

STATION ADOPTERS AWARD

Beccles station was awarded "Most Improved Station" on the Greater Anglia network in October. Graham Elliott, one of four station adopters at Beccles said, "It is a great honour to receive the award for the most improved station across the entire network. We have many more improvements lined up for the station over the coming year. We want to make the station one of the jewels of the town, rather than giving the negative first impression it did a few years ago."



STATION ADOPTERS WITH THEIR AWARD

YOUR LOCAL GREEN COUNCILLORS

ELFREDE BRAMBLEY CRAWSHAW

County Councillor for Beccles, Worlingham, North Cove and Barnby. Town Councillor for Beccles Darby



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SPEAK TO US

Councillor surgeries at Beccles Library with Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw and Graham Elliott. An opportunity for residents within Beccles Division to come and speak to us about any concerns they may have.

10:30am to 11:30am

18 February, 18 March, 15 April

WE BELIEVE IN A SOCIETY THAT WORKS FOR THE COMMON GOOD...

...AND WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT

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WINTER 2018 GREENVIEW

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN PARTY IN BECCLES, WORLINGHAM, NORTH COVE AND BARNBY

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ELFREDE AND THE BECCLES COMMUNITY GARDENING TEAM

BECCLES COMMUNITY GARDENERS

Elfrede and the Beccles community gardening team have had a really busy year in 2017 and plan to do even more in 2018 to keep the town looking fabulous.

Members of the community and local businesses have teamed up to keep Beccles' green spaces neat and tidy. They have planted trees, cleared overgrown hedges and re-stocked planters with beautiful flowers and plants.

The volunteer group attracts all ages, with children as young as five joining in with the work. The group has expert advice from Stephen Malster of Goose Green Nurseries, who kindly volunteers his time. County Councillor and deputy mayor of Beccles Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw said "2017 saw the creation of our group, we have made some fabulous progress and this year we hope to do even more and really make Beccles bloom"

The Beccles community gardeners will be busy in Beccles throughout the year, if you would like to join them contact Beccles Town Council on admin@beccles.info or to find us on facebook search 'Beccles Community Gardeners'.

RIVER WAVENEY POLLUTION

The River Waveney received a very unwelcome early Christmas present when a report announced it had the highest levels of neonicotinoid pollution in the country.

Neonicotinoids are highly toxic insecticides that have recently become widely used by farmers. A massive EU wide campaign has led them to being banned on flowering plants because of the potentially catastrophic consequences on bees and other pollinating insects. But they are still very widely used on many other crops including wheat and sugar beet and their residues are being flushed into our river systems.

The effects of these long lasting toxins are not yet fully understood but they will undoubtedly have a very serious impact on the entire eco-system. Green Party Councillor, Graham Elliott, has raised the issue with Peter Aldous MP and has asked Waveney District Council to endorse a motion demanding tough action on this serious pollution. Graham said, "This report makes shocking reading. The pollution may be invisible but the impact on the eco-system and on our reputation as a great place to live and to visit is very worrying."

DOUBLE VICTORY AT SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

1. SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL SIGNS THE WOODLAND TRUST'S TREE CHARTER

At the Suffolk County Council meeting held on 7 December 2017, Cllr Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw seconded a successful motion calling the Council to sign the Woodland Trust's Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

The Charter was launched in November 2017 to mark the 800 year anniversary of the influential '1217 Charter of the Forest'.

The Woodland Trust hopes the Charter will bring the discussion of the importance of forests and trees back into public consciousness. The Woodland Trust is working with over 70 organisations to lead the call for Councils across the country to sign up to the Charter.

Cllr Brambley-Crawshaw said, "This was a tremendously important vote, and one which received unanimous support from councillors. Trees and forests play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our country and us all as individuals – we are thrilled that Suffolk County Council has voted to accept the Charter".



ELFREDE AND CLLR DAVID WOOD

2. UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR PLASTIC BOTTLE RECYCLING PILOT

Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in October that he would be examining the possibility of introducing a plastic bottle Deposit Return Scheme in the UK to improve recycling rates.

At the Suffolk County Council meeting held on 7 December 2017, Elfrede's political group proposed a motion calling on the Council to pledge support for the introduction of a plastic bottle recycling scheme, and to offer Suffolk as a pilot area should one be needed. The motion received unanimous support, and as a result, Suffolk County Council will be writing to the Secretary of State urging him to implement this new recycling scheme across the UK.

Cllr Brambley-Crawshaw said; "We need to do more to encourage recycling and start thinking about positive solutions to reducing our waste and negative impact on the environment. Schemes like this one have seen such great successes elsewhere, this should give us a chance to see how well we can do too!"



Deposit Return Schemes work by adding a small deposit charge to the cost of plastic bottles, which is refunded to the consumer when the bottle is returned for recycling. These "reward and return schemes" are already in place across Europe, including in Germany and Denmark, and evidence suggests they are an effective recycling method. The recycling rate for countries with a Deposit Return Scheme stands at over 90%, whilst Britain currently recycles just 57% of plastic bottles.

LEGO CLUB AT BECCLES LIBRARY TO KEEP BUILDING UPON ITS SUCCESS IN 2018!

In June, Elfrede and the Beccles Library Trustees agreed to set funds aside to purchase some Lego for the Library to host its own Lego Club.

The Lego Club started in July, hosted by David and Robin (Elfrede's husband and eight year old son), and has enjoyed great success. Children and parents have had a great time meeting the challenges set – from bridge building, to cargo boats, even protective cages for eggs – everyone has had a great time and built some truly amazing projects.

The club is £1 per child (by donation), with all funds going back to the Beccles Library Trustees. So far, Lego Club has raised over £250 for the Trustees – thank you to all who have attended and donated to the Trustees, with an extra special thanks to those who have kindly donated their surplus Lego to the Library.

David said, "I have been astounded at the creativity and skill on show from the children – they have made some amazing projects and have all had loads of fun".

Lego Club takes place on the third Sunday of the month, keep an eye on the Beccles Library Facebook page for more details. The next Lego Club is on Sunday 18 February 2018 (10am to 11:30am)



GREEN COUNCILLORS ELFREDE AND NICKY COLLECTING PLASTIC BOTTLES