



Green Ixworth

News

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www.greenixworth.org.uk

Visit to the SWT Blackbourn Reserve.

SWT are kindly providing us with a guided tour of the reserve, south west of Norton on Friday 6th May. We are limited to 20 spaces and just a few are left. Please apply for a space to debra.j.reay@gmail.com. There is no charge, but I am sure that the SWT would not reject any donations. If you would like transport then please email roger.larbes@gmail.com.

Green Ixworth General Meeting.

You may have seen articles by Mike Dean in the Ixworth Newsletter and Magazine. He mostly writes about moths, butterflies and other insects. As a result he has also become expert at identifying their food source, Trees and Shrubs especially. He is therefore also very knowledgeable about the trees of the Ixworth area. Green Ixworth's new Tree Officer Jenny Chantler will also be leading a discussion on what our approach and work might be for the immediate future.

Mike has kindly agreed to make an illustrated presentation to our next General Meeting on 28th April at 7.00pm at the Courtyard Cafe, Ixworth High Street. We aim to finish by 9.00pm.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends on the 28th.

Another Green Ixworth success.

Great news from West Suffolk Planners. The Hempyard Bridge restoration project will no longer have the monstrous equine barriers originally suggested. Green Ixworth's objection and arguments have paid off and good sense has been seen by Suffolk County Council who have now removed the rails instituted a mounting block at each end as we asked in their revised application.

We should like to give thanks to all those residents who gave Green Ixworth your support by also submitting reasoned objections. It was a pity the Parish Council could not do the same. However we would like to thank Parish Councillors Debra Reay and Steve Wilson and County Councillor Joanna Spicer for their specific assistance and the WSC planners who also helped persuade SCC to change their minds.

If only we can persuade SCC Highways and West Suffolk Council not just to work a bit harder on the A143 footbridge plan but to make it a dual use bridge for wildlife as well as humans, we may be getting somewhere and release Ixworth from its formidable boundaries. A direct link to the countryside is needed, especially with increasing traffic coming from the housing and other developments in Stanton and Ixworth.

Ukraine and Prices of food and energy.

As we have seen recently, Government has few ideas when it comes to policies to provide for food and energy at affordable prices. Plumping for expensive Nuclear Power in preference to insulation, onshore Wind Turbines and heat pumps demonstrates conclusively that it has no understanding of

how the economy should work and reflect the needs of the environment.

For more on this issue see May's Ixworth Newsletter and at www.greenixworth.org.uk.



Crown Lane Planting

We have now completed the planting of Crown Lane within the limits of permission granted by the verge owners. If any other verge owners would like to continue the program we should be delighted to help. The picture is from 2021. We hope that once the Persimmon masterplan has been agreed we should be able to work with the company to ensure planting within the Bramble bank prior to work starting. There is no given date for that as the detailed planning permission may be many months away.

(Picture of the planting summer 2021)

Local Plans and Zero Carbon

The vast majority of local councils, including West Suffolk, have now declared climate emergencies – but most do not have strategies to achieve carbon reductions in local plans (councils' agreed infrastructure and building strategy) to make sure they reach net zero carbon.

85% of councils in England have announced targets to reach net zero carbon – many earlier than the government's 2050 target. Of the 24 local plans adopted outside Greater London since the binding 2050 target was set, only one – the Plymouth and South-West Devon Plan has a target.

Without clear strategies involving housing, businesses, industry and transport – which between them generate 62% of our carbon emissions – it's unlikely that councils can meet their climate targets, especially given most local plans are designed to last about 15 years.

Government planning inspectors, responsible for signing off local plans, are ***not*** required to prioritise reaching net zero nor demand that plans show how they help councils get there. Government policy requires that local plans should help to achieve 'radical reductions' in emissions, there is little evidence of such measures.

We're not going to hit net zero by accident. We need to plan for it.

Local authorities are unable to specify new standards to improve thermal efficiency and carbon reduction in new developments. Green Ixworth has sought to include such measures in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Ixworth Parish Council Environment Policy and in our consultation comments on the Persimmon Master Plan. The government needs to give local authorities the power to demand and enforce year-on-year reductions in emissions.

Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council has agreed the principle of an Environment Policy which a sub Committees under Cllr Debra Reay is producing for their approval.

Solar Together

If you would like to do something to help reduce Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere, and reduce your heating costs, take a look at the Solar Together site below to get details of solar panels and their next collective buying program. You provide them with info on your property and they will give you a price which you are free to accept or reject. A simple and secure system run in conjunction with Suffolk County Council.

<https://solartogether.co.uk/suffolk/info/how-does-solar-together-work>

How is your Insulation?

One of the cheapest means of reducing heating costs is better insulation. It is often difficult for house owners to assess the level of insulation in a property as much of it, if in place, is hidden from view. Green Ixworth is offering a service in the early winter of 2022 to give house owners an idea of where heat is leaking from the house. West Suffolk Environment Department has kindly lent us a Heat Camera so we can take a picture which shows in colour the external temperature of the building. To be most effective the outside temperature needs to be low hence the winter program of measurement. We have it for a few days now to train us and take some pictures of typical structures to demonstrate the sort of results we may expect.

We shall advertise this opportunity later in 2022 so those who would like an informal survey, have an opportunity to see how your house fares before paying for a professional service.

Fears over right to roam in England as ministers end review

Campaigners had hoped access to nature would be extended in England, where 92% of land is privately owned. It was revealed last year that the Treasury had commissioned a review into access to nature, asking respondents for “radical, joined up thinking” to achieve a “quantum shift in how our society supports people to access and engage with the outdoors”.

The government has now said the review has been wound up, and it will not be releasing any results. There are thus fears that the right to roam over the 92% of England's land that is privately owned and not available to access will continue to be denied to the public..

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 gives a legal right of public access to mountains, moorland, heaths, some downland and commons, and the England coast path. Campaigners have asked for this to be extended to cover rivers, woods and green belt land. 97% of rivers are currently off-limits to the public, and tens of thousands of acres of woodland have benefited from public subsidy, yet remain publicly inaccessible.

The Bridge over the A143.

We cannot allways safely roam even when we have the right to do so

The Ixworth Parish Council will be holding a presentation on the need for a bridge over the A143 to join the disrupted Crown Lane. You will be aware that Green Ixworth is also campaigning to go a step further to make the bridge dual use, to encourage wildlife to move between the village and the countryside, linking up with the green corridor along the two sides of the A143 and the A1088, with Crown Lane going towards the Cemetery and village centre. The meeting is at **7.30 on 12th May**, in the the Village Hall. See briefing note on Green Bridges on www.greenixworth.org.uk.

Signing petitions can work.

Defra has just published its draft for new limits on various sources of pollution. Commenators are universally critical of the low standards it sets. However just received from the Government Petitions Offioce is the following. You recently signed the petition “Ban Water Companies discharging raw sewage into water courses.”: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/582336>:

Read more on this and sewage disposal into the Black Bourn at www.greenixworth.org.uk

Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe Annual Parish Meeting.

All are welcome. Although organised by the parish council, this isn't a PC meeting: it is a meeting of the village residents. It will include reports from many of the village organisations. So, put the date in your diary, come along and hear from village organisations, ask questions about village matters, and make suggestions, all in a friendly environment with light refreshments.

Wednesday **18th May at 7.30 pm** in Ixworth Village Hall.