

*Report from Cllr
Hopfensperger for
September 2019 Meeting*

July 2019 Monthly Parish Newsletter

Suffolk businesses celebrated for reducing carbon emissions

On 10 July 2019, an event was held at one of Suffolk's most sustainable business centres to celebrate the carbon reduction efforts of over 400 Suffolk and Norfolk businesses.

Since their launch in 2010, Suffolk Carbon Charter awards have been presented to hundreds of businesses who show commitment to reducing their carbon emissions, as part of Suffolk's ambitions for Creating the Greenest County.

Lord Deben, founder of Suffolk's Creating the Greenest County partnership in 2007, was a guest speaker at the event held at Freckenham-based property developers, Woolley.

Many projects have been developed under the Creating the Greenest County banner since 2007. The partnership continues to work with local communities and businesses to help realise the environmental and economic benefits of reducing energy consumption, adapting to climate change and enhancing the natural environment.

Professor Nic Bury, Professor of Environmental Toxicology at the University of Suffolk, was also a guest speaker at the event, and said:

"This event recognises the excellent work businesses in Suffolk are making in reducing their carbon footprint to Create the Greenest County. These organisations are inspirational and show what can be achieved. We face numerous environmental issues, widespread environmental pollution and biodiversity loss.

"We need to recognise how important the natural environment is to our wellbeing and place nature at the forefront of our thinking, whether as individuals or businesses. When we accept this, innovative solutions to some of the most difficult environmental issues will evolve."

Councillor Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Environment and Public Protection, said:

“When influential and respected figures such as Lord Deben and Professor Bury recognise the dedication shown by many in Suffolk for caring for its environment, it makes me confident that we are on the right path.

“We are indeed making great strides in Suffolk, but I’m focused on how we can do more and do it better.”

Guests saw displays of a hydrogen vehicle, electric cars, electric motorbikes and promotion of Plug In Suffolk, the UK’s first open fast charging network for electric vehicles. Guests were also given a tour of the venue, home to Woolley, a property management company that thrives on creating sustainable developments and holders of a Gold Suffolk Carbon Charter award themselves.

The event was sponsored by Business Energy Efficiency Anglia, which provides energy efficiency grants to eligible businesses in Suffolk and Norfolk. BEE Anglia is co-financed by the European Union with £4,161,880 through the European Regional Development Fund.

To find out more about how your business can benefit from the Suffolk Carbon Charter, Business Energy Efficiency Anglia and other projects to support your environmental ambitions, visit www.greensuffolk.org.

Consultation launches on the county’s Green Access Strategy

Communities are being invited to have their say on the Green Access Strategy - Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The County Council, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), is required to put together this plan which identifies changes that will improve rights of way provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with mobility problems.

The plan, which looks at rights of way access up until 2026, details why green access is so relevant to Suffolk’s population and its visitors, and it focuses on how green access can benefit quality of life.

Suffolk County Council built the strategy on previous work, research and engagement with a range of consultees, such as the Suffolk Local Access Forum, parish councils, local businesses, landowners, users and non-user groups.

The public consultation opened on Monday 8th July 2019 and runs until Friday 20th September. The consultation will provide the Council with final feedback before the plan is presented to Cabinet later this year.

Councillor Mary Evans, Suffolk County Council’s Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Issues said:

“The Green Access Strategy represents our commitment as a council to make the very most of the rights of way network and to provide our residents, our business community and our visitors with an array of different and innovative opportunities to use, enjoy and benefit from green access.”

To find out more about the consultation and how you can have your say visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/rowip.

A paper copy of the survey can be requested by calling, 0345 603 1842 or emailing discoversuffolk@suffolkhighways.org. You can also complete the survey over the phone by calling 0345 603 1842.