



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Action Group
MINUTES: Tuesday 25th July 2023
7.30pm

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); Martin O'Shea; John Mattissen; Nicola Booth; Ruth Coomber; Mark Dimes.
Apologies	Ross Piper, Jean Pittaway, Jo Hughes, Andy France, John Reardon, Jo Lea.
Minutes of last mtg	The minutes of the meeting on 27.06.2023 were approved.
Declaration Update	It was agreed that the current declaration said what was needed without too much detail but that we would add in 'businesses. So, the declaration will read: <i>Needham Market Town Council declare a Climate Emergency for our town and pledge to develop a plan which sets out actions for the Council to take and guidance for individual local residents and businesses in order that, as a community, we can contribute to achieving the national goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.</i> It was also agreed that we would look to add a statement re increasing biodiversity.
Norwich to Tilbury Pylons	Deadline to submit responses to the current consultation is 21st August. Our discussion's purpose was to recommend a response to the Town Council for submission. We considered only climate and environmental factors. Members of the group shared their knowledge about the scheme and their thoughts about its impact and merit. We also discussed alternative schemes which have been widely discussed. The following will be submitted to the Town Council for consideration: <i>Needham Market Town Council recognises the importance of strategic energy infrastructure in order that we can meet net zero targets and decarbonisation of the industry. It recognises that Suffolk is well placed to locate additional resources to generate energy and that the grid needs to be strengthened in order that it can be transmitted across the national network.</i> <i>Whilst the current plan for new pylons from Norwich to Tilbury would deliver these aims, it would have a significant and negative impact on the onshore environment and habitats and misses an opportunity. There is an opportunity here to coordinate an integrated approach to several projects and existing offshore wind farms which, we believe, in the long run would deliver best outcomes and value for money.</i> <i>The Town Council therefore, objects to the current proposal of pylons from Norwich to Tilbury and calls for a strategic, integrated, offshore solution.</i>
Community Orchard	The lease is what is holding us back from making firm plans. We will ask Kay Oakes if she is able to offer any assistance.
EV Charging	Nicola reported that: - The charging point at the lake has now been replaced and is up an running (fast charging). - MSDC have earmarked the station car park for the installation of fast charging points. Number tbc. Costs are being investigated with UKPN and deadline for this phase of installations is 31.03.2024. - MSDC are also considering installations in the Jubilee Crescent car park and Nicola mentioned our investigations re the potential at the car park on Barrett's Lane next to the toilets, Crowley Park car park, High Street bollards, Community Centre car park.
AOB	- DATE TO DIARIES PLEASE: Saturday 20th April 2024 – Earth Dat Event. - There is a cycle repair station by the EV charging point at Needham lake. - We will apply to borrow the Thermal Imaging Camera Kit for November. - The cycle route between Needham Market and Stowmarket has been looked at as a primary route and there are plans to utilise funding as a result of the Free Port designation to significantly upgrade it. - Catherine Davies and Beth Murrell (B&MSDC Sustainable Travel officers) have been invited to our next meeting. - Night buses and a later train between Needham Market and Ipswich were discussed and can be raised with Catherine and Beth.
Next Meeting	Tuesday 19 th September 7.00 – Green Room