

1st AGM of Green Ixworth

Our first AGM went off well in spite of some quick changes due to family problems of our main speaker, Will Cranstoun, who was unable to be with us. However we were very fortunate to find two excellent speakers both of whom were extremely enthusiastic. Ian Hawkins, the East Anglian trainer for the River Fly Trust and Ellie Beach the coordinator for the local Little Ouse Headwaters Project (LOHP).

Both of them are working with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and CamEO the river basin project for the Cam, Ouse and Little Ouse and the Thet sponsored by Anglian Water and the Rivers Trust. Green Ixworth have already been invited to participate in the work of CamEO. Ian's area of expertise is in identification of flying insects living most of their life in the river whose presence indicate the quality of water. Ian and his colleagues from Pakenham have offered to help train our supporters to do this work.

Ellie gave a history of LIHP which has progressed from being a group of enthusiasts tidying odd pieces of fenland to an organisation with leased or bought fenland along most of the river from the source at Redgrave to Hopton with funding to match. It seems that there are funds widely available for high quality projects. It certainly gave many of us food for thought and the opportunity to think bigger than we have so far.

Supporters of our river project were present from Bardwell, Badwell Ash and Pakenham all of whom seem to be looking for the same as us, looking for structure and others to work with. Bardwell Parish Council have asked to be placed on our mailing list.

Administration

The present officers were all re-elected.

Roger Spiller Chair

Liz Ambler Secretary

Vic Roden Treasurer

Debra Reay Committee Member.

The Treasurers report showed our finances to be healthy but any new projects would require external funding.

Any observations, alterations to this welcome as we can then use it for the Newsletter/website

Crown Lane – Awaiting delivery, likely to be later this year by the lack of serious frost delaying the lifting of trees. Agreed with Primary school for their help in planting. Have written to Josh accepting his offer of mulch.

Black Bourn – The Vision document has gone down well. Am looking for an event or action to publicise beyond Ixworth. There is no question that up and down the river people are looking for local action and waning to link with others. We need to discuss how we react to this. Perhaps we should have a serious discussion after Christmas when we may know more about options.

I shall be joining the CamEO zoom meeting on 6th Dec and hope for more

info there. Have also asked the Anglian Water contact for details of their £300m expenditure plans on the river basins. They have already notified/consulted with the bigger Riparian owners. ****

Need to agree training schedule with RiverFly suggest we ask Steve to coordinate but need to advertise more widely including perhaps the SET school for participants and not just from Ixworth but Bardwell, Pakenham and further afield. The first stages would be online. Good for winter time.

Need to think about formal contacts with PCs close to Ixworth. Might it be good from Ixworth PC to see if Sophia Wilson were interested as they have a long river bank, Steve and Debra are involved anyway?

Christmas Fair. Trina is patching the pergola with noticeably different coloured materials to make the point of repair rather than buying new. So we shall have a covered display available if we want to use it. We should need to think on handouts and if we had anything appropriate to sell. Like Steve's book?

Next GM – I have asked CamEO or Anglian Water if they would be able to provide a speaker on the Investment project how will it benefit/effect us? No doubt questions on sewage “overflows” could also be raised. It may attract a wider audience. Any other ideas. eg Persimmon

AOB – Hempyard Bridge