



John Wright  
Town Clerk

## Lyme Regis Town Council

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### Environment Committee

**Core Membership:** Cllr B. Bawden (chairman), Cllr J. Broom, Cllr K. Ellis, Cllr B. Larcombe MBE, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr R. Smith, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr T. Webb, Cllr S. Williams

Notice is given of a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at the **Guildhall, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis** on Wednesday 6 October 2021 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright  
Town Clerk  
01.10.21

*The open and transparent proceedings of Full Council and committee meetings will be audio recorded and recordings will be held for one year by the town council.*

*If members of the public make a representation to the meeting, they will be deemed to have consented to being audio recorded.*

*If members of the public have any queries regarding audio recording of meetings, please contact the town clerk.*

Members are reminded that in reaching decisions they should take into consideration the town council's decision to declare a climate emergency and ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and beyond.

### AGENDA

#### 1. Election of Vice-Chairman

To allow the committee to receive nominations and elect its vice-chairman for the council year 2021/22

#### 2. Public Forum

Twenty minutes will be made available for public comment and response in relation to items on this agenda

*Individuals will be permitted a maximum of three minutes each to address the committee*

**3. Apologies**

To receive and record apologies and reasons for absence

**4. Minutes**

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 7 July 2021

**5. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members are reminded that if they have a disclosable pecuniary interest on their register of interests relating to any item on the agenda they are prevented from participating in any discussion or voting on that matter at the meeting and to do so would amount to a criminal offence. Similarly if you are or become aware of a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter under consideration at this meeting which is not on your register of interests or is in the process of being added to your register you must disclose such interest at this meeting and register it within 28 days.

**6. Dispensations**

To note the grant of dispensations made by the town clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

**7. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 July 2021**

To update members on matters arising from the previous meeting that are not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda and to allow members to seek further information on issues raised within the minutes of the previous meeting.

**8. Update Report**

There are no updates

**9. Environment Section on the Town Council Website**

To allow members to consider proposals for an environment section on the town council website

**10. Food Waste to Living Soil Project**

To allow members to consider the Food Waste to Living Soil Project

**11. Water Quality on the River Lim**

To inform members about water quality on the River Lim

**12. Bathing Water Classification Gap 2020**

To inform members of a letter from the Environment Agency about the bathing water classification gap in 2020

**13. Dorset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

To allow members to consider the Dorset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan

**14. The Climate and Environmental Emergency - what is it and why we must act now**

To inform members about the significance of the climate and environmental emergency and provide information about current national and international level developments

**15. Carbon Literacy Training for Members**

To inform members of the planned Carbon Literacy training as part of the national pilot for town and parish councillors

**16. Exempt Business**

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 6 October 2021

**Title:** Election of Vice-Chairman

### **Purpose of Report**

To allow the committee to receive nominations and elect its vice-chairman for the council year 2021/22

### **Recommendation**

The committee receives nominations for the vice-chairman of this committee and elects its vice-chairman for the council year 2021/22

### **Background**

1. The terms of reference for the council's committee structure state each committee will elect its chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership. The vice-chairman election did not take place at the last meeting of the committee.

2. Consequently, nominations are sought for the vice-chairman of this committee.

3. The relevant standing orders that inform and govern the election of chairmen and vice-chairmen are detailed below.

4. Standing order 3.t states:

'Unless standing orders provide otherwise, voting on any question shall be by a show of hands. At the request of a councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave their vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda. If at least two members request, voting may be by signed ballot.'

5. Standing order 8.a states:

'Where more than two persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. A tie in votes may be settled by the casting vote exercisable by the chairman of the meeting.'

6. Standing order 8.b. states:

'As the first business of a council is to elect a chairman (the mayor in the case of Lyme Regis Town Council) who is also an ex-officio voting member of all committees, they are in a position to open and chair a sub-committee meeting temporarily, with the benefit of a casting vote, until a committee chairman is elected. In the Mayor's absence, the Deputy Mayor could officiate in the same way, the town clerk or other officer cannot open or chair a committee or sub-committee meeting.'

7. The election of the vice-chairman of the Environment Committee will be reported to the Full Council on 27 October 2021.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
October 2021

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY 2021

**Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr B. Bawden

**Members:** Cllr J. Broom, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr S. Williams

**Officers:** M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), A. Mullins (support services manager)

**21/01/ENV Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

It was proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson that Cllr B. Bawden is chairman of the Environment Committee.

There being no other nominations, Cllr B. Bawden was duly **ELECTED** as chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr D. Sarson that Cllr R. Smith is vice-chairman of the Environment Committee but as Cllr R. Smith was not present, he could not be nominated.

There were no other nominations so members agreed to defer the election of a vice-chairman until the next meeting of this committee.

**21/02/ENV Terms of Reference**

Cllr J. Broom asked why the terms of reference for this committee included at 4.1.5 'to contain spend to an approved budget' but this was not included in any other committee's terms of reference.

The support services manager said the town clerk had intended for this term to be included for all committees but as the council had reviewed its committee structure and had not agreed any changes at this point, the existing terms of reference without this term had not yet been included for other committees.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, the terms of reference were **RECEIVED**, with paragraph 4.1.5 removed for the time being until the terms of reference for all committees could be reviewed to include this.

**21/03/ENV Public Forum**

**L. Noel**

L. Noel said she had recently been elected chairman of Turn Lyme Green (TLG) and the members of that organisation wanted to say how pleased they were that an Environment Committee had been established and they looked forward to working with

everyone on the council on environmental issues in Lyme Regis. She said she noticed in the committee's terms of reference it mentioned environmental objectives and she was interested in the objectives this committee decided to proceed with. She said the strategic goals seemed to relate to the council and its own work and activities, as opposed to the community as a whole. L. Noel said TLG would like to see a Refill tap on the seafront with a sign to publicise it. She said Grenville Barr, of TLG, wrote a report around two years ago suggesting five taps and one was agreed at the least so it would be good to have it working. She asked if there was a possibility of it being installed by the Environment Day during Carnival Week, when there would be lots of people wanting to refill their plastic bottles. She said improved litter and recycling arrangements were also important to TLG, as well as car charging points and sustainable power projects.

The operations manager said the council had agreed some time ago to have two Refill points; one outside Marine Parade toilets and one near Boylo's. He said he hoped to have them both ready by 19 July 2021.

### **V. Elcoate**

V. Elcoate said she was pleased to see the council had set up an Environment Committee and she thanked the councillors who had agreed to sit on it. She said she was one of the co-ordinators for the Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN), which networked hundreds of people across Dorset, with many town and parish councils to be included to share ideas and good practice. She said it would be good if Lyme Regis could get involved. V. Elcoate said what was good for the environment was also good for the local community so she saw it as part of the driving force behind the council because if it could focus more on the environment, local residents would benefit from it. She said Dorset CAN was holding a Greener Open Homes weekend in September, with people in Lyme Regis having already agreed to open their homes and show things like renewable energy and e-charging at home. She asked the town council to support the event and let people know it was happening so people could go and learn lessons. She said there was tangible evidence from previous Open Homes weekends that it influenced people to do greener things in their own homes that were of real practical benefit. V. Elcoate said the Update Report on the agenda showed the practical things being done or proposed around the town and it was heartening to see this. She said she had personally noticed more use of single-use plastic from eating and drinking establishments due to Covid and she suggested the council could encourage businesses to go back to how they were, using compostable materials.

### **S. Case (read out by an officer)**

S. Case said he gave his wholehearted support to the Environment Committee because he strongly believed very few policy areas of local, district, national, or even world governance, were of equal importance or urgency. He said of course there were many kinds of environments demanding public attention, not the least industrial, post-industrial and urban too, so that was why Lyme Regis with its outstanding natural assets should make every effort to protect them and also to assist other locations less fortunate.

## **21/04/ENV Apologies**

Cllr K. Ellis – attending another meeting  
Cllr C. Reynolds – self-isolating  
Cllr D. Ruffle – illness  
Cllr R. Smith – self-isolating

**21/05/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**21/06/ENV Dispensations**

There were none.

**21/07/ENV Update Report**

**Lyme Regis Car Club and e-bike rental hubs**

Cllr B. Bawden said now Western Power Distribution had given a date for connecting an electricity supply, it was hoped the Car Club trial could start soon, as previously agreed by the council. She said while that was going on, further investigation would take place to determine what it would take to get a permanent Car Club in Lyme Regis and the possibility of e-bike rentals, although this would need to be in conjunction with other towns and villages as people would collect bikes from one location, ride to another and leave them there.

Cllr D. Sarson asked if there were any grants available for e-bikes.

Cllr B. Bawden said grants were available and would be applied for.

The operations manager said the set-up for e-bikes was more expensive than the Car Club because multiple bikes were needed, as opposed to one car.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked how the council would keep an eye on the changing government targets and avoid spending public money on something that could have otherwise been funded by government money. He asked if the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) kept its eye on government initiatives as he didn't want the council to rush in, only to find out the government was going down a different route.

Cllr B. Bawden said the Dorset CAN was keeping an eye on initiatives and funding and this was the benefit of the council being part of the network.

**Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers**

The operations manager said Lyme Regis was at capacity in terms of the power coming to the town and although the council's EV charger would be on the existing network, in the background, Western Power Distribution (WPD) was working on a much bigger project to reinforce the supply to Lyme Regis.

It was noted that as more people had electric vehicles and no new non-electric vehicles would be sold after 2030, better infrastructure would be required to support this.

Cllr B. Bawden invited V. Elcoate to speak. V. Elcoate said residents in Lyme Regis had had to pay for an upgrade to their electricity supply to be able to charge electric cars and as such, a group of residents had put pressure on WPD to improve the supply. She said she would be happy provide a briefing about the discussions which had taken place with WPD.



V. Elcoate also informed members about a scheme where residents with EV chargers could advertise their availability and people could book a slot to charge their vehicle and pay the homeowner for the electricity.

It was noted many properties in Lyme Regis wouldn't be able to have EV chargers because they were not accessible to vehicles.

## **21/08/ENV Environment Information for the Town Council Website**

Cllr B. Bawden said the aim of having an environmental section on the town council's website was to publicise information to residents about, for example, the availability of grants for warmer homes or energy efficiency measures.

The operations manager said there would most likely be a cost involved as it wasn't simply a case of adding a tab.

The support services manager said the website was designed with the optimum number of tabs on the main navigation to create good usability and design. She said adding another tab would be possible but it would involve some minor changes to the design of the homepage and navigation menu. The support services manager said she had already discussed this with the website designers, Blue Level, and they could mock-up some designs for consideration, although this would involve a modest cost. She said there would also be the cost of officer time to consider in setting up the pages and populating them with information.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if Lyme Regis Development Trust (LRDT) had a role in providing environmental information.

Cllr B. Bawden said LRDT provided information about specific projects but the aim of the page on the council website was to provide information about what the council was doing and to signpost residents to other places.

It was agreed the support services manager would further discuss the options with Blue Level for creating an environment tab, including costs, and to bring proposals to the next meeting.

## **21/09/ENV Cycle Lanes and Bicycle Racks**

Cllr B. Larcombe said near the Rock Point Inn, where cycle racks had recently been installed, was the natural place for them and he suggested additional racks at the other end of the walkway, perhaps in the car parks. He said he wasn't in favour of having racks near Langmoor Gardens as he didn't want to encourage people to cycle through the gardens.

The operations manager said Cllr R. Smith had suggested somewhere at the top of town so people could leave their bikes and walk down the high street rather than pushing them back up, so the area near Langmoor Gardens was suggested for that reason.

Cllr G. Stammers was concerned about cycle lanes in the Middle Mill area as it was very busy with pedestrians, children and dogs, as well as steps in some areas. She said it was very difficult to cycle between Lyme Regis and Uplyme because the geography didn't lend itself to it.

The operations manager said the owner of 'Bumpy' field was not in favour of a cycle lane and it would take a lot of ground works and liaison across the border to establish it. He suggested the idea of cycle lanes could be picked up as part of the Town Management and Highways Committee's wider traffic and parking agenda.

Other suggested areas for bicycle racks were the area outside the library, Holmbush car park and the area outside the Baptist Church. However, the operations manager said Cllr D. Turner, Dorset Council's ward member, didn't believe the area outside the library was feasible.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** not to pursue bicycle racks in Langmoor Gardens but to look for somewhere at the Cobb end of the seafront, and to hold discussions with Dorset Council about any other potential locations.

#### **21/10/ENV Japanese Knotweed**

The operations manager said legally the council needed to do something about Japanese knotweed and he was asking members to consider using a glyphosate-based product for that specific purpose.

Cllr G. Stammers asked how the gardeners felt about using the product and if there was any risk to their health and safety in doing so.

The operations manager said the individuals who would be using the product were content. He said it was a weed killer which people might use at home and all the major city and county councils were still using it because it was the only product that was effective against weeds.

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the use of a glyphosate-based product for the sole purpose of council gardening staff injecting into the stems to eradicate Japanese knotweed.

#### **21/11/ENV UN Sustainable Development Goals logo**

Cllr B. Bawden said it had been difficult to progress anything on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as the UN didn't have a platform to demonstrate development. As a start, she felt it would be a good idea for the council to display the logo because as far as she was aware, this council was the first in the south west of England to pledge to meet these aims.

Cllr B. Larcombe said if the logo was used, staff and members would have to be familiar enough with what was involved if questioned by the public. He said it was one thing to be supportive of the SDGs but he asked if it would infer the council was somehow contributing to it.

It was acknowledged the council could support and implement initiatives which fed into the SDGs, such as supporting the foodbank or community energy schemes.

The operations manager said the council had recently discussed the welcome to Lyme Regis signs and it was agreed the Plastic Free Lyme logo would be added to them, as well as to council emails and in the footer of the website. He asked members to think about where it would stop in terms of adding logos to council communications.

Several members were concerned about an overload of logos and whether displaying the SDG logo would actually mean anything to the public. It was felt the actions of this committee would be a far better statement than any logo.

*Cllr S. Williams left the meeting at 8.21pm.*

Cllr B. Larcombe suggested deferring consideration of this matter until the council could see what objectives it could start to shape in relation to the SDGs so the logo could then be used with some meaning.

The support services manager said the Plastic Free Logo was included in the footer of the council website and this was quite discreet. As the council was also considering an environmental page on the website, she suggested the SDG logo could be incorporated into the footer of the website, which could then link to the environment page where there could be a significant section on the SDGs and the council's progress against them.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to incorporate the UN's Sustainable Development Goals logo and progress against the goals as part of the environment page and the footer of the town council website.

21/12/ENV

### **Queen's Green Canopy**

The operations manager said putting trees around Anning Road playing field may have some pushback from residents because they would create a screen. He said he would recommend planting trees along the walkway in the Lister Gardens, where cherry trees could be planted and called the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Walk.

*Cllr D. Sarson left the meeting at 8.27pm.*

Other areas suggested included the perimeter of Woodmead car park, the junction of Anning Road and Queen's Walk near the war memorial, and alongside the cemetery driveway.

Members discussed what kind of trees were the most suitable as the initiative was focused on planting sustainably to benefit future generations, but cherry trees wouldn't have as much of an environmental impact as bigger trees.

*Cllr D. Sarson returned to the meeting at 8.30pm.*

The operations manager said the type of tree would depend on the location; while cherry trees would be more suitable in the Lister Gardens, there could probably be larger trees at the cemetery. He also suggested the triangular piece of land near Hix's restaurant.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to plant trees, where possible, for the Queen's Green Canopy, on the lower edge of Anning Road playing field, the triangular piece of land near Hix's restaurant, around Woodmead car park, on the junction of Queen's Walk and Anning Road near the war memorial, on the Lister Gardens walkway to the wooden bridge, and along the driveway of the cemetery, and to consult other landowners and residents as appropriate.

**21/13/ENV LRTC Net Zero Carbon 2030 – Strategic Top Ten Progress Report**

The operations manager said Covid-19 hadn't set the council too far off against the plan and projects were progressing well.

Members noted the report.

*The meeting closed at 8.43pm.*

DRAFT

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 6 October 2021

**Title:** Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 July 2021

**Purpose of Report**

To update members on matters arising from the previous meeting that are not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda and to allow members to seek further information on issues raised within the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Recommendation**

Members note the report and raise any other issues on the minutes of the previous meeting that they require further information on.

**Report**

**21/07/ENV – Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers**

Western Power Distribution completed the connections as previously reported in August. Following this, our supplier, SSE sent their metering contractor to install new meters on those connections.

PodPoint have subsequently visited Monmouth car park but were not able to connect the chargers, although parking bay markings were painted on that visit. PodPoint are visiting on 12/13 October 2021 to install and commission the Woodmead chargers and it is anticipated they will be able to commission the chargers at Monmouth Beach car park on the same date.

Once the chargers are commissioned the operations manager will arrange a meeting with Co-Cars to hopefully commence the Lyme Regis Car Club hire-car trial.

**21/09/ENV – Cycle Lanes and Bicycle Racks**

The operations manager has discussed potential locations for cycle racks with Dorset Council but none have been deemed suitable.

Matt Adamson-Drage Operations manager October 2021	Cllr Belinda Bawden Chairman
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**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 6 October 2021

**Title:** Environment Section on the Town Council Website

### **Purpose of the Report**

To allow members to consider proposals for an environment section on the town council website

### **Recommendation**

Members approve adding an environment tab to the town council website based on one of the proposed design options

### **Background**

1. At the previous meeting on 7 July 2021, members considered adding environment information to the town council website. Members were advised the website had been designed with the optimum number of tabs for navigation and accessibility purposes and it would be necessary to discuss any changes with the website designers Blue Level. Members were also advised there was likely to be a cost involved.
2. It was agreed the support services manager would discuss the options with Blue Level for creating an environment tab, including costs, and to bring proposals to the next meeting.

### **Report**

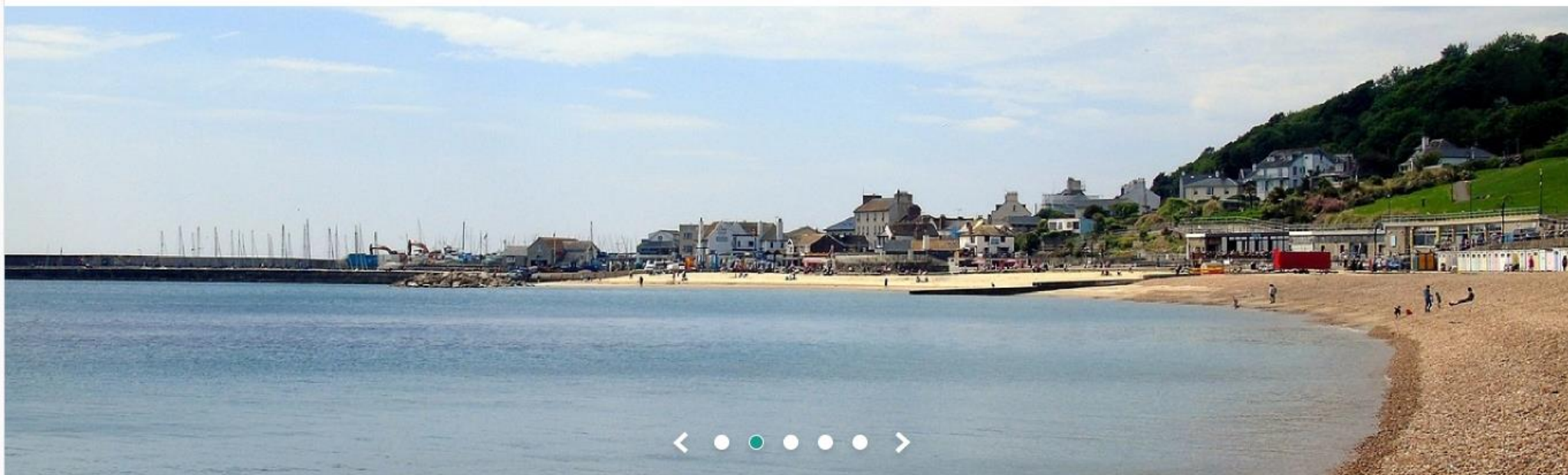
3. The support services manager has discussed the options with Blue Level and three designs have been produced, which has used up one hour of the 'bank' support time. Each hour costs £75 + VAT.
4. The three options for changes to the navigation are at **appendix 9A**.
5. Both Blue Level and officers would suggest option 3 is the best solution as it keeps all the navigation together but also utilises the white space above to show contact and social media information.
6. To implement these changes, it would use around five hours of our support time, a total cost of £375 + VAT. This expenditure has effectively already been made as we purchase a bank of 10 hours of support time.
7. If members are supportive of making these changes to the website, it is unlikely to be implemented until after Christmas. Although the technical changes could be made almost immediately, it will take time to populate the new environment section with the relevant information.
8. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 27 October 2021.

Adrienne Mullins  
Support services manager  
October 2021

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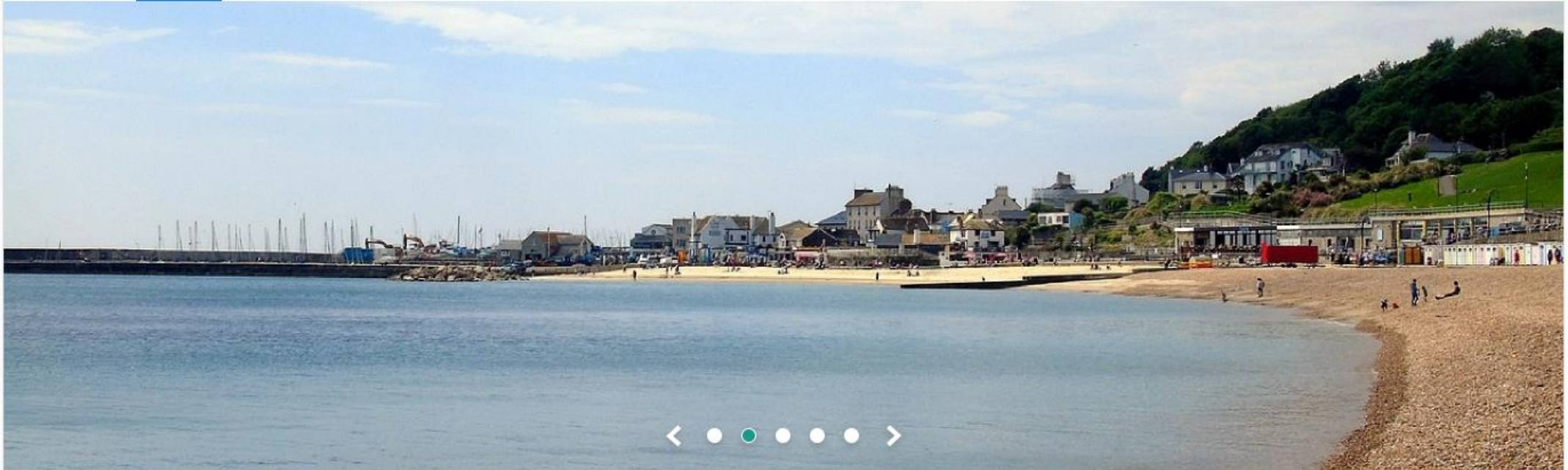


# Lyme Regis Town Council

Working collaboratively to enhance the town's distinctive heritage and culture in a way that best services the interests of the residents, traders and visitors that make up the





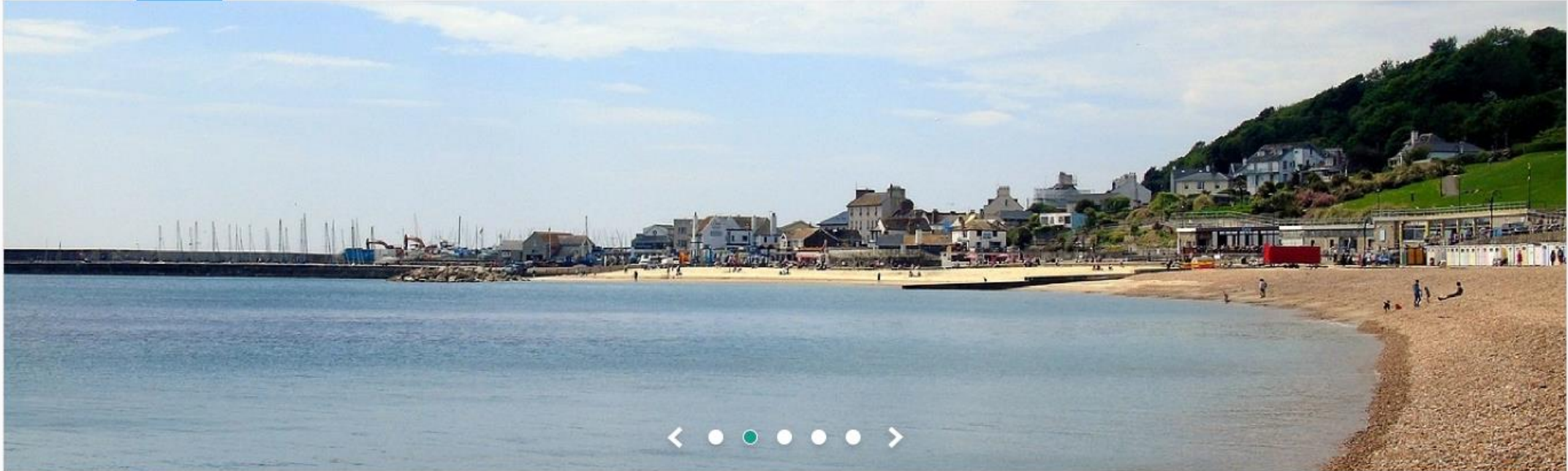
# Lyme Regis Town Council

Working collaboratively to enhance the town's distinctive heritage and culture in a way that best services the interests of the residents, traders and visitors that make up the

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## Lyme Regis Town Council

Working collaboratively to enhance the town's distinctive heritage and culture in a way that best services the interests of the residents, traders and visitors that make up the



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 6 October 2021

**Title:** Food Waste to Living Soil Project

**Purpose of the Report**

To allow members to consider the Food Waste to Living Soil Project

**Recommendation**

Members consider supporting the food waste to living soil project by allowing the use of an area of Langmoor and Lister gardens for composting and underwriting the cost of the project

**Background**

1. This project was first considered by the Full Council on 28 July 2021, when it was resolved ‘to allow Dorset Biosolutions to further scope out the trial of the Food Waste to Living Soil project, and to support it in principle, subject to further details being taken to the Environment Committee’.

**Report**

2. Cllr Bawden and the operations manager met with Emma Greenwood, Grovlav Global (and Dorset Biosolutions), and Richard Higgins, Good Gardeners International, on 10 September in the Langmoor and Lister Gardens.
3. Emma Greenwood is interested in organising and managing a food waste to living soil composting project in the Langmoor and Lister Gardens. The project involves taking food waste and turning it into compost by a unique process - developed by Richard Higgins - using water, straw, ash, soil, air and manure – a process similar to hot composting. The compost product produced will be used on the gardens.
4. They will need an area to accommodate the process; two 1m concrete pads for the composting bins. They will also need 10x 140ltr wheelie bins, a 770ltr wheelie bin, a 8' x 6' shed, a weather shelter to cover the hot compost boxes and signage. Waste from public litter bins will be brought to the site by town council staff and deposited in the large bin as part of their usual litter duties. Grovlav Global staff will sort the waste and manage the composting process daily.
5. Rather than hide the site as might be expected, the proposal is to choose a site visible to the public with signage about the project. The initiative would encourage public engagement and learning with Grovlav Global staff explaining the process in person and with signage to passers-by and visiting groups.
6. The lawn below the bottom path, below the circular flower display bed, is proposed – see the location plan at **appendix 10A**.

7. Approximate capital costs are £2,500. The project organisers will arrange fundraising but would like the council to underwrite the project if the funds cannot be raised by April 2022. There would also be a requirement for council staff to build the concrete pads and construct the shed on site.
8. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 27 October 2021.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
October 2021



# Food Waste to Living Soil project Site



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 6 October 2021

**Title:** Water Quality on the River Lim

**Purpose of the Report**

To inform members about water quality on the River Lim

**Recommendation**

Members note the report

**Background**

1. Cllr Daryl Turner has requested that the Environment Agency (EA) and South West Water (SWW) investigate the regular outflow pollution into the River Lim near Woodmead Road bridge.

**Report**

2. Dorset Council (DC) requested that the operations manager put up some temporary signs downstream from the pollution location on the river at the end of August to highlight the issue to the public.
3. SWW have engaged contractors who started on 1 September and are undertaking surveys at relevant properties to ascertain if misconnections are arising. The EA are also undertaking their own investigations.
4. Due to the ongoing investigations, DC created more permanent signage which LRTC staff displayed on DC's behalf on 13 September 2021.
5. DC have requested of SWW and the EA that they are kept updated as the formal part of resolving misconnections (unsatisfactory drainage) may fall to DC to serve notice.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 27 October 2021.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
October 2021

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 6 October 2021

**Title:** Bathing Water Classification Gap 2020

**Purpose of the Report**

To inform members of a letter from the Environment Agency about the bathing water classification gap in 2020

**Recommendation**

Members note the report

**Background**

1. Due to the pandemic, the Environment Agency (EA) had difficulty in assessing bathing water during 2020. This gap not only affected 2020 data but has an affect going forward as bathing water assessments are made by assessing historical data using a four-year rolling dataset.
2. LRTC received the external briefing report in December 2020 at **appendix 12A**. In the briefing it explains the detail of how the 2020 data gap will be dealt with for that year.

**Report**

3. The most recent letter from the Environment Agency received in August 2021 is at **appendix 12B**. This details how the data gap will be managed going forward.
4. Members should also note that the responsibility for updating the bathing water quality notice board at the harbour has been passed from the town council back to Dorset Council harbour staff.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 27 October 2021.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
October 2021

# Bathing Water Classifications 2020

Summary: the Coronavirus pandemic impacted bathing water sampling during 2020. Because of this, English bathing waters will not be classified for 2020 and an official statistic will not be produced.

A decision on how to take account of this break in monitoring for future classifications will be made in the New Year.

## Background

The Coronavirus pandemic severely affected our ability to take bathing water samples this year. Following government's advice, we avoided non-essential travel and maintained social distancing by pausing all routine monitoring, including bathing waters, to prevent the spread of the virus.

Following the lifting of lockdown restrictions, monitoring at bathing waters was assigned the highest priority and a limited programme of monitoring was carried out starting at the end of July. The results of the water quality sampling were made available to members of the public via our website: [www.gov.uk/quality-of-local-bathing-water](http://www.gov.uk/quality-of-local-bathing-water).

Throughout the bathing season daily pollution risk forecasts were made at sites with a new, more accurate forecasting system, introduced this year. This system covers over 170 bathing waters and allowed bathers to avoid periods when the weather, or tides make a temporary reduction in water quality more likely.

## Monitoring restart

A limited programme of monitoring was carried out during the second half of the bathing season, covering a period of 10 weeks. Due to government advice to maintain social distancing, the capacity of our laboratory was also affected, limiting the number of samples that could be analysed. Social distancing guidelines also meant it wasn't possible to sample all locations, particularly those with narrow access paths that didn't allow a safe social distance to be maintained.

At a limited number of high-priority sites, weekly sampling was scheduled between the end of July and September. At the majority of bathing waters, it was only possible to take one sample per month from July, August and September.

In total, approximately 1400 samples were taken this year compared to a normal season when around 7000 samples would be taken.

## Impact on classifications

The absence of samples from the first half of the season, and the reduced number of samples taken during the second half, means the data collected is not representative of the range of water quality across a bathing season and would give a misleading quality assessment. Because of this, a decision was made at ministerial level not to classify bathing waters this season. Since there is no

classification, there also won't be an official statistic (used to track changes in bathing water quality between years) produced for England this year.

### Impact on future classifications

The 2020 data gap will need to be taken account of in future classifications. A decision will need to be made on the best way forward for this early in the New Year.

### Impact on bathing waters with consecutive Poor classifications

The impact of no classification in 2020 for those bathing waters that have consecutive Poor classifications is that count will be reset in 2021. This means that the earliest a bathing water could be de-designated due to five consecutive Poor classifications is 2026.

### Communicating this year's decision on classifications

As we currently only have a decision on this year's classifications, we are updating you via this briefing note. We recognise that there will be many questions around how future classifications will be made. We propose to schedule a National Bathing Water Group meeting in the New Year to discuss this.

In terms of communicating the decision to the public, a short update will be published on the statistics page on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and people will be signposted to a [blog](#) for more information.

### Bathing water profiles and signage

Since no classification will be produced for 2020, the most recent classification will still be from 2019. This will continue to be displayed on the bathing water profiles, which will need to be updated to explain why this is the case.

Further decisions are needed on how best to communicate the absence of 2020 classifications on bathing water signage.

### Blue Flag and Seaside Awards

Since the Blue Flag and Seaside Awards schemes use Environment Agency sampling data and classifications as part of their criteria, these awards may need to be modified to take the gap in monitoring and classifications into account by their awarding bodies.





**Ref:** EA  
**Date:** 18 August 2021

Dear All,

## **Dealing with the Bathing Water classification gap from 2020**

### **Introduction**

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdown in spring 2020 prevented the Environment Agency from being able to take the bathing water samples needed to make a compliant classification in 2020. Following the lifting of lockdown restrictions, a limited programme of sampling resumed, but for most bathing waters, three or less samples were taken during the second half of the season.

In consultation with the Environment Agency, Minister Pow took the decision not to produce a classification for 2020.

Since a bathing water classification requires and uses up to a 4-year rolling dataset, the 2020 data gap needs to be taken into consideration for future classifications until 2023.

### **2020 sampling**

Government restrictions meant no bathing water sampling was carried out between May and mid-July. When the lifting of restrictions meant sampling could resume, it was not possible to collect samples from 32 bathing waters as safe social distancing could not be maintained. For most of the remaining sites, only one sample was taken per month; July, August and September, and some of these were missed (three or less samples). At 46 bathing waters that were identified as priority waters, weekly sampling was programmed, but this was not possible to achieve at all sites.

This means that samples taken in 2020 only cover the latter half of the bathing water season and don't include a pre-season sample. At all but a few sites, very few samples were taken at all.

### **Considerations**

Since bathing water classifications use data from the current year and the three previous bathing seasons, a decision is needed on how to handle the data gap from 2020, for this year and future classifications. The Bathing Water Regulations 2013 do not provide a solution to this issue, yet a decision is needed to take account of the exceptional circumstances from 2020 to provide classifications for bathing waters in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

There is a strong seasonal influence on bathing water quality – it is typically best early in the season and worse later on due to the weather, particularly rainfall. Were the 2020 samples used in any future classification, these would introduce a seasonal bias since the whole season would not be represented, and because the 2020 data set only includes a few samples for the vast majority of bathing waters, we would also expect an element of random change to be introduced to the dataset without justification. **For this reason, the Environment Agency**

**does not feel it is appropriate to include any of the 2020 samples in future classifications**

**Proposed way forward**

The Environment Agency proposes to use the most recent four years with sample data from the previous five seasons to make future classifications and exclude the 2020 data. This ensures that all bathing waters will contain the minimum 16 samples usually needed to make a compliant classification.

This would mean the 2021 bathing water classification would use data from 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021. Future classifications would use this convention until 2023. After this period classifications would revert to normal using the most recent four classifications as specified in the Regulations.

This is our preferred way forward, but if you are aware of any issues or complications that this will cause, please let us know and we will consider before we make our final decision.

Please let Jonathan Ponting ([Jonathan.ponting@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.ponting@environment-agency.gov.uk)) have any comments by 1 September 2021.

Yours sincerely



**Helen Wakeham**

Deputy Director - Water Quality, Groundwater & Land Contamination

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 6 October 2021

**Title:** Dorset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan

**Purpose of the Report**

To allow members to consider the Dorset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan

**Recommendation**

Members bring any issues with rights of way, paths and bridleways in Lyme Regis to the attention of the operations manager to be able to inform Dorset Council

**Background**

1. The current Dorset Council (DC) Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) runs out in 2021 so is under review. The review will be informed through an assessment process which involves evidence gathering, research and consultation.

**Report**

2. DC's delivery timetable is as follows:

**May and December 2021:**

Evaluate the current RoWIP assessment and action plan

Relevance / Achievements / Updates / Barriers

Carry out research and information gathering

Analyse asset condition and character

Analyse available data and information

Identify the current management, maintenance, issues, resources, SWOT

Gather evidence from organisations, groups and the public

Interpret research and information gathered and compare with current RoWIP

**January to February 2022:**

Draft the new RoWIP for 2022 to 2032

**March to June 2022:**

Public consultation on the new plan

Input consultation responses into the new plan

**July 2022:**

Seek approval of the new plan by the Dorset Council Cabinet, and if approved, publish the RoWIP for 2022 to 2032

3. DC's hope is that the new RoWIP will provide an improved and effective outdoor access network benefiting a range of social, economic, and environmental issues that affect our lives today and in the future.
4. DC hopes the network can help to:
  - Reduce carbon emissions
  - Enable people to walk, ride and cycle and reduce car journeys
  - Contribute to green infrastructure in both rural and urban areas
  - Provide local path networks where people can enjoy the outdoors, and meet members of their community
  - Provide easy access to greenspace to aid health and wellbeing
  - Protect the natural environment and landscape through sensitive land management
  - Conserve and protect paths and their infrastructure, preserving the local character of Dorset
  - Ensure Dorset is an attractive place to live and work
  - Improve tourism in the area by providing well maintained greenspace for leisure activities
  - Support agriculture and local farmers and land-owners
  - Support conservation and forestry work and education in these areas
  - Build valuable greenspace corridors for people and wildlife
  - Enable all residents and visitors in Dorset to access and enjoy the countryside
5. There are a number of rights of way, paths and bridleways across Lyme Regis that will form part of this review. Members are encouraged to bring any issues to the attention of the operations manager to be able to inform DC.
6. For further information, Tara Hansford, DC's outside access development coordinator, is co-ordinating the RoWIP project. Contact details are available through the operations manager.
7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 27 October 2021.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
October 2021

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 6 October 2021

**Title:** The Climate and Environmental Emergency - what is it and why we must act now

**Purpose of the Report:**

To inform members about the significance of the climate and environmental emergency and provide information about current national and international level developments

**Recommendations:**

Members note the report

**Background**

1. Scientists have been warning for decades about the importance of our shared inheritance on earth and how precious life on our planet is.
2. Politicians have been slow to listen but some have been voicing concerns about irretrievable damage to the atmosphere, oceans and earth itself. The UK has been a leading expert and [Margaret Thatcher's speech to the UN Assembly in 1989](#) highlighted that mankind's activities are changing the climate and environment in dangerous and irreversible ways.
3. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established in 1988 to advise policymakers with regular scientific assessments on the current state of knowledge on climate change.
4. The UK government was the first country to pass a [Climate Change Act](#) in 2008 to formalise the UK's approach to tackling climate change, both mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation.
  - The Act created the independent Climate Change Committee (CCC). The CCC tries to ensure the Net Zero carbon target by 2050 remains in focus and kept this aim separate from political fluctuations.
  - The Act puts in place a rolling cycle of statutory national risk assessments and a resulting Adaptation Programme that must address the risks.

**Recent responses**

5. The [sixth IPCC Report](#) was published on 6 August 2021, reporting '[Climate change - widespread, rapid and intensifying](#)'
6. The UN Secretary General described the report as a '[Code Red for Humanity](#)'.
7. The [CCC Adaptation Report](#) published on 24 June 2021 reported that in England:

*"Only five of 34 sectors assessed have shown notable progress in the past two years, and no sector is yet scoring highly in lowering its level of risk."*
8. The [Sixth Carbon Budget](#) was published in April 2021 and the UK government committed to implementing its recommendations in full, including cutting emissions by almost 80% by 2035.

9. The scale of the task to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at this scale and pace is immense and will involve huge change for everyone.
10. The town council has to decide what it is able to do not just to decarbonise its own operations but the role it has to play in leading and supporting our residents, business community and visitors to be a part of the engagement process and shape the future in ways which will improve our health, well-being and stake in the community.

Cllr Belinda Bawden  
Chairman  
October 2021

Further background:

West Country Bylines articles on the 'Politics of Climate Change'

<https://westcountrybylines.co.uk/politics-of-climate-change/>

<https://westcountrybylines.co.uk/climate-change-what-we-can-do/>

<https://westcountrybylines.co.uk/code-red-for-humanity/>

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 6 October 2021

**Title:** Carbon Literacy Training for Members

### **Purpose of the Report**

To inform members of the planned Carbon Literacy training as part of the national pilot for town and parish councillors

### **Recommendation**

Members note the report

### **Background**

1. The Carbon Literacy Project is developing a free to use Toolkit for Parish and Town Councils, enabling councillors to be engaged and trained in a day's worth of action-based learning, to prepare them for their responsibilities in addressing climate change.
2. To ensure the Toolkit resonates with learners and is effective at driving low carbon change, parish and town councillors are needed to trial and test the materials before they are publicly launched.
3. LRTC agreed to undertake Carbon Literacy training in 2020. DAPTC proposed a programme for all Dorset town and parish councils to Dorset Council (DC) so it made sense to await this funded package but it is not a priority item for DC.
4. The Carbon Literacy Project offered Cllr Bawden the chance to deliver the pilot Toolkit for Parish and Town Councils as part of its preparation for a subsequent national launch and a major training event on 1 November 2021, the first day of COP26.

### **Report**

5. [The Carbon Literacy Project](#) offers every citizen a day's worth of Carbon Literacy training. It provides people with the knowledge to understand the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities, as well as the ability and motivation to reduce emissions and tackle climate change, on an individual, community and organisational basis.
6. The Carbon Literacy Project was recognised by the United Nations at the COP21 climate negotiations in 2015 as one of 100 'Transformative Actions Projects' worldwide that could materially change the way we deal with climate change.

### **The Carbon Literacy Toolkit for Parish and Town Councils**

7. The Toolkit will ensure councillors develop an awareness of which actions will have the greatest impact in achieving net zero emissions and will provide them with the knowledge and skills to cascade and embed environmentally sustainable and socially responsible values.



8. In a day's worth of interactive learning, councillors will:
- Learn about
    - a) direct council emissions, and
    - b) emissions under councillors' influence; and how they can address both.
  - Gain an understanding of the basic science of climate change, how climate change will affect us both globally and locally and the scale of the challenge ahead
  - Create an action plan to help reduce the carbon footprint of their local area
  - Gain an understanding of how to mobilise change
  - Be empowered to make informed everyday low carbon choices
  - Explore strategies for influencing others to take action on climate change
9. Learners need to fill out an action pledge form and pre and post course evaluation forms. 10-15 learners of similar seniority is ideal for the pilot and eight are needed to accredit the council as Carbon Literacy trained. The Toolkit is free to use for certified Carbon Literacy Training within parish and town councils, but there is a £10 certificate application fee per participant.
10. Carbon Literacy is the accreditation body. The training to councils will be delivered on a peer-to-peer basis.
11. LRTC would be a leading pioneer for Carbon Literacy within our sector and the Carbon Literacy Project will be more than happy to acknowledge our council's involvement in the piloting process.
12. Dates proposed for the training are:
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October afternoon/evening
  - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October afternoon/evening
  - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 9am – 5pm
  - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 9am – 5pm
13. Members are encouraged to attend this training to show commitment to approaching the council's environmental ambitions and the declared climate emergency.
14. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 27 October 2021.

Cllr Belinda Bawden  
Chairman  
October 2021