



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
MINUTES: Tuesday 23rd May 2023
7pm, Middle School Field

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); Andy France; Martin O'Shea; Jean Pittaway; John Mattissen; Jo Hughes, Mark Dimes, Nicola Booth
Apologies	John Reardon, Ross Piper, Jo Lea
Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the meeting on 11.04.2023 were approved.
Community Orchard, development of Middle School Field.	Discussions occurred regarding the best places for the potential orchard, wildflower meadow and community allotments. John mentioned a concrete ridge between the car park and the field and this could cause an issue with wheelchair users. Need to consider this for access to the site. John Mattissen- to plan solutions for drainage of rain water to water butts. Ross Piper- to advise on 12 suitable tree species to start the orchard with. Amanda Reardon- contact Jigsaw regarding owner of the building and installation of water butts. What permissions might be needed? Martin- draw plan of the area. Mark- talk to Kevin regarding the lease and likely resolution. These outline proposals to be taken to the Community and Assets meeting on 14th June.
Name of group – Awareness to Action.	This is a sub-committee of the Town Council. The group would like to propose a name change to Action rather than Awareness group and this will be taken to the Community and Assets meeting on 14 th June.
Planning consultations comments –	Mid Suffolk is sometimes giving criticisms regarding what was written on the planning documents. Currently this is the wording given on all planning applications- The Town Council recommends approval of the application subject to: 1. The development should use building materials from sustainable or recycled sources, recyclable, local, self-maintaining and long lasting. 2. The development should include Electric Vehicle charging points for resident users and visitors. 3. The development should be of adaptable design to allow for upgrading/alteration as appropriate and the use of solar panels and other environmentally appropriate energy saving systems. John suggested splitting number 3 into two statements. Do we need to be more specific with regards to which statements are added or should we have a statement at the beginning quantifying what is written on the documents? Martin will look at the planning applications specifically and then let the clerk know which statements apply to which application. All to consider statement wording.
Earth Day Feedback	Suffolk recycling was very positive regarding the amount of people who came through and discussed different options for recycling and refuse. Need to consider having more contractors coming to the day so that we aren't at risk of being seen to endorse a specific company. We had hoped that more people would come through the door but all those who attended thought it was worthwhile. Advertising could be extended with boards at the end of the town. The Bosmere exhibition was a really good draw as we saw parents come with their children. Consider asking the library if they can come and have a stall. Maybe flyer the toddler groups. It was agreed that the event should be repeated to test interest once it is more familiar to people.

Rangers' Project ideas	The Rangers made £110 at Earth Day on refreshments and would like to use on an environment project. Additionally, there was a £20 donation from Stowmarket Men's Shed following the sale of their bird boxes etc. Maybe they can join the orchard project? Share our plan and then they could maybe make another trail?
AOB	The pond/wildlife area on School Street was discussed in terms of it being on the Neighbourhood Plan and being given a status whereby it is more protected. There are ponds there (these are ancient ponds) and we need to ensure that this area is protected. Environmental pockets with corridors need to be kept safe. It would be lovely to formally identify a green corridor from Bloomfields to Needham Lake and possibly on to The Cretings. Amanda will refer this to the Planning Committee and Neighbourhood Plan Review Group to determine its current status and what might be possible. There have been comments regarding mowing the areas which have been left to encourage wildlife. Discussed that if there was more signage then this could maybe show why this area has been left to meadow management. People need to understand why it is being done. The existing signs are good but there needs to be more and from every angle. Andy to go back to Richard to discuss adding additional signs. Maybe consider having some edges to the areas as this will make the area look less unkempt and more intentional. We ended our meeting with a discussion in the pub and the subject of making this a venue for all NMCAG meetings was raised. Post meeting decision – this is not possible. Firstly, it was noisy and there are members of the group who are hard of hearing. Secondly, we are a sub-committee of the Town Council and Town Council meetings are not permitted in venues serving alcohol at the time of the meeting.
Next Meeting	Tuesday 27 th June 7pm