



Green Ixworth Newsletter August 2026

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Persimmon Development – Crown Lane Ixworth.

At a meeting of the WSC Development Control Committee on 1st July the application for the development of 187 houses was proposed by a Reform Councillor and agreed by a narrow margin. A number of outstanding issues about which the objectors: Ixworth PC, Green Ixworth, SCC and West Suffolk councillors all agreed were left up in the air without resolution.

The numbers of houses exceeded the approved plan, 187 against 145 permitted it seems so long as all other policies are complied with that is OK. However, many other policies, particularly environmental ones have been widely breached, eg, Noise, water conservation, biodiversity, etc.

More details especially about the failure to even contribute to an A143 bridge, are all available on our website. Very depressing but not out of the game yet.

Renationalise Our Water!

Despite the soaring temperatures on the hottest day of the year, so far, Peter Prinsley MP, held an extremely successful and well-attended, Water Action Day in the Abbeygate Sixth Form College with local stakeholders, residents, students, environmental activists and charities.



Panellists were (from the left of the picture):

Ros Alexander, Chair of the River Lark Catchment Partnership, which is the Community Partner for Anglia Water's Lark Flagship Chalk Stream Restoration Project.

Juliet Stephens working as an Agricultural Advisor for the Country Land and Business Association, (CLA). She advises rural landowners on planning and land use. Including reservoirs.

Ash Smith whose tireless work on protecting our rivers was the inspiration behind the recent Channel 4 Docudrama "Dirty Business". Ash outlined how the current privatised model for water isn't working for consumers, for public health, for wildlife and for water quality. He gave the example of Thames Water which, he explained, has never seen a single year since privatisation when shareholders put more cash into the business than they took out. Ash's optimism that a new approach to water ownership would be good for vital, long overdue investment and would reduce costs for consumers.

Peter Prinsley MP, explained that the Water Action Day was just one strand of his campaign to clean up and protect our rivers and chalk streams. As well as securing an important debate in parliament on the topic he is also working cross-party to establish an All-Party Group on Chalk Streams so that we can make meaningful progress on restoring one of our most precious natural resources. This is an edited version of the report in Peter's latest monthly Bury and Stowmarket Newsletter. If you would like a copy please go to peterprinsley.org.

Roger and Liz from Green Ixworth were among the 70 audience members who participated in a vibrant debate following presentations and made some useful contacts and ideas for perhaps establishing a body covering the Black Bourn, another one of our rare Chalk Streams, rising to the south of Bradfield St George and merging with the Little Ouse north of Euston. Although now three years old, we have already published a "Vision for the Black Bourn" which is available on our website, www.greenixworth.org.uk. If you have an interest in participating in improving the Black Bourn please contact GI on our email address. The villages on the river or its tributaries: Euston, Fakenham Magna, Honnington/Sapiston, Ixworth Thorpe, Bardwell, Stanton, Walsham Le Willows, Badwell Ash, Langham, Hunston, Stowlangtoft, Ixworth, Pakenham, Norton, Tostock, Elmswell, Woolpit, Drinkstone, Hessel, Beyton.

You might consider signing this petition on the UK Government site. It guarantees a debate. Hold a referendum to bring the water industry into public ownership. Closes on **1 October 2026**.

Hold a referendum to bring the water industry into public ownership - Petitions

Help measure the pollution in our rivers by joining the Great Water Blitz.

To take part, we invite you to test any freshwater river, stream, lake, pond, or canal between 18-21 September. Choose to repeat a previously tested site to see how it has changed, or pick somewhere new! Register below and you will be sent a water quality testing kit in the post, which you can use to measure nitrate and phosphate.

Bardwell Solar Farm.

West Suffolk has suspended the decision on the basis that Officers will outline the implications of rejection to the next meeting of the Development Control Committee.

Following the recent problems over roadworks on the A143 and its connecting roads, local parish councils affected are coming together to work for a united approach to Suffolk CC. This is something we have been pressing for for 4 years.

Great UK WaterBlitz - Early Access - Earthwatch Europe.

Oh dear.

Last May, the newly elected Reform UK council abolished a flood committee in Lincolnshire, despite the county suffering some of its worst flooding in its history in Storm Babet in 2023.

Antarctica's west coast missing an area of sea ice the size of France as temperatures peak 20C above average | Antarctica | The Guardian

info2@carbonbrief.org

Be Grateful.

If you ever think we in Britain are not having problems because of climate change, or more importantly you think we can live with Climate Change, do read this.

Half of world's children exposed to at least three climate hazards, Unicef says | Climate crisis | The Guardian

Algae Thwarts Trump.

The US administration had claimed simple algae at the Lincoln Memorial pool would be cleared after renovation, but it has proliferated amid warm weather. Oh dear, what could have caused the unusually warm weather? Surely there cannot be a connection with: Trump wants to put a \$75m coal terminal in this liberal California city. Residents aren't having it | Oakland | The Guardian

Spanish households save €10 a month thanks to renewables expansion, report finds | Spain | The Guardian

AMOC Collapse Could Change Europe's Climate 10x Faster than Expected.

This study follows on from a recent article in Green Ixworth News. Not only will it increase the rate of climate change effects in Europe but we are far from ready for it. We aren't ready!

Amoc collapse could change Europe's climate 10x faster than expected. We aren't ready | Penny Holliday, Femke de Jong and Sjoerd Groeskamp | The Guardian

PHEV no Solution to Climate Change.

Plug in Hybrids are being suggested as a temporary solution to Climate Change rather than battery EV by Government to address the woes of the motor industry. The industry was slow to the market and their lack of promotion of electric only vehicles has allowed Chinese companies to occupy a very large slice of the market. The article below illustrates the futility of this approach and the additional costs that PHEV will place on the driver.

As an aside Car manufacturers based in or with large manufacturing facilities in the US were the latest to market EV, driven no doubt by the need to appease the Trumpian view. Meanwhile the US defence establishment have implemented their own measures to become sustainable. They see sustainability making them more secure. Mmmm. Sustainable bombs might be pushing things a bit. Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit | Government at risk of £13.8bn...

Commenting on news that sales of used EVs on Autotrader surged by 34.6% in May, and are taking just 24 days to sell - 12 days quicker than in May 2025 and five days faster than the average petrol car.

Sales of Used EVs on Autotrader Surged by 34.6% in May.

A strong second hand market for EV is crucial to enable an increase in new EV sales. Better battery life and longer guarantees are making this important improvement. This feature along with better charging infrastructure, cross pavement charging using cheap domestic energy, cost reductions in new vehicle prices and government subsidies have led to a major uptake in sales.

EV chargers under the pavement are now permitted development but too many highways authorities are insisting on applying restrictions.

Colin Walker, Head of Transport at the Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU), said:

"With war in the Middle East sending the cost of petrol and diesel skywards, we are seeing a surge in the sale of both new and used EVs as more and more drivers look to end their vulnerability to volatile oil markets over which they have no control."

"Despite this acceleration in both the UK's, and the world's, transition to EVs, we continue to hear calls from some parts of our industry for the UK's EV sales targets to be watered down, and slow the country's transition to electric driving. Doing this would keep millions of families stuck driving petrol cars that cost hundreds, even thousands, of pounds a year more in the midst of a cost of living crisis. It would weaken the UK's energy security, keeping us reliant on imports of oil from abroad. And it would undermine the future of our car industry, holding it back from making the transition to building the new, electric vehicles to which our major export markets are inexorably moving - a recipe for factory closures and mass redundancies".

A report by CBI Economics for the ECIU revealed that a failure by the car industry to make the transition to manufacturing EVs could see its contributions to the UK economy fall by as much as 73%, or £34.1bn, and over 400,000 jobs could be lost. Conversely, economic output could increase by over £16bn, and 167,000 new jobs could be created, if a rapid and successful transition takes place. [2]

Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit | Autotrader sees used EV demand...

The Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit publishes briefings on Climate Change and sustainability issues. They are free and promote information to aid understanding of events and background. info@eciu.net Do explore the site for recent past news items.

Heat and Electricity.

The unplanned shutdown of a major French nuclear plant.

French utility EDF expects the reactor to remain offline until temperatures return to normal. This is a problem for power stations relying on river water for cooling as reduced flows and warmer atmosphere increase water temperature and reduce cooling capacity. Most of France's Nuclear power plants are on its great rivers, Loire, Garonne and Rhone, so reduced all round rain fall or ice melt – from retreating glaciers, creates a problem. UK nuclear plants are all coastal with a plentiful supply of cool water – so far.

In the UK coal fired plants occasionally had to stop generating for the same reasons, the River Trent was too warm with 13 stations generating a quarter of UK electricity.

Germany - Europe's biggest electricity market, wholesale prices will reach highs of €545.51 per megawatt, the highest since June 2024.

[France](#), the price will climb to €268.67 per megawatt-hour, the highest since August 2023.

UK - A price of almost £230/MWh from 8pm, almost three times the average price of £86.28/MWh in June last year. All figures for the evening of 23rd June.

The use of air conditioners, loss of cooling water for thermal power stations, generating systems shut down for summer maintenance, etc. all contribute to reduced night time generating capacity

whilst night time usage increases. In the days of fossil fuel stations on the Trent, For those who are not familiar with the workings of steam turbines, the power generated is proportional to the difference in steam pressure from the input to the exhaust. If the exhaust steam is actively cooled it reduces pressure, thus increases power and efficiency. The great concrete towers so familiar at traditional power plants, are properly called cooling towers to perform the same purpose.

Mr James Watt successfully created a working system in 1776 to cool the exhausted steam outside the cylinder and thus significantly increase the power output and efficiency of his engines as the cylinder maintains a high temperature. The rest as they say, is all in Wikipedia. The impacts of heat on electricity distribution is that hotter cables lengthen and therefore sag sometime enough in a wind to touch other cables or trees. Thus temporarily shutting off the supply.

Following up on previous info on Synchronous Condensers at Yaxley near Eye, we attach access to a recording of a webinar recently held to explain its purpose and construction. For those like your editor are nuts for technology, especially if you are Green.

Grid stability benefits of SynCons

Find out more about our Yaxley NESO Pathfinder 3 project

Weakening UK net zero policy would damage economy, chief climate adviser says | Climate Change Committee | The Guardian

mailchi.mp/eciu/daily-news-alert-fri-26-jun-2729622?e=9294fe63f8

Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit | UK heat stress impact on food,...

For those who argue that solar farms take up valuable food producing land. If we do not stop using fossil fuels this prediction will happen sooner. If all our energy were to be generated by solar farms they would occupy less land, around 2%, than golf courses.

Well designed solar farms can mount panels so they provide shade for the land beneath increasing its productivity and maintaining or increasing agricultural productivity.

You Would Not Believe It!

The CEO of Quidnunc, a property company, boasts in the annual report, that they are installing solar panels and EV charging points into its properties, because *“this will help our occupiers with lower electricity bills than they might otherwise have to pay, as well as providing an attractive return for shareholders.”* A very proud CEO indeed who happens to be Deputy Leader of Reform, Richard Tice. His commercial actions speak louder than his political ones.