Practical things local councils can do in times of ecological and climate crisis

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Me….

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a.r.u.

FENS BIOSPHERE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

WOODLAND TRUST

Cambridge Conservation Forum

St Ives ecoaction

CambridgeConservationInitiative

Arts & Business

University of Hertfordshire UH

wellcome sanger institute

Prince's Trust

NYA National Youth Agency

The Doubling Nature Vision….

- Launched, 2019, with wide stakeholder support
- One of the fastest growing economies in the UK will need to be matched by one of the fastest nature recovery programmes.
- To achieve this step-change requires **the area of rich wildlife habitats and green-space to be doubled from 8.5% to 17%**

Population of Cambridgeshire in 2011	623,000
Projected population in 2031	767,000

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Landscape led approach…

Six Priority Landscapes

- John Clare Countryside
- Nene Valley
- Connected Fens
- Great Ouse Valley
- Cambridge Nature Network
- West Cambridgeshire 100s

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The Climate and ecological crisis can’t and won’t wait

Themes

- Nature & conservation
- Water, energy & transport
- Waste & recycling, including littering and litter picking
- Active travel – cycling and walking
- Food, including food production and local food networks
- Health & wellbeing

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Things you can do…

- Use your **Neighbourhood Plan** as an **opportunity to educate**, communicate and measure progress towards climate resilience and net zero
- **Lead by example**, commission an Eco-audit
- Develop a **community-led Local Climate Action Plan**
- Develop a **Local Nature Recovery Plan**
- Do more to **mobilise** and **empower community**
- **Become a local climate leader**/eco champion, or support your community to develop their local climate leadership

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Neighbourhood Plans…an opportunity to educate and engage

- Define and understand energy and water use/demand
- Map sites
- Measure biodiversity and natural capital
- Record carbon sequestion by plants and in our soil

Become interested, become informed!

Resource: https://locality.org.uk

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Commission an Eco-Audit

- Provides a starting point
- Makes recommendations
- Can help to set operational priorities

St Ives Town Council
Eco-audit Report
Contents:

Introduction
1 Headline Figures 19/20 p. 3
2 Policy & Management Recommendations
3 Human Resources
4 Top Ten Priorities
5 Heating
6 Electricity
7 Lighting
8 Waste Reduction/ Recycling
9 Purchasing/ Miscellaneous
10 Cemeteries / Grounds Maintenance
11 Public Toilets
12 Events Tick List
13 Domestic Household Carbon Emissions
14 Cleaning Contracts
15 Eco-audit Implementation

Resource: http://www.3acorns.co.uk

The Power of Place-making

- People need permission to act
- Participation needs to fit with everyday lives
- People need to know their participation is making a difference

Resource: Powerful people, powerful places (2017)
https://fabians.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Fabians-PPPP-Report-WEB-3.pdf

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The Fen Floods, 1947 (https://archive.org/details/fenfloods1947/page/n25/mode/2up)

St Ives, December 2020

What should we do to help nature, and why should we care?

- Absorb carbon
- Bees and other insects are under threat
- All waterways are in bad condition and we are taking far too much out of the aquifer
- Much of our soil is in poor condition and the peat is blowing away
- Access to nature is important to our health and wellbeing, and our local economy

Wildflowers, St John's Churchyard, Huntingdon

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What to do?

- First investigate the state of your nature:
  - Make a simple map of wildlife habitats in your area – hedges, ditches, trees, ponds, flower-rich margins and road verges,…
  - Investigate state of water bodies – good flow all the year? Good habitat for animals and birds? Variety of plants and not invasive species? Banks in good condition?

https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/docs/local-nature-recovery-toolkit.pdf

- Then, get help from experts to put things right and apply for grants

https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/projects/communities/

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Then some things communities can do:

- Plant trees – the right varieties in the right places – and look after them
- Put up nest boxes and help hedgehogs move around
- Leave gardens wild, and plant wild flowers
- Get water butts and make parking areas permeable
- Create community farms and orchards

Groundwork East Green Team, The Thicket, St Ives, Summer 2021

Resource: https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/

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Case study: a cold, foggy night in St Ives, January 2020…

Live or work in St Ives and care about the environment?
Want to do more but don't know how?

Then come along to the first meeting of

St Ives Eco Action

Wednesday 22nd January, 7:15pm for 7.30pm start
St Ives Methodist Church

A group of community-minded St Ives residents are gathering around the common theme of the environment to form a local **Climate Action Plan.**

The group recognises that by working together, to share knowledge and skills, and by learning from each other, it is possible to build on all the good work that is already happening in the town to make even more of an impact locally.

The first meeting will include a number of key speakers with the overarching aim to identify priorities and interests, and agree a format for future meetings. It is envisioned the plan will reflect the talents, knowledge, interests and concerns of all those who wish to get involved.

If you have ideas or suggestions to contribute, time, skills and talents to offer, please come along to find out more. Your town needs you! For more information, please email stivesecoaction@gmail.com.

Learn More ✦ Care More ✦ Do More

The group is part of a growing network of local Eco Groups that are forming across

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Local Action, what does it look like…?

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

The Riverporter

Issue 52: 7 February 2020

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Overwhelming community support for Eco Action

In response to the impending climate crisis, over 80 residents of St Ives and the surrounding villages gathered to begin to form a community-led Climate Action Plan.

The meeting, chaired by local resident Helen Dye and sponsored by St Ives Town Council, included both local and external speakers, followed by opportunities for all those present to voice their ideas and to engage in conversation and discussion about how best to move towards net zero CO_2 emissions by 2050. A broad cross section of the community were present in the audience, with a range of ages and interests represented.

The Riverporter has produced many articles about recycling and the environment. We have our own *'Environmental Correspondent'* Heidi' who writes regularly on such topics (see her article on page 2).

We are keen to help promote this initiative and you can read a full report on the meeting on page 2.

Please contact the organisers to get involved or write to us at: **editor@theriverporter.uk**

Community members engagin

Have v

St Ives residents join forces to tackle Climate Emergency

The meeting on Wednesday 22 January at St Ives Methodist Church was called to consider forming a community-led Climate Action Plan.

From left to right: Professor Brian Eversham, CEO BCN Wildlife Trust; Chris Pointon, Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency; Hattie Grimwade, St Ives in Bloom; Helen Dye, St Ives resident and meeting chair; Mary Gatehouse, St Ives Methodist Church.

St Ives family takes action against climate change!

ironment and climate change, Kirsten and Kevin Sporns from heir own hands when they purchased 2.5 acres of agricultural d Somersham, on which they plan to plant 1500 trees.

ovember, they plan to plant a er 1100 trees and shrubs, many hich will form windbreaks, and her 300 trees into the orchard wild zone, including some rare species like black poplar.

inally from Canada, Kirsten and n moved to Cambridge 18 years They found they loved the ther, the lifestyle and the people, they moved to St Ives in 2012, re their children, Errol (aged 7) Verity (aged 10) pictured above their Mum and Dad attend a primary school.

chose to live in St Ives because we the history and sense of munity.' said Kirsten.

en and Kevin would like to offers thanks to: The Raptor Foundation, who have helped to identify the best location and type of owl nesting box for the land (and a friend who has offered to build it!); Cuckoo Bridge Nursery, who have been incredibly generous with allowing parking for volunteers; B's Coffee Shop for their used coffee grounds which are being composted into fertilizer; St Ives EcoAction who has been helpful in getting the message out and connecting the family with other like-minded people; all volunteers who have stepped forward to help.

If you would like to improve local biodiversity by volunteering to help Kirsten and Kevin with tree planting after lockdown, please e-mail mclaughlin.kirsten@gmail.com.

Local Climate Action cont'd…

St Ives eco action

MY NETPLEDGE

eco action net zero carbon 2030

eco action FAITHS

eco action SCHOOLS

eco action PLANT

St Ives eco action repairers
Fix it. Keep it.

St Ives eco action CHAMPION

Communications, communications, communications…

With thanks to East Street Creative (and COVID-19): paul@eaststreetcreative.uk

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Example programme – Hardwick …

Hardwick Eco-event , jointly organised by Hardwick Climate Action Group, St Mary's and the Evangelical Church, 4th September

Welcome to the first eco event in Hardwick.
The aim of the event is to highlight what can and must be done to help the environment and to show how each of us can do our bit to bring about meaningful reductions in carbon emissions through our own actions, locally, nationally and globally.

Seminars will be held in the church building:

11am – midday

Nicola Terry – Transition Cambridge Energy Group.
Zero Carbon Heating: options for your home.

Prof Peter Landshoff – Natural Cambridgeshire.
What can we do to help nature?

Chris Fuller – Electric vehicles in Hardwick. Are they our hope for tackling climate change?

Eddie Kehoe – Electric Bike Sales, Cambridge

12:30– 2:00pm

David Attenborough – Screening of 'A Life on Our Planet'

2:30 – 3:45pm

Paul Wyer – Wildlife Trust. Wildlife around Hardwick.

Patrick Gordon – Comberton Village College & plastic recycling

Chris Rider – Getting the most out of solar panels

Jane Heal – Cambridge Carbon Footprint. What is easy and what is difficult about reducing your carbon footprint?

The Rev David Newton – Lordsbridge Team Churches.
Reaching heaven by being rooted in earth.

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The stall venues:

Car park:
Dr Bike – bring your bike for on the spot repair or service
Electric Bike Sales, Cambridge
'Cycle from Pippins' leave the car park at 11am

The Cabin, small meeting room
Clothes swap

The Cabin, main hall
Hardwick Parish Council – Cambridge Carbon Footprint – The Wildlife Trust – Poster display – Eco consultants, Solar panels – Transition Cambridge Energy Group – heat pumps

The gazebos by the shed:
Hardwick Primary School Uniform swap – Open mic "soap box" – CombertonVC

Tent 1:
Toys, Books and Seed swaps

Tent 2:
St Mary's Eco Church – Fairtrade – Green Weigh Shop

Tent 3:
Making pledges* – Green investment info – Vegan recipes – Composting in a lemonade bottle* – Mystery family activity* – Survey on the nettles*

The gazebos by the porch:
The Lisa Kent Trust – Wildlife survey* –
Cambridge Sustainable Food – Paper making*

The gazebos by the pond:
Ideas to reduce carbon footprint – the moisture content of logs* – composting and organic gardening

* indicates an activity, something you can do!

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Opportunities

- **Place-based Climate Action Network Fund** – upto £35,000 for a one year project, deadline 28 September

https://pcancities.org.uk/news/final-round-popular-pcan-fund-launches

- **Together for our Planet** (Lottery) – upto £10,000, deadline 18th November

https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/together-for-our-planet#section-1

- **A developing local offer** for communities across Cambridgeshire:

Nature Recovery Now	Water Aware	Net Zero Now	Food Networks

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Useful resources…

- Powerful People, Powerful Places

https://fabians.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Fabians-PPPP-Report-WEB-3.pdf

- Citizens UK

https://www.citizensuk.org

- Cambridge Carbon Footprint

https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org

- CAMCYCLE

https://www.camcycle.org.uk

- Community Resilience Development Framework

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-resilience-development-framework

- A Rocha Eco Churches Awards

https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Flooded meadows, Holywell, 2017

For further information:

helen@naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk

www.naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk

Thank you!

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