



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
MINUTES: Tuesday 28th October 2023
7pm, Green Room

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); John Reardon; Jo Lea; Jo Hughes; John Matthissen; Jean Pittaway; Alan Wilkinson; Andy France; Martin O'Shea; Mark Dimes; Chris Goodchild; Ross Piper.
Apologies	Nicola Booth
Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 17.10.2023 were approved.
Thermal Imaging	- Managed 9 houses but due to the weather it was difficult to carry out a lot of the surveys. - We have bought our own camera; we can set up something where we can go out more regularly and it won't have to be carried out during such an intense period of time. - Discussions at a later date of how best to share the camera with residents. - John discussed an online tutorial (link sent to Amanda). - Ross discussed funding that will be available for insulation. There are different schemes that have different criteria. Cosy homes cover tenants as well as home owners. - Charity called Lofty Heights where they train youngsters to crawl around the elderly lofts to shift rubbish. John will try and find out more about this charity.
Earth Day	Discussion re Earth Day regarding the effort put in versus the impact it had. Could use the day to discuss the flooding and ways to help stop this happening again? Could be every other year rather than annually? We still need to consider how to have community engagement. Do we keep that date or look for another date which fits in with our other plans for public engagement? Decision: Cancel the Earth Day booking at the Community Centre. Look for other opportunities to engage with community.
Flooding Resilience	Council tax rebates will be available for those effected by flooding and having to move out of their homes. The town council have asked if we might lead on: actioning setting up a resilience hub. E.g. sandbags and water pumps; Look at funding and grants to help residents protect homes; Look at the investigation results and lead on following up actions to mitigate for the future. Some factors/opinions discussed: - Drains are a big issue and are not being cleared enough. Drain management is not being considered (Barking Needham drain is not fit for purpose) - Engagement regarding farm management and run off the fields. There are sustainable schemes available which could support farmers. - Use of sandbags to move water around rather than be there to help houses. - Looking at the tributaries feeding into the river. There are grants available to landowners to create wet habitat which will slow the flow of water into the river. - In Needham Market there were a number of different reasons as to why different houses flooded in different areas in Needham Market. - Latest science is that you look to slow the water down. The feeling was that the group would like to look at mitigation first with resilience as an addition to that. Our next meeting will focus on this.

Community Orchard	The lease is now signed!!!!!!! Amanda asked if there was someone who would like to lead this. It needs to be planted by the community. We had two ideas- 1- Behind the preschool 2- Up near the school The Town Council would prefer the area behind the community centre. Amanda has tried to contact Jigsaw nursery regarding guttering but hasn't had any replies to emails/phone calls. She will keep persevering. Jo suggested a formal letter from the Town Council to discuss this. We have money to buy trees. Ross has some money as a council award to use for the area. Discussed a mixture of trees and starting with a small amount and then building up. Would be nice to get some local varieties. Need to plant the trees any time from now. Planting day decided for 17th February. Temporary fencing will need to be put up to keep them protected. We discussed a path and a bench. Water butts- would need concrete blocks so that the water is accessible. The hedge could be developed, it will regenerate itself if the mower doesn't go over it every year. Looking at levelling the access from the car park to the field. The idea is that people will come and pick the fruit themselves. Actions • Ross to get a list together for fruit trees and look and see how many trees could be planted. Amanda to put Ben Robinson and Ross in touch with each other. • 17th February will be tree planting day. • Jean to ask her husband if he would like to be project lead. • Amanda to get in touch with Jigsaw. • Mark to lead on the practical side. • A notice to be put into the newsletter. • Amanda to contact Bosmere Primary School • John to consider where the water butts could go
AOB	• Possible funding available to enhance the bus service and address some of the problems with bus transport. The last buses to Needham Market are very early which means that people are struggling to get home from work. The buses used to go around the estates, but this has been stopped now. • John discussed 5 area-based services to share information regarding the grants to invite expressions of interest to run a rural service (Like connecting communities). Over 20 different organisations have registered an interest.
Next Meeting	Tuesday 30 th January 7pm Green Room