



Spotlight on Andy Mellen

Guest speaker, Councillor Andy Mellen from Mid Suffolk District Council joined the Environmental Forum. He mentioned that environment was high on the agenda and that they will be revisiting and reenergising their biodiversity action plan and carbon reduction plan soon. There was a discussion around the 'Wild Areas/Long grass' and how we can change opinions and educate people on the benefits of this.

Andy mentioned that they have looked into ideas about creating a food waste campaign, kerbside glass collections and free green waste collections, and other alternatives for recycling although no decisions have been made yet. He is hopeful that movement will happen in the near future.



Local Action



Volunteers of Stowmarket (Eco)

Volunteers of Stowmarket have been busy with tree planting, gardening and helping other organisations maintain their green spaces such as the library garden and also litter picking where they have had the greatest success with attendee numbers. Moving forward, they are investigating having a 'library of things'. Where there would be a monthly get together and people can borrow a variety of items such as gardening tools, sewing machines, swapping of clothes etc. They also want to continue to work with other businesses and organisations on sustainable projects going on in the town.

Gateway 14 : Wildlife and Biodiversity

There were discussions about the biodiversity plot and what to do with the space. The 4 acres of wild land could be used to plant fruit trees to create a communal orchard, a break out space for workers and people of the town or to let the space be left to 'rewild'.

Topics

Medication Blister Pack Recycling

Unfortunately, the collection of medication blister packs has had to stop. Superdrug were unable to cope with the bulk amount they were receiving, their feedback was that they will now only accept personal quantities of these. Town Councillor Kate Yates has been looking into alternative solutions and additional recycling options, however it does seem that there is no feasible solution at present.





Tinklers Quest

Tinklers Quest are to hold an exhibition of the Stow Stories Legacy at St Peter's and St Mary's Church on Saturday 22nd July. They welcome residents and visitors of all ages to this free event between 11am-3pm to view the storytelling art, this day will also include family activities. The exhibition will be on display at the church until Saturday 5th August.

Project Updates

Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC)

MSDC have maintained and expanded their wildflower meadows across the town and are ensuring their maintenance teams are onboard with the plans. The biggest criticism has come from the very tall grass, which has been caused by the wet weather. To deal with this MSDC will cut around the edges to keep the space looking tidy. There has still been many positive comments.



They have been applying for the local authority tree funding bid to create scattered orchards around Stowmarket and Hadleigh. There will be 3 sites in Stowmarket to increase biodiversity and the fruit from these will be available to the public. This will complement the existing space and include heritage varieties.



Red Gables

Red Gables have applied for a grant to replace all lighting in their building with LED lights, which will be more eco friendly. They were successful with the application and are currently in the process of replacing these now.

Suffolk Tree Warden Network (Stowmarket)

Suffolk Tree Warden Network is once again offering free Tree and Hedgerow packs to individuals, organisations and councils with planting projects. Applications can be made through your local tree warden or through their website: www.suffolktreewardens.org.uk.

They are also hosting a woodland walk at Gallows Field on Sunday 30th July. Special guest Peter Holborn who designed the wood will be attending. Contact secretary@suffolktreewardens.org.uk for more information.

Stowmarket Eco Future Group

Stowmarket Eco Future Group recently held a number of talks from notable speakers. Professor Robert Read (UEA) in particular was successful. For more information about what's going on, visit Stowmarket Eco Future Group Facebook page or website.



Food Museum

The Food Museum 'Hedgerow' exhibit was well received, this is to be replaced by the award-winning 'Meat the Future' exhibition which will be open from 22nd June-April 2024.

They are also looking into creating a composting demonstration area and how to make composting more accessible.



Stowmarket Town Council

Stowmarket Town Council recently launched the 'Wild Areas' initiative for a 3rd year. If you want to take part simply allocate an area of your garden to wildlife. You just need to provide details of the length and width of your allocated rewilding area. Wild Area signs can be collected from Milton House.

Stowmarket Town Council will be running an environmental event 'Go Green Go Wild' on Tuesday 24th October. It has been decided that this will now be an accessible, half term family day. If you have any ideas for this event or know someone who would like to be involved please contact communities@stowmarket.org



Dates for your Diary

July 30th- Gallows Field Woodland Walk

October 24th- Go Green Go Wild

Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.00pm, Online via Zoom/Teams.

For more information about the Stowmarket Environment Forum please contact us on 01449 612060 or email communities@stowmarket.org

