

Fressingfield Sustainability Focus Groups Initial Report

February 2024

Below are the initial/starting point resulting from the Sustainability group of Feb 17th.

Often the ideas are from individuals but most recorded are supported by the groups of individuals

Next steps are to be considered following future Parish Council meetings following publication of this report on Village website. It is but a starting point and further levels of consultation will be possible as initiatives emerge

1. Housing and Infrastructure		
Domestic level	Parish Level	Beyond Parish level
Some housing to allow downsizing for older residents, perhaps bungalows	Creation of affordable housing for younger people to avoid stagnation and to retain families	No need for any more 4+ bed houses
Opportunities for self-build projects	Co-Housing projects where facilities e.g. laundry spaces/solar energy can be shared.	Housing association projects
	No appetite for estates, more support for small developments See how present new developments bed in	
	Restore bus service, perhaps making use of CIL funds	
Maintain green spaces in the village at all costs & not build on greenfield sites if possible.	Village lacks a 'heart/village Green' consider repurposing land near to Sancroft Hall. Also improve access to Playing field	
	Work with present and future developers to provide affordable housing and contribute to infrastructure for the village	

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2. Energy & Heating		
Domestic level	Parish Level	Beyond Parish level
Current government/council schemes for solar, air source, etc need to be simplified. Cost issues need to be addressed.	Insulation schemes better than energy generation schemes.	Energy generation on larger scale solar & wind.
Information sheets from PC as to what is available locally inc up to date grants available. Advice from SPAB	Feasibility of ground source heating for whole village or large part of	
Could church/Sancroft Hall/stable block have solar panels?	Dolar=air source on new developments to be confirmed.	
	Revisions to NDP could stipulate sustainability measures and expectations	Improvements to waste collection service
	Microgeneration of energy as part of a scheme, e.g. purchasing solar panels in bulk.	
	Extend group fuel purchases.	
	Location of electric chargers to all access by all and not just on new developments	
	NDP Review to enhance sustainability	Work with MSDC to increase sustainability at planning stage

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3. Food and Farming		
Domestic level	Parish Level	Beyond Parish level
Be prepared to grow fruit & veg in allotments and home gardens	PC to acquire land for Allotments and promote	Not use farmland for carbon offsetting, not acceptable. Pressure M.P.
Be prepared to pay more for pesticide free veg, flour and fruit	Local farmers invited to keep pesticide use to a minimum	Catch rain
Catch rainwater in water butts for summer veg. Avoid using tap water.		
Local residents should support farmers by taking care of the land, closing gates and protecting livestock	Farmers to maintain footpaths to allow safe walking access to promoting footpath use.	
Don't waste food, cook less, eat less, don't throw away food	Support local farmers producing milk, fruit, veg and Produce Market.	
Turn soft fruit into jams and jellies to eat in the winter		
Plant trees as part of Village Tree planting programme.		

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4. The Environment and Water Issues		
Domestic level	Parish Level	Beyond Parish level
<p>Make use of a network of water butts. Promote the construction of soak aways and small garden ponds to manage runoff from properties</p>	<p>Continue to promote ongoing improvements to surface wate/sewerage problems that continue to blight Cratfield Road properties.</p> <p>Establish impact of new development and any future proposals on the system.</p>	<p>In partnership with Anglian Water. Continue monitoring regime.</p>
<p>Promote the use of footpaths. Reprint booklet and possibly produce a large map to be places near Fox and Goose Green to promote walking on footpaths and byways.</p>	<p>Promote the adequate maintenance of ditches and watercourses including roadway to the playing field. Riparian responsibilities of landowners.</p> <p>Partcular attention for Playing field roadway.</p>	
<p>Establish a Tree Planting Scheme after a tree survey (Village wide)</p>	<p>Identify wildlife pathways and possible 'corridors'</p>	
	<p>To recommend timely hedge maintenance for all properties</p>	
	<p>Consider appropriate wildflower planting in public spaces possibly sensitive planting in burial grounds inc parish burial ground on Stradbroke Road</p>	
	<p>Survey and promote safe ponds in the village</p>	

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5. Economics and Transport		
Domestic level	Parish Level	Beyond Parish level
Approach towards the need for public transport likely on individual circumstances. Particularly felt by the older and younger residents	Provision has been compromised by very limited uptake. This contrasts with challenges of logistics and associated costs. Little understanding in the community of costs etc for rural bus services.	
	BorderHoppa provision not fully understood especially operation costs. More info needed.	
The challenges of accessing local services beyond the village may encourage the provision of a 'Village Hub' perhaps in F&G Stable block	A Village Hub might be available to hire for personal services, e.g. hairdresser, CAB, Coffee Shop. This in addition to the use of Sancroft Hall	
	A Village Hub might also be constructed in such a way as to help those working from e.g. IT support, small meeting spaces, creche.	
	Revised cycle paths and cycle access	
Patterns of vehicle ownership/car sharing possibilities.	PowerPoints for charging electric cars	
		Provision of Business units/small workshops
	Quality of Broadband connectivity across the village.	

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6. Health and Wellbeing		
Domestic level	Parish Level	Beyond Parish level
Identify people who need company	GPs' Surgery need more check-up opportunities.	
Regular health checkups.	Funds for small group activities, perhaps for Walking and Biking Groups	Join the Park Run group at the Hockey Club Weybread
How gardening helps with mental health		
Walking and the benefits of being in open spaces	Enhancing access to village café	Funding from MSDC/SCC to establish Youth Club/Group
	Update footpath booklet	
Promoting healthy local food	Sustain Fressingfield Shed for members and community	

GD

Convenor for Sustainability Saturday Feb 2014