, or town or parish council, and wish to attend one of these workshops, please email ESC Communities Team via communities@east Suffolk.gov.uk and confirm which workshop you would like to attend. Places are limited to two per organisation per workshop, due to space limitations at the venues, but if you think there are other local organisations that ESC should invite, then please let them know via the email above! Dates and venues as follows, all 17:30-19:45:

Community Partnership Area	Venue	Date
Lowestoft	Riverside Offices, Lowestoft	28.10.19
Kesgrave & Martlesham	Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre	29.10.19
Woodbridge, Melton & Deben Peninsula	East Suffolk House, Melton	30.10.19
Felixstowe Peninsula	Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club	7.11.19
Beccles, Bungay & Halesworth	Ilketshall St Andrew Village Hall	11.11.19
Framlingham & Wickham Market	Hacheston Village Hall	14.11.19
Carlton Colville, Kessingland & Southwold	Stella Peskett Millenium Hall, Southwold	20.11.19
Aldeburgh, Leiston & Saxmundham	Saxmundham Market Hall	28.11.19

ESP Forum 2019—“Shaping our Future”—15 November

The East Suffolk Partnership holds its annual Forum event at Trinity Park on 15 November and this year’s theme is **Shaping our Future**. This conference is for representatives from our local communities, voluntary organisations, public services and local businesses. More information here: <http://www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/>





New Repair Café in Woodbridge!

On the first Monday of every month a repair café is held at The Hub community café at St Johns Church in Woodbridge. The project is a collaboration between St Johns Church and Transition Woodbridge who are also extremely grateful to Woodbridge & District Lions who funded the start-up costs and East Suffolk Council Communities for their recent funds which will help towards buying repair bits and pieces to enable volunteers to take on small repairs.

The project aims to repair small items such as hems on clothing, lamp switches, electrical items, bags, electronic items, etc so they remain in use instead of being binned, but



won't do repairs where there is capacity provided by local traders and will refer on jobs to local traders where appropriate so as not to compete, but rather to meet the need. The Repair Café runs from 10:00-12:00noon.

Want to see a Community Fridge in your neighbourhood?

Community Fridges are places where surplus food is shared within a local community – by businesses and individuals. They help to reduce food waste and bring folk together around good, surplus food donated by local organisations and individuals, on an open-to-all-basis. There are 78 open in the UK at present and they exist in Community Centres, cafes, churches, such as Andrew's Church in Lowestoft which hosts Suffolk's first community fridge which was established earlier this year with the support of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, the district Council, the Morrisons Foundation, and environmental charity Hubbub. It is run by volunteers supported by the Community Enablers Team from Community Action Suffolk. The fridge was kindly donated by Hughes Electrical.



Hubbub are keen to establish more community fridges in Suffolk by partnering with local groups. If you would like to find out more, please email:

communityfridge@hubbub.org.uk



Relaunch of Solar Together

Group purchase scheme for domestic solar power



Considering solar power for your home but daunted by the task? Then the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership has good news for you!

Solar Together Suffolk can once again offer you savings on the installation of solar panels for your home. The scheme was a big success in 2018, with 635 households saving an average of 20% on the cost of a new solar panel array. It's a group-buying scheme that helps you through the process, keeping you informed at every stage.

If you are interested in saving money on your energy bills and helping the environment by reducing your carbon emissions - register today. Registration is free and no-obligation. The more people who register by the deadline of 21 October, the better the price that can be secured and the more clean energy will be generated by Suffolk residents. With solar panels, it is estimated the average household will reduce its annual carbon emissions by nearly one tonne each year - the equivalent of driving 3,200 miles in an average petrol car!

For detailed information about likely costs, the amount of energy you can expect to generate, and lots more go to www.suffolk.gov.uk/solar-together-suffolk. A freephone helpline is available to answer questions—call 0800 048 8402 or email suffolk@solartogether.co.uk.

Investable Opportunities in Solar Power for Organisations

If your organisation is interested in solar panels but cannot justify the upfront costs, the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership might be able to help through a power purchase agreement.

If your organisation has a large electricity demand and a big roof, the SCCP could provide the capital for a solar PV installation and sell the electricity generated back to you at a cheaper rate cutting your costs and carbon footprint.

For more information and to determine the suitability for your organisation, please contact SCCP Community Advisor Jamie Murphy jamie.murphy@groundwork.org.uk / 07720 098980.



Forthcoming events roundup

- October **Plastic Action Champion training sessions**—email greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk to enquire or book a place:

14 October – 4.30pm-7pm Council offices, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

18 October – 6pm-9pm East Suffolk House, Melton IP12 1RT

21 October – 4.30pm-7pm Council offices, Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft NR33 0EQ

28 October – 6pm-9pm East Suffolk House, Melton IP12 1RT

- 10 October, 19:30 1st meeting of Rendlesham Climate Action Working Group, Jubilee Park Pavilion
- 12 October, 11:00 at Waldringfield Village Hall —Illustrated talk: **Swifts—a Bird You Can Help!** By Edward Mayer, courtesy of [Waldringfield Wildlife Group](#). Members—free; non-members—£3. New members welcome—membership £10. Enquiries to Linda Wilkins 01473 736044 or Anthony Mason 01473 736740
- 12 October, 10:00-16:00 **Eye Goes Green Autumn Fair** at Eye Town Hall, IP23 7AB
- 17 October, 19:30 at Woodbridge Community Centre-talk on **Conservation Grazing** by Will Russell of Natural England, courtesy of Woodbridge Wildlife Group . Admission to the talk is £3 for adults, with children under 16 free. There will be a raffle and light refreshments during the evening. There is no need to book; for more info telephone 01473 625630 or email: swtwoodbridge@outlook.com
- 19 October, 10:00-14:00 Conservation & Landscape Day, Martlesham Recreation Ground—volunteers needed to help maintain this area for people and wildlife (bring your own gloves and equipment) further details Martlesham Parish Clerk 01473 612632.
- 2 November, 10:00-13:00 - **Greener Sax Winter Fair**, Saxmundham Market Hall IP17 1AF
- 8 November, 10:00-12:00 - **Going Green to Benefit Business**. Part of the East Suffolk Business Festival. Ufford Park Hotel.
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/going-green-to-benefit-business-tickets-73411526853>
- 15 November, East Suffolk Partnership Forum **Shaping our Future**. Conference for representatives from our local communities, voluntary organisations, public services and local businesses. More information here: <http://www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/>
- 3 February 2020, evening—Greenprint Forum public event **Show your Love for the Environment** to inspire a 20:20 vision for a better future. Join us to help sow the seeds of positive changes towards a better way of living in the course of adapting to a climate change. To be held at Riverside, Lowestoft—stay tuned for further details!



Closing note from Editor

A big **thank you** to all who have contributed and/or let me know about upcoming events and remember the Greenprint e-newsletter is most relevant when you are helping inform its content.

I'm always on the lookout for content from our members to share so please do email me at greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk with action you are taking towards our vision that you would like to see featured in this newsletter to inspire others.

If you let me know about or are organising an event that complements our vision and is due to take place before the next newsletter is ready (please note that the E-Newsletter will for the time being be **quarterly**) then I will wherever possible share via Facebook and / or Twitter.

Which leads nicely onto a reminder that also if you're on social media but are not already following us on Facebook or Twitter please feel free to do so and feel free to share any content to your own networks. Find us @GreenprintForum.

You are welcome to share and use content of this newsletter. You are also welcome to use our downloadable hexagonal icons that you may have noticed adorning the newsletter to promote any events or activities that are clearly taking forward the vision of the Greenprint Forum—the icons can be downloaded from our webpages: <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/useful-links/downloadable-icons-relating-to-our-vision/>



The editor makes no claims or promises about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of this newsletter and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions.