JANUARY 24

RECLAIM THE RAIN

Monitoring Devices

For the success of Reclaim the Rain, it's essential to monitor and record data from various environmental factors like rainfall, water quantity, water quality, soil moisture and more, to use as an evidence base for the project. With the help of some external consultants we've been able to identify the most suitable monitoring devices and locations to install them. The installation of these monitoring devices in all of our communities is scheduled for early 2024 and we may soon be calling for interested local people to help us keep an eye on them!

Drone Launch

We're working with a local production company to launch drones in our communities to capture the main surface water flow paths in the catchment. This will provide us with valuable aerial footage of the catchment as it is now and also produce a short video to showcase the natural beauty of our communities across Suffolk and Norfolk. Stay tuned for the upcoming release of this stunning footage of our Reclaim the Rain communities and see each village from a whole new perspective.

Recent News

SuDS in Schools

Reclaim the Rain has been awarded funding by the Department for Education as part of their SuDS in Schools Programme, including one school in Suffolk and five in Norfolk. The main aim of SuDS in Schools is to reduce flood risk to both the site and building. The Team are working closely with our schools to come up with plans which not only increase their resilience, but also enable opportunities for education, amenity and wildlife enhancement.

In both counties, we've faced significant winter flooding due to Storms like Babet and, more recently, Storm Henk. These intense rainfall events have affected our Reclaim the Rain communities, resulting in record-high river levels and extensive field and road flooding. Sean actively assessed the conditions in Woodton during Storm Babet, speaking with residents.

It's important to report flooding to your Lead Local Flood Authority. Information on how to report can be found on your county council's website.

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NORFOLK

In Norfolk, our community short lists of options are nearly complete! These ideas have been co-created with the Community Working Groups. To list a few, these options include: reservoirs to store excess flood water, soil enhancement for farming and sustainable drainage features that enhance the environment and the aesthetic of community areas.

In Thompson and Merton, we have recently conduted CCTV jetting to assess the condition of culverts in the area. This involved utilizing a jet spray to clear loose debris from the outlet side of pipes, followed by a thorough camera inspection to evaluate their overall condition.

In Merton, we're working to clear debris from ditches to improve water management. The aim is to ensure proper drainage, and these works with a contractor are expected to be finalised soon. This initiative will facilitate unimpeded water flow, benefiting the area around The Green.

Recently, Sean and Chris, with Liz Whitcher (Watton community lead) and Anglian Water, presented updates on the school's program and the Watton project to the Watton Rotary Club.

SUFFOLK

In Suffolk, generation of ideas is going well! The shortlists for each of our communities are complete and some very exciting ideas are developing. All ideas in the shortlists have been co-created in partnership with the Community Working Groups.

In Boxford, we have plans to plant the first phase of willow trees in the east of the catchment this January, a scheme in partnership with a local landowner and J.S. Wright & Sons Cricket Bat Company. Also taking shape as part of this scheme, are plans to part dredge a lake and introduce crucian carp. This will be turned it into a fishing lake for a local Angling Club to utilise.

Friston experienced several flashy downpours from late summer in 2023 to now. These events have reasserted not only why this village was chosen, but also where the problem areas exist. In Friston, seasonal storage for agricultural use is being explored, as well as local residential ideas too. In November, Ruby, Sian and Tom, held a drop-in session to present these options to the wider community.

In Little Blakenham, we are exploring seasonal storage to capture water for local hop propagation, household water collection, and capture for the local Church. Ground contamination testing was carried out in this village to assess ground conditions and soil quality for future delivery.