



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
Tuesday 21st July 2026
7pm, Lounge Bar

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair), Andy France, John Matthissen, Nicole Stewart, Mark Dimes, Chris Goodchild.
Apologies	Jean Pittaway, Nicola Booth, John Reardon, Alan Wilkinson, Ross Piper, Jo Hughes, Adria Pittock.
Minutes of last meeting	09. 06.2026 - Agreed
NM Open Garden Day. 21.06.2026	The event was very successful with £2000 being raised and donated to Bosmere Primary for their outdoor area. It created a great buzz around town on the day and there were lots of positive vibes. Having a stall in the Community Centre was worthwhile – because people had to go there to get their programme/ticket it meant there was decent footfall. The orchard was on the programme as an open garden and attracted visitors. There was a storytelling gazebo by the orchard which was well received too. Our stall was shared with the Climate Change Gardening Charity and there were two reps there (including Jean) to speak on that. There were two or three CAG reps there too who focused on talking to people about the orchard as well as our group. CAG gained some contact details for people with various interests in the group and Amanda will make contact. It is planned that the event be repeated next year and so we can consider our involvement nearer the time.
Orchard signs:	Chloe Hayward had provided some signage options for us to consider – differing layouts and colour ways. The group considered accessibility of the signs: hearing/vision impairments; neurodiversity, dementia. It was acknowledged that no sign will meet all needs. One of the layouts was selected and it was felt the blue background would be most accessible. The QR code link will meet some needs for those with hearing/vision impairments. We will ask Jo to liaise with Chloe re final design and accessibility. John M has a contact we could ask to look the sign over re NDD needs.
National Climate Emergency Screening	There is a 50 minute film being made available for public screening by groups and organisations on this subject. It had been suggested that we consider doing this. Amanda had registered our interest in order to gain more information. Chris reported that a potential screening had been discussed at Town Council and agreed. The Town Council have received some enquiries to the office asking whether there will be a local screening. It makes sense that work together on it. Concerns were discussed re the messaging given the current political climate and Suffolk County Council's recent moves to change policy. It was agreed that this will not stop a screening in Needham Market but that we should consider this angle. It was felt that it would be helpful to have seen the film beforehand and Amanda will try to organise for a group to attend the Thurston screening. Town Council had thought that August would be a good time for the screening. CAG wondered if September would be better to allow for proper advertising in the Newsletter. Someone to Chair discussion afterwards will be needed. Amanda to liaise with Chris and the Clerk.
Middle School Field Meadow	A number of ideas and locations were discussed. It was agreed that the area alongside the Teachers' Close fence line would be ideal owing to poorer soil quality etc. CAG would want to make this a properly installed and

	maintained meadow which would also showcase what is possible. (CAG are mindful of the areas of meadow management in town which have not worked well and have created some negativity.) We must be mindful of the Community Centre's concerns re seeding on the netball courts. Amanda to liaise with Town Council and Community Centre re distance from the courts and screening in order to try and come up with a proposal that suits all.
AOB	• The Alexander plant is very invasive in some areas around town and we should consider some action next April/May to try and stem the spread. • John M gave a brief update on the Chalkeith Nature Reserve.
Date for next meeting	15th September 7pm, Green Room.