

## Felixstowe Climate Action Meeting Notes

10.00 pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

at Felixstowe Town Hall

### Attendees (Community Stakeholders):

Paul Borroughs	Chair, Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce
Mike Lavender	Environment & Energy Manager, Port of Felixstowe
Daniel Wareing	Environmental Sustainability Officer, East Suffolk Council / Secretary, Greenprint Forum
Debbie Bartlett	Litter-Free Felixstowe
Dr Adrian Cooper	Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve
Jill Tempest	Felixstowe Peninsula Methodist Churches, Climate Emergency group
Debbie Peck	Felixstowe Peninsula Methodist Churches, Climate Emergency group
Cassie Wordingham,	Head of House, Felixstowe School, Student Parliament
Josh Hunt	School Chaplain, Felixstowe School, Student Parliament
Two students	Felixstowe School Student Parliament

The following attendees from Felixstowe Town Council Climate Emergency Working Group:

CLlr Mick Richardson	Chair
CLlr Nick Barber	(also representing Felixstowe BID)
CLlr Seamus Bennett	
CLlr Margaret Morris	
CLlr Andy Smith	
Ash Tadjrishi	Town Clerk
Debbie Frost	Deputy Town Clerk
Holly Miles	Communications Apprentice

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman of the Felixstowe Town Council's Climate Emergency Working Group gave an introduction regarding how Felixstowe Town Council declared its Climate Emergency in July 2019 and since then have been taking action to reduce its carbon footprint wherever possible. The Council's Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG) has been meeting ever since to move forward actions via a working Action Plan. This was distributed to all attending alongside the Town Council Annual Report, which listed environmental work that the Council had undertaken to reduce its carbon footprint. Shared work has been carried out with other local councils as part of the National Association of Local Councils Climate forum and with other local councils. Now life is returning to normality since the pandemic the CEWG wanted to meet other organizations in the town who share the same passion to reduce their carbon footprint. The CEWG decided to focus specifically on actions that reduce its Carbon footprint.

CLlr Seamus Bennett provided a brief introduction to the Cycling and Walking consultation which identifies cycling and walking infrastructure to be improved or addressed and identifies potential cycling and walking infrastructure opportunities across the district. See <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/east-suffolk-cycling-and-walking-strategy/> for further information. 12% of Nitrogen Oxides (NOX) emissions come from cars alone, so the Cycling and Walking strategy aims to decrease these emissions by encouraging people to travel via foot or bike.

CLlr Andy Smith provided information on a significant renovation project to the Town Hall windows, using an innovative Fineo glass. The depth of only 7mm enables the existing

windows to be refurbished rather than replaced, therefore respecting the heritage of the listed Town Hall building.

- Attendees were given 3 minutes each to introduce themselves and talk about the work they are carrying out to reduce their carbon footprint and to promote Climate Action.

**Paul Borroughs, Chair, Felixstowe Chamber of Trade and Commerce**

All lights have been changed to LED, they have not had a photocopier for 20 years, and are in the process of introducing Electric Vehicle Chargers.

**Mike Lavender, Environment & Energy Manager, Port of Felixstowe**

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been measured since 2007. A reduction of 19% in Scope 1 and 58% reduction in Scope 2.

**Scope 1** – carbon emissions from fuel directly used on site.

**Scope 2** – embedded carbon emissions in electricity supply to the site.

**Scope 3** – embedded carbon emissions on almost everything else – supply chain, business travel, staff commute, capital goods, materials used, waste disposal etc.

52 Ports – adopted a 20% reduction target over the next ten years.

A long-term electrification programme is in place facilitating the lifting and moving of containers around the container yard. 48 electric tractor units have been ordered to replace diesel. Electric infrastructure has been upgraded on the site to support this change. The Port has worked with partners and Cranfield University on a feasibility study considering alternative fuels such as hydrogen power for lifting activities and looking at practical trials for some of these alternative schemes.

Scope 3 footprint – the Port is working with an expert sustainability advisor to look at developing strategy towards targets.

Based on the greenhouse gas protocol <https://ghgprotocol.org/>.

**Daniel Wareing, Environmental Sustainability Officer, East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Secretary, Greenprint Forum and a member of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership.**

East Suffolk Council provide a Warm Homes Suffolk scheme. This is a key package to help people with the rising cost-of-living. There is targeted support to homes on relatively low income of £30,000 a year or less, and homes with an energy performance rating certificate of D or below. Support is provided by grants to the owner of the home for fitting retro fitting insulation, air source heat pumps or solar panels. The priority is to insulate first. If a landlord wants to upgrade their property, they are also able to access the grants. By 2025 the law will change so that landlords will no longer be able to rent out a property that has an EPC rating below C.

Community match funding is also available up to £10,000 and is available for projects that are aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and aim to attain carbon neutrality.

Thermal imaging cameras are also available to borrow within the community.

Greenprint Forum produce a quarterly newsletter. *Nature First* is the Greenprint Forum's own grants scheme, encouraging projects that enhance biodiversity or understanding of it in the community. Greenprint Forum runs conference events. At the next conference in November, the topic is climate resilient communities.

### **Debbie Bartlett – Litter-Free Felixstowe**

Litter-Free and Plastic-Free Felixstowe although not centrally focused on carbon reduction, provide a gateway to increase care for the environment and an awareness of climate issues. Currently doing outreach work in schools, translating understanding of ocean pollution into inspiring young people and showing them that they can make a difference. Debbie has produced two books and a film. Collaboration is important and it is important to regain space from extremism and facilitate collaboration. Debbie is currently working on her third book which is about climate change. Translating this problem to everyone, so that they can make a difference.

### **Dr. Adrian Cooper - Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve**

Dr Cooper has been working on climate justice solutions. He previously organised and led the Climate Action March in Felixstowe in early July. Dr Cooper spoke about 6 initial solutions:

1. Encourage people to walk and cycle to cut CO2 emissions.
2. Use local transport instead of single vehicles.
3. Eat less meat.
4. Recycle old equipment ethically.
5. Install EV panels on the roofs of local buildings and homes, business and schools.
6. Encourage others to adopt these same measures.

### **Jill Tempest and Debbie Peck, Felixstowe Peninsula Methodist Churches Climate Emergency Group**

Jill and Debbie thanked the group, stating that it is a huge encouragement as sometimes when working alone can make you feel despondent. They also represent Churches Together so have a huge communication network. Currently they are opening dialogue with older people. For example, one might say 'I recycle plastic' but the question is 'why use single use plastics?'

They are currently tracking their annual carbon footprints and are looking forward to the next meeting now life is returning to pre-pandemic normality. The churches are operating under the Warm Spaces scheme, and are vocal to keep the bus services running. The Prom and Shared Space are controversial but they believe that the town needs more of these spaces.

### **Felixstowe School – Two Representatives from School Parliament**

Students have been talking about what they can do to reduce carbon footprint at school. It is a new building, but a lot of energy is wasted e.g. the windows are being left open due to Covid but the heating is also on. The students would like to allow teachers to control the heating in each classroom so they can reduce the heating when students are too hot. Students carry out litter picking in break time and recently did a PowerPoint presentation on how they can improve litter and now have recycling bins. Paper used is now recycled.

The school has a Gardening Club so students can get involved in planting and become more aware.

A lot of students do walk and cycle, and a bus runs from Kirton but they want to improve the number of bike shelters and encourage a lot more people to cycle.

The Town Council can help regarding grants to encourage more cycling using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

## Priorities – Brainstorming

The following three questions were asked and responses received on post it pads/chat:

1. What is the most impactful thing your organisation can do to reduce its carbon impact? (Imagine if you could wave a magic wand and money was no object).
  - Port of Felixstowe – Decarbonise Diesel fuelled Port equipment
  - East Suffolk Council – Reducing carbon impact – most impactful:
    - Decarbonise Fleet
    - Decarbonise Leisure Centres
    - Decarbonise remaining estates
  - Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce – The following comments relate to business Zygo and 3PL:
    - Rebuild Offices with better insulation
    - Buy HGV's that run on hydrogen
  - Litter-Free Felixstowe/Plastic-Free –
    - Recycle relevant items at the end of a litter-pick (need assistance)
    - Remind/encourage volunteers to walk/cycle to the litter pick
    - Encourage businesses to sign litter free and plastic free pledges
    - Most impactful thing is to work with schools and other organisations
    - Create a Beach-hut as a physical environment hub to promote collaboration
    - Clear plastic rubbish from A14 – zero tolerance. Show Felixstowe's commitment to the environment.
    - Work with new housebuilders to put in sufficient bins, refuse artificial grass and provide good green spaces.
  - Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve – Educate and encourage local people to adopt PV Panels on local homes, business premises, schools, church buildings etc.
  - Felixstowe BID –
    - Request East Suffolk to replace all bins in the Town Centre and resort to 'proper; recycling bins so the public can properly do their bit.
    - Have an electric tram system through the town and resort.
  - Churches Climate Emergency group - Sell all our buildings or knock down and rebuild state of the arc Eco Community space.
  - Felixstowe Town Council (FTC)
    - Safe parking spaces for all bikes at the Town Hall and across the town (particularly electric bikes).
    - Financial support for putting solar panels on roofs and encourage in planning applications
    - New windows at the Town Hall
    - Educate others in the Conservation area and Local Business owners
    - Consider 'CIL' funding for community Climate Schemes eg School bike sheds
    - FTC could do the 'Environmental Hut' by taking over a seafront beach hut.
2. What is your organisation doing in the next 12 months to reduce its carbon footprint?
  - Felixstowe School -
    - Non-centralised heating controls
    - Provide Students with bikes
    - Encourage car share scheme for students and teachers
    - Sustainable food and recyclable packaging.
    - Electric car points at school to encourage electric cars

- Sectioning off parts of the field to keep for wildlife
  - Churches Climate Emergency group -
    - Reduce car use and ownership. To encourage much more sharing of all our resources.
    - Working towards a Rocha Eco Church status
    - Encourage churches into action on reducing carbon footprint
    - Re-think use of buildings in an environmentally friendly way
    - Share resources.
  - Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve – Over next 12 months will continue to promote our first film concerning our first 6 recommended Climate Justice Solutions.
  - Port of Felixstowe –
    - Commencing programme to replace 48 diesel tractors with electric powered units
    - And 17 diesel yard cranes with electric powered units.
    - Installing electrical cabling to support electrification
    - Working with Government and Industry partners on development of hydrogen projects and use cases on site.
    - Further developing Net Zero Strategy by evaluating Scope 3 emissions.
  - Zygo - Hoping to get our EV points connected and encourage staff to buy an EV
  - ESC – could possibly provide an ‘Environmental Hut’
  - Nick Barber – Refurbishing items rather than going to landfill
  - Litter-Free Felixstowe – Finish the third children’s book on Climate Action to encourage small people to make a difference.
  - FTC – Refurbish windows with Fineo glass and publicise what is happening and encourage by spreading information
  - Work towards better public transport service to Felixstowe School eg bus stop at the school entrance or useably near to it.
3. What do you think the Town Council can do to help?
- Continue to provide a forum for discussion etc.
  - Engage with consultations on future developments
  - Utilise its ambassadors and champions to enhance the lobbying of councils to push forward with its goals for the future.
  - EV points for tourists (Seafront parking)
  - Better cycle lanes
  - Plant more trees
  - Make good use of green spaces
  - FTC collaborate with all groups – more of this activity
  - Litter pick equipment into all schools as gateway to environment
  - Facebook page – an environment to share best practice and good news stories.
  - Facilitate Community re-use
  - Ask applicants, particularly large planning applications
    - What about windows!
    - What about insulation standards
  - Help share Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve Film
  - Put in a bus stop near the school
  - Help by adding separate bins into school eg recycling and general waste
  - Trips for schools to go to a recycling plant to give ideas and view to the student
  - Help publicise schemes from ESC/SCC.SCCP etc that residents and communities can access to reduce their energy needs/emissions
  - Continue to support communities and partners in achievement of mutual goals
  - Lobby other councils to implement their aspirations eg walking and cycling strategy of ESC

- Keep getting enviro groups together like this.

### **What next?**

The group all agreed that the meeting was very worthwhile and would like to see more members in attendance. Suggestions were made to invite the Co-op, a representative from Suffolk County Council, a representative from hospitality such as the Orwell Hotel, representatives from builders such as Perssimon homes / Bloor, A haulage company, Robin from Trinity College and someone from First Bus.

The Group thought a Green or Carbon Charter was a good idea, but suggested it would be more effective for companies/individuals to make a pledge rather than sign up to a charter.

Following a discussion about Felixstowe Town Council hosting an environmental awards evening, Litter-Free Felixstowe recently held some very successful environmental awards. Debbie Bartlett agreed that it would be better to have one set of awards / awarding body than for the Town Council to replicate this process.

The group would move forward as a Citizen Advisory group, see <https://involve.org.uk/resources/methods/citizen-advisory-groups> for a description of how the format of the group could work.

Promotion – Felixstowe Town Council can help promote in its Quarterly Magazine delivered to all households in Felixstowe and on its social media platforms. Please contact Holly Miles, Communications Apprentice at the Town Hall via email [holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk](mailto:holly.miles@felixstowe.gov.uk) to help spread the word.

### **Date of next meeting**

To be arranged within 3 months via email.