



Green Ixworth News

December 2021

No. 7

Report from our first AGM

It was good to see everyone who turned out to our first AGM in October.

Green Ixworth's **River project** provided the focus for the meeting with our speakers shedding greater light on both the wider catchment and the fine detail of the health of our water. Our advertised speaker, Will Cranstoun from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, was unable to be with us but we were very fortunate that Ian Hawkins, the East Anglian trainer for the **River Fly Trust** and Ellie Beach the coordinator for the local **Little Ouse Headwaters Project (LOHP)** ably stepped into the breach.

Both expressed interest in our draft Vision for the Black Bourn here in Ixworth and both 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*.

Ian's area of expertise with **River Fly** is in identification of flying insects living most of their life in the river and whose presence are an indication of water quality. Ian and his colleague from Pakenham have offered to provide us with training to do this work. The initial training will be online with practical training taking place in the spring, funded by *CamEO*.

If you would like to be involved contact us at greenixworth.org.uk to book a place or find out more.

Ellie gave a fascinating history of **LOHP** which has progressed from a group of enthusiasts tidying odd pieces of fenland to an organisation which now owns and leases fenland along the river from the source at Redgrave to Hopton. It has successfully raise funding to achieve this. It gave many of us food for thought and the opportunity to think bigger than we have so far particularly as it seems that there are funds widely available for well considered projects.

Supporters of our river project were present from Bardwell, Badwell Ash and Pakenham all of whom seem to be looking for the similar things as us and searching for others to work with.

Election of Officers

The present officers were all re-elected. Roger Spiller, Chair; Liz Ambler, Secretary; Vic Roden ,Treasurer; Debra Reay, Committee Member.

Financial Report

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

PROJECTS

Crown Lane Wilding Project

We will be looking for help to thicken planting along the Crown Lane footpath which we laid down last winter. We are currently awaiting delivery of trees which appears to be delayed this year by the lack of serious frost. This project has been supported with funding from the West Suffolk Localities Fund.

We are especially delighted that Eagle Class from Ixworth Primary School have offered their help with the planting following a study they carried out earlier this term into Climate Change. Once we have a delivery date we shall put out a call for volunteers to help the children with this work.



Before



After

Black Bourn Update

The Black Bourn Vision document has gone down well. It is encouraging to learn that up and down the river people are looking for local action and wanting to link with others.

We are developing links with key agencies and will be joining a CamEO zoom meeting on 6th Dec to find out more information. Some of us will be attending the LOHP AGM in December. We have also requested details from Anglian Water about their £300m plans for expenditure on our river basin. They have already notified/consulted with the bigger Riparian owners. A CamEO representative will be speaking at our next General Meeting on 27th January.

NEWS

An Environment Policy for Ixworth

Would you like to help the Parish Council prepare a policy for the Environment?

The Parish Council has agreed to set up a Working Group to establish such a policy and wants to recruit volunteers to help fashion it. Ideally, the group will comprise Parish Councillors, individuals, businesses and community organisations representing a range of different backgrounds and interests. The task is to create a policy and action plan to help us reduce carbon emissions and enhance biodiversity. Can you help?

For more information please contact Debra Reay at debra.j.reay@gmail.com or pc@ixworth.net

Persimmon

The developer Persimmon has started a consultation process about a master plan for the development of what has been known as the Crown Lane and By Pass Farms site. They are interested to speak with community organisations as well as individuals and the Parish Council. We should expect to hear more about this over the coming months.

Ixworth Christmas Fair

Green Ixworth has reserved a spot at the Ixworth Christmas Fair on 4th December where we will be encouraging new members to sign up and selling books about Ixworth by local authors. If you'd like to help, give us a call, and come and visit us. We will be quite visible as Trina Godfrey is busy patching our pergola with different coloured material to make the point that reuse or repair is better for the environment than buying new.

Pam Ayres - How sad on this October day

To see our hedges shorn away
Small creatures would have liked to eat,
The hawthorn berries, rose hips sweet,
Blackberries and nuts and sloes,
But through the blades the banquet goes
Won't somebody heed our words,
And leave the berries for the birds.

Hempyard Bridge

Work to repair the 500 year old Hempyard Bridge is currently at planning application stage. Repair of this bridge is long overdue, however some issues of concern have been identified by Green Ixworth members. Firstly ensuring that the river bed is cleared of any debris created during the works and carefully reinstated; that potential damage to nearby trees during the works is prohibited and that the design proposal to introduce a wooden fence ,nearly 2m high, to be built into the bridge to protect horse riders is removed.

These concerns are outlined in the Objection to the application (The reference is DC/21/3043/LB) submitted by Roger which is available on the West Suffolk Planning site or greenixworth.org.uk. If you wish to let the planners know what you think of this design email: planning.technical@westsuffolk.gov.uk . The opportunity to submit will close soon.

Look at the picture produced to scale by Steve Wilson.

Hempyard Bridge after being “restored”.



Membership

Our funds are good but all are committed to work we hope to carry out. Our administration, insurance, meeting room hire cost and incidental expenses we try to take from our membership fees. So if you would like to help us keep going, we would be grateful if you were to become a member at £5 per year. Just send your email address to the contact point on our website or message on Green Ixworth Facebook and details of how to pay will be provided.

Dates for your diary

4th December – Green Ixworth Stall at Ixworth Christmas Fair (times)

27th January – General Meeting with Anglian Water/CamEO, 7 pm Courtyard Café