



# Green Ixworth

October 2024

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## Ixworth Community Action



Before



After

The role of the ICA, a group within GI, is designed to help maintain the the look and experience of Ixworth village, verges, hedges, the river, litter picking, etc. We have previously done this in a small way but residents complaints were growing, illustrating the lack of maintenance of hedges and verges and obscured road signs. We took up the opportunity of seeking support from the Parish Council to become part of the Ranger Scheme operated by SCC.

We shall be provided with training and safety equipment by SCC Highways and have received the first of our new battery tools from the Parish Council for cutting hedges and verges. This will largely be funded by generous contributions from our District and County Councillors funds.

We have increased our volunteer work team from 6 to 15. New volunteers are allways welcome.

Our first active results were recently clearing the narrow road and pavement in Walsham Road enabling school buses, cars and pedestrians much safer access. We've also started clearing vegetation on Ixworth Bridge in preparation for painting the railings on the Eastern side.

Leaders of the task forces are:

Peter Brook – Cutting hedges and verges

Jenny Chantler – Planting verges and hedges

Clare Black – Litter picking

Roger Spiller – River and administration

There are a number of other projects we need to address over winter. If you believe some work needs doing or if you would like to plant up a verge or for any other reason, please contact: [ginocarbon@hotmail.com](mailto:ginocarbon@hotmail.com)



## Campaigning.

Green Ixworth has exhibited on a number of occasions during the summer, in Ixworth and Elmswell with an emphasis on water saving. Anglian Water supplied a number of water saving items which we were able to give away. The response from the public was very positive, with many already conscious of the need to save water even in a very wet year.

## Energy Saving Campaign

What was going to be an Ixworth environs event has developed into a Western Suffolk Campaign with the support of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. The launch presentation will be on 16<sup>th</sup> November at 10am, in the Ixworth Village Hall, opened by our MP, Peter Prinsley. An opportunity to review the campaign and deal with remaining issues and receive feedback will be in the Spring. Our plans are advanced to create greater awareness for saving electricity, keeping warm and cutting costs. Advice and action will save energy this winter. We shall be offering free Heat Maps of individual houses and providing matching advice to improve insulation. Access to a number of other professional staff will be available to residents throughout the winter campaign on free fitted insulation and funding arrangements to reduce energy usage with free personal advice from trained retro-fitters. If any readers would like to volunteer for Heat Mapping training contact: [jess.miller@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:jess.miller@suffolk.gov.uk); for a retrofitting advisory role contact [joolz@communityclimateaction.uk](mailto:joolz@communityclimateaction.uk)

There will also be advice on heat pumps, batteries, solar panels, etc. and for those thinking about an electric vehicle, the Environment Strategy Officer from SCC, will offer information and advice and how to select the model which might suit you. Access to a number of other professional staff will be available to residents throughout the winter campaign including advice on free fitted insulation and other funding arrangements.

Our campaign is working with the Suffolk Green Cluster of which we are a part, West Suffolk Council and the Suffolk Green Partnership (Suffolk local authority leaders). Please make this information available to your neighbours if you are in WSC area or the Eastern Part of Mid Suffolk.

**On social media we have advertised the availability and how to apply for Pension Credit.**

## Wilding – the film

This film of the book by Isabella Tree, concerns herself and her husband, turning a marginally profitably estate in Sussex into a haven for wildlife, encouraging both new and rare species. **Green Ixworth** are partnering with **Friends of Ixworth Library** to show the recently released film which also brings the book up to date.

The book and film are both inspirational and the film a beautifully shot 75 minutes of pure joy. Do come to **Ixworth Village Hall at 2.00 for 2.30pm, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**, tickets are £5 on the door. Refreshments will be available. Copies of the book available for sale.

## Planning

The proposed National Policy Planning Framework, makes significant progress towards Net Zero. The current requirement to “**consider identifying**” suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources and supporting infrastructure is strengthened, potentially having a huge impact.

## Objections to pylons.

An objection to the construction of overhead super grid lines is that property prices will be reduced. In Scotland two green groups were at loggerheads over the proposal to build a 137 mile 400kV overhead line. A recent report published by a Scottish energy group following the public Inquiry, shows that **after construction**, prices are still the same in relation to other properties some distance away, as before construction.

One result of objections, is that from the **commencement of any challenge, which** causes uncertainty, house prices do temporarily fall by about 10% until the line is complete when they return to levels as before the proposal.

The other objection is usually that it will damage the environment, particularly the view. That may be true, although a lot less than the alternatives of chimney, cooling tower and coal tip. - [Pylons v property: power line in Scotland caused divisions but did house price fears materialise? | Energy industry | The Guardian](#)

## Understanding the grid

The grid is overloaded and ancient it needs replacing and enlarging. Debates are fierce over how. We have published a guide to help inform the debate. You can read an article on this topic on the Green Ixworth website: [Understanding the grid – a Green Ixworth guide – Green Ixworth](#)

## Ixworth Neighbourhood Plan.

You may be interested in reading our response to the final limited consultation, now closed. [Final-consultation-Ixworth-Neighbourhood-Plan.pdf \(greenixworth.org.uk\)](#). The full plan is available on: <https://greenixworth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Final-consultation-Ixworth-Neighbourhood-Plan.pdf>

## Further Evidence of Global Warming.

By 2050 it is likely that the climate in London will be similar to that currently in Barcelona with severe summer droughts. Trees are very susceptible to heat stress and many which are so typical of lowland Britain will not cope with the extra heat. This will have a major effect on tree seedlings and young plants. Ecologists are hoping to help trees migrate north to survive heat by careful selection of new plants and varieties. To read more on this: [As the world gets hotter, could helping trees migrate northwards protect them? | Trees and forests | The Guardian](#)

## India Leads the Way on Lighting.

Lighting is a vital use of electricity and something remarkable has happened in India. In less than a decade, nearly 370 million highly efficient LED lightbulbs have been installed in homes. The government worked with manufacturers to drive down costs, and microloans were available for low earners. So far the scheme is saving 387 million tonnes of CO2 emissions a year, **the same as the UK's entire annual emissions.**

## Global Warming and Ice.

A six-year investigation into the vast [Thwaites glacier](#) in Antarctica has concluded with a grim outlook on its future.

Often dubbed the “doomsday glacier”, this huge mass of ice is comparable in size to Britain. Its collapse alone would raise sea levels by **65 centimetres**. Worse still, this is expected to trigger a more widespread loss of the ice sheet covering West Antarctica, causing a calamitous sea level rise of 3.3 metres and threatening cities like New York, Kolkata and Shanghai.

It is an extremely remote and difficult area to get to, but the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration (ITGC), a joint UK-US research programme, has deployed 100 scientists there over the past six years, using planes, ships and underwater robots to study ice dynamics.

## On the Other Hand

A plan to build a fleet **10 million** wind turbines in 10% of the Arctic, to spray sea water on to the thinning ice cover in winter, would slow or reverse the loss of ice which could then reduce absorption of sunlight by the sea and reduce or stabilise sea water temperatures. The cost, though, is staggering, requiring a total of 100 million tons of steel **a year** for 10% of the Arctic Ocean area. If the area covered were to be all the Arctic ocean it would require a billion tons of steel.

There would be many other strategic materials used in this program. Reducing our energy needs and reducing our use of fossil fuels would be much cheaper. [Plan to Refreeze Arctic Sea Ice Shows Promise in First Tests | High North News](#)

## **No New Cumbrian Coal Mine!**

Iron is currently made by coke, from coal, firing blast furnaces with iron ore, to make the iron which can then be turned into steel using electric arc furnaces. However the global steel industry is moving towards eliminating blast furnaces to virtually eliminate carbon outputs, making use of only scrap steel. But iron will still be required, scrap will only provide 60% of world demand for iron. Why is our steel industry not looking at making iron with hydrogen in direct reduction furnaces, which is already happening around the globe? Sweden being the first country with such a plant.

Meanwhile the last government approved the development of the Cumbrian coking coal mine to supply coking coal to a steel industry rapidly reducing its demand. Anticipated demand for coking coal in the UK and the rest of Europe would be zero by the time the mine was producing coal.

Government accepted that, contrary to law (Environmental Impact Assessment – EIA), approval was OK so long as the business was zero carbon in its own production processes. ie. **no account** need be taken of the carbon impact of the coal.

**South Lakes Action on Climate Change** led the campaign against the development. The case finished up in the Supreme Court. The case for coal was supported by the last government. One of the first actions of the new government was to withdraw the support. The Supreme Court found that all carbon emissions from production and the **use of the “energy minerals” produced** should be considered. This decision also applied to the Horsehill Gas well in Surrey.

This legally defined position seems to indicate it may be possible for recent oil and gas approvals, for exploration or production, by the last government, to be challenged in court as the new Government has shown it is unlikely to challenge such claims.

## **Sewage Movements.**

Tens of billions of pounds of private finance is now guaranteed to be spent over the next five years to build new and extended sewage works, reservoirs and major pipe upgrades. The Environment Secretary has said that the biggest ever investment in the water industry, amounting to around £88bn in private cash, will allow the Government to fix the foundations of the water sector and bring an end to the sewage crisis.

## **Do we have enough ponds?**

<https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events/2023-06-20-community-ponds-wildlife>

## **Christmas**

Green Ixworth will be presenting its offer including energy advice at the Christmas Fair, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Do come and join us.

If you are looking for Christmas present suggestions, from you or for you, try this SWT site for a good selection of books on nature. <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/wild-reads>

## **Brexit.**

Remember that we were told it would give us the opportunity to make our own and better rules to improve the environment. Do read this.

[Revealed: Far higher pesticide residues allowed on food since Brexit | Pesticides | The Guardian](#)

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