



Green Ixworth News

Number 4 – April 2021

April General Meeting

The GI General Meeting will be held on 29 April at 7pm over Zoom. The agenda and joining information will follow. We look forward to seeing you there.

At the meeting we would like to discuss the main areas for activity going forward. If members could indicate an interest in specific activities, and a willingness to help in co-ordinating work, that would be most welcome. Your ideas for projects and locations will be welcome as ever. We would also love to hear of any relevant skills or experience you may have to offer the group.

Social Media

We are still enjoying great success from the amazing website and Facebook page that Tony set up for us but the Management Committee is largely drawn from a 'particular' demographic. We would probably benefit from having a Social Media Officer to help us gain the maximum value in this area.

Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

The Management Committee submitted a response, on behalf of GI, to the NPWG as part of the NP Consultation and that response is available to view on the website.

The Black Bourn

We had a very productive Zoom meeting with Will Cranstoun from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust on 24 March. The discussion centred on what action GI can take in relation to our river, The Black Bourn. It is clear that this topic can occupy us for many years to come with water quality, agricultural extraction, pollution and invasive species being typical of matters that must be kept under review for the foreseeable future.

We need to engage with the Environment Agency (EA) which controls what kind of work can take place in the river and how it must be conducted. Our approach should be to pick two initial projects to pursue with them, probably the maintenance of the wildlife corridor along the river and the restoration of the gravel river bed at Ixworth Bridge.

For the wildlife corridor we will need to work with all landowners along the river be they farmers or private home owners. Restoration of the river bed will require a specific plan agreed with the EA and is likely to involve redirecting at least part of the river's flow. In any event we will need to begin with survey work to establish current water quality and the extent of the population of birds, invertebrates etc. The good news on the survey front is that this work can be undertaken by volunteers supervised by special interest groups such as the RSPB, The Riverfly Partnership or Buglife. This makes the work of surveying rather less expensive than we had anticipated and means it is something in which the village's schools can become involved.

We have already recruited a local ornithologist to conduct a survey over the next year, in detail, between the Bypass and Ixworth Bridge and at a few other accessible points until we can arrange better access between Ixworth Bridge and the Water Mill.

Persimmon Site

Following a public complaint about the unsafe nature of the fallen orange fencing on the Persimmon site we contacted the company. We suggested that they remove it altogether as the fencing is inappropriate for long term use and both the steel pins and plastic netting are a safety hazard. It is a trip hazard for humans and dogs. Badgers, cats, foxes etc could get caught up in the plastic mesh lying on the ground; it could act like a snare.

Local Elections

Another date for your diaries is 6 May 2021, local election day. There is some specific interest for GI here because both Debra Reay (who dreamed up GI in the first place) and Steve Wilson (our Secretary) are standing for election to the Parish Council. In addition Warren Lakin (our Press Liaison Officer) is standing for election to the County Council as the Green Party candidate.