

## MINUTES OF GREENPRINT ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Monday 25 February 2008, 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Suffolk Coastal District Council

### Present

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Mary Dixon		Joan Huxley	SWT Alde & Blythburgh
Phil Gore	Head of Health, SCDC	Frank Huxley	Leiston cum Sizewell TC
Fiona Patrick	SCDC	Judith Foord	Aldeburgh Society
Deborah Wargate	SCDC	Liz Mark	Bawdsey PC
Guy Ackers	SWT	David Aufenast	Bawdsey PC
Colin Coates	Woodbridge RSPB	David Webb	Walberswick PC
Reg Dixon		Alan Clement	
Mr Haslam		John Fisher	Saxmundham TC
John Forbes	Martlesham PC	Peter Ward	
Gillian Hughes	Felixstowe Society	Tony Hughes	Felixstowe Society
Andrew Nunn	SCDC	David Kemp	Env Agency
Steve Aylward	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	G Baverstock	
C Baverstock		Mrs D Andizzone	

### Apologies

Several apologies received including: Diana Ball and Jim Brown

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#### 1. **Introductions**

Cllr Mary Dixon welcomed everyone to the Greenprint Forum.

#### 2. **Forum Members update**

##### Greenest County Business & Environment Conference

12 February 2008 – Deborah Wargate

Conference was aimed at businesses but also had representatives from Community Groups and Schools. There was a good talk by Dr Chris Tuppen, BT Director of Sustainable Development on what BT is doing to reduce its energy consumption – hot and cool areas, switching off printers etc. Other companies present were Hutchinson Port, CP Computer & Energy Innovations. Green Awards went to Beaumont Primary School, Cliff Lane Primary School, Log House, East Green, One Railway & Bright Green. Community Green Awards went to Wenhaston and Sproughton. Feedback from Wenhaston is that the Award has given the community a real boost and encouraged them to carry on.

Visit to Bioganics, Parham – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008, 7pm

Phil Gore is organising a visit to Bioganics composting facility, for brown bin waste, for the Green Issues Task Group. Potentially there will be 6 spare places which can be filled by Greenprint Forum Members. If the visit proves a success and there is sufficient interest within the Forum a further visit can be arranged.

##### Community Carbon Footprint Programme

Boyton is to do an Energy Survey, only 80 properties in the community the leader of the group is confident to get a good return rate. Other communities such as Framlingham are interested. If they decide to go ahead they would benefit from support from the Greenprint Forum. Phil Gore will ask for volunteers when needed.

### Local Strategic Partnership Board

Several members attended a conference last year – workshops on different topics. Currently working towards recommendations for actions to be taken by the partnership.

Liz Mark mentioned there was not enough time in the workshops. PG noted comments and will feedback to LSP.

### **3. David Kemp, Team Leader Flood Incident Management, Environment Agency**

Covers the coast from Hunstanton, Norfolk to Purfleet, Essex. Wells and Cromer are the places that have high tide first and then it takes 6hrs to reach Purfleet.

Flood alerts are managed by Floodline a telephone based service that call and leave recorded messages. Preferred method is a landline but will notify by fax, e-mail, mobile and text messages

4 levels of flood alert

1. Flood Watch – Low lying land expected to flood
2. Flood Warning – Expecting properties to flood – everyone at risk will receive a warning.
3. Severe Flood Warning – Danger to life and 100+ properties expected to flood
4. All Clear – Situation is not going to get any worse.

The alerts are triggered by the weather forecast. Water levels are continuously measured at points along the coast and attempts are made to predict when high tide will hit areas. The met office is consulted and then they add local modelling to get a prediction for each area and implement relevant warning.

David then talked us through what happened on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Starting on the 5/11/07 Listened to shipping forecast – aware of possible problem conditions. Astronomical Tide plus surge. On the Tue/Wed sizeable surge predicted that would only be a problem when coincided with high tide. Predicted that Gt Yarmouth and Lowestoft would be the problem areas and flood Warnings sent. 23hrs prior to high tide Emergency services were involved – communicating the warning, moving people out of their at risk homes, organising enormous pumps etc. At this stage the Met Office were very confident with their prediction.

Lincolnshire had no problem, but at 06.04 Gt Yarmouth water levels had exceeded those of 1953 and there was still 1.5hrs until high tide. The water sat at the top of the defences and then the wind changed and the water had diverged rapidly by the time it got to Felixstowe.

Flood line received a record number of calls the website had over 455,000 hits (average day 1000 hits, summer flooding 14,000 hits).

**4. Steve Aylward, Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) – The impact of flooding on Suffolk coast and wildlife and wildlife projects set up to address climate change.**

Steve's presentation is attached. Steve explained that the SWT is accepting and managing accordingly the changes that are happening to the environment and are seeing areas adapt to the changes. The SWT remit as a charity does not include addressing climate change. The SWT are also working in partnership with other conservation bodies so that larger areas can be managed as one instead of individually. Steve also covered:-

- Spring fed areas that require a year round water supply suffer in summer droughts. This has an impact of plant communities
- Captains Wood – Bluebells at risk
- Heathlands – require specific conditions (soil type and climate) to survive.
- Areas are enhanced by grazing

**Dates for next meetings – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008, 7pm, Council Chamber – Planning Issues**