



Needham Market Town Council
Climate Awareness Group
MINUTES: Tuesday 8th October 2024
7pm, Green Room

Present	Amanda Reardon (Chair); John Reardon; Martin O'Shea; Jo Hughes; Andy France; Ross Piper, John Matthissen, Mark Dimes
Apologies	Jean Pittaway, Richard Pittaway, Alan Wilkinson, Nicola Booth
Minutes of last meeting	N/A
Orchard	John Reardon discussed an easier way to get the water into the Orchard. There has been no more damage to the trees. Engagement regarding the Orchard has been positive, e.g. people would like more benches and more fruit trees. Once the Town Council have compiled the information they will decide the next steps. <u>Action:</u> John Reardon to empty the IBC tank and attach the hose. Ross Piper to bring concrete blocks down to stand it on. The bench needs to be anchored. Discussion at next meeting re next steps after the Middle School Consultation is complete. Ross Piper to complete environmental survey.
Meadow Management	Both positive and negative feedback. Areas have been managed differently; this has meant there have been fewer complaints to the Town Council. There have been issues with the Pinecroft Area but there is discussion regarding this and how to make this look better next year. <u>Action:</u> Andy France to contact Richard P regarding Pinecroft Way.
Thermal imaging camera	Amanda has said yes to being hosts to a camera which will be borrowed and returned to us. We have our own camera. It is challenging to organise as a group to use the camera so it would be better if we could enable households to borrow the camera. This would mean that they can have the camera for a few days to use themselves and gather the information they require. Households need a smartphone for it to work. At this time, we have only given the information to households regarding the heat loss but we do not know what houses have done with the information. Households are given information about interpreting the pictures and websites where to gather information to improve heat loss. This group has not had the capacity to follow up to see impact. Some groups have targeted whole streets which has enabled, for example, cheaper loft insulation as a bulk buy. Part of our role is to ensure it is used during the right conditions. Cosy homes scheme- Ross was concerned that the take up has been quite slow. There are limitations to gaining the grant.

	<u>Actions:</u> Amanda, John, Jean and Richard to complete the last few houses. Instruction sheet to be made- Amanda to write instructions and ask for help from group members regarding clarity. This to be used to lend out camera. Newsletter article to be written. John to ask Mid Suffolk regarding advertising their grant scheme for improving energy efficiency in private homes.
AOB	Green corridors A council can designate land which can be developed and designate areas you want to be kept as green corridors. <u>Action:</u> CAG members to give a list of green islands at next meeting. Ross used some of his district council award to fund a meeting for farmers where they discuss ways to stop flooding and improve nature. Some farmers are now planting land which will be covered rather than be bare to try and improve the area and help flood resilience. Mark has an email from Richard Frost where he is giving trees away- 19/10/24 <u>Action:</u> Mark to forward the email to Amanda for circulation and Facebook. Allotment land- Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities. There have been meetings between the allotment user's association and NMBWC re managing it themselves more. An impasse was reached. Notice was given that the allotments will be closed October 2025. There is a law that Town Councils must provide allotments if there is a demand, although this does depend on whether land is available. <u>Action:</u> Ross offered to email MSDC Community Officers regarding the allotments to see if there is help to mediate a way forward.
Next Meeting	12/11/24