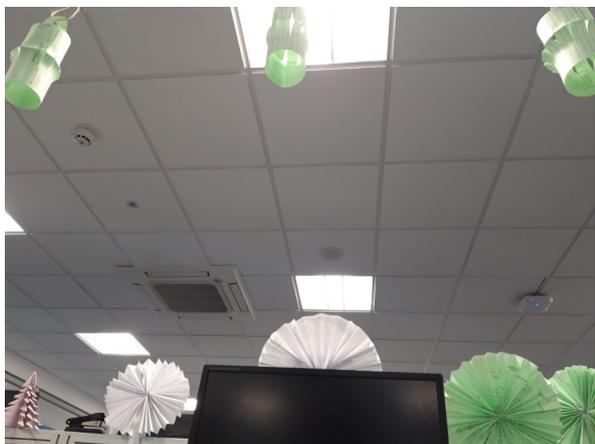


Greenprint Forum Newsletter—Winter 2019/20

Happy New Year Greenprinters—and well done to all who made the effort to have low-impact Christmas and New Year festivities. Your Secretary has the good fortune to share an office with the council's Environmental Protection Team who, for a few years now, have taken the initiative themselves to ensure that not only are our decorations made from creatively re-purposed obsolete stationery that they stopped using several years ago, they are also re-useable and (when they do eventually reach end of life) are fully and easily recyclable.



A 20:20 vision for a better future

Now if you follow environmental commentators in the broader media you may have detected the emergence of a theme of referring to this new year, 2020, as a metaphor for clarity of vision and how we use 2020 to focus a new vision for a better future. 2019 was of course a year in which East Suffolk Council and other District and Town Councils in the county made Declarations of the Climate Emergency.

As part of developing this new vision for a better future, the Greenprint Forum's next forum event will be our opportunity to not only get an update on ESC's climate action plan from Cllr Mallinder on behalf of East Suffolk Council's Environment Task Group, but also for us all to join in a conversation about how we can all participate in positive action. You may be a Parish or Town councillor keen to serve the community you love, a representative of a business or organisation with an innovative project— or simply an individual interested in this wide-ranging issue. All are welcome to come and contribute your thoughts and ideas.

If you would like to have a stall to promote the activities of your community or organisation that support positive action on the environment please call or email me (contact details on pg 13).

Elsewhere in this issue: bumper update from Cookpole Energy Action; launches of Halesworth Terracycle and Fram Climate Change Action Now; Transition Woodbridge's wildlife corridors; new Sustainable Business Toolkit; Community Partnership datapacks; and more besides.

Hope you enjoy this issue; the Greenprint Steering Group would like wish all of you the greatest success in 2020 in your work towards our shared vision whether your projects are large or small, individual, community, or organisational.



A decade of energy action in Cookley & Walpole

Cookpole Energy Action, a small group of volunteers based in Cookley and Walpole committed to promoting green energy, energy conservation and carbon reduction, recently marked 10 years of local action. As you can see from their track record below they have been rather busy since their formation in 2009:



- Conducting a 'baseline' survey of all households in the parishes – looking at methods of space and water heating, use of double glazing, prevalence of solar and wind powered electricity generation etc to enable CEA to assess change in the event of a follow up survey.
- Encouraging people to make use of free or discounted insulation schemes, which were available through the district council at the time – the 'greener homes' scheme.
- In partnership with a local farmer, obtained planning permission for a community wind turbine (Gaia). Very sadly, CEA were not able to put together the funding package to complete this project.
- Encouraged uptake of renewable heating systems, by leading a five parishes project, as part of the [then] Department of Energy and Climate Change's pilot of the Renewable Heat Incentive.
- In 2013 CEA raised the funds to install photovoltaic panels on the roof of Walpole Pavilion. The 4kw array is the same size as most domestic installations. The system provides around 3,000kWh of clean electricity each year.



- The parish council has leased some land from the district council, and sub-leased it to CEA to create a village allotments site and small community orchard. The irrigation system is driven by a solar powered borehole pump, the first, CEA believe, in the county. The allotments group has revived the village flower & produce show, which had stopped forty years ago.



Continued on next page...



A decade of energy action in Cookley & Walpole (pt 2)

- CEA secured funding from a variety of external sources for two community electric bikes, which local residents can borrow for no payment if they are using them instead of their cars. When in their shed, the bikes are charged from the solar panels on the Pavilion.



- CEA started and administer a local heating oil buying group.
- CEA organise an annual fundraising craft fair, the proceeds of which go to support projects and core costs. Over a period of eight years, this has become a significant event in the parish. The craft fair encourages local craftspeople and producers and is well supported by volunteers and visitors.
- CEA have leased from a local Housing Association what was a patch of boggy and overgrown land and turned it into a community willow patch. A local willow weaver harvests the wands for her use, in exchange for teaching willow weaving at the local school for children with special needs.
- An annual village litter pick, timed to fit with the district council initiative.
- CEA's current projects include: (a) The community orchard which is now coming to bearing age and we are investigating turning the produce into juice; (b) CEA are looking at commissioning a study of the feasibility of running an electric car 'fast' charging point from the solar panels, via a battery stack; (c) Producing a village recipe book as a fundraising initiative



To get involved with, or find out more about, CEA's initiatives please contact:

Simon Weeks: 01986 784348 or Zoe Mair: 01986 784217

<http://cookpolenews.onesuffolk.net/cookpole-energy-action/>



Could your community help others recycle more?

Since collections of Tetrapak cartons and small metal kitchenware (e.g. saucepans and baking trays etc) as part of the Suffolk kerbside recycling collection service ceased early last year a number of Greenprint members and [Plastic Action Champions](#) have raised concerns that these items will end up in the residual waste stream instead due to many residents having no way to easily transport these items to Suffolk County Council's Recycling Centres, and have asked whether communities can themselves play a part in helping continue to ensure that these items, and other small recyclable items that the kerbside service is unable to include, can still enter the recycling stream.

Following enquiries with the Environment Agency and SCC, we can update you that any community in Suffolk that does want to set up a local collection point (at the local community centre, village hall, church, or school for example) for the items listed below will be able to collect and take these items on behalf of others in their community, to any of the [Suffolk Recycling Centres](#) (in East Suffolk located at Lovers Lane, Leiston; Carr Road, Felixstowe; and Hadenham Road, Lowestoft) without the need for the person transporting the items once gathered up to a Recycling Centre to have a Waste Carriers Licence – so long as there is no element of business or profit.

The EA do however stress that it is important to make sure that the Duty of Care is upheld therefore that the collection point is secure i.e. items deposited **cannot escape your control**; and that the recyclables are **transferred directly to a Recycling Centre in a timely manner**. Full information about how to ensure compliance with rules on temporary storage at a collection point is available here: http://scetcivil.weebly.com/uploads/5/3/9/5/5395830/temporary_storage_at_a_collection_point.pdf

The list of recyclables that a community "Recycling Buddy" scheme could cover are as follows:

1. Food and drink cartons e.g. Tetrapaks
2. Small metal kitchenware (i.e. saucepans, baking trays, cake tins)
3. Textiles
4. Tassimo pods
5. Spectacles
6. Lightbulbs
7. DVDs
8. Mobile phones
9. Printer cartridges
10. Batteries



As well as helping those who have serious difficulty in getting their small recyclables to a Recycling Centre, it can also help those who might otherwise be tempted to make a special journey for an otherwise insignificant quantity – thus cutting down on car journeys and making the process more sustainable.

Please note – if you do plan on collecting batteries (particularly lithium batteries due to their increased fire risk) it is strongly recommended to check with whoever insures the community building in which the collection point is hosted to ensure that the building is covered for the storage of these on site.

See the next page for more about a similar successful scheme for collection of Tetrapaks set up in Halesworth by local activists alongside their Terracycle initiative.



TerraCycle Takes off in Halesworth

A recently launched Halesworth community recycling event, organised by the Halesworth Green Party in association with Edgar Sewter School, was hailed a huge success when around 200 people turned up at St Mary's Hall on Saturday 9 November for a new waste packaging collection programme.

The public were invited to bring along items to be recycled through the national TerraCycle scheme (crisp packets, biscuit wrappers, toothpaste tubes etc) as well as cartons and TetraPaks which can no longer be put in blue household recycling bins. By the end of the morning, three very large boxes were filled and returned to TerraCycle, plus two car loads of cartons were taken to council Recycling Centres.

Local activists coordinated with Ellen Ellis, Edgar Sewter School's TerraCycle collection organiser, to raise awareness about the scheme and to highlight the amount of non-recyclable waste produced by everyday packaging. The school earns small cash sums for its charity dependent on how much is collected and returned.

As cartons can no longer be placed in kerbside recycling bins in Suffolk due to the difficulty of sorting them from the other waste streams, and can only be taken to the SCC Recycling Centres, this local initiative will help local residents who would otherwise find it difficult to get their cartons to a Recycling Centre themselves, to continue to recycle their cartons.

TerraCycle and Carton collections in Halesworth will continue on the second Saturday of each month at St Mary's Hall, the next being on 11 January, 10.00 to 12.00.

Halesworth Terracycle contacts

Edgar Sewter School: Ellen Ellis - eellis@edgarsewterprimary.co.uk

Will Oldham - willoldham1@gmail.com

Tel 01986 835853



Promoting wildlife corridors in Woodbridge

A quick mention here of Transition Woodbridge's exciting new WILDLIFE CORRIDORS project - a new and vitally important project to help nature in the town.

This project, inspired by [Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve](#), aims to provide routes by which animals both large and small can move around without hinderance or danger. Built up areas can be difficult to navigate, but by joining together to create biodiversity-friendly spaces close together (such as in groups of gardens), we allow animals to move more freely. This is hugely important for many animals, insects, bats and birds to be able to move from one habitat to another.

You can find out much more and learn how you can really make a difference in your garden by going to the 'Local Wildlife Corridors' section of our new and exciting website:

www.transitionwoodbridge.org.uk

There will be monthly newsletter updates from Transition Woodbridge to help inform people how they can encourage wildlife too.

Jane, Hilary and the Transition Team



East Suffolk Community Partnerships Datapacks and workshop notes now available

Eight new and innovative Community Partnerships have been developed across East Suffolk to be informal bodies that will each evolve organically to reflect local distinctiveness and focus on their own local priorities by taking a fresh, solution-focussed approach to using data and insight.

Each partnership consists of East Suffolk Councillors, together with key partners from a range of Town and Parish Councils, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police, Great Yarmouth & Waveney / Ipswich & East Suffolk CCGs, businesses, voluntary organisations, community groups and youth representatives.

The Partnerships will each have a £10,000 budget in 2019/20 and then £25,000 per year for the next three years to be spent against one or more agreed priority. They will also have the opportunity to work together to access a Strategic budget of £150,000 in 2019/20 and £300,000 a year for the next 3 years.

Available on the website <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-partnerships/> is an overview of the Community Partnerships, as well as the Data Packs for each area (which are the presentations that were delivered at every CP workshop) and the Workshop Notes (these include the three priorities for each CP area that were identified at each workshop held in October and November, based on data and local insight, and all of the comments that delegates gave in each workshop).

For more information, or if you have any further questions please contact:

communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk



Still after ideas for a New Year's Resolution for 2020?

Then why not take the Food Savvy challenge!

Over Christmas and New Year, many of us will have eaten, drank and become a little bit merrier than the rest of the year! But it's not only the turkey (or nut roast!) that will have been stuffed - household bins struggle with the excess waste generated by yuletide celebrations. In January, our bins are around 12% fuller than any other month of the year, so it is a time of year when the environmental consequences of over-consumption are most apparent.

Food waste accounts for 35% of the non-recyclable waste generated in Suffolk—equating to 52,000 tonnes county-wide, with each household, averaged out, throwing away food worth £810 per year.

If you're after ideas for cutting down your household's food waste to cut not just the cost on your finances but also on the environment, why not take the [Food Savvy challenge?](#)



Participants receive email updates packed with top tips and useful links to help you make the most of your food. Try as many ideas as you can during the challenge and you should start to reduce your food waste and save money. The challenge takes four weeks to complete and in the last week participants receive a short survey to find out how you got on with a chance to win a great prize.

If you would like further information about the Food Savvy project or are interested in collaborating, please get in touch with Eleanor Redgrave at Suffolk County Council: eleanor.redgrave@suffolk.gov.uk



Shop smart—a deal is only a deal if you can eat it!



Get portion sizes right—good for your waistline, keeps your wallet plump and your bin slim !



Increased freezer use can save you up to £270 per year on your food bills. Who would have thawed?

Unwanted gifts? Don't chuck 'em—rehome 'em!

And if you're wondering what to do with unwanted or unneeded gifts, then as well as donating to charity shops remember all 11 Suffolk Recycling Centres have re-use containers for items to be rehomed through the [Foxhall Reuse Shop](#), or there is the regular [Repair Café in Woodbridge](#) and [Swap or Mend / Framfix in Framlingham](#). If you know of any other regular community swap & mend/give & take / repair café initiatives in the area please let me know greenissues@east Suffolk.gov.uk

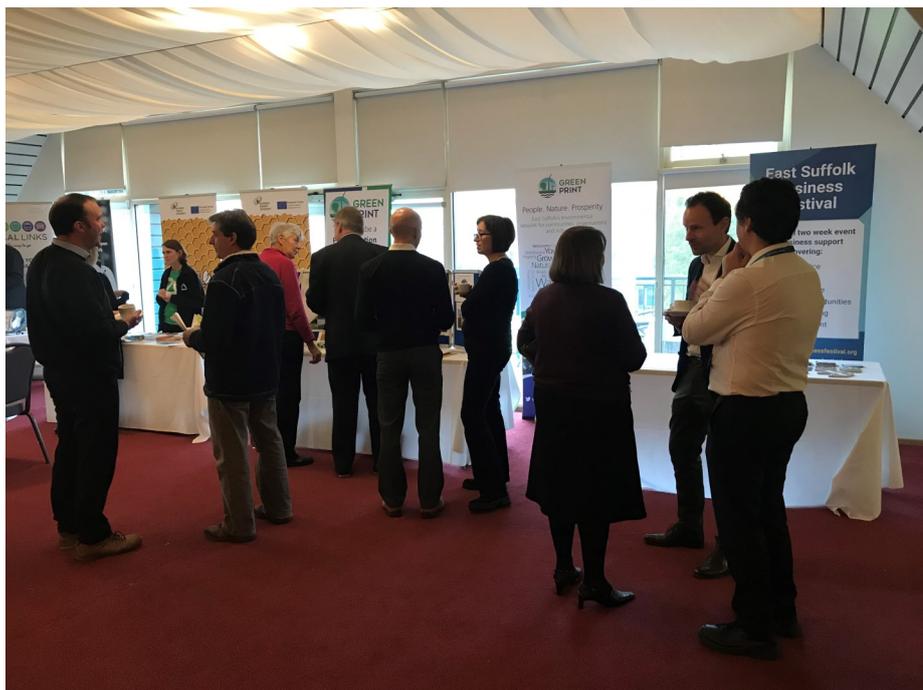


Sustainable Business Toolkit launched at East Suffolk Business festival

As part of East Suffolk’s annual Business Festival, an event called Going Green to Benefit Business was held at Ufford Park Hotel—who hold a [Bronze Carbon Carter Award](#)—on 8 November. At this event, businesses heard from Tom Bryant of TFB Consultants about the 3 pillars of sustainability—People, Planet and Profit; and from David Barnard who described the support on offer in the form of advice and expertise from Groundwork on behalf of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. They also heard from Jo Metcalfe from local CIC Greener Growth about how businesses can make space for nature on their premises and how it also benefits their staff and clients; Peter Frost aka “Electric Pete” about the opportunity for businesses to host EV charging points through Plug-in Suffolk; and Oliver Drury on how going green has made good business sense for successful local brewers Adnams.

At the event, the Council also launched the new [Business Sustainability Toolkit](#) for businesses to self-assess their own progress towards sustainability and highlight key areas for potential further improvements, including signposts to sources of support and more detailed information to enable them to make positive changes towards being a more sustainable business.

<https://eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk/business-support/resources/environmental-sustainability/>



Active Travel workshop at ESP Conference “Shaping Our Future”

At the East Suffolk Partnership conference held on 14 November the Greenprint Forum ran a workshop to explore the theme of active and sustainable travel in East Suffolk. Whilst the number of delegates attending our session wasn't as many as we would have hoped we had representation from a number of parish councils, officers and members from both SCC and ESC, the East Suffolk Community Rail Partnership and a housing association all contributing to a lively conversation.

Greenprint Vice-Chair Andrew Cassy provided the overview of what the data tells us about changing travel patterns, for instance did you know that on average, we make 16% fewer trips, travel 10% fewer miles, and spend 22 less hours travelling than we did a decade ago? Whilst online shopping is growing at 10% per annum with delivery van deliveries rocketing 50% from 2012 to 2015 and fast food deliveries growing 10% per annum?



In terms of feedback, cuts to local bus services and public transport, particularly in rural areas, featured strongly as a key challenge faced by communities and organisations—with buses being a key missing link in many areas in terms of an integrated sustainable travel network.

There was a lot of feedback to process, and the Greenprint Steering Group will soon be discussing this feedback and identifying scope to move forward on these challenges. Thank you to all who contributed, and of course to ESC's Communities Team for organising the ESP conference.



Solar PV and Building Regulations in building Conservation Areas

Do you live in a designated building Conservation Area and thinking of putting of installing solar PV on your roof, but are concerned about breaching planning conditions?

If so, you may be interested to know Suffolk local authorities have produced a helpful guide to support you and others in this situation, as simply being in a Conservation Area does not necessarily mean that solar PV is ruled out. The guidance is available here:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Design-and-Conservation/Solar-photovoltaics/Solar-Photovoltaics-and-Planning-in-conservation-areas.pdf>

In summary: placing solar panels on the roof of your house or flat, or a building within the grounds of your house or flat, is considered in most cases 'Permitted Development', **whether this is in a conservation area or otherwise**. This means that in general there is no need to seek planning permission from your Local Planning Authority (LPA) to proceed, subject to certain conditions. These conditions are that the solar panels:

- Will not stick out in front of the building, when measured horizontally from the wall or roof slope, by more than 20cm.
- Will not be positioned so that they are higher than the main ridge line of the roof, or higher than the highest flat roof where roofs on the building are flat. NB Chimneys, firewalls, parapet walls and other protrusions above the main roof ridge line or flat roof cannot be counted when considering the height of the highest part of the roof of the existing house or flat.
- Will so far as practicable, be sited to minimise their effect on the external appearance of the building.
- Will so far as practicable, be sited to minimise their effect on the amenity (attractiveness) of the area.
- Are removed as soon as reasonably practicable when they are no longer needed.

In addition, solar panels cannot be installed:

- Within a conservation area or World Heritage Site on a wall which faces the road.
- On a site designated as a scheduled monument, or on a listed building (including any building within the grounds of a listed building)

Anyone in any doubt as to whether their planned installation complies with the conditions listed above should discuss this with your district council's Planning Team.



Climate Change Action Now starting up in Framlingham

Greener Fram are starting a CCAN (Climate Change Action Now) group in Framlingham on 7 January 2020. <http://greenerfram.co.uk/wp/fram-ccan-group/>

The vision is to promote CCAN groups in schools, workplace, families, villages, communities, wherever you are in the UK.

The idea is not to wag fingers about what we don't do, but to be positive about what we **can** do. We are all in this together and together we can make a difference.

FRAM CCAN



Climate Change Action Now

- We are **all** addicted to using Fossil Fuels. We are **all** part of the problem.
- **No-one** has all the answers. **Everyone** has some of the answers.
- **We can** all take action now. **Together** we can make a difference.
- **Everyone** is welcome. (Under 14s please bring an adult with you.)

Meeting the 1st Tuesday every month at the Unitarian Meeting House. (Next to the library in Fram.)

Starts on Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 7pm.



Challenges and Choices—Consultation on the aquatic environment

The Environment Agency recently launched a consultation seeking views on the challenges our waters face and the choices we all need to make to improve and protect this vital and precious resource. Your responses to this consultation will help shape the future approach to managing the aquatic environment and will be used to update the existing river basin management plans in 2021.

The consultation **Challenges and Choices** seeks your views on the challenges that threaten the water environment, how the EA and others can work together to manage our waters, and who should pay.

The EA invite feedback **by the deadline of 24 April 2020** via the website:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/challenges-and-choices>

We're facing some big challenges in how we manage water, so we've got some important choices to make...



Take part in the Challenges and Choices consultation to help shape the future management of our water

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk>



Forthcoming events roundup

- 6 January 10.00-12.00—Woodbridge **Repair Cafe** at St John's Church, Woodbridge. Don't bin it, repair it! (1st Monday of every month, same venue same time)
- 7 January, 1900—**Fram CCAN (Climate Change Action Now)**, Unitarian Meeting House, Framlingham.
- 12 January, 10.30-16.30, **Bury St Edmunds Green Fair**, The Apex. Hosted by West Suffolk Hive, Sustainable Bury and Happy Planet Heroes.
- 16 January 1000-1200—**Energy Advice Café** courtesy of Rural Coffee Caravan at Sudbourne Village Hall. Free advice for cutting your energy bills, and free refreshments too!
- 25-27 January, **Big Garden Birdwatch**. Help the RSPB gather data about the wildlife in our gardens—to get involved and find out more visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>
- 29 January, 18.00-19.30—**Beccles Area Youth Climate Alliance 1st Meeting**, Blyburgate Hall, Beccles. Young people aged 7-20 welcome, under 12s must bring an adult.
- 2 February **World Wetlands Day** a global campaign to highlight wetland biodiversity, its status, why it matters and promote actions to reverse its loss.
- 3 February, 1800-21:00 (registration starts 1730) —Greenprint Forum public event **Show your Love for the Environment** to inspire a 20:20 vision for a better future.
- 8 February, 1000-1300, **Swap or Mend** together with **Framfix** (courtesy of [Greener Fram](#)), Framlingham Unitarian Meeting House.
- 24 February to 8 March—**Fairtrade Fortnight**.
- 3 March—**World Wildlife Day**.
- 18 March—**Global Recycling Day**.



Closing note from Editor

A big **thank you** to all who have contributed and/or let me know about upcoming events and remember the quarterly Greenprint e-newsletter is most relevant when you are helping inform its content.

I'm always on the lookout for content from our members to share so please do email me at greenissues@eastsoffolk.gov.uk with action you are taking towards our vision that you would like to see featured in this newsletter to inspire others.

If you haven't heard of the Greenprint Forum, it is a voluntary network facilitated by East Suffolk Council to help deliver their business plan. Specifically enabling community environmental action to improve lives and strengthen our economy as per our vision below. Whilst our focus is on east Suffolk anyone, anywhere can join for free to help contribute to, and learn from, the knowledge of our network.

How to contact us

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GREENPRINT FORUM VISION



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