

# **Barry Stone - County Councillor for Clavering**

## **Parish Council Report – September 2021**



### **Electric Vehicle Strategy**

With a ban on sales of new petrol and diesel cars nationally being brought forward to 2030 by the government, the uptake of electric vehicles is forecast to rapidly increase over the next decade.

Cars and vans currently make up nearly a fifth of carbon emissions, so this shift is set to bring about significant reductions in carbon emissions across the UK. The Council, which has set its own carbon net zero target by 2030, can play an important role in helping to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles by ensuring that the necessary charging infrastructure is in place and by setting a good example to local businesses and organisations as a result of electrifying its own fleet.

Electric vehicles (EVs) currently make up 0.6% of the total vehicles on the road in Norfolk in 2020 but is set to increase tenfold by 2025, before rapidly increasing to 27% by 2030. Several external reports and surveys have highlighted that the lack of suitable EV charging infrastructure will inhibit the uptake of EVs in Norfolk, and that the Council can play an important role in both facilitating and promoting the installation of new public electric vehicle charging points. This role complements other Council sustainable transport initiatives such as active travel, e-scooters and ebikes, delivered as part of the Transforming Cities project, and help with other initiatives such as zero emission buses, which all demonstrate the Council's commitment to reducing the carbon impacts of transport.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Days, September and October 2021**

In September and October the County Council will again be running a series of free, three-day long events at seven of the larger recycling centres where householders can dispose of their leftover household chemicals and paint.

Wood preservatives, insect and weed killers, paint, thinners, varnishes and special cleaning products are among the wide range of household chemicals that will be accepted. These are products that can be too dangerous to be tipped down drains or sent for disposal with ordinary household waste without causing environmental damage.

The Household Hazardous Waste Days will be taking place at the following Recycling Centres, on the following dates:

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th September 9am to 5pm King's Lynn, Willows Business Park, Saddlebow, PE34 3RD

Saturday 18th September & Sunday 19th September 9am to 5pm Dereham, Trafalgar Business Park, Rash's Green, NR19 1JG

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th September 9am to 5pm Thetford, Telford Way, IP24 1HU

Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd October 9am to 4 pm Hempton, Helhoughton Rd, Fakenham, NR21 7DY

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th October 9am to 4pm Caister, Pump Lane, NR30 5TE

Friday 15th, Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th October 9am to 4pm Ketteringham, Station Lane, Hethersett, NR9 3AZ

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th October 9am to 4pm Norwich North Recycling Centre, Morse Road, Horsham St. Faith, Norwich, NR10 3JX

The events have been promoted with posters and leaflets at all Recycling Centres and through District and Parish Councils. There will be some targeted advertising through social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We will of course be promoting the events on our own website and issuing a press release.

## **1 Million Trees for Norfolk (1MT)**

This is an ambitious initiative that aims to connect communities with the resources and expertise they need to plant 1 Million Trees over five years, and to record that planting on the Norfolk Tree Map.

The 1MT team at NCC is keen for all county and parish councillors to be fully 'up-to-speed' with developments regarding the project, and would like you to be aware that you may get increased communication around trees and tree planting in the next few months.

With the **Queen's Green Canopy** being an important initiative in Norfolk, it is going to be important to understand how it relates to 1MT.

The 2021-2022 planting season will serve as a pilot, allowing us to develop robust processes for managing requests for tree stock and collecting the information we need to ensure planting can contribute to the 1MT total.

For this pilot we recommend trees are distributed amongst as many parishes as possible to promote the 1MT initiative and generate demand for the 2022-2023 season. As the number of trees reserved with suppliers is relatively small in this first cycle, we cannot guarantee that all applications will be successful as we want to enable a fair geographical spread of the trees across Norfolk.

If there is more demand than can be met from pre-purchased trees, we may need to source additional trees (however stock may be hard to acquire due to high demand this year.) We will try to match applications that miss out with other funding sources or giveaway schemes. For example, the Queens Green Canopy or Woodland Trust.

To ensure their planting can contribute to the 1MT total, applicants should support the 1MT pledge, following the “right tree, right place” principles to give their application the best chance of being approved. This information can be found on our **website**.

Tree stock is available in packs of and falls into three categories:

- 1) 10 Fruit Trees: For community orchards or for interested households to plant a tree in their garden.
- 2) 10 Small Trees: Suitable for gardens and small spaces (mini copses)
- 3) 10m of Native Hedging Plants (these could also be used for filling the gaps in existing hedges)

(This equates to approximately 3 packs of fruit trees, 9 packs of small trees and 8x10m of native hedging plants per county councillor to allocate to parish councils – depending on the uptake across the 84 County Councillors, more stock could become available and the 1MT team will keep a track of this.)

We are suggesting these three options as they seem to be the most popular requests to our team so far.

Packs include tree guards, supports, postage and packaging.

To help reduce postage costs we suggest that tree packs are delivered to parish councils for distribution within the parish.

## **A Guide To The Process**

### **Step 1**

Parish Councils submit their planting schemes to County Councillors for the coming planting season (which runs from November 2021 to March 2022)

County Councillors review the applications and identify which planting schemes to authorise under this 2021 pilot scheme.

### **Step 2**

The county councillor contacts the successful parish councils and gives them the green light to proceed with the application process.

The County Councillor needs to keep track of their £1500 allocation for this scheme (there may be opportunities to go over this amount but that must be negotiated with the 1MT team).

### **Step 3**

Parish Councils fill in the on-line application form (available around mid- September) to request their trees.

Applications will close from Jan 14th 2022 to allow tree nurseries to manage their stock.

To keep costs down, Parish Councils will need to identify a named person as the direct point of contact for tree nurseries to deliver the reserved trees.

#### **Step 4**

The application will be reviewed by the 1MT team who will verify the application supports the “right tree, right place” principles.

#### **Step 5**

The 1MT team will contact the applicant to confirm that the application has been successful and trees will be dispatched from the supplier to the named recipient, as specified in the online form.

Unsuccessful applicants will be directed towards other funding opportunities for obtaining trees for their planting schemes.

#### **Step 6**

Suppliers will liaise directly with the named recipient for tree delivery. This person will receive the trees and then distribute as required throughout the parish.

#### **Step 7**

Once planting has taken place, the parish council must inform the councillor and the 1MT team and the planting added to the 1MT map. The 1MT team are developing a user -friendly form to enable this and we will be in touch with further details of this in the autumn.

This map will build a visual picture of all the tree planting around the county and allow people to see how their planting contributes to the bigger picture.

### **Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association**

For information the RNAA will host an open day on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September as part of the nationwide Heritage Open Day scheme. This will be followed on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> by the HarFest event at the showground to celebrate Norfolk’s agricultural output. The Harvest Festival Service will take place at Norwich Cathedral on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 15:30 hours.

As always, I am here to help in any way I can and will always respond to email and telephone requests for assistance.

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Kind regards

**Barry**