



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
MINUTES: Tuesday 19th September 2023
7pm, Green Room, Needham Market Community Centre

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); John Reardon; Andy France; Martin O'Shea; Jo Hughes; Nicola Booth, Alan Wilkins; Jean Pittaway; Ross Piper Katherine Davies – B&MSDC Sustainable Travel officer
Apologies	Jo Lea, Mark Dimes, John Matthissen.
Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 25.07.2023 were approved. It was confirmed that the recommended update to the climate declaration and the recommended submission to the pylon consultation were approved by Town Council and actioned.
Sustainable travel	Katherine Davies, B&MSDC Sustainable Travel Officer, gave a presentation on the subject, presenting current ideas/plans relevant to our local area. These included: the LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan); installation of EV charging points on MSDC owned land; Cycle paths/routes; a rent a bike scheme at the lake; travel options other than buses available or coming on trial. Slides will be available on receipt from Katherine. Discussion followed: • Andy discussed looking at usage, ownership and transit flows which would make a difference regarding who would use the chargers. We need to look at removing barriers of ownership by focusing on district land and protecting it. Suffolk County Council are producing an EV strategy. Andy is concerned with the profiteering regarding EVs. • Cycling strategy- Andy discussed how wet weather can cause cycling to be impossible. Cycle route 51 is also very challenging and Ross feels that it shouldn't be advertised as it is so difficult to cycle on. If companies had wheel washers, then the companies that cause issues on the road and be held accountable the road would be better for cyclists and drivers. • Ross discussed whether the district council could implement the technology to try and miss out the companies. • Lampposts are owned by highways which can cause an issue with installation of EV points in these. • The path between Needham Market and Stowmarket is causing issues as it is so overgrown. The contract has a threshold where they don't intervene until a pedestrian has to walk on the road. This can cause challenges. • Climate change team is expanding. Nicola has information about the road show event. 21/10 9-12 in Great Blakenham. • It was interesting to hear about the restrictions MSDC face when land is owned by SCC as communication and budgets can hamper progress.
Night buses/later trains between Needham Market and Ipswich	We will consider this at a future meeting. Katherine advised that this is an SCC issue.
Agree as statement re	On our website we have a climate emergency pledge. We need to add something regarding biodiversity.

increasing biodiversity.	Amanda drafted an idea which was discussed and adapted. The following was agreed for presentation to Town Council: <i>Needham Market Town Council pledges to protect and encourage nature within Needham Market. It aims to increase the use of more environmentally friendly land management practices and support local residents, businesses and organisations in activities which enhance and promote biodiversity.</i>
Community Orchard: Lease update.	The lease situation has moved on and it is now in its final draft and with Suffolk County Council to be signed. Kevin and the solicitor managed the clauses.
Completing funding forms re orchard.	We decided to postpone this as we are not in a position to move forward and there are a number of sources for free trees.
AOB	Amanda forwarded an email regarding network events on climate issues. One 4/11 in Saxmundham which Amanda is intending to go to. There is also a session on 8/11 in Bury St Edmunds. Please sign up if you would like to go. Thermal imaging cameras have been awarded to us from 31/10-20/11. We need to think about how to maximise this opportunity- e.g. bulk buy loft installation so that people can buy it cheaper. Look at companies who can offer a- best rate. We need to be careful as we cannot tell people what they need as we are not trained to do so. We can signpost people to creditable contractors. We should consider writing to our local MP regarding the government reducing their interest in climate change.
	Keep in mind: • Rangers' Project – ideas (Rangers made £110 at Earth Day on refreshments and would like to use on an environment project. Additionally, £20 donation from Stowmarket Men's Shed. • Crowley Park Hedge. • Adding to no. of areas under meadow management. • Earth Day 2024 planning. • EV points updates.
Next Meeting	Tuesday 17 th October 7pm Green Room