



Green Ixworth

August 2024

www.greenixworth.org

General Election

Climate change and the environment were the big winners in the general election. Parties which recognise the need to make major changes to our energy needs and supplies won nearly 2/3rds of the votes cast. So apart from reasons set out below, there need be few obstacles to massive increases in sustainable energy and consequential reductions in Carbon outputs. Nearly two thirds of votes went to parties supportive of Net Zero actions.

Sustainable power and the environment

The new government has already started to implement its manifesto, in particular its policies on sustainable energy, climate change and housing. These issues are supported in principle by the public as well as being rejected for reasons of aesthetics or damage to farmland, often by the same people. Delay is going to be the greatest barrier to our success in greening the grid and our electricity generation.

Other barriers are shortage of materials – steel, cables, switchgear and transformers and of skilled labour. The cutting of further activity on HS2 will release a number of these materials and skilled labour, once it is completed.

We need to address the consequences of routes for transmission cables. We not only have to double the capacity of the grid to cope with net zero electricity supply but replace much of our aging grid network and sub stations. Underground and subsea cabling costs up to 8 times the overhead cost, to install and maintain. We can have 8 miles of overhead cables for the cost of 1 mile of underground or subsea. For the East Anglian wind farms, the cost of subsea is approx. 4 times overhead costs. The HV grid usually consists of 7 conductors, and it is estimated that we need to install approx. 100km of high voltage conductor per day. A new factory manufacturing High Voltage DC cables suitable for subsea and underground is predicted to open later this year in NE England.

Note. The major reason overhead is so much cheaper is that the cables do not have to be insulated or cooled and are expensive to maintain.

Previous delays and removal/reduction of targets have further increased the total costs of achieving Zero Carbon. We have to build this new infrastructure at record rates if we are to achieve Net Zero by the end of this decade.

Your editor used to frequently drive on the A1 through Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire and was awe struck by the steam released from the many coal fired power station cooling towers, on the route, knowing that carbon and pollutants were emanating from the chimneys. Coming from the south of England it was clear to what local people in the Midland and Northern Coalfields were subjected, in order that the rest of us could have relatively cheap and plentiful electricity.

We took for granted that folk living in the coal fields had to accept the disruption and pollution

caused by power stations so that we, who lived in the South, could have our electricity. The need now is to generate more power in the south to reduce the scale of transmission from North to South. We need to fairly share that burden.

Climate Change Committee

Things are moving very fast in government. Chris Stark who was the head of the Climate Change Committee which published a number of very critical reports, including the latest below, on the lack of action by the last government, will head a Covid vaccine-style taskforce aimed at delivering clean and cheaper power by 2030.

A copy of the latest report (18th July 2024) from the Committee is available on our website and here: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/progress-in-reducing-emissions-2024-report-to-parliament/>.

UK off track for Net Zero, say country's climate advisors

Welcome to the latest update from the Climate Change Committee.

New report: 2024 Progress Report to Parliament

The Committee has published its assessment of the UK's progress towards reaching Net Zero. Our report finds that only one third of emissions reductions required to meet the 2030 target have credible plans. This requires urgent action which needs to go beyond electricity, to cover buildings, industry and transport. The Committee provides ten key recommendations for the new Government.

- Make electricity cheaper.
- Reverse recent policy rollbacks.
- Remove planning barriers for heat pumps and electric vehicle charge points.
- Introduce a comprehensive programme for decarbonisation of public sector buildings.
- Effectively design and implement the upcoming renewable energy CfD auctions.
- Accelerate electrification of industrial heat.
- Ramp up tree planting and peatland restoration.
- Finalise business models for large-scale deployment of engineered removals.
- Publish a strategy to support skills.
- Strengthen NAP3.

The Committee has begun its work on the Seventh Carbon Budget (to be published in 2025) and the Climate Change Risk Assessment 4 (to be published in 2026). Watch our latest explainers talking you through our approach:

Seventh Carbon Budget

Climate Change Risk Assessment 4

To inform the climate change risk assessment work a call for evidence remains open. It is a key part of the process and we're keen to update our understanding of climate risks. Respond to the call for evidence here.

Best wishes,
Climate Change Committee

Contact Climate Change Committee: enquiries@theccc.org.uk.

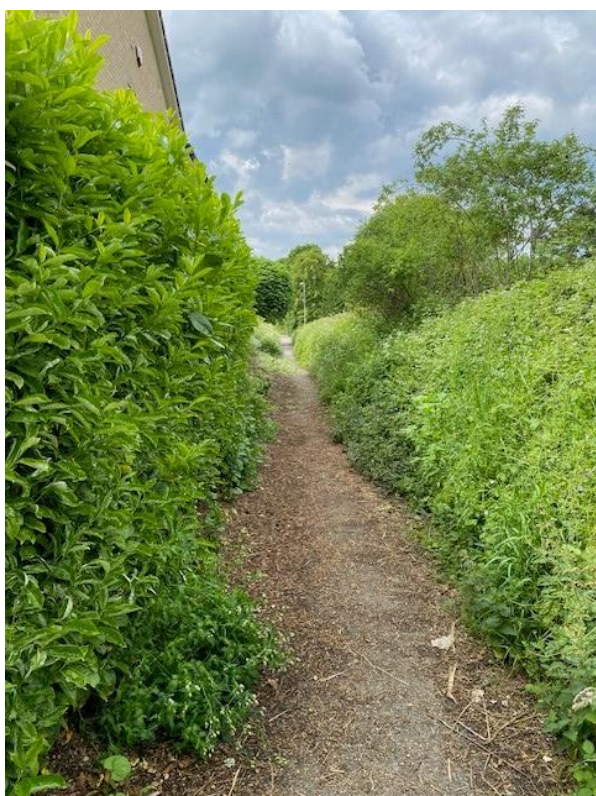
Local Authority priorities

Additional public expenditure in most areas, in the short term, is likely to be limited. Any increase in funding in county and district councils is likely to be limited to the areas of personal care and public health. The 40% plus decrease in funding of local government over the last 14 years has led to significant reductions in expenditure for those areas which are not legislatively required. As we have discovered this covers nearly all of what we used to take for granted, libraries, leisure facilities, recreation, parks, keeping our roads and public spaces in good condition. Green Ixworth has from its inception in 2020 sought to help overcome these shortages and we are now seeking to put the work on a more formal basis.

Ixworth Community Action

Like many other Councils, Suffolk has developed a scheme to establish groups of volunteers to keep our towns and villages clean and tidy, supplementing the work of Highways, Town and Parish council staff.

Green Ixworth has been asked by the Ixworth Parish Council and several residents to help keep our pavements and roads safe. Overgrown verges and hedges are a hazard to walkers and runners, buggy pushers, electric chair users and those with physical or visual challenges. Some residents also want to be able to plant wildflowers on verges and maintain them. Green Ixworth have already facilitated some clearing along Crown Lane and much planting.



Before



After

Peter Brook coordinates the clearers, Jenny Chantler the planters Clare Black the Litter pickers.

We have the bypass end of Crown Lane to finish, probably one session, then there will be planned autumn/winter work. We are going to need more volunteers for this and other tasks so anyone who fancies some light work for a couple of hours, probably at the weekend and most likely Sunday morning. Contact us on ginocarbon@hotmail.com.

Our discussions with the Parish Council and County Councillor Joanne Spicer established a need

to handle those tasks often too big for some residents but within the capabilities of our team. Those too big or too hazardous for us, will be referred to the SCC Highways. As soon as the PC has signed off the application to SCC, we shall be able to access training for working on up to 30mph roads and provided with Personal Protective Equipment and tools for the volunteers. We already have our own Insurance cover.

Our first formal task after Crown Lane is working with Ixworth High School to clear long grass and nettles alongside neighbours before they seed and then to discuss in detail, questions of hedging, possible orchard and assistance with Duke of Edinburgh Award, plus some practical work on the grounds or elsewhere for their senior students.

One issue we have not resolved is provision for disposal of the waste we generate. Talks with SCC and WSC are ongoing.

Next session is 9.30 am, 11th August outside Cemetery, Crown Lane Ixworth. For completing Crown Lane. Please bring gardening gloves and any tools you may like to use, shovels, spades, wheelbarrows, etc.

From water to wood-burning stoves:

11 green challenges Labour must solve

Fiona Harvey, the Guardian's Environment Editor, has produced this easy guide to the issues the new government has to tackle especially in light of what was in the Manifesto and other statements on environmental policy.

1. **Decarbonising electricity**
2. **Nuclear, carbon capture and hydrogen**
3. **Warmer Homes**
4. **Transport**
5. **North Sea oil and a just transition**
6. **Farming and Food**
7. **Water**
8. **Air pollution**
9. **Nature**
10. **International Leadership and climate finance**
11. **Protest**

For the full article go to: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jul/09/11-green-challenges-labour-must-solve>

Hempyard Bridge

Work has started on the restoration of the bridge resulting in the closure of the Bridleway. The dire shortage of alternative public rights of way, demonstrates why Ixworth requires more PRoW. We are working on this.

Planning/Housing

The new planning changes are not yet clear nor final. We shall be looking at the proposed National Planning Policy Framework and commenting during the consultation period. Local Plans will be respected, 60% of councils do not have such plans but they will do soon. The West Suffolk Plan is now with the Planning Inspectorate.

One emphasis in the proposals is to increase the proportion of social and affordable housing to 50% of each development. Long overdue and what Ixworth and local areas need.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66a8db240808eaf43b50d9b0/national-planning-policy-framework-draft-text-for-consultation.pdf>