



Green Ixworth

Newsletter

August 2023

www.greenixworth.org.uk

Suffolk County Council Environment Conference for Schools.



SCC organised a conference at West Suffolk College on the environment, with the key note speaker Megan McCubbins of the BBC Watch Series. Local environmental groups were invited to show their wares. Green Ixworth displayed posters demonstrating the range of our work and inviting delegates to the conference to participate. As usual on these occasions a number of contacts were made which are already proving useful.

The enthusiasm and deep-rooted concern for climate and the planet were wonderful and inspiring as was Megan's speech. We oldies might not be making such a good fist of addressing Climate

Change but the young will hold us to account. The picture shows Megan, Roger, (GI) Donna Higgins (Deputy Mayor of BSE) and Henry (GI).

Hempyard Bridgetill no confirmation from SCC Highways on the restoration of the bridge so we are keeping up the pressure along with the Parish Council and our local councillors. Ben Lord and Roger did a recorded piece for Radio Suffolk and two weeks later Roger did a live early morning piece on the anniversary of the drought, the publicity we achieved and what changes had occurred over the period. A further meeting is being arranged by SCC Cllr Joanna Spicer in October with Suffolk Highways to ensure everything is in line to start restoration work on time. Green Ixworth has verified and chased up the various surveys of Bats, Water Voles and Otters which are needed before final permission can be taken. We should like to know whether trout or grayling have, in recent years, been caught in the Black Bourn upstream of Euston and if so, where? If not, the work may be able to start earlier. SWT and Suffolk Preservation Society have been extremely helpful

Chalk Streams

Recently the River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP) heard an inspirational presentation on the importance of England's Chalk Streams/Rivers by Charles Rangeley Wilson OBE, the lead in producing the Chalk Stream Strategy involving a host of NGOs plus national bodies such as Natural England, Environment Agency etc. This is now government policy, adopted by Natural England.

Charles outlined the 2nd recently completed and agreed stage of implementation:
<https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CaBA-CSR-IMP-PLAN-FINAL-25.11.22.-V2.pdf> ;

The first document shows what needs to be done in general. The second details what is being done in a number of catchment areas, including the Lark. It gives examples of good practice, with studies on each of the selected catchments showing what can be achieved. LRCP are to be congratulated on their success so far.

Green Ixworth is getting underway with the Black Bourn mapping project and are seeking suggestions and interest in carrying out Citizen Science projects on the Black Bourn.

The width of the river should be, not too wide nor deep nor straight and able to flood easily to distributes polluting nutrients where they can do some good instead of harm.

We should like to encourage any of our readers or friends if you would like to come forward and help with a working group within GI, using our resources to start improving the condition of our river now to reduce weed blockages in the river. We have already made a start so If you are interested in getting your waders or wellies on to keep the river in good condition, please let us know.

Loophole lets farmers pollute UK rivers with excess manure – report

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jul/13/loophole-lets-farmers-pollute-uk-rivers-with-excess-manure-report?utm_term=64afdb8a00a23e5315addc69a1131a15&utm_campaign=DownToEarth&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=greenlight_email

Persimmon Development

Mid July we awoke to the sound of contractors cutting out all the shrubs and trees in the Persimmon development field along Crown Lane, Ixworth. In line with their “latest” draft masterplan of the site from December 2021. Local people especially walkers were understandably upset as sky larks residences were disturbed and grey partridge were afterwards looking for shelter from predators. The contractors did however honour GI’s earlier request not to remove the boundary trees and shrubs, which is something.

Our planning system has long time lags embedded in it between consultation, decision and action appearing on the ground. What just happened, on the field, followed inevitably from the decision in 2010 to adopt the St Edmundsbury Rural Vision. This allocated the space between the cemetery and the A143 for housing development. So the die was cast 13 years ago. The Vision was subject to considerable consultation at the time and cannot now be challenged. It’s a real challenge for localities to look to the future and stay vigilant.

Currently, the 2010 Plan is now under review and the new Plan for West Suffolk is nearing completion. A final consultation will be held early in January 2024 and will formalise recommendations that set the development agenda for Ixworth (and West Suffolk) for the next 10 years and more. This time it should incorporate the recommendations of the Ixworth Neighbourhood Plan which has been worked up by residents over the past several years. However, whilst it can appear theoretical and rule bound process, once again, in 2024, we have the opportunity to have our say before strategic decisions are made final. Please do get involved.

Traditionally strategic plans don’t attract high levels of participation but once development activity actually starts, people can feel angry and threatened. However, waiting until the development starts is often too late to raise objections. Please do get involved in the strategic Plan consultation. It will shape our village and our future.

Having said that, once a strategic Plan is in place, there are still opportunities for having a say over the details of the development once an actual planning application is submitted. We need to watch

carefully that developers comply with the permission, as some still will make unapproved changes if they can get away with it.

Locally, the Ixworth Parish Council and Green Ixworth, (since 2020) continue to respond to the various planning consultations. GI's responses are available on our website.

For further information contact: Parish, District or County Councillor or www.greenIxworth.org
Please do get involved, it is your village and together we can make a difference.

No hydrogen in the home?

Common sense and science are at last influencing the potential use of Hydrogen. Grant Shapps, currently the energy minister, has said that Government aspirations to replace gas boilers in homes with a hydrogen-based alternative are likely to be scrapped, amid growing concerns about cost, safety and perpetuating a reliance on fossil fuels.

Domestic natural gas boilers are not to be installed in new homes after 2025 to help decarbonise domestic heating, which accounts for 17% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. They will still be available until 2035 as replacements. A combination of oil companies and gas boiler manufacturers still campaign for hydrogen, made from natural gas, not carbon free, to maintain the gas grid but have met with opposition in pilot scheme areas, some of which have now been abandoned. More than 40 studies found hydrogen would not be viable for home heating, being hazardous and more expensive than the alternatives. Better, to use green hydrogen made with surplus electricity and store it for electricity production or powering heavy vehicles, when neither the wind blows, nor the sun shines.

Three new Highly Protected Marine Areas

HPMAs will be areas in which no direct pressure from humans will be allowed – from fishing to construction, dredging or even anchoring. This is fantastic news, because though these sites are not yet numerous, this is a first step to getting a better idea of how our seas can recover if given a chance to do so, without any interference from direct human pressure. These sites also allow us to embed climate considerations in MPAs, by protecting both species and blue carbon habitats, which capture and lock away carbon in the seabed. They are: Allonby Bay off Cumbria, NE of the Farne Islands, Dolphin Head off Selsey Bill.

Existing Marine Protected Areas in the UK, focus on specific protected features within a site, so a level of activities, including extractive or destructive ones, can still take place.

Windcatchers, free cooling.



A windcatcher looks like a tall, decorative chimney, usually with two or more open sides. It catches the breeze that blows well above ground level and channels it down into the house below. This displaces warm air that is expelled through the opposite face of the windcatcher. In some designs the incoming air blows over water, providing further cooling. This simple design can reduce the temperature inside a building by 8C to 12C.

Even in the complete absence of wind, a windcatcher acts as a solar chimney: warm air rises through it, drawing down cooler air into the building from the other side. Windcatchers from more than 3,000 years ago are recorded in Egypt, but even older remains have been found on Persian temples. Now architects are taking another look at windcatchers, redesigning them for maximum environmentally friendly cooling. They use only the power of the wind.

RSPB Reserves.

The address below is for a full list of UK RSPB Reserves with all the details for each.

https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/?utm_source=notes_on_nature_20230722_blue&utm_medium=email&utm_term=notes_on_nature&utm_content=1&utm_campaign=notes_on_nature

China is on course to hit wind and solar power target five years ahead of time.

Beijing bolstering position as global renewables leader with solar capacity more than rest of world combined however, they are still, unfortunately, building fossil fuel power stations.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/29/china-wind-solar-power-global-renewable-energy->

Finally, a note for your diary.

Langham Walled Garden will be holding its annual Autumn Fayre on Sunday 10th September. There will be more details in the next News. If you would like to help on our stall on the day or just visit, you will be most welcome. Plants, food and drink and music available. A really good day out with good company in a lovely welcoming environment.