

NORTH NORFOLK

GREEN NEWS

This newsletter is an introduction to the North Norfolk Green Party and to tell you about some of our actions which are making a difference. As a group, we are keen to discuss ‘Green’ science, news and issues, as well as local, national, and international policy. We want to let you know about ideas, events, and possibilities for all of us to live a healthier, happier life. We want to build a better future for ourselves, our children and grandchildren. Hope you enjoy!

BUILD BUT BUILD GREEN

The Council’s Local Plan includes proposals for more large–scale housing developments for North Norfolk, including a massive expansion of new houses on the western fringe of North Walsham. This is despite growing concern about the environmental impact of such developments.

North Norfolk Greens believe that it’s time to change the way we think about housing. For too long new house–building has been profit–driven rather than focussing on meeting local people’s affordable housing needs.

Where new houses are essential to meet real local needs, we will call on the Government and developers to

minimise the embodied carbon in the construction process, by exploring alternatives to concrete, steel and other carbon–intensive materials, and by reducing emissions from the transportation of materials to and from the site, the machinery used on site, and the disposal of waste. Greater consideration too must be given to operational carbon emissions of the buildings, their energy efficiency, water demand, and the potential for increased discharge of sewage into rivers and seas.

We shall continue to hold the Government at the national and local level to account on this issue.

WE CAN BUILD WARMER!

Britain’s buildings leak warmth because they are poorly insulated, and they emit huge amounts of carbon when they are heated by fossil fuel boilers or electric heating that does not come entirely from renewable sources. The Government has started to put some measures into the Building Regulations and has a scheme for boiler replacement but nothing like enough or at a scale to meet the problem.

However, even if these things were tackled better there is still an elephant in the room; the truly massive amount of CO2 generated by constructing our buildings in the first place. Parliament’s Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) published an excellent report last June, ‘Growing back better: putting nature and net zero at the heart of the economic recovery’, which recommended introducing

embodied carbon targets for the construction of new homes. The Government did not respond to this recommendation.

Our North Norfolk MP, Duncan Baker, is a member of the EAC and he has tabled a Bill to deal with this. The Bill was presented on 2 February and you can follow progress through the Parliament website. Duncan says “our buildings and construction [emit] over 150m tonnes of greenhouse gases per year...and there is no regulation of the embodied carbon in the materials used to construct them. I am looking to bring in legislation that will enable the industry to have a clear requirement to measure, report, and reduce against aligned targets of embodied carbon as we race to reach our net zero targets”. This will be an important measure and we wish Duncan every success in seeing it through.

**IF YOU WANT A GREENER, FAIRER, MORE COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY
THEN DO DIFFERENT AND VOTE GREEN.**

WE CAN GROW OUR OWN

HERE ARE SOME PLACES THAT OFFER TRULY LOCAL PRODUCE

Norwich Farmshare Their vision is to support food systems that educate, connect, and empower local communities to be healthier and more resilient, to be rooted to the land and to each other, and to experience a direct relationship with how our food is produced.

www.norwichfarmshare.co.uk

Eves Hill Veg Co. A highly productive community market garden in Aylsham growing for local restaurants and families and run a weekly veg bag scheme. Volunteer days on Mondays and Wednesdays and they also deliver hands on training courses and a Market Garden Apprenticeship. 'We believe in inspiring and training for change through working together outdoors in nature.' [Facebook: Eves Hill Veg Co.](#)

Salle Moor Market Garden They are a community—supported market garden and grow salad, vegetables and herbs on a site at Salle Moor Hall Farm and supply them to the community through a weekly veg box scheme. All produce is grown without chemicals, using sustainable farming practices that protect nature and maximise biodiversity. www.sallemoormarketgarden.com

Siding Bakery Based in Melton Constable and baking on Fridays for click & collect orders only, they create sustainable, traceable, digestible and above all delicious bread and pastry. Working with locally grown stoneground flour is complex and challenging but they don't want to compromise on quality and values for the sake of scale. sidingyard.co.uk



TIPS AND IDEAS

- Buy washing powder in boxes, ideally the concentrated kind.
- Buy dishwasher powder in boxes or tablets that are not wrapped in plastic.
- Buy soap bars that are not in plastic, it's not just fancy hand crafted soap that are wrapped in card!
- Buy loose fruit and vegetables and use your own bags or none at all!
- Try and choose foods sold in boxes or tins.
- Think about the next generation; have fun making biscuits with kids, as it is hard to find biscuits not wrapped in plastic.
- Look at the labels on clothes to spot fabric made from fossil fuels like polyester, acrylic and nylon. Go for bamboo, viscose, rayon and best of all, wool or cotton
- Buy pet food in boxes and tins.
- Accept we cannot be perfect and being plastic-free is very hard. Do what you can, and be kind to yourself.

READING CORNER

Stephen Green, one of our members, has volunteered to mention some books that have inspired him. He welcomes feedback, and any more suggestions for books that have inspired you. Please get in touch at stephenjgreen99@gmail.com and he'll make this a regular feature. The choices for this edition are:

ENTANGLED LIFE Merlin Sheldrake

This wonderful book introduces us to the extraordinary world of fungi and their importance in the planet we inhabit. Beautifully written, it includes some hard science and some amazing stories that show how all of us in the biosphere are, literally, connected.



EARTH IS OUR BUSINESS Polly Higgins

The late Polly Higgins campaigned tirelessly for Ecocide to be made a Crime against Peace, as are Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity, and Crimes of Aggression. This is her second book and it details the case. I found some of the legal processes difficult to follow, but the overall argument is overwhelming, and should be irrefutable. I now want to read her last book, **DARE TO BE GREAT**, published posthumously in 2020.

DANCING WITH BEES Brigit Strawbridge Howard

A delightful book, written with love for bees and their place in our lives, and our place in theirs. It is a personal story about the author teaching herself about bees, and more, and it has some astute observations, biological facts, and, above all, it is positive, life-affirming, and a joy to read.

JOIN US

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION OR WANT TO GET INVOLVED PLEASE CONTACT US:

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IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE GREEN PARTY:

<https://join.greenparty.org.uk>

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 <https://www.facebook.com/NNGreenParty>



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