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Town Clerk

Lyme Regis Town Council

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Environment Committee

Core Membership: Cllr B. Bawden (chairman), Cllr R. Smith (vice-chairman), Cllr J. Broom, Cllr K. Ellis, Cllr B. Larcombe MBE, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, 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 24 November 2021 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
18.11.21

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. **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

2. **Apologies**

To receive and record apologies and reasons for absence

3. Minutes

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 6 October 2021

4. 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.

5. Dispensations

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

6. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 October 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.

7. Update Report

8. Environment Agency – Coastal Flooding

To receive a presentation from Dave Picksley, senior coastal advisor for the Environment Agency, on potential coastal flooding due to climate change, particularly at Monmouth Beach

9. Lyme Regis Town Council Achieving Carbon Literate Organisation Status

To allow members to approve the town council working towards Carbon Literacy accreditation as an organisation, following the training delivery on Thursday 28 October 2021 as part of the pilot of the toolkit for town and parish councillors

10. UN Conference of Parties 26, Glasgow – Update

To inform members about developments at the UN Conference of Parties 26 held in Glasgow in November 2021

11. Exempt Business

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021

Present

Chairman: Cllr B. Bawden

Members: Cllr J. Broom, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr R. Smith and Cllr G. Stammers,

Officers: M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), E. Pawsey (senior administrative assistant)

21/14/ENV Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers that Cllr R. Smith is vice chairman of the Environment Committee.

There being no other nominations, Cllr R. Smith was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

21/15/ENV Public Forum

N. Ball (read out by an officer)

N. Ball spoke in relation to agenda item 10, Food Waste to Living Soil Project. He said he believed this project should not go ahead and council staff should not be involved. He said the only composting that should be done was green waste management and compost bins could be built in another area of gardens, rather than the proposed site. N. Ball said green waste need not be taken anywhere off site and he asked the council to consider his comments to avoid unsightly waste management sites in the public amenity space.

V. Elcoate

V. Elcoate said she had concerns with the pollution in the River Lym, which was first noticed by Cllr Daryl Turner in August. She said signs had been put up but she was concerned with them being permanent. She said she had contacted South West Water (SWW) and the Environment Agency (EA) to find out what action they were taking; both of their responses were very unsatisfactory, and they were only monitoring the beach. V. Elcoate said Turn Lyme Green would like to set up a monitoring project with the support of South West River Trust, who supported communities to make sure their rivers were cleaned up. She said they would monitor the water regularly, set up several monitoring points along the river, and the Rivers Trust would collect the data. V. Elcoate said she would like the support of the council to help with funding the six required testing kits at £25 each. She said Turn Lyme Green could fundraise, but this was an opportunity for the town council to show its support. V. Elcoate said she would continue to pressure SWW and EA to get some answers.

21/16/ENV Apologies

Cllr B. Larcombe MBE – personal commitment
Cllr C. Reynolds
Cllr D. Ruffle – illness
Cllr T. Webb
Cllr S. Williams – illness

21/17/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2021, were **ADOPTED**.

21/18/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

21/19/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

21/20/ENV Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 7 July 2021

Queen's Green Canopy

Cllr D. Sarson said he was on a walk in the cemetery when one of the gardeners pointed out that the tree roots were lifting the tarmac in several places so it might not be a good idea to plant trees there.

The operations manager said the council could plant trees in other areas. He agreed the tree roots were causing damage to both the path and drains in the cemetery and at some point, the council would have to do major work to the road and reinstate the drains. He said trees would not be able to be planted there in the future and would have to be planted in another area of the cemetery which would mean a reduction of burial plots.

The operations manager was asked to choose another location in the cemetery for trees to be planted.

Cllr G. Stammers asked if the council could plant trees with less invasive roots.

The operations manager said they could and there were areas, other than the cemetery, where the trees could be planted.

Japanese Knotweed

Cllr G. Stammers asked if the operations manager was dealing with the knotweed.

The operations manager said the gardeners now had the injecting kit to deal with it.

21/21/ENV Update Report

Lyme Regis energy scheme

Cllr B. Bawden said the Lyme Regis energy scheme (Dorset Community Energy, DCE) had done an investigation on buildings using energy, including the Boat Building Academy and St Michaels Primary school, and concluded that not enough energy was being used for DCE to get involved. She said individual buildings could get involved but it would not be done collectively and grant applications could be done on an individual basis.

Our Future Town

Cllr B. Bawden said the community engagement on Our Future Town would now be postponed to start in the new year. She said there was a National Lottery grant for climate action if the council applied for this, the Royal College of Art would be able to develop their toolkit and if not, the council could just go ahead and do it itself.

Totally Locally

Cllr B. Bawden said Totally Locally was due to start on Saturday 9 October until 23 October. She said Totally Locally was a national campaign to support local independent businesses, which the council supported in February and October last year. Cllr Bawden said she sent the information out to local businesses and there had been a really good take up, especially from new businesses. Cllr Bawden said there would be free parking in Woodmead and Dorset Council car parks and the One Planet working group and Turn Lyme Green were going to split the cost of printing the map.

21/22/ENV Environment Information for the Town Council Website

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to use option 3 to add an environment tab to the town council website and to change the wording on the tab to Environment and not Environmental.

21/23/ENV Food Waste to Living Soil Project

The operations manager said the idea would be to have a showcase in the gardens with signage to show how to create compost from food wastage. He said there wouldn't be a large burden on town council staff in bringing waste from the seafront bins to this location as it was something staff already did, transferring waste to other bins for Dorset Waste Partnership to collect. He said once the waste had been deposited at the composting site, anything beyond that would be organised by Grolav.

The operations manager said more space and wheelie bins were needed than he was originally expecting, and consideration had also been given to levelling off areas and maybe canopying. He said he had been informed the process did not smell but they would be storing manure on the site.

The operations manager said that there seemed to be more to this project than originally anticipated and it would cost approximately £2,500 to £3,000 to set up. He said in the future, he wasn't sure if Grolav would continue with the project or whether the council would have to take over.

Cllr J. Broom said he didn't believe Langmoor Gardens was the right place for a waste transfer system and he suggested Strawberry Field as an alternative. He was concerned the project hadn't been costed properly and the concept had grown beyond the original request.

The operations manager said Grovlav was going to find the funding and just wanted the council to underwrite it.

Cllr J. Broom suggested the council underwrote half the amount, i.e. £1,250.

Cllr R. Smith said although he supported the idea, he didn't think Langmoor Gardens was the right location. He said he would not want to match fund anything more than £1,500 and that the council would need a lot more detail.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the operations manager speaks to Cliff Powley to enquire if Strawberry Fields was a suitable site for the Food Waste to Living Soil Project and if so, approach Grovlav to get more explicit and costed details, to understand the visual impact and ask them to commence the fundraising.

21/24/ENV Water Quality on the River Lym

The operations manager said the only input this council had was to put up some signs, at first for just a day, and then more permanent signage. He said this request came from Cllr D. Turner via the Environment department at Dorset Council (DC).

Cllr D. Sarson commended V. Elcoate for the work she was doing. He said as SWW and the EA had not come up with a solution or an indication of where the sewage was coming from, it was not up to the council to chase up.

Cllr R. Smith said the council should fund the testing packs, as referred to by V. Elcoate in the public forum.

Cllr B. Bawden agreed the council should buy the testing kits and suggested the council engaged with Uplyme Parish Council to also get involved.

Cllr J. Broom asked what the council was going to gain from it and what it would do with the information.

Cllr B. Bawden said the council would get better information about the quality of the water and could then report the results to SWW and the EA.

Cllr J. Broom said they water quality was not going to improve until it was determined which properties were connected to the overflow pipe instead of the sewer. He said SWW was the responsible authority and that is where the council should be going for information.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council writes to South West Water to express its concerns about water quality in the River Lym.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr J. Broom, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to match fund the cost of water quality monitoring packs up to £75.

21/25/ENV Bathing Water Classification Gap 2020

Members noted the report.

21/26/ENV Dorset Council Rights of Way

Cllr B. Bawden said if lost paths and previous rights of way were not identified and reclaimed within the next five years, the opportunity to do that would be lost. She asked what the council could do about this and whether there were areas in our town affected.

The operations manager said Dorset Council had a ranger who checked the paths and they should check all the officially numbered footpaths.

Cllr B. Bawden asked if there were any in Lyme Regis that should be campaigned to maintain.

The operations manager said he was pleased DC was doing this as one of the issues in Lyme was Footpath 12 (Stile Lane) where the path was slipping and the tarmac was breaking up. He said this part of Footpath 12 was owned by the town council but was a named footpath, which DC was responsible for.

Cllr J. Broom suggested the operations manager contacted local resident Ken Gollop as he would know where the paths were.

Cllr B. Bawden said the ramblers map showed potentially lost footpaths.

Cllr R. Smith said there were other paths that were not on the ordnance survey map.

It was agreed the operations manager would contact Ken Gollop for further information on the footpaths in Lyme Regis.

21/27/ENV The Climate and Environmental Emergency – What is it and why we must act now

Members noted the report.

21/28/ENV Carbon Literacy Training for Members

Cllr B. Bawden introduced and explained the report and the background information.

Members noted the report.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Committee: Environment

Date: 24 November 2021

Title: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 October 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

21/20/ENV – Queen’s Green Canopy

Work has begun to be able to plant an arboretum as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative at the site between the amenities area and Cobb Road. Some felling has been required at this stage but the plan has more replacement trees being planted than existed.

21/21/ENV – Our Future Town – RCA Project

The Lyme Regis Development Trust is leading the next phase of the Future Town community engagement to develop a series of ‘Community Conversations’ to discover the residents’ vision for the town for a Net Zero 2030 and beyond.

A team of up to 12 trained facilitators is being recruited to run ‘Community Conversations’ in different locations at different times to listen to a wide range of voices, including the less mobile, socially isolated and young people.

There are specific focuses to find out about housing needs and access and movement. The housing feedback will inform a programme of Home Energy support to offer advice on insulation and ventilation, as well as switching to renewable sources of energy and advising on any grants, loans and planning constraints (48% of the town’s territorial emissions are from housing). Information on people’s access and movement needs and constraints could shape future transport planning and identify priorities for different measures e.g. school streets, Active Travel facilities and improved public transport services and connections to other modes of travel.

21/22/ENV – Environment Information for the Town Council Website

Cllr Bawden and Cllr Smith will liaise with the web manager about content and structure for the environment webpages which are expected to go live in January.

21/23/ENV – Food Waste to Living Soil Project

The operations manager contacted the landowner of Strawberry Field about conducting the project in the field, but he was not content that it would be in the spirit of the lease covenants. Consequently, the operations manager contacted Emma Greenwood of Dorset BioSolutions, to explain that the council would not support the project going ahead in the gardens and that Strawberry Field was also not an option.

21/24/ENV – Water Quality on the River Lim

The operations manager contacted Dorset Council (DC) ward member Cllr Daryl Turner about the pollution. He said that South West Water (SWW) had investigated the reported outflow but they had not confirmed if they had dealt with the issue.

The operations manager wrote to SWW on 12 November 2011 to be able to confirm where they were with their investigation and to understand when water quality bathing signs might be removed and offer information from water sampling that members of Turn Lyme Green were beginning to undertake.

The operations manager also met with DC officers from environmental protection on 12 November 2021 at Woodmead Road bridge and discussed the river pollution. The pipe that was discharging into the river had been removed and there was nothing flowing into the river at that location.

Turn Lyme Green have had a training session on water quality sampling recently.

Matt Adamson-Drage Cllr Belinda Bawden
Operations manager Chairman
November 2021

Committee: Environment

Date: 24 November 2021

Title: Update Report

Purpose of the Report

To inform members about progress on significant environmental developments

Report

Additional Committee Members (non-voting)

Council agreed to co-opt up to six additional committee members from the local community/community groups to this committee. A public invitation for expressions of interest will be published shortly for the Environment Committee. No more than two members from the same community group will be allowed to join the committee. These members will not have voting rights but in all other respects may engage fully in the debate at committee meetings.

Co-Cars Electric Hire Car Scheme

The operations manager is in the process of setting up a meeting with Co-Cars to commence operating a Co-Car Electric Hire Car scheme from Woodmead car park.

Charmouth Road Allotments

In 2020, Dorset Council commissioned WPA Environmental to undertake exploratory intrusive investigation works and a risk assessment survey to establish if there was a contamination linkage between the closed landfill site at Spittles Lane and the Charmouth Road allotments.

WPA Environmental found there wasn't any contamination linkage from the closed landfill site to the allotments but reported contamination within the allotments' land area. This included the presence of lead in land surface soils along the northern and eastern boundaries of the allotments.

WPA Environmental's report stated there was no evidence to suggest the allotment site could be determined as contaminated under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 but stated the linkages should be further investigated.

On 22 December 2020, the town clerk commissioned WPA Environmental to undertake a desktop lead risk assessment for the town council on the Charmouth Road allotments to assess ground quality conditions and to provide the council with an opinion on the risk to human health posed by lead levels reported along the northern and eastern boundaries of the allotments site.

The desktop report was received on 30 March 2021 and reported to the meeting of the Town Management and Highways Committee on 28 April 2021. The report came with some qualifications but contained the statement that *'WPA Environmental do not consider the allotments contaminated under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990' and that 'There is no evidence to suggest that the amount of lead, which users of the allotments and their families might ingest through different exposure pathways, would represent an unacceptable intake of the contaminant in addition to other likely environmental sources.'*

Members noted the report.

Part of the agreed arrangements between Dorset Council and WPA Environmental was that they would carry out additional testing and monitoring of the landfill, landslip and beach area on an annual basis. An annual review has been undertaken and the findings shared with this council. The report is lengthy and complex but there is no suggestion that any of the earlier conclusions or findings in respect of the allotment site are changed in any way.

With regard to the landslip and beach area, Dorset Council's environmental health officer dealing with this matter comments: *'The conclusions are very similar to previous years' reports, and do not necessitate any significant change to our current strategy for managing the former landfill.*

It is worth noting that Dorset Council's Waste Team has undertaken a clearance of physical detritus since the sampling and observational visits were made by WPA; Waste and EH officers continue to monitor this aspect on an approximately fortnightly basis.'

A full copy of the most recent WPA report is available in electronic form on request.

Lyme Regis Development Trust – Community Energy Champions

Lyme Regis Development Trust are investigating an opportunity to train community Energy Champions with the Centre for Sustainable Energy if funding can be found (£500 per person) who will then be able to give energy advice to their friends and neighbours in their community to help them be more energy efficient and reduce their carbon emissions, save on their bills and keep warm. As an example, Bridport Town Council have published an information sheet on their scheme, **appendix 7A**.

Updates from Community Organisations

Members of any local community organisations present at the meeting will be asked if they wish to update the committee on their initiatives. A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for each organisation to present to the committee.

Matt Adamson-Drage Cllr Belinda Bawden
Operations manager Chairman
November 2021



Bridport Energy Champions

Empowering the Bridport community to create a fair, affordable, zero carbon energy system with local people at its heart.

As part of our Energy Efficiency campaign, Bridport Town Council are looking for **energy champions** to support Bridport households in making the radical reductions in home carbon emissions necessary to avoid runaway climate change, as well as tackle local fuel poverty. Energy Champions will receive training and ongoing support from our partners, the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

What is an Energy Champion? An Energy Champion is someone who gives energy advice to their friends and neighbours in their community to help them be more energy efficient and reduce their carbon emissions, save on their bills and keep warm.

Why is it important? We know from behavioural research and experience that people are more likely to change their behaviours if they receive advice from someone local; a person they know, trust and can relate to. We see local people as key to engaging with the community and central to Bridport's journey to net zero.

By being an Energy Champion you will:

- Help tackle climate change by encouraging others to be more energy efficient
- Help others in need in your area to save money on their energy bills and signpost them to get more help
- Develop new knowledge and skills to add to your CV through experience and further training



If you'd like to register your interest - please email:



Energy Champion examples

Bristol Energy Network Energy Champions

Bristol Energy Network have recruited and trained Energy Champions to support projects in various parts of Bristol. The vision for this initiative is for every neighbourhood in Bristol to have a local person to turn to for energy advice, a person who would champion energy saving in their community. The champions have been involved in lots of different activities including conducting energy efficiency surveys, teaching others to construct solar panels, carried out research, provided advice and support.



Wigan Community Energy Champions

The programme recruited and upskilled 16 volunteers from fuel poverty hotspots across Wigan, acting as connectors who could provide energy advice and support to households who are hard to reach. Energy Champions were offered training on fuel poverty and health, energy and fuel debt. The training also gave the champions an understanding of professional support available, such as wider welfare and lifestyle services, along with how to refer people to them. The Energy Champions supported 469 residents with important energy advice and referrals for other support.

Crow Energy Pop-up cafe

In June 2014, a community group in Sussex organised some Energy Café pop-ups in partnership with Wealden District Council. They ran two events where they helped residents by offering advice on how to cut bills, tips on switching suppliers, advice on energy efficiency and offered freebies! As part of its Affordable Warmth scheme, the council here was supporting a community energy advice scheme.



Circle Housing Resident Energy Champions

Circle Housing, a social housing provider in London, run a 'Resident Energy Champions' programme, operating across all of its housing. Residents were trained so that they can engage with other residents on energy issues and provide tips about how to keep the heat in and save money. There is now a network of around 50 energy champions who attended the training and organise events in their communities. Champions spread the word through distributing 'top tips' sheets at coffee mornings, running energy saving stalls at community events and giving talks to local groups about how to cut energy bills.

Committee: Environment

Date: 24 November 2021

Title: Lyme Regis Town Council Achieving Carbon Literate Organisation Status

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to approve the town council working towards Carbon Literacy accreditation as an organisation, following the training delivery on Thursday 28 October 2021 as part of the pilot of the toolkit for town and parish councillors

Recommendation

- a) Members approve the aim for the town council to work towards becoming a Carbon Literate organisation
- b) Members undertake to participate in the Carbon Literacy pilot scheme on Saturday 15 January 2021, with other neighbouring councillors, if they did not attend the day's worth of learning on 28 October 2021
- c) Officers and staff undertake training on two half day workshops and offer feedback on the training materials, pledging significant individual and group actions to reduce their carbon footprint to become accredited as Carbon Literate, in order to enable Lyme Regis Town Council to achieve Carbon Literate Organisation status

Background

1. The Carbon Literacy Project developed a toolkit for parish and town councils, enabling members to engage in a day's action-based learning, to prepare them for their responsibilities in addressing climate change.
2. This council agreed to undertake Carbon Literacy training in 2020. Cllr Bawden delivered the toolkit pilot for parish and town councils to councillors from Lyme Regis, Charmouth and Seaton councils and officers from Lyme and Dorchester town councils on 28 October 2021. She presented the feedback to a Carbon Literacy 'Sneak Peek' taster event at COP26 on 11 November 2021.
3. Adding another opportunity for a members' workshop and two half days for officers and staff to be trained and accredited will enable the town council to apply for a higher tier of the organisation-based Carbon Literacy accreditation. There are four levels of accreditation: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, as outlined in the report.

Report

4. [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.
5. 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

6. The feedback from those who took part in the workshop on 28 October 2021 was very positive. The workshop aimed to highlight actions which will have the greatest impact in achieving net zero emissions and provide councillors with the knowledge and skills to cascade and embed environmentally sustainable and socially responsible values.
7. Comments included:

“I went to the meeting slightly naïve regarding the urgency of the need to change our attitude to climate change, I came out at the end of the meeting convinced of the need to react now and not tomorrow.”

“I feel more informed and therefore more empowered.”

“Better informed is better equipped and the day was a good opportunity to meet others with the same interest in tackling this huge climate challenge.”
8. The toolkit provides a day’s worth of interactive learning, for councillors and officers to:
 - 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. 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.

Becoming a Carbon Literate Organisation

11. As well as certification for individuals, there is a certification pathway for organisations; the Carbon Literate Organisation accreditation scheme offers organisations a visible ‘badge’ that showcases their commitment to a low carbon culture.
12. There are more details on becoming a Carbon Literate Organisation on Carbon Literacy’s [Become a CLO webpage](#). From there you can download an information pack, which includes ‘The Carbon Literate Organisation Standard,’ which details all of the criteria for each level. The pack also includes an application form and document detailing the costs associated. Below is a brief overview of requirements related to each level of certification:

Bronze

- Have access to a Carbon Literacy course and actively rolling out training
- A board member/organisational leader is certified Carbon Literate

Silver

- Met and evidenced bronze level criteria
- A substantial percentage of the workforce are certified (what this means is outlined in more detail in the Standard. For example, for an organisation with over 26-99 workers, 20% need to be certified as Carbon Literate)
- Have Carbon Literacy integrated into the performance management and assessment systems of the organisation
- Have demonstrated visual promotion of your organisation's Carbon Literacy
- Publication of a one-page case study (template available)

Gold

- Met and evidenced silver level criteria
- The majority of the workforce are certified – more than 50%
- Plus two other requirements from a list, including networking with other Carbon Literate organisations or demonstration of advocacy

Platinum

- Met and evidenced gold level criteria
- Over 80% of the workforce are certified
- Plus, further actions such as networking or advocacy (detailed in the Standard)

13. This council would be a leading pioneer for Carbon Literacy within our sector and the Carbon Literacy Project will be more than happy to acknowledge and promote this.
14. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 15 December 2021.

Cllr Belinda Bawden
Chairman
November 2021

Committee: Environment

Date: 24 November 2021

Title: UN Conference of Parties 26, Glasgow – Update

Purpose of the Report

To inform members about developments at the UN Conference of Parties 26 held in Glasgow in November 2021

Recommendation

Members note the report

Report

1. Conference of Parties (COP) meetings are where members of the United Nations meet together each year (pandemics permitting) to discuss how to avert climate change and other environmental disasters such as bio-diversity loss. The process is long and slow. It draws on scientific reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which have been peer reviewed and agreed by member nations.
2. At COP-21, the Paris agreement was signed, where all nations agreed to limit global warming to 2C, with the aim to keep it to within 1.5C. COP-26 was where nations would present the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) after five years of work, to detail how they would achieve these targets.
3. 1.5C is important because it will prevent sea level rises from completely overwhelming low-lying island nations, and other populous areas such as much of Bangladesh. Above 2C, not only will low-lying nations be lost, 99% of coral reefs will die, a billion people will be subject to heat stress. As temperatures rise, so does the risk of positive feedback loops, where rising temperatures release more greenhouse gases (GHG), or reduce the Earth's ability to reflect sunlight – causing further warming and a possible cascade of such tipping points. At 4C, half the global population would be subject to heat stress – not to mention the extreme wildfires, droughts, floods, storms and famines we would experience.
4. I was lucky enough to be able to visit COP-26 in Glasgow, hosted by the UK and Italian governments. My visit was thanks being due to the local re-forestation charity The Word Forest Organisation. I had four days attending seminars and presentations and stands in the public "Green Zone".
5. COP-26 involved 40,000 registered participants, including UN Secretariat units, national delegations, specialised agencies, and Non-Governmental Organisations. It's not just national leaders hammering out policy with a few big-name speakers like David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg. Throughout the event, the public could book to attend films, presentations and panel discussions in "The Green Zone", and all around the city fringe events were organised – including a Fridays For The Future march of 40,000 on Friday, and a larger march of over 100,000 on Saturday.

The COP-26 Outcomes

6. The outcomes of the conference were a disappointment, but not a disaster. There were agreements to:
 - Reduce methane emissions (affecting mostly fossil fuel production, but perhaps farming). Because methane is a much more potent GHG than carbon dioxide, limiting methane will buy us a few more years to tackle CO₂.
 - Stop deforestation by 2030. There is some doubt this will be adhered to, since 2014 saw a similar treaty which had no effect. Over half the world's deforestation is illegal. Banning illegal activities has no effect.
7. Regrettably, wealthy countries delayed on their agreements to provide \$100B to developing countries to help with adaptation and transitioning to renewable energy. This is a lot of money – but is less than a quarter of the \$420B the world spends subsidising fossil fuels each year.
8. At the last minute, China and India demanded that the agreement to “phase out coal” be replaced by “phase down coal”, and “an end to subsidies for fossil fuels” be replaced with “an end to inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels”. China and India were prepared to sink the whole deal if they didn't get their last-minute amendments. Hopes of keeping global temperature rise to 1.5C are in jeopardy.
9. The consolations are:
 - The NDCs presented at the start of the conference were calculated to only limit warming to 2.7C. But negotiations brought stronger commitments of 2.4C. To bridge the gap to 1.5C, countries should now need to report annually on revised targets to cut emissions, rather than every five years.
 - No one is denying climate change – those arguments are done.
 - 1.5C is the target, rather than 2C with 1.5C as an aspiration.

What will COP-26 mean for Lyme Regis?

10. COP-26 will have some effects on life on Lyme Regis:
 - In the short term, the immediate effect of COP-26 will be wider public knowledge of environmental issues.
 - With increased demands for electrification of cars and heating, there will be more demands on Lyme's creaking electricity infrastructure, which will need to be upgraded.
 - More people may be looking for lower carbon holidays and will be coming to Lyme rather than flying abroad.
 - To meet emission targets, the UK government might fund schemes to improve the energy efficiency of homes, and support for low carbon transport.
11. In the short term, climate change will affect us:
 - Warmer weather could encourage more people to visit the coast to escape the heat, or perhaps not travel abroad where it will be too hot or affected by wildfires.
 - Changes in rainfall patterns may cause ground instability, as recently seen in Canada.
 - Older people will be adversely impacted by increased heat.

12. In the long-term COP-26 guarantees nothing. The atmosphere does not respond to pledges, it responds to our actions. Governments will act in response to voter demand, and companies will respond to customer pressure.
13. As a world, we are still way below what is needed. There is only a small *carbon* budget left (the amount of GHG that can be put in the atmosphere before warming exceed 1.5C). This carbon budget would easily be spent by 2030. Globally, we need to reduce emissions 7% year-on-year for decades to achieve 1.5C. To put that into perspective, global emissions reduced by 3% during Covid. So, if we're not experiencing twice the contraction we experienced during Covid lock-down, it isn't fast enough. Our emissions are actually rising – we are squandering the last of our carbon budget.
14. Current NDCs only limit emissions to a catastrophic 2.4C rise in temperature by 2100, whilst actual emissions' growth is heading for an apocalyptic 4C rise by 2100. We need to keep the temperature rise within 1.5C, preferably less. Our current 1.1C rise seems quite worrying.
15. What we do in the next couple of years as a world will determine our future. To quote Frans Timmermans, the EU negotiator:

An hour ago my son Mark sent me a picture of my grandson Case who is one year old. I was thinking, Case will be 31 years old in 2050, and it's quite a thought to understand that if we succeed, he'll be living in a world that's livable, he'll be living in an economy that is clean, with air that is clean, at peace with his environment. If we fail, I mean if we fail now in the next couple of years, he will fight with other human beings for water and food. That's the stark reality we face. So, 1.5 degrees is about avoiding a future for our children and grandchildren that is unlivable. I might not reach 2050, probably won't. But he will be there as a young man, and I want him to live a peaceful and prosperous life like I wanted for everybody's children and grandchildren in this room. This is personal, this is not about politics. And I don't live in Palau, I don't live in Barbados, I don't live on the Marshal Islands. But there it's even far more personal because you're standing with your feet in the water.

16. You can watch him at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVMeqBzV-Y4> . He was met with applause and was not contradicted.

Cllr Rob Smith
Vice-chairman
November 2021