



Green Ixworth News

Number 3 – March 2021

Dear Friends,

Well, the current weirdness isn't going to be alleviated any time soon and that is putting the brakes on all of us, including Green Ixworth. However, there are still developments we need to let you know about and even a couple of future events to bring to your attention so here we go:

Planting

The clearing and planting of the wildlife corridor in Crown Lane has come to the end of its first phase. There is a small section of verge left to be done once an arrangement can be reached with the landowner and we hope that this can be completed in the current season. Thanks to all of you who turned out to help.

Roger is now gearing himself up for the propagation of wildflower plants for use across the village, we hope to be able to make these available for sale to GI members eventually.

Admin

Bank Account – yes, it's true, we now have a bank account so you can all look forward to an email inviting you to become paying members of the Group.

Grants – not only do we now have a place to put our grant funding but John Griffiths, our West Suffolk Ward Councillor, has increased our grant from his locality budget from £1000 to £1500. Thank you John. This now sits alongside the £500 from our County Councillor Joanna Spicer and the £1000 from the Ixworth Association.

Constitution – having caught our breath from the effort of generating a raft of policy documents we had a go at tidying up our constitution. Thanks to some amazing input from Caroline Kocel we now have something that both looks good and functions properly.

Future Projects

We are still very much in the market for sites for further planting in the village and, of course, we still want to hear your suggestions of activities we can involve ourselves in.

Our river, the Black Bourn, is something we have always wanted to engage with but we will need expert advice and guidance as to what we can achieve and how. To that end the Management Committee will be holding a Zoom meeting with a representative of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust on 24 March. We are hoping that SWT will be able to advise us on what an organisation of our size can hope to achieve with the river. Longer-term residents can remember a gravel bed and freshwater mussels which are both long gone and this may be due to external influences beyond our control. We would certainly like to see the banks of the river managed as a wildlife corridor through the village and that would require co-operation with a large number of individual landowners.

We also hope that SWT will be able to indicate the scale and cost of any habitat surveys that may be required before we begin work. As soon as concrete results from our meeting are available we will let you know.

Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

As you may have seen in the March edition of the Ixworth Magazine the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are about to invite us to take part in a public consultation on the Plan. It is really important that residents engage with this exercise; the NP will not only put forward local desires for the location of future developments but also their nature and their impact on people, nature and the environment. The more responses that the NPWG receives the more weight those desires can be proven to carry. We have put an article on the website giving some relevant information regarding the consultation.

April General Meeting

In accordance with our constitution we are due to hold our first regular General Meeting during the month of April. The prohibition on us meeting face to face is a real drag on our development and is preventing us from discovering what we really are as an organisation; are we a campaigning group, are we more locally-focussed or somewhere in between? We did look at delaying the meeting, in an effort at avoiding having to do it over Zoom, but the 'roadmap' is against us. To that end we plan to hold the meeting, over Zoom, at 7pm on Thursday 29 April.

That's all we have for you for now, looking forward to 'seeing' you on the 29th. Keep safe and stay Green.