



Meeting
Newsletter
October 2023

Stowmarket Go Green Go Wild!

Stowmarket Town Council are launching a brand new event in October half term. The event will inspire and educate young people about the value of wildlife and the importance of protecting the environment. This exciting new event will be FREE to attend, held on the Milton House grounds and at Stowmarket Scout Centre between 10.30am-2.30pm on Tuesday 24th October 2023.

Many charities and organisations including The Pickerel Project, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Food Savvy and many more will come together on the day with information, activities and crafts to pass on important environmental knowledge to families.

There will be lots of fun to be had on the day. There will be a 1901 vintage hand turned carousel and swing boats to fit in with the eco conscious theme, a bug hunt, and several animal organisations to talk about what impact we as humans have on animals and how they adapt. More information about the event can be found on Stowmarket Town Council website and social media platforms.



Plant Based Treaty



Town Councillor Kieren LaThangue-Clayton discussed The Plant Based Treaty. Kieren explained about what benefits a plant based system would have and what effects the current food industry has on the planet. The treaty would put food systems at the heart of combating the climate crisis, aiming to halt the widespread degradation of critical ecosystems caused by animal agriculture, to promote a shift to more healthy, sustainable plant-based diets and to actively reverse damage done to planetary functions, ecosystem services and biodiversity.

You can find out more information here <https://plantbasedtreaty.org/>

Community Gardens

Town Councillor Kieren LaThangue-Clayton also introduced a presentation on community gardens. The presentation detailed what Community gardens are, the aims, benefits and examples. Looking in detail at The Peoples Community Garden and The Walled Gardens in Ipswich, where biodiversity has been boosted, loneliness prevented and encourages residents to socialise.

Possible locations include Lavenham Way, Fenn Close and Mortimer Road, with a combination of formal gardens and wildflower meadows. The community garden idea was well received by the Environment Forum.



Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC)



Meadow Areas

There have been many objections to these this year, in part because the wetter weather meant grass growth was much stronger than last year. This has raised concern that if opposition grows too strong, we may have to reign back greatly on the scheme. To avoid this, we are doing the following:

- Removing some of the smaller and more problematic areas
- Revising the extent left unmown, widening the mown strips around areas, the width of paths across and in some cases, such as Purcell Road, reducing the area considerably due to widespread objection

In addition, to help maintain support we are:

- Changing the way our mowing team approaches this so they are more consistent and get it right from the start
- Adding wildflower seed to some of the less interesting areas so that local residents are more likely to see something they find attractive – work commences next week at Purcell Road, Thomas Arne Close, Holst Mead, Britten Avenue and the leisure centre

Scattered Orchard Project

The funding bid to the Local Authority Treescapes Fund has been successful. MSDC hope to start planting 36 fruit trees on three sites (Elizabeth Way, Pike's Meadow and Gainsborough Road) in late November.

Stowmarket Town Council

Regrettably, a sycamore tree had to be removed from the Recreation Ground due to its rapidly deteriorating condition, caused by a fungal disease called Sooty Bark. In light of the fact that other trees are displaying signs of disease, the Town Council will undertake a comprehensive tree survey of all the trees on its estate. The Tree Planting day will be taking place on Tuesday 5th December on the Recreation Ground where 6 mature tree will be planted by Volunteers of Stowmarket.



Red Gables

Red Gables recently saved a native silver birch tree from the road side. Volunteers of Stowmarket have agreed to plant 300 saplings at Combs Ford Primary School, to celebrate their 40th Anniversary, this will be done in two phases.



Stowmarket Eco Future Group

Green Suffolk have a bulk insulation project in which Stowmarket Eco Future Group has recently become ambassadors. They recently attended The Primadonna Festival and as part of their 'the elephant in the room' discussion, the recycling of medicine blister packs was a popular topic. Unfortunately this is still an issue and a resolution to recycle these in bulk has not yet been found, Superdrug still take small donations from individuals. The United Reform Church and the Methodist church have both recently become Eco Churches.



Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.00pm, Online via Microsoft Teams.

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