



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
Tuesday 9th June
7pm, Lounge Bar

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); Jean Pittaway, Richard Pittaway, Andy France, John Matthissen, Jo Hughes, Nicole Stewart, Alan Wilkinson, Mark Dimes, Ross Piper, Adria Pittock
Apologies	Nicola Booth, John Reardon.
Minutes of last meeting	20. 04.2026 - Agreed
Election of Chair and Secretary	Chair-Amanda Reardon Secretary- Jo Hughes
TPO of Cedar Trees 17.05.2026. celebration- Beating the Bounds.	Feedback. The talk from John was well received – thanks very much John. Between 40-50 people were on the walk.
Orchard update:	• Orchard is looking healthy and they are fruiting. • The signs are underway and should be ready to be printed soon. • Nigel is on standby to do the posts. • Watering rota needs to be set up again. • Fruit bush bank could be added to the orchard. • Wildflowers would be a good addition. • Next meeting come with additional ideas for The Orchard
NM Open Garden Day. 21.06.2026	Table is booked and the Climate Change Gardening Charity will be there. Composting leaflets. Watering rota poster asking for help. Amanda to print photographs so they will be displayed. List of things that the group have done. Recycling leaflets. We could ask people what they would like to see in the orchard next. Jo Hughes to purchase sunflower seeds, pots and compost. Set up at 9.15 (Alan, Jean, Amanda) and finish at 4.30. Mark and Nicole helping on the day.
Chalkeith Nature Reserve	We need £55 000 to get to the total of £175 00. John Matthissen is suggesting that the money could possibly be loaned from the council until it has been granted by a fund. Money to date has come from: £50 000 District Council nature recovery fund. £20 000 Town Council. £50 000 East Suffolk Trust. The land registry costs have been expensive.
Suffolk County Council – axing ‘climate emergency’	Nationally, there had been a drive to respond to a climate emergency. There now appears to be a change in tone from some organisations with a sense of less urgency. As a Town Council this group was set up in response to declaring a climate emergency in line with SCC. SCC has recently circulated an article explaining how they will review green projects in this new light moving forward, prompting a discussion in this group. A concern for us is that activities framed as a response to a climate emergency may be viewed negatively as a result of this change.

	The question asked was should we reframe our focus and pitch that we are looking after the local environment rather than responding to a climate emergency. There was some agreement with this view. The group felt that the activities we have focused on to date have all been about having a positive impact on our local environment and that is the direction we wish to continue in. Our tone has not been one of lecturing residents about an emergency and what they should be doing in response. It was noted that we do have a duty to help people understand that our climate is changing and becoming more challenging.
AOB	Andy shared that there is land between Needham market and Darmsden which has been named as suitable for 'strategic development' and is for sale. Andy is keeping an eye on this and what may be developed on this in future.
Date for next meeting	21st July 7pm