



Green Ixworth

Newsletter

September 2023

www.greenixworth.org.uk

Guess which company owned this conflagration?



Copart who hope to set up in Stanton. Seven hundred cars were damaged/destroyed in a fire at an auctioneers/scrap yard in Rochford, Essex. In early August, 60 Essex fire firefighters fought through the night from evening until late morning to extinguish the fire. There were 2,000 vehicles on site. Copart chief executive for the UK and Ireland, Jane Pocock, said: "Storing heavily damaged vehicles carries risk and a clean-up operation will commence as soon as possible." We are glad they recognise the risks involved. However, we can't remember where they said this in the planning application.

What sort of neighbours are they going to make? Copart hope to establish their biggest UK depot at Shepherds Grove, Stanton, Bury St Edmunds

Roger Spiller, Chair of Green Ixworth said in a press statement, "Green Ixworth have opposed this local development as being hazardous due to the pollutants, chemicals and inflammable materials on site and from experience of Copart both in the USA and the UK, we are aware they have been heavily fined for a number of previous pollution events. In our submission to the planning application consultation, we have warned West Suffolk Planners of the dangers in permitting Copart to become established in Stanton for precisely the same reasons as occurred at Rochford. The Fire Service should not be putting their lives at risk at the beck and call of businesses who cannot look after their stock safely. The huge fines they have suffered elsewhere have clearly not worked"

The Shepherds Grove site is an industrial overdevelopment in an otherwise rural area, with a huge impact on the already congested A143. It will be very intrusive to the local villages of Stanton, Hepworth, Ixworth and Walsham le Willows and further. Copart seem to be making a habit of creating unassessed hazards for their neighbours, whether domestic residents or other businesses.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, companies are obliged to assess all risks in their operations and take steps, "so far as is reasonable", to eliminate that risk. The blasé way in which the Chief Executive is quoted as saying, that their vehicles carried risks, is reprehensible. Those risks should have been designed out. Lives could have been lost and the health of people in the wider vicinity could certainly have been harmed as could firefighters. There are many companies who have hazardous processes which are properly controlled. It seems Copart have yet to learn that lesson,

until they do, we and the folk around Stanton, do not want this dangerous company here or frankly anywhere else.”

Saving and making energy

Keep warm this coming winter.

We have up to £200 to give away to each household, who qualify, towards insulating your home.

You may have read this before but following supplier discussions we now have better descriptions and prices of materials so are ready to go at a very good price, even before the subsidy. GI has been selected by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL), to participate in a pilot scheme to provide a 50% subsidy to homeowners for materials to reduce energy consumption. The SCC has agreed to bulk buy and the SPSL are paying 50% of the cost. As a result, we shall have £7,000 to give away towards:

Roof insulation - 150mm and 200mm thick, for new work or to add to existing material.

Chimney cushions to reduce draughts.

Door draught excluders

Thermal film to insulate windows.

Radiator reflector panels.

Letterbox draught excluders.

Low energy light bulbs. (Only with larger orders).

This Bulk Buy project will be available to home owners whose household income is below £45,000. GI does not need to know your income just that it is within those figures. The maximum subsidy is limited to £200 but you may use that as a contribution to a total insulation order of more than £400.

Installation will be the responsibility of the householder but if you need it, Green Ixworth will assist with helping to determine what and how much may be needed. GI will send your orders to Travis Perkins with our approval for the subsidy and confirm your need. TP will then invoice you your share of the cost. Green Ixworth can help with measuring and installation advice.

For further details email: ginocarbon@hotmail.com

Warm Homes Suffolk

How to apply for free insulation and energy efficiency if your household income is under £31,000.

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vQW5powPpqlFem0N_CqVK3VD_UZXOWsRHwBZlNe-A4IFC3-iFZcs0rTcf1JBXKGiYU2-;)

[1vQW5powPpqlFem0N_CqVK3VD_UZXOWsRHwBZlNe-A4IFC3-iFZcs0rTcf1JBXKGiYU2-;](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vQW5powPpqlFem0N_CqVK3VD_UZXOWsRHwBZlNe-A4IFC3-iFZcs0rTcf1JBXKGiYU2-;)

Is solar for you?

An easy way to see is try this website run by the Energy Saving Trust You some idea of the roof angle, the direction your roof faces and the approximate power you would like limited by your roof size.

<https://pvfitcalculator.energysavingtrust.org.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2P6yVE5YWVvK0NmRpu9YEDROcV7s104ftLLuKHWwkd8bo1ZZ4Ulpn6PCq0;>

Some good news for now.

Persimmon have announced their immediate intentions for the land off Crown Lane in Ixworth about which we have had great concerns as well as some small victories. In July they removed trees and shrubs to ground level. On 21st August they erected temporary fencing and started to remove stumps of trees and shrubs along with the turf. They say in an email “as we **prepare the land to go back into agriculture**. The fence will be removed once the works are complete, which we anticipate happening by Wednesday August 23rd.”

This is pure vandalism of a valuable resource ie. the “old” soil and habitat, home to so many bugs, fungi and a “natural” soil. It seems that the top soil is being stored whilst the field is cultivated, for later use. It would have been helpful if a Facebook post could have been made explain their rational to reduce speculation. The land is still privately owned and thus the owner can do much as they like with it as it has not been classified as special.

West Suffolk Planning Department have confirmed there has been no activity on their pre-application from Persimmon for several months. Nearly all developers are putting their plans on hold whilst they review their portfolios and rue the day the interest rates went up along with mortgages. If government is relying on the big developers for their housing stock, they may have a long wait. The consequence is that smaller houses will be built simply to hold or reduce the price. For purchasers this may have some benefits in the short term but cramming more houses into less space is likely to create less pleasant living spaces.

Note that developers will now be able to pollute and the taxpayer will pick up the bill. The victim pays principle.

The Blackbourn

Green Ixworth are well into their summer program of clearing weed out of the river to enhance the flow and remove silt from the gravel bed, aiding fish and crawlies to breed and grow. The overgrowth



in the river is largely due to pollutants from farms and the 20 sewage works upstream of Ixworth. Our first task was clearing the bank at Cider House to enable a set of safe steps to be installed which are nearly completed. In the meantime, the water is so low we are using a knotted rope to help with the steep bank. Liz Ambler has been kind enough to supply us with refreshments. The clearing group consists of up to seven workers active on weekend afternoons.

Peter Brook and Roger clearing a channel through the weed.

The water companies are victims of the Victorians!

They would have you believe they inherited the large part of their sewage and water systems from the Victorians. Recent research has shown that only 12% of their sewers were installed in the 19th C. Approx 80% were installed in the 20th C, all bar a few % by the old publicly owned companies. At privatisation the new privatised companies were debt free. They made use of that and borrowed huge sums, not to build with but mainly to pay dividends to their rapacious owners. Only a little of that borrowing went on projects often to repair sewers and pipes which had been neglected since privatisation. The rest of what they were forced to spend on infrastructure was financed directly from the customer.

In the 80's it was said that the private sector would be more responsive to public needs than publicly owned companies. We now know in many instances, it was not true then and is not true now.

Would you like to become our: First Aid; Health & Safety; or Safeguarding Officer

For our projects we need three officers to help us comply with our responsibilities to our members and supporters: someone with First Aid qualifications; a Health and Safety Officer to establish any hazards and ensure measures are in place to mitigate them; a Safeguarding Officer to ensure all personnel are protected from abuse. Appropriate training will be provided where needed.

GI Crown Lane planting



The trees, hedging and wild flowers have taken well in some areas but less well in others. This is on the corner of the lane into Micklesmere Drive. This autumn we shall have to do some serious pruning to get the hedge in trim so a snot to block the lane.

Some replanting, using Sea Buckthorne, will be undertaken along with some more native flowering plants.

Greenest County - Community Network | Facebook

Do try this Facebook page, it covers the whole of Suffolk. We often think we are lone groups battling climate change on our own but there are a host of organisations concerned with rivers and drinking water, biodiversity, promoting energy efficiency, recycling, clearing litter, repair cafes, etc. Two are advertising below.

Harvest Fair Picnic

Langham Hall Walled Garden

Wild Heritage Suffolk

Enjoy...

- live music on the Summerhouse stage
- talks and demos
- craft and green info stalls
- the Tool Shed bar
- homemade sweet and savouries
- loads of plants and produce
- raffle goodies
- lovely company and a beauty of a walled garden.

Bring a picnic, a smile and come and enjoy!

Sunday 10th September 2023
12pm - 6pm **Admission £5**

Dogs always welcome

LANGHAM WALLED GARDEN & NURSERY

The Walled Garden
Langham Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 3EE

Email: info@wildheritagesuffolk.com

Tel. 07840 014858 www.wildheritagesuffolk.com

EcoCarriers
BURY ST EDMUNDS

BURY ST EDMUNDS BIKE LIBRARY

get a bike for life

Join the Bike Library for a one-off fee of £30 or your old bike and get a refurbished bike you can keep for as long as you want.

Children's bikes can be swapped for bigger machines as required for no extra cost.

Donations of serviceable bikes (any size) gratefully received.

tel: 01284 413441
email: hello@ecocarriersbse.co.uk
ecocarriersbse.co.uk/bike-library/

West Suffolk Council

Green Ixworth will be at Langham. If you would like to help on our stall or just visit, you will be most welcome.

Elmswild is holding their annual Apple Day at Lukeswood, Elmswell on 23rd September. GI will be there, do join us.