



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
MINUTES: Tuesday 27th June 2023
7pm, Green Room, Needham Market Community Centre

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); John Reardon, Jo Lea, Andy France; Martin O'Shea; John Mattissen; Jo Hughes, Nicola Booth
Apologies	Ross Piper, Jean Pittaway
Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the meeting on 23.05.2023 were approved.
Town Council Agreements re proposed items: name change; orchard.	Name change approved. There were a couple of things to think about re orchard and wildflower meadow – see below.
Meadow Management Response	A number of people have complained regarding the meadow management. The CAG group looked at a response to those who are not happy about the situation. This response is to go into the Needham Market Newsletter and to go out as a response to those who have complained to help them understand the reasoning. The response was looked at and discussed. We need to share the long-term nature of the project as it takes a long time to ensure that the area becomes more of a biodiverse area. A picture of Song Thrush Close in Stowmarket was shown as an example of how the areas may end up looking. Images in the response may help to show the aim for the future. Please see the response and add comments before Monday (Amanda will email it). Discussed that we could update the newsletter each month with information about meadow management. Andy discussed the signs- <i>We are letting it grow to let the flowers grow.</i> Is it worth over seeding which will enable other flowers to grow up? There are some well-established areas, and this could help. Yellow rattle has been suggested.
Community Orchard: Updates.	The Jigsaw building is owned by Suffolk County Council and is rented by jigsaw. An email with details of the proposal will be sent to Jigsaw who have said they will share with the owners. John- will investigate the pipes and a butt system Ross- he will advise on 12 trees. Martin-has drawn the plan of the area The delay in transferring the land to the Town Council is due to the paperwork being with a staff member who has been on long term sick leave. This has now been picked up by someone else. Wildflower seeded area- we have been asked to be cautious of not having things too close to the fence line so that plants don't grow up on the netball court. Other areas have been suggested – the front of the centre, closer to the play area. John suggested a hedge may help to stop some of the flower seeds coming through.
Sensory Garden ideas	A suggestion had been made that we install a sensory garden on the community centre land adjacent to the new play area. There is already a sensory garden near the United Reform Church and Jo shared that these gardens need a lot of attention and cannot be planted and left. It was also felt that this was not quite in the remit of the NMCAG.
AOB	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- Nicola has a date in the diary to discuss about funding that may be available. Stowmarket are adding electrical points to their car parks. The point at the lake is not working due to a change in management company. • Martin suggested that we may need to share ways to save energy and sharing information for recycling points. There are concerns regarding where some of the things go and if they cause more issues. • The young group Change could have a section in the Newsletter to share recipes and recycling ideas.
Next Meeting	Tuesday 25 th July 7.30 – Amanda Reardon's house