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## **Parish Councils Report – Thedwastre North Division**

**Andy Mellen (SCC Councillor)**

### **Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan**

This document was released in June by the 'Suffolk Leaders Group' (County, District and Borough Council leaders) as a follow up to the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership report of 2019.

This sets out broad goals for change in behaviours and technology to achieve zero carbon by 2030 by means of measures of: 'transitioning to a fully decarbonised heat supply for homes; improving energy efficiency; behavioural change to use less energy; low carbon travel; reducing car use; more efficient freight transport; reductions in commercial and industrial carbon use; improvements in renewable energy production and a flexible grid' among others.

The Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group on Council is putting a motion forward to the Council Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. asking the Council to set specific benchmarks and targets each year up to 2030 to encourage the modal shift in behaviour and technology required as without this we believe that the targets set out, laudable though they are, are unlikely to be achieved in practice.

For example: In July 2020 the Government's Gear Change paper called for a doubling in the amount of journeys walked or cycled. This spring, Suffolk Conservative's county council election manifesto said "we have identified over £20m of upgrades for our cycle network"

We will ask for this money to be allocated to specific projects to improve our cycle network.

### **Review of SEND provision**

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision which has now been completed.

The report, with any recommendations, is due to be published this month on Suffolk County Council's website, shared with those who contributed to it and also scrutinised, in public, by the council's Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. We await it with interest.

### **Suffolk's expression of interest in discussions with Government on Devolution for Suffolk**

A 'levelling up' white paper is to be produced by Government and Robert Jenrick MP (Sec. of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) has invited Councils to express interest in involvement in this. The aim appears to be to allow local 'leaders groups' to have more power in local decision making including 'greater financial efficiency, administrative streamlining and/or more joined up services'. It is not necessary to be a unitary authority although Government want evidence of working together.

It is not clear yet what the benefits and draw backs or any details of these proposals are yet.

The 'Suffolk Leader's Group' (Leaders of County Council, District Councils, Ipswich Borough Council, and Police and Crime Commissioner) have written to the Government expressing interest in this proposal.

### **Zero Carbon battle bus visiting Suffolk**

The purpose of the Zero Carbon Tour is to discuss the concept of net zero carbon and why it is critical for businesses. Suffolk's businesses, organisations and community groups will share their stories about how they have started their journeys to net zero. This will inspire and give confidence to those considering how to reduce their carbon emissions.

Steve Malkin, Founder and CEO, Planet Mark, said:

"There is no doubt, we are living in a seminal and historic moment in time. 2020 – 2030 has been coined the Decade of Action, a period in which we need to tackle the climate crisis and halt biodiversity loss. The global

pursuit of net zero carbon emissions is a huge undertaking, and only possible with help from businesses and communities alike.

“We are excited to bring the net zero message to Ipswich, and share the ‘carbon stories’ of organisations, community groups and individuals playing their part in creating a sustainable future for Suffolk, the United Kingdom and beyond.”

This event and others are taking place across Suffolk in the lead up to COP26, as part of Suffolk's collective campaign of Creating The Greenest County, and be net zero by 2030. As part of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, these events look to encourage collaborative action by educating and engaging with residents and businesses to develop net zero journey.

Other events which are being planned in Suffolk in the lead up to COP26 include:

- 1 September – Zero Carbon Tour visits Ipswich
- 12 October – Ten Steps to Net Zero (Suffolk Chamber of Commerce)
- 21-22 October – Local Energy Showcase (Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council)
- TBC October - A Greener NHS day
- 12 November – Greenest County Awards (Suffolk County Council)
- 23-25 November – Low Carbon Homes

All events are subject to change, visit [www.greensuffolk.org](http://www.greensuffolk.org) for the latest details and information about starting your journey to net zero.

Andy Mellen  
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Green, Liberal Democrat, and Independent Group