



John Wright  
Town Clerk

## Lyme Regis Town Council

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### Environment Committee

**Core Membership:** Cllr R. Smith (chairman), Cllr P. May (vice-chairman), Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr J. Broom, Cllr B. Larcombe MBE, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

Notice is given of a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at the **Guildhall, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis** on Wednesday 25 January 2023 commencing **on the rise of the extraordinary Full Council** when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright  
Town Clerk  
20.01.23

*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 23 November 2023

### **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 23 November 2023**

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**

To inform members about progress on significant environmental developments

### **8. River Lim Action Group – Update Report**

To allow the River Lim Action Group to update members on latest developments

### **9. Bathing Water Quality Meeting 1**

To present the minutes of the initial bathing water quality meeting to the committee and note the actions

### **10. Big Hedge**

To present a community project funding request for biodiversity-rewilding-hedgerow planting in the Lyme area

### **11. Use of the Town Council Logo**

To allow members to consider a request from the Lyme Area Community Energy Champions to use the town council logo on their literature

**12. Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

To provide members with an update on gaining the silver-level carbon literacy accreditation

**13. Exempt Business**

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2022

**Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr R. Smith

**Members:** Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr P. May, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr G. Stammers

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

**Guests:** L. Davis (River Lim Monitoring Group), V. Elcoate (River Lim Monitoring Group), J. Leah (Dorset Climate Action Network)

**22/24/ENV Public Forum**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**22/25/ENV Apologies**

Cllr J. Broom – illness  
Cllr B. Larcombe – illness  
Cllr D. Sarson – holiday  
Cllr G. Turner

**22/26/ENV Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2022 were **ADOPTED**.

**22/27/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr P. May declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 9, River Lim Action Group Report as he was a member of the group, in item 10, Big Hedge, as he was a member of the Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN), and in item 11, Community Energy Champions Progress Report, as he was a community energy champion.

Cllr B. Bawden declared non-pecuniary interests in the same agenda items for the same reasons.

**22/28/ENV Dispensations**

There were none.

## **22/29/ENV Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 5 October 2022**

### **Water quality**

The operations manager said the meeting between the Environment Agency, South West Water, Dorset Council and the town council had been arranged for 14 December 2022.

### **Mares Tail treatment**

Cllr P. May asked if the alternative to glyphosate had been used yet and whether it had been successful in treating Mares Tail.

The operations manager said it was currently in use and he understood it wasn't as effective as hoped but the gardeners were giving it more time before making a decision to use an alternative.

### **Carbon Literate Organisation Accreditation**

Cllr R. Smith asked if there was any update on progressing the council to achieve silver level accreditation.

Cllr B. Bawden said she had met with the town clerk to discuss how to incorporate carbon literacy into the organisation's performance management systems, as this was one of the requirements to attain silver accreditation, and discussions were ongoing.

### **eRIB Round Britain**

The operations manager said the team was happy to give this committee regular updates from the January 2023 meeting onwards.

Cllr R. Smith asked that the council's logo was displayed on their website to publicise its sponsorship.

## **22/30/ENV Update on Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan**

The chairman brought this item forward on the agenda and invited Cllr B. Bawden to give a presentation to the committee as the Dorset Council (DC) ward member.

Cllr B. Bawden said DC had implemented its climate and ecological emergency strategy and action plan on its own estate, e.g. schools, DC sites, and was now ready to share what it had been doing with town and parish councils and community groups.

Cllr B. Bawden said DC had adopted a three pillars approach; an ecological emergency, which involved a nature recovery plan; a climate emergency, which involved a climate and ecological emergency plan; and environmental adaptation. Cllr B. Bawden explained the scale of the challenge in terms of where DC felt it was now and where it needed to be by 2050, including a roadmap for delivery.

Cllr B. Bawden reported on DC's progress with its climate and ecological emergency strategy and action plan and what was still to be done. She referred to the areas DC

could control and guide, the areas it could enable through funding and the areas it could influence and how it could influence, for example through communications.

## **22/31/ENV Update Report**

### **Car Club and E Bikes**

Cllr B. Bawden said she and the operations manager had recently met with Co Cars and they had agreed to supply further information for the council to consider.

The operations manager said until the council was in a position to have three-phase supply in its car parks, this would be an initiative for DC to pursue.

## **22/32/ENV 2030 Lyme Vision – Community Conversation Update**

The chairman invited Cllr B. Bawden to give an update on the 2030 Lyme Vision.

Cllr B. Bawden outlined some of the key ideas which had been suggested at the face-to-face consultation events, which included clean rivers and beaches, wildlife friendly green spaces, warm, affordable and well-insulated homes, better public transport, and cooking workshops for children.

Cllr B. Bawden explained how the Climate Heatmap had been used to gather responses, with 183 comments made so far and the platform was still open. She said those who had responded were a good spread of ages and employment statuses and the biggest issue raised was transport and air quality.

Cllr B. Bawden said the next stage of the project would be presentations to community groups with round table discussions and she hoped to involve local schools with a time travel animation and climate assembly. There would also need to be an analysis of additional comments, followed by project proposals and a Net Zero report for Lyme Regis.

## **22/33/ENV River Lim Action Group Report**

The chairman invited V. Elcoate and L. Davis from the River Lim Monitoring Group to present their report.

V. Elcoate said they had followed up with J. Flory from the Environment Agency (EA) following his attendance at the previous committee meeting to try to firm up his action points. She said he had agreed to look into the source of the sewage pollution in the river and J. Flory had now confirmed it was human sewage but next year the EA would do an additional set of tests to properly track the source of the pollution. She said they would then have the evidence to be able to lobby the people who could change the situation.

V. Elcoate said the EA had also agreed it would start monitoring the river before the bathing season started and would be putting an additional monitoring point at Woodmead Road bridge where there had been a problem with sewage this year. However, the EA was not going to monitor over the winter. She said all the data gathering would help inform the Church Beach re-designation project because by cleaning up the river, the beach would also be cleaned up.

V. Elcoate said they believed South West Water (SWW) had dealt with some of the illegal pollution coming out of pipes at Windsor Terrace and Woodmead Road, although not all of it, but there had been a definite improvement. She said SWW were going to help with a beach clean in Charmouth because bio beads had been travelling over there. She said SWW had made it clear it wasn't a regular thing to flush bio beads into the river, but there was an incident and they would help to clear them up.

V. Elcoate said the river monitors, Blue Tits swimming group and representatives of other groups were meeting with SWW at Gun Cliff pumping station to discuss how pumping stations work, the various problems with them and how they planned to cut the legal discharges into the river.

L. Davis said at Front Beach, there was a groyne that went out on the east side, a storm water drain, which had been shown by the EA to have sewage coming out of it. She said there was a holding tank by the amusement arcade and it should be storm water but there was definitely sewage coming onto the beach, which seemed to be happening quite regularly.

L. Davis said at the harbour, sewage was also coming out of the storm drains and this had been reported. She said she had concerns that very heavy pumping out could fracture the pipe.

L. Davis said they were getting bathing water alerts for the Front Beach in the summer when it was being monitored between 15 May and 15 September, but for the rest of the year it was not being monitored and therefore there were no alerts. She said the town council should be publicising the alerts and the noticeboard for this purpose was opposite the food kiosks, but it hadn't been updated since 2019.

The operations manager said DC was responsible for publicising the alerts on the noticeboard; although it used to be the town council, it was handed back to the harbour team. He said there hadn't been an alert through the last season.

L. Noel from the River Lim Monitoring Group was invited to speak. She said she understood the beach controller was the local council, which was responsible for publicising the notices. She said there had been several alerts in the last season and that the noticeboard was inaccessible; she suggested it was put on the beach and she also understood there also used to be a noticeboard at Cobb Gate.

However, it was clarified the alerts were short term pollution notices and were linked to the weather, which were not part of the same reporting system which had shown spikes in E-Coli during the last season.

L. Davis said the council should be pushing for the EA to do year-round monitoring because there were lots of swimmers who were not aware of sewage in the water. She also suggested the storm drains were observed because sewage was coming up in front of the food outlets.

L. Davis spoke about the Monmouth Beach outflow pipe, which was shortened to the end of the Cobb in 2018 because it was malfunctioning, which meant every time the pumping station released sewage legally, it was on Monmouth Beach. She suggested the EA carried out an assessment at Monmouth Beach because there hadn't been one since 2018 and although it wasn't designated as a bathing beach, lots of people swam there.

L. Davis also gave an update on Horn Bridge, where there had been three pumps fitted since April. She said it was constantly being upgraded and was pumping the sewage from Gun Cliff up to the sewage works, but it was getting stuck at Horn Bridge. As a result, the sewage was being pumped into the river and it was backing up at Gun Cliff and discharging into the sea. She said the pump was due to be upgraded in 2025 but she felt it needed to be looked at a lot more urgently.

The operations manager thanked V. Elcoate and L. Davis for their report and said all the issues they mentioned could be raised at the meeting on 14 December 2022.

Cllr B. Bawden said Chris Loder MP was taking an active interest in this matter but he would only be engaged when necessary.

Members discussed the River Lim Monitoring Group's request for funding to carry out an ecological survey of the river, to purchase test kits and to carry out publicity and communications.

Cllr P. May said the amount of work the group had done and the evidence they had gathered was substantial and if the EA was not prepared to monitor the river during the winter, but the group was prepared to do it with volunteer labour, he felt the council should be supporting them.

The operations manager said there was a budget allocated to carry out the council's climate action plan, but funding requests would normally go through the grants' process. However, he said the council had declared a climate emergency so it would be reasonable to fund this request from the climate action plan budget. He said if the money allocated in 2022-23 was not spent this year, it would not be rolled over to the next year.

Cllr G. Stammers asked if members would need to see more information about who would be appointed to carry out the ecological survey. She felt it would require a proper submission so members were clear exactly what they were allocating funding to.

The support services manager said when an organisation submitted a grant application, they were asked to provide quotes or evidence of the expenditure so they could demonstrate to the council that the money would be spent as intended. As such, it would be reasonable to request the same kind of evidence in this instance.

Cllr G. Stammers felt the committee could approve the request to fund the test kits as the committee had funded kits previously, but she suggested the committee approved in principle the funding for an ecological survey, subject to further evidence of the expenditure being submitted before the Full Council meeting.

Cllr R. Smith suggested the request could be separated into two parts; the first part was a request for £5,000 for the ecological survey, and the second part was a request for £1,044 for monitoring and public engagement.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve funding of £1,044 to the River Lim Monitoring Group to carry out monitoring of the river and public engagement.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to agree in principle a sum of up to £5,000 to pay



for a freshwater ecological survey of the River Lim, subject to a formal quotation being received.

## **22/34/ENV Big Hedge**

The chairman invited J. Leah from DCAN to speak to her report.

J. Leah said the project was aiming to enhance Dorset hedges and they were hoping to start a pilot scheme in Lyme Regis. She said in a semi-urban area like Lyme Regis, it would enable the spread of biodiversity into other areas, connecting a core area to the outskirts. She said the project took a lot of management time and they wouldn't be able to promote it in Lyme Regis without external funding.

Cllr G. Stammers said as a large proportion of the requested funding would be to pay people to manage the project and it extended beyond the boundary of Lyme Regis into Uplyme, she wasn't sure where the council stood with providing a grant. She was also concerned the job was not going to be advertised so the grant would effectively pay the salary of someone already in post. She queried whether it should come from the climate action plan budget or the grants' budget.

Cllr B. Bawden said the project had a lot of community benefits, it involved people doing something active and gaining knowledge, as well as linking wildlife together.

J. Leah said the funding would include a fee for a person's services for a two-month period and that person already ran the administration of DCAN; the funding would allow them to focus more hours on this project.

The support services manager said community grants were specifically for capital projects but could be used to pay for someone to provide services as part of a project.

Cllr R. Smith asked if there was scope for the council's gardening team to work on the project.

The operations manager said there was the potential for the gardening team to help with gardening and some surveying.

Cllr P. May felt the council should support the funding request as it was tapping into something residents already felt was a good concept and it had had national press coverage so being associated with it as a town council would be good for community engagement.

Cllr R. Smith said he could see there was a lot of community benefit but he felt the specific benefit to Lyme Regis needed to be demonstrated.

The support services manager said it was clear members supported the principle of the Big Hedge and wanted to be able to support it, but there were obviously some concerns about the council's position in funding the project and where the funding should come from. As such, she suggested DCAN could instead be invited to apply for a community grant when they would be asked to provide detailed costings and evidence of expenditure and their application would be considered alongside applications from other local groups.

Cllr B. Bawden said further information about costings could be taken to Full Council so an earlier decision could be made and if the funding was not approved at that point, DCAN would then have the opportunity to apply for a community grant.

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve a funding request of £2,340 to Dorset Climate Action Network for the Big Hedge project, subject to further clarification to Full Council including detailed costings and how the project specifically benefits Lyme Regis and the community.

## **22/35/ENV Community Energy Champions Progress report**

The chairman invited Cllr P. May to speak to the report as one of the community energy champions.

Cllr P. May said they had a list of residents who had asked the champions to carry out a thermal imaging survey of their properties and they were about to advertise this service so expected to see an increase in demand, especially as it was getting colder. He said the champions were trained to use the cameras and they were talking about refresher training with the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Cllr P. May said they were working with Bridport community energy champions to re-purpose and re-brand some of their literature and creating their own check sheet of all the things they should think about to save energy. They were planning a home energy workshop in January and had been approached by Charmouth Parish Council and Char Valley Parish Council to help them with thermal image monitoring services.

Cllr P. May said they could obtain funding from the 2030 Vision project for a third thermal imaging camera so it could be used by Charmouth and Char Valley. He said although they had made a request to the council to fund another camera, there wasn't an urgent need for one; there was already one camera for Lyme Regis and two others that could be used in Lyme Regis and the surrounding areas but only three active surveyors so all the cameras would be in use. However, if they recruited further volunteers, more cameras would be needed at that point.

Members agreed it would be better to commit the funding at this point so they could recruit more volunteers knowing the equipment would be available if or when required.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Ruffle, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to allocate a budget of £450 to purchase a thermal imaging camera in the expectation it will be needed for additional community energy champions.

## **22/36/ENV Budget Update**

Cllr B. Bawden clarified the community energy champion training totalled £2,000, not the £2,750 approved, and the £10,000 allocated to 2030 Vision would not be spent.

Members asked for clarification of whether any of the £25,000 climate action plan budget for 2022-23 would be rolled over to 2023-24 if it was unspent. Clarification was also needed on which three years the funding applied to as it was unclear if the funding started in 2021-22 and therefore ended in 2023-24 or if it started in 2022-23 and therefore ended in 2024-25, which would be one year into the new council administration.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to ask the Strategy and Finance Committee to clarify if the climate action plan budget would be rolled over from one year to the next if any was unspent and to clarify the start and end dates of the funding.

*The meeting closed at 9.54pm.*

DRAFT

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 25 January 2023

**Title:** Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 November 2022

**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**

**22/33/ENV – River Lim Action Group Report**

As requested by this committee, a quotation for the freshwater ecological survey of the river was obtained by the River Lim Action Group and this was provided to the Full Council on 14 December 2022 in order to consider the request to fund the survey. The Full Council agreed funding of up to £5,000 for the survey.

**22/36/ENV – Budget Update**

A report will be taken to the Strategy and Finance Committee on 22 March 2023 to allow members to further discuss the climate action plan budget. Clarification is needed on the start and end dates of the funding and members will be asked to consider if any of the budget should be rolled over from one financial year to the next.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
January 2023

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 25 January 2023

**Title:** Update Report

**Purpose of the Report**

To inform members about progress on significant environmental developments

**Report**

**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  
Operations manager  
January 2023

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 25 January 2023

**Title:** River Lim Action Group – Update Report

**Purpose of Report**

To allow the River Lim Action Group to update members on latest developments

**Recommendation**

Members note the report

**Report**

1. The River Lim Action Group has provided an update of developments since the last meeting of this committee. The report is at **appendix 8A**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 15 February 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
January 2023

**Town Council January 2023****River Lim Action group (RLA) Update paper**

The River Lim Monitors started work a year ago and should soon receive our first scorecard giving us the overall results of our data for the year. The River Lim Action Group (RLA) is growing all the time and we continue to uncover and challenge alarming levels of discharges of sewage into the River Lim and the sea. We now have a comprehensive set of maps showing the drainage system for the town and the locations of the outfalls where sewage is discharged into the river and sea.

We would like to thank the Town Council for arranging a very constructive meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 that brought together the Town Council, South West Water, the Environment Agency, Dorset Council and RLA to discuss the severity of the problems and explore solutions. The meeting was very successful at sharing information and expertise and identifying roles, responsibilities and a number of practical action points relating to many of the issues below. A follow-up meeting to assess progress is on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Unlicensed discharges**

SWW have identified and repaired some misconnections responsible for unlicensed discharges into the river at Woodmead Bridge. This has reduced, but not eliminated the problem. We're pleased that the Environment Agency will monitor there in 2023 in addition to their monitoring lower down the river near the mouth.

As we identify unlicensed discharges taking place we report to South West Water and the Environment Agency. As it is only by receiving reports that any action is taken, we are encouraging local people and dog walkers to recognise and report discharges. We are getting cards printed with contact details and how to report.

**Licensed discharges**

The relatively small river Lim received 680 hours of untreated sewage discharges in 2021. The majority of these came from the Uplyme Sewage Treatment works where there were 30 discharges for 469 hours. Although we await the total 2022 figure, we have discovered that there were 10 discharge incidents during the very dry spell between May and September in 2022. This would be illegal under the current regulatory system. Ofwat is investigating dry spills, so for legal reasons, SWW have so far declined to answer our questions regarding these 'dry spills'. SWW aim to reduce their permitted spills by 90% and we look forward to rapid progress on this but we will take further action if we find that there are spills happening outside the permits they have.

**Pumping station problems**

It is of continuing concern that pumping stations seem to be adding to the sewage pollution in the town and need to be upgraded.

**Horn Bridge Pumping Station** has been repeatedly malfunctioning during 2021 and 2022 which has led to discharges into the river. In 2021 there were 130 hours and 34 discharges. Although it is scheduled to be upgraded before 2025, it is urgently needed immediately as the new housing development at Monmouth Park will soon to be discharging to it.

**Cobb Pumping Station** It is thought that SWW may have failed to report some discharges from the Cobb pumping station onto Monmouth Beach and we have asked them to provide data of discharges. We have also asked them to assess whether Cobb Pumping Station is adequate and efficient, or whether, like Horn Bridge PS, it requires upgrading.

The outfall pipe from the pumping station was shortened because of decay and may also be leaking. The Environment Agency Bathing Water Profiles for 2021 and 2022 both state that discharges from this pipe lead to 'a drop in bathing water quality'. The Environment Agency have pledged an assessment of the impact this shortening may have caused as we feel the desk top assessment carried out in 2018 may have been insufficiently robust.

**Front (sandy) beach issues**

The sewage contamination from the freshwater drain within the groyne on Front Beach/Sandy Beach continues with strong smells of sewage regularly detected by swimmers. In January, SWW are due to carry out a CCTV inspection of the drains on Marine Parade which we hope may identify the source of this pollution. We are pleased to hear that SWIM,

with support from the Town Council, has had its pipe to the main system improved which may reduce the weekly summer blockages.

It is worrying that bathers are not being alerted when this pipe is discharging sewage. It does not contain a monitor to detect pollution and it is regrettable that the Environment Agency-testing in the summer mainly failed to detect or alert about contaminated discharges. Lyme Regis has been added to the Beach Live alert system so if EA do detect or predict pollution on Front Beach there should be an alert. This only seems to operate in the bathing season (unlike the Wessex Water alert at Charmouth which operates all year round).

We have requested that the pollution-alerts sign outside the Sailing Club be moved to the sandy beach where it would be more visible to bathers and that information is updated.

### **Drains outside Standard Inn**

In January, Dorset Highways are due to clear the storm drains outside the Standard Inn which have been overflowing with sewage, and SWW have pledged to CCTV-inspect the sewage drains for cross-contamination.

### **Other achievements:**

With Town Council funding, we are now able to carry out a thorough and scientific river corridor ecological survey. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the Environment Agency conducted a very simple 3-minute kick sweep sample on the River Lim which suggested there may be limited invertebrate activity.

We're pleased that SWW have installed event duration monitors (EDMs) on all the Combined Storm Overflows in the town. In future all discharges will be monitored and SWW promise the information will be publicly available shortly afterwards (although no timescale has been provided).

The Environment Agency has now agreed to improve its monitoring next spring and summer with an additional point at Woodmead Road and an earlier start.

### **Redesignation of Church Beach:**

We are aware of the poor quality of water on Church Beach but are committed to campaigning for its redesignation for bathing. We want to use the redesignation process to make sure funds are directed at cleaning up the river and therefore the beach. The recorded discharges 2021 from Gun Cliff were 10 times for 73 hours and would have been likely to affect the beach. SWW and the EA have indicated that the redesignation process will release resources that would not otherwise be available. As part of the process we will need to survey the beach usage on the 20 busiest days between May and September.



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 25 January 2023

**Title:** Bathing Water Quality Meeting 1

### **Purpose of Report**

To present the minutes of the initial bathing water quality meeting to the committee and note the actions

### **Recommendation**

- a) Members note the report and the date of the next bathing water quality meeting
- b) Members consider moving the water quality noticeboard from the harbour to the sandy beach entrance

### **Background**

1. It was recommended by this committee on 5 October 2022 and subsequently resolved by Full Council on 26 October 2022 'that the town council asks for an urgent meeting with the Environment Agency, South West Water and Dorset Council to discuss how to prevent Front Beach's bathing waters from being at risk of being downgraded from 'Good' to 'Sufficient'.'

### **Report**

2. The meeting was held on 14 December 2022 in the Guildhall, attended by the operations manager, Matt Adamson Drage, Jim Flory from the Environment Agency, Alan Burrows from South West Water, Vicky Garner and her assistant Charlotte from Pennon Group, Cllr Belinda Bawden, Cllr Rob Smith, Cllr Philip May, and Liz Davis from the River Lim Action Group. Apologies were received from Blair Turner from Dorset Council.

3. The minutes of the meeting are at **appendix 9A**.

4. For ease, actions have been listed below from the minutes of the meeting:

- There was a suggestion that the bathing water quality noticeboard be moved from opposite the Cobb public toilets to the beach. Matt Adamson-Drage agreed to look into that.

**Action: LRTC**

- Matt Adamson-Drage explained about a regular problem outside SWIM restaurant where sewage was often blocking the small diameter pipe that feeds into the main sewer under the parade. The town council, the owner of the building, was working with SWIM to conduct groundworks to refit an appropriate sized drain to the sewer. This work was expected to take place in January.

**Action: LRTC**

- It was agreed that Matt Adamson-Drage would follow up with Dorset Council Highways to confirm if the surface water drain jetting had been completed.

**Action: LRTC**

- It was agreed that South West Water would use CCTV to investigate the sewer drains at that end of the seafront in the New Year to establish their integrity.  
**Action: SWW**
- It was agreed that Matt Adamson-Drage would ask Dorset Council if they would match South West Water in a CCTV survey of their surface water drains to check for cross contamination.  
**Action: LRTC**
- It was agreed that South West Water would conduct a Fats Oils and Greases (FOG) campaign in collaboration with Dorset Council Environmental Health, if possible.  
**Action: SWW**
- It was agreed that Matt Adamson-Drage would follow up with Dorset Council to confirm where all the surface water drains on the seafront discharge to.  
**Action: LRTC**
- South West Water would also investigate if and how EDM data could be released to the public.  
**Action: SWW**
- Jim Flory said that the Environment Agency had conducted an invertebrate study recently at one sample site at Jericho on the river which had shown evidence of pollution intolerant invertebrates. Results would be shared.  
**Action: EA**
- The River Lim Action group were asking the town council for funds to conduct an ecological study of the river in Lyme Regis. Results would be shared with the Environment Agency and South West Water.  
**Action: RLA**
- Liz Davis asked about the 'Waterfit' program to upgrade Horn Bridge pumping station. Vicky Garner said she would find out the timescale.  
**Action: SWW**

5. The next meeting has been arranged for 8 February 2023 at 2pm in the Guildhall.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 15 February 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
January 2023

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, SOUTH WEST WATER/PENNON GROUP, DORSET COUNCIL  
HIGHWAYS & LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL BATHING WATER QUALITY MEETINGMINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2022  
AT 2PM IN THE LYME REGIS GUILDHALL

**Chairman & Secretary:** Matt Adamson-Drage, Lyme Regis Town Council operations manager

**Members:**

Jim Flory, Environment Agency Area Environment Manager – Hampshire Avon;  
Alan Burrows, South West Water - Director of Environmental Liaison and Culture; Vicky Garner, Pennon Group - Community and Partnerships Manager;  
Charlotte, Pennon Group - Assistant to Vicky Garner;  
Cllr Belinda Bawden, Dorset Councillor for Lyme Regis and Charmouth & Lyme Regis Town Councillor;  
Cllr Rob Smith, Chairman of Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee;  
Cllr Philip May, Deputy Chairman of Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee;  
Liz Davis, Lyme Regis River Lim Action group.

**Apologies** Mr B.Turner, Dorset Council Community Highways Officer

**Purpose of Meeting**

The meeting was convened from a council resolution through a recommendation of the Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee. This was to ask all relevant parties to come around the table to discuss solutions for potential poor bathing water quality on Front beach. Two poor monitoring results were found in the 2022 monitoring season and other poor monitoring results were discovered in the river by the River Lim Action group monitoring.

**Item 1 & 2. Introductions and Explanations of Organisations Remit**

At the outset Matt Adamson-Drage attempted to call Blair Turner but there was no answer. It was later established that Dawn Heath had asked Blair Turner to attend but that he was sick that day. The meeting was convened without a Dorset Council officer present but Dorset Council ward member Cllr Belinda Bawden was in attendance.

Introductions and explanations followed:

The Environment Agency is responsible for monitoring bathing water quality and river monitoring and publishing that data. Pollution Risk Forecasts are distributed by the Environment Agency for 'beach managers' (often local councils) to be displayed on dedicated noticeboards by the beach.

South West Water is responsible for sewerage and related pipework.

Dorset Council Highways are responsible for gullies, surface water / storm water drains.

The River Lim Action group was formed from a group of residents who were concerned about the river water quality, misconnections that feed into the river and ecology. They regularly monitor the river for water quality and are looking to commission an ecological study of the river in Lyme Regis.

### **ITEM 3. EA BATHING WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

Jim Flory explained 20 bathing water testings were conducted annually by the groyne on Front Beach between May to September. These testings were randomised to include as many different states of tide as possible, weekends or midweek, morning or evening etc.

Bathing Water Quality signs are displayed on the dedicated noticeboard which give an overview of the water quality at the beach from the last four years of monitoring data. The ratings range between 'Excellent', 'Good', 'Sufficient' and 'Poor'. Lyme Regis Front Beach was rated as 'Good' in 2022 and was expected to remain at 'Good' for the 2023 season. Front Beach was rated as 'Sufficient' in 2014 and 2017.

In addition, pollution risk forecasting, based on expected weather and tides predicts when bathing may not be advised due to weather. These predictions, usually for a 24hr period, are displayed as advisory guidance on the dedicated noticeboard next to the general water quality rating for the beach. Matt Adamson-Drage said that from memory there were only two occasions during the 2022 monitoring season when bathing was not advised. Jim Flory concurred.

It was explained that due to the process of monitoring and analysing water quality data it was not possible to display notices on the same day that readings were taken. The process of monitoring informs the annual overall rating for bathing water quality at the beach. Jim Flory explained that information was available on the DEFRA's [SWIMFO](#) website.

Matt Adamson-Drage said that from early in 2022 the Harbourmaster had the responsibility for displaying water quality signage as his staff were more likely to be present 7 days a week in the morning. The town council had performed the function of 'beach manager' until 2021. There was a suggestion that the bathing water quality noticeboard be moved from opposite the Cobb public toilets to the beach. Matt Adamson-Drage agreed to look into that.

**Action: LRTC**

Liz Davis said that high levels of ammonia had been detected at the end of the groyne on Front beach and determined that would mean sewage water was present. Jim Flory said that it was not necessarily sewage and that the ammonia could have come from other sources. High readings of ammonia had not been detected during the formal beach water quality monitoring. Discussions followed around the possible installation of 'Sonde' monitoring equipment but that the cost and maintenance of doing so and the mix of fresh water and saline would be problematic.

### **ITEM 4. SEWERS AND STORM DRAINS**

It was noted that there have been historic problems with sewers and surface water drains at the harbour end of the seafront both on Marine Parade and by the harbour slipway.

Liz Davis expressed concern that these problems may be affecting bathing water quality.

Alan Burrows confirmed that cracks and seepage between systems can occur but that systems on the seafront were unlikely to be very old.

Matt Adamson-Drage explained about a regular problem outside SWIM restaurant where sewage was often blocking the small diameter pipe that feeds into the main sewer under the parade. The town council, the owner of the building, was working with SWIM to conduct groundworks to refit an appropriate sized drain to the sewer. This work was expected to take place in January.

**Action: LRTC**

Matt Adamson-Drage said that he had recently met Blair Turner and that Dorset Council Highways were investigating bringing in a specialist surface water drain jetting HGV to service the drains at the harbour and Marine Parade end of the seafront but he was not sure if the work had been carried out yet.

It was agreed that Matt Adamson-Drage would follow up with Dorset Council Highways to confirm if the surface water drain jetting had been completed.

**Action: LRTC**

Jim Flory said that the surface water drain at Front Beach was identified by the EA as high risk in 2014. However, after an assessment that the previous compliance history had been good, it was decided after a costs/benefit analysis to take no remedial action.

It was agreed that South West Water would use CCTV to investigate the sewer drains at that end of the seafront in the New Year to establish their integrity.

**Action: SWW**

It was agreed that Matt Adamson-Drage would ask Dorset Council if they would match South West Water in a CCTV survey of their surface water drains to check for cross contamination.

**Action: LRTC**

It was agreed that South West Water would conduct a Fats Oils and Greases (FOG) campaign in collaboration with Dorset Council Environmental Health, if possible.

**Action: SWW**

It was agreed that Matt Adamson-Drage would follow up with Dorset Council to confirm where all the surface water drains on the seafront discharge to.

**Action: LRTC**

## **ITEM 5. MONMOUTH BEACH COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW AND COBB PUMPING STATION**

Liz Davis expressed some concern that the pipe to Monmouth Beach had been shortened because due to degradation and this had brought the end of the pipe closer to the beach. Jim Flory explained that all the necessary data was analysed at the time and it was decided that the pipe could be shortened rather than replaced without any significant detriment. Alan Burrows said that if the pipe was to be lengthened again it would need to be part of a capital project and that it was unlikely that SWW would commit to that without evidence of it causing a problem.

It was agreed that South West Water would confirm that the Cobb pumping station was operating effectively, particularly as Horn Bridge had been through 4 pumps since April this year and check Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) equipment records around 12 June and 22 September 2022. South West Water would also investigate if and how EDM data could be released to the public.

**Action: SWW**

## **ITEM 6. RIVER LIM & REDESIGNATION OF CHURCH CLIFF BEACH**

There had been much concern, of late, about misconnections and pollution in the river. South West Water had been working hard to track misconnections and redirect them appropriately but there was still work to do. They were thanked for their work to date.

Jim Flory said that the Environment Agency had conducted an invertebrate study recently at one sample site at Jericho on the river which had shown evidence of pollution intolerant invertebrates. Results would be shared.

**Action: EA**

He also mentioned that RiverFly training might be useful for the River Lim Action group volunteers.

The River Lim Action group were asking the town council for funds to conduct an ecological study of the river in Lyme Regis. Results would be shared with the Environment Agency and South West Water.

**Action: RLA**

Liz Davis asked about the 'Waterfit' program to upgrade Horn Bridge pumping station. Vicky Garner said she would find out the timescale.

**Action: SWW**

Jim Flory expressed a view that the redesignation of Church Cliff beach may be problematic due to the general background bacterial quality of the river. Monmouth beach might be more likely to be successful.

Environment Committee councillors present said one of the main points of redesignating Church Cliff beach was to drive the clean up of the river.

#### **ITEM 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Belinda Bawden reported that harbour dredging was to be carried out in March 2023 to replenish the beach sand and she had requested that Dorset Council carry out monitoring of the dredged sand before and after to confirm if there were any contaminants present.

#### **ITEM 8. NEXT MEETING DATE**

It was decided the next meeting would take place in the New Year but no date was set.

**Action: LRTC**

*The meeting ended at 3:50pm.*

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 25 January 2023

**Title:** Big Hedge

**Purpose of Report**

To present a community project funding request for biodiversity-rewilding-hedgerow planting in the Lyme area

**Recommendation**

Members note the report and instruct officers

**Report**

1. The Great Big Dorset Hedge (GBDH) is a Dorset Climate Action Network campaign to map, plant, extend and join up sections of hedgerow around and across Dorset into multiple corridors that promote biodiversity and help wildlife of all sorts (birds, insects, amphibians, mammals, wildflowers, trees, fungi) to flourish across the county. [Great Big Dorset Hedge - Dorset Climate Action Network \(dorsetcan.org\)](https://dorsetcan.org)
2. The nearest main Dorset Great Big Hedge areas to Lyme Regis involve the Jubilee trail to the north and the Brit Valley trail running from West Bay up to Crewkerne and therefore it may not be appropriate for the town council to fund a project that is geographically displaced from the Lyme Regis area. Nevertheless, there may be options to commence a smaller project in the Lyme Regis area to improve hedgerow connectivity on the Ridgeway path up to Uplyme and other local paths. All this will be highly dependent upon landowners being willing to allow hedge planting on their land.



3. GBDH approached the committee at the last meeting for funding (£2,340) but were asked for further information to be presented. A new request has been submitted at **appendix 10A** for £1,512. The funds will be used for administration, travel, printing and marketing to conduct a two-month pilot trial, surveying the Ridgeway and other rights of way within a two-mile radius of Lyme Regis. In addition, to support the application, **appendix 10B** is a quotation for Dr Julie Leah's services, **appendix 10C** has details of a successful Dorset AONB, Sustainable

Development Funding application from GBDH, **appendix 10D** has details of a timesheet of previous mileage claims and **appendix 10E** has details of an example ink cartridge order.

4. Members may wish to consider funding the £1,512 from the Environment Committee's annual £25,000 budget, as the main budget for the coming financial year has already been set.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 15 February 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
January 2023



<b>Name of your organisation/group/business or individual:</b>			
Dorset Climate Action Network (Dorset CAN)			
<b>Project Title:</b>			
Great Big Dorset Hedge			
<b>Grant Request</b>			
£1,512			
<b>Main contact:</b>			
Julie Leah			
<b>Position held:</b>			
Dorset CAN Land Use team coordinator			
<b>E-Mail address:</b>		<a href="mailto:Greatbigdorsethedge@gmail.com">Greatbigdorsethedge@gmail.com</a> or Julie.Leah150@gmail.com	
<b>Web address of organisation (if applicable):</b>		www.dorsetcan.org/hedge	
<b>Registered charity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Registration no:</b>	In the process of registering
<b>Community interest company</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Registration no:</b>	

## **Project description**

### **Project summary:**

#### **Dorset Climate Action Network:**

##### **Function**

The Great Big Dorset Hedge has been set up by Dorset Climate Action Network ([www.DorsetCAN.org](http://www.DorsetCAN.org)). We are a volunteer lead inclusive organisation where all members have a say and are welcomed and enabled to contribute to the running of the organisation. We are a non-political organisation. The aim of Dorset CAN is to act as a network supporting environmentally conscious organisations and to run campaigns to support for example, the need for sustainable, affordable local housing (Dorset Deserves Better), sustainable energy schemes (Dorset Greener Homes) and increasing understanding on the need for food security. We hold as many meetings as possible remotely to encourage engagement and networking across Dorset and its boundaries with minimal carbon footprint. Our aim is always to promote information about, and to support, practices and behaviours which respond to the urgent need to address the climate and ecological emergency.

##### **Funding:**

Funding for Dorset CAN is from member donations and by applications for grant funding from various sources such as funding relating to Climate Change, National Lottery. Parish Councils are being asked for grants where we are adding a significant benefit in terms of public engagement and wellbeing. This latter is particularly relevant in relation to the Great Big Dorset hedge. We have received a grant of £2,500 from the Dorset AONB to increase public engagement and awareness of the importance of hedgerows as part of this project.

Our expenses are mostly for public engagement tools such as information posters, flyers, running events and the cost of websites and mapping layers. Occasionally we need to pay contractors and expert volunteers for expertise for administrative time and data base management. We currently have a contract for a project coordinator to support the creation of our website and a membership and networking database.

#### **Great Big Dorset Hedge (GBDH) ([www.DorsetCAN.org/hedge](http://www.DorsetCAN.org/hedge))**

The Great Big Dorset Hedge has been set up by the Land Use team of Dorset CAN. The project aims to promote an understanding of the importance of hedgerows and enable the planting of new hedgerows / enhancement of existing hedgerows throughout Dorset. The primary route is the Jubilee Trail but includes all the major trails of Dorset and encourages all landowners to become part of it so that we envisage a strengthened network of healthy hedgerows across Dorset. Within urban areas the aim is to promote the idea of looking to see where new hedgerows can be planted. Gardens form such a key part of our ecosystem and are known to provide greater biodiversity than rural areas due to the range of environments.

##### **Importance of Hedgerows:**

- Hedgerows act as wildlife refuges and food sources for animals of all kinds including invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, small mammals, and birds.
- Biological control. The wildlife hedgerows support will help control plant and crop pests thus reducing the “need” for chemical control of pests.
- Hedgerows act as corridors linking key habitats such as woodlands, rivers, gardens etc. They also act as a corridor at a crucial subsoil level linking plants together through chemical transfer of water and disease resistance.
- The root systems and surrounding vegetation hold water so reducing soil run off and erosion. This is particularly important in terms of reducing river pollution from nitrate and phosphorus run off from farmland. Some of the GBDH projects will focus on new planting close to river edges and / or up field of known areas of pollution from run-off. Grant funding is often available for this from Water Companies such as Wessex Water.

- Water holding to prevent flooding: this is particularly important in rural areas where hedgerows can contribute significantly to reducing localised flooding
- Carbon sequestration. Hedgerows like trees hold significant amounts of carbon. In many cases, hedgerows can be hundreds of years old and the root structure will be providing significant carbon storage'

## Running the Project

**Progress so far** (see the [www. DorsetCAN.org](http://www.DorsetCAN.org) / hedge for the mapping layer, training videos etc)

**Mapping Layer:** A GIS mapping layer has been created which marks out all the major trails of Dorset. Using this map trained coordinators designate an area approx. 3 km of a route local to them to survey. This is then marked up into sections and printed out as a map ready to follow and a survey day organised with volunteers.

**Surveying:** each survey would involve a small group of individuals, usually 4. Individuals are guided and trained initially until they are independent. The health and status of a hedgerow is measured by reference to a visual code which defines the hedgerow structure and hence condition. This code, known as the Adams Code, has been designed by a farmer and is likely to be used by DEFRA as part of the Hedgerow incentive assessment process.

A 3 km length of hedgerow will take approximately 2 hours to survey and volunteers will be trained in advance by engaging with website materials and during the process. This will also mean them taking on board identification skills, if not already in place.

Data is recorded as the survey is conducted using a paper based system completing a spreadsheet to record plant species and hedgerow condition.

All survey tasks are shared to ensure all participants feel included and engaged and are receiving adequate training. Once trained, many will go on to do their own local surveys.

**Survey Outcome:** once surveyed, the data is put into the mapping layer to show the hedgerow condition.

Depending upon the survey results there may be scope for new planting of a completely new hedge, filling in gaps and hedge laying.

Liaison with landowners is then necessary to determine the possibility of projects.

The landowner may already be known before the survey, may have requested the survey or be part of it. Local knowledge is often key to knowing who owns an area of land.

If a landowner is keen to organise planting, then a larger group of volunteers can get involved with planting up and in some cases hedge laying. This would be at the earliest winter 2023. In all cases it is important that we don't take away work from contractors.

Currently the whole project is run by a core team of 6 Dorset CAN members with the background support of Dorset CAN media team and the steering group. The main project leader overall of the different aspects of the project is Julie Leah – her role includes collating the data base of volunteer information and engaging with new volunteers, organising team meetings, liaising with external groups such as CPRE and the AONB and other contacts. The surveys are being predominantly run in West Dorset Area by a Charmouth based volunteer whose role is leading surveys as follows:

- a. determining which route to map, digitally marking up the route, printing out the maps and data recording sheets.
- b. organising a group of volunteers and usually driving them to the site.
- c. Transferring the data to the volunteer John Blanchard who run the mapping layer and records the data such as species of plant and hedgerow condition.

John also runs training events, usually by zoom, of potential coordinators – these are people capable of doing

points a-c above. Once coordinators are up and running across Dorset the project will take off very quickly.

### **Cost of hedgerows / the role of volunteers**

In most cases the problem for landowners with such projects is not the cost of plants but the cost and availability of labour and tree protection. This is where the role of volunteers to help identify via the survey where planting is needed and then help to implement.

Money is available from various sources for hedgerow projects. Examples are the FiPL and Sustainable development grants from the AONB, Tree Council Grants and Wessex water. The ELMS Sustainable Farming Incentives mean more money can be found for projects. In addition, the Woodland Trust give away free trees to schools and community projects and subsidised trees to landowners. There are also many companies such as OVO energy that give away free trees to community projects.

### **Other partners**

The project is being supported by the following groups providing expertise and collaboration with media / public engagement.

CPRE

Dorset AONB (also funding us)

We are also liaising with the following:

FWAG

Dorset Farm Clusters

Environment Agency

The Ramblers

Dorset Local Nature Partnership

Dorset farm Panel

Dorset Council Rangers and footpath officers

Local Planting Groups across Dorset

Dorset Council Public Health

Dorset Wildlife Trust

Privately owned re-wilding projects.

The comment from all of these organisations is that there is a critical need for the project.

## Why is the project needed

There is a clear need to promote the planting of hedgerows as a response to the CEE and the desperate need to support wildlife and provide environmental services as acknowledged by the government initiatives on payments for such work. These payments to farmers and landowners for hedging often do not leave sufficient funds for the planting. Finding time to plant is also an issue for farmers and landowners.

It is known that contact with nature is important for wellbeing and that there is a disconnect within our society in terms of the understanding of people living in urban and semi-rural areas of how the countryside works and how farmers use their land.

If we can connect the need for volunteer support and help people access the countryside this will help both groups. It may also help tackle the loneliness and stress issues faced by many farmers if they feel more connected to their local community.

Planting projects are popular as shown by the many local planting groups (more than 50 across Dorset) and the many projects being set up by Parish Councils. The recent tree and hedging planting projects in Charmouth had over 45 volunteers made up of children and adults of all ages; several adults had never planted a tree before.

Volunteer uptake on the project has been significant with over 100 volunteers formally signing up and considerable media interest as well from local and national press including The Times, Waitrose and Radio 4.

## Who will benefit from the project and how?

**Individuals involved in planting:** It will help with physical wellbeing spending time outside and mental wellbeing by meeting new people, feeling part of a group, learning new skills and being outside. It also helps significantly with climate anxiety if people feel they are taking action to support the environment. It will increase their level of understanding and they can use the transferable skills in their own environment. In trials already carried out, both surveys and planting have been found to significantly improve the wellbeing of individuals taking part.

**Landowners having support from volunteers:** projects will be completed that might not be achievable without help. This should help improve farmland, increasing the value to the landowner. It will also help create links with the community and help farmers feel more supported.

**Contractor employment opportunities:** the project may promote the employment of contractors such as hedge planters and hedge layers and perhaps create new local employment opportunities.

### **Projected outcomes:**

The results of the surveys will be mapped on the mapping layer and from there it will be possible to see the condition of the hedgerow. Where planting is carried out this will form part of the Great Big Dorset Hedge and this will be clearly marked on the GIS map layer

Training sessions and numbers of participants will be recorded.

Where appropriate it will be recorded if a SSSI area or AONB asset has benefited by hedgerow planting or improved hedgerow maintenance.

### **Assessment:**

As part of the hedgerow maintenance, we will be assessing impact on wildlife and expect to see establishment of increased numbers of insects and birds and potentially small mammals.

We will also run a survey to record impact on volunteers to assess their experience and whether it has increased their understanding and appreciation of issues of conservation and climate change.

## Permissions and Health and Safety

No permissions will be required to survey as it will all be within public rights of way. Permission will be needed

to carry out planting projects and this will be coordinated with landowners. Those within the AONB will require permission and this is likely to be applied for by the landowners. Some may be within SSSI areas and will require permission from Natural England.

Dorset CAN has policies regarding health and safety, safeguarding and equality in place.

We have a specific risk assessment in place for the GBDH along with guidelines for ensuring safe practice.

## **GRANT REQUEST**

### **Great Big Dorset Hedge in Lyme Regis**

Lyme Regis is the perfect community to role the project out to as a pilot trial from a point of view of the range of population demographics and the geographical siting. Lyme Regis has one of the most ancient footpaths, The Ridgeway, extending from Lyme up to join the Jubilee Trail and so would be a key link in the Great Big Dorset Hedge starting the focus at the coast. We would also include surveying any of the hedgerows linking footpaths from Lyme Regis into the surrounding countryside. This would also encourage the aspects of local access to permitted paths for recreation. The extensive urban gardens, large and small and the green areas of Lyme Regis could be very important in terms of providing all the benefits of a hedgerow and easily engaging the community in the importance of hedgerows, plants, animals and their environment.

We would like to engage all members of the community where possible starting our focus with local environmental groups such as Turn Lyme Green to get a core of support (this has been done via a presentation last November). We would then like to move on to include schools - primary and Woodroffe, Church groups, and target isolated and minority groups. The project involves a considerable amount of data and administrative support so even where people are not able to physically take part there are other supporting roles.

The project has already started in Lyme Regis but without funding it will only be possible to involve groups who are already environmentally active, such as the retired community, and not extend it to the less climate engaged sections of the community or to the schools.

Grant funding of the project will enable extended community engagement and will accelerate the process of implementing the GBDH project in Lyme Regis. It will be necessary to cover some costs such as petrol, printing, data base management, survey construction time and public engagement tools and time. Where expertise / contractors are required expenses need to be applied. The aim would be that from this process we would be able to set up at least two new Lyme Regis based coordinators to add on to the work of the existing local team of the main coordinator in Charmouth and Julie Leah.

Funding is therefore asked for a 2 month period to roll out a significant pilot trial. This would involve extensive public engagement initially, followed by approximately 4 weeks of surveying of the Ridgeway and other footpaths within a 3km radius of Lyme Regis. Money is estimated to be allocated as follows. This is based on known expenses of the project in other areas. Factors such as weather, locations, public engagement responses cannot be predicted and will impact significantly on the amount spent. All money will be accounted for. We would ask that if the money is not spent within that time frame it can be applied to continuing the project within Lyme Regis in the following months. Weather and volunteers can significantly impact on schedules. The intention is to apply for a substantial Lottery grant to implement the project across Dorset. As such this pilot trial would be an important step showing the importance of the project in community engagement as well as the key environmental benefits.

**Table of costs:**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost / item</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Survey equipment for two coordinators</b>	Weather writer to protect paperwork	£20	£40
	Clipboards	£5	£10
<b>Printing of survey maps / data sheets and identification sheets</b>	Ink cartridges x 2	£103	£206
<b>Transport by coordinator of volunteers to survey site parking.</b>	Approx 30 km / week (3 surveys at total travel for coordinator of 10 km / survey)	45 p / km x 4 weeks	£54
<b>Public engagement (contractor / expert)</b>	Paper based engagement:		
	Flyers (500) Cards (500)	£45 £50	£45 £50
	Petrol expenses for talks and meetings (exact number unknown but approx 15, to schools and groups). Travel from Charmouth.	45p / km	£27
	Design time for Lyme Regis group specific talks and engagement materials (8 hrs) and meeting preparation time (8 hrs)	£15 / hour	£240
<b>Survey management time (contractor / expert)</b>	Survey route analysis and marking up of maps (2 hours / week) Coordination of volunteers (2 hours / week) Input of data from the surveys (2 hrs/week)	£15 / hour x 6 = £90 / wk x 4 weeks	£360
<b>Database management time (contractor / expert)</b>	Input of data relating to Lyme Regis volunteers. Responding to volunteers and linking them into training. (4 hrs / wk)	£15 / hr for 8 weeks	£480

## QUOTATION

**Originator:** Dr Julie Leah PhD, Chartered Biologist, MiBiol,  
(Trading as Julie Leah, Gardening and Environmental project management services)

**Address:** Davena, 1 St Andrew's Drive, Charmouth, DT6 6LN

**Mobile:** 07791741687

**Email:** Julie.leah150@gmail.com

**To:** Dorset Climate Action Network

Quotation for Services for Dorset Climate Action Network to manage the promotion and organisation of the Great Big Dorset Hedge project in Lyme Regis as per grant application to Lyme Regis Town and Parish Council, January 2023.

**Charging rate** £15 / hour

**Not registered for VAT**

Expense for	Estimated hours	Amount in £
Database management time: Input of data relating to Lyme Regis volunteers. Responding to volunteers and linking them into training (4 hrs / week).	4 per week for 8 weeks	£480 (4 x 15 x 8)
Survey route analysis and marking up of maps (2 hours / week).	6 per week for 4 weeks	£360 (6 x 15 x 4)
Coordination of volunteers (2 hours / week).		
Input of data from the surveys (2 hrs/week).		
Design of public engagement talks and meeting organisation and preparation time.	16	240
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1080</b>

To be invoiced on a calendar monthly basis in arrears of the work.





Reference: SDF 291

By e-mail only

Julie.leah150@gmail.com

23/11/2022

Dear Julie,

**Re: Dorset AONB Sustainable Development Fund – Offer of Grant**

Following discussion by the AONB Partnership Funding Panel, I am pleased to offer Dorset Climate Action Network a grant of up to **£1500** (35% of project costs) for your project: Great Big Dorset Hedge. This grant offer is subject to the terms and conditions set out below. Before starting your project, you will need to complete and return the Acceptance Form on the enclosed copy of this letter. The offer will be held open for 30 days from the date of this letter, during which your acceptance form must be received to secure the grant.

**Terms and Conditions of the Offer**

**1. Project Outputs**

This grant offer is made for delivery of the project outputs as stated in your application form and with any special conditions outlined below. It must not be used for any other purpose. Any changes to the project must be discussed and agreed in advance with the AONB Team. Failure to do this may result in withdrawal of the grant offer and a request for return of any grant money provided.

**2. Time Scale**

The elements of your project being funded through this SDF grant must be completed by **10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. Payments will be made on the basis of evidence of expenditure and can only be made for work undertaken in the financial year 2022/23.

**3. Match Funding**

This grant offer is subject to match funding being provided as specified in your application form, as follows:

- **In-kind match funding:**                    **£1800**
- **Cash match funding:**                        **£1000**

Evidence of this match funding will be required as part of your grant claim. Any changes to the match funding must be notified to the AONB Team and the Partnership reserves the right to alter the offer in the light of such changes.

**4. Project Management**

Your AONB Team contact for this project will be **Ian Rees** who can be contacted on **01305 228235** or by e-mail at [ian.rees@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ian.rees@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) Your team contact is there to provide advice and support, to monitor progress and assist with final reporting. They should be your first point of contact in relation to this grant offer.

**Dorset AONB Partnership** hosted by Dorset Council Dorchester Dorset DT1 1XJ  
 t: 01305 228246 e: [dorsetaonb@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetaonb@gmail.com)  
 w: [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk)  [@dorsetaonb](https://twitter.com/dorsetaonb)

## 5. Reporting

**Please maintain regular contact with your assigned AONB Team member** who will monitor your progress with the project. Before starting your project, you must agree a schedule of interim updates appropriate to your project – at least quarterly – including any upcoming events, photos of progress or activity and a paragraph summary of progress. We will need you to maintain records as the project proceeds on volunteer time, public attendance at events or involvement in the project, photographs of before, during and after and any other relevant information. These should all go into a Final Report which should include the aims and objectives as stated in your application, the work that was undertaken and final outcomes, plus any lessons you have learnt that other groups might benefit from. This report must be submitted with your grant claim form by **10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

## 6. Special Conditions

Sometimes the AONB Partnership may require special conditions where, for example, there is a particular concern or an opportunity for added value. The special conditions in relation to your project are:

- *ensure that liaison with other environmental groups in the area is ongoing to ensure that the risk of duplication is minimise*

## 7. Payment

In general, payments will be made following completion of the project and on receipt of a final report and claim form (enclosed). You will need to attach proof of expenditure (e.g. copies of invoices and receipts) with this form.

## 8. Publicity

Any promotional or printed material relating to this project should include acknowledgement of the SDF grant by inclusion of the AONB Partnership logo or a written statement (e.g. "Supported by the Dorset AONB Partnership through its Sustainable Development Fund"). Dorset AONB logos are attached, along with guidance on how to use them, which must be followed. Any such material should be agreed in advance with your AONB Team contact. The Dorset AONB Partnership reserves the right to include information about your project in its own promotional material relating to the SDF. Material and photographs from your final report will be used in the AONB Partnership's own report to DEFRA and other AONB publication and website.

We will only use photographs in publications and on the Dorset AONB website in appropriate context and all photos will be used and stored securely for no longer than 7 years. If you are running an event or activity, please notify participants either in advance or with a simple sign at the event that photos will be taken and may be used in this way, giving the option for participants to opt out of photos. If you photograph young people, please use a model consent form, available from Dorset AONB on request.

## 9. Contact details

We will use the contact details you have given us to stay in touch during the grant period, your details will be stored safely and will not be shared with others. We will keep your contact details for 5 years in case we have any follow up queries and to notify you of SDF news in the future. Additionally, we will email you with details of how to subscribe to the Dorset AONB e-newsletter should you be interested in news and events in the Dorset AONB. You can view the Dorset AONB Privacy Policy here for further information on how we handle your data. <https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/privacy-policy>.

## 10. Websites

Where your organisation has a website we now ask to you link your project to the Dorset AONB website. The link you need to use is [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk).

If you require any further information or explanation about the above terms and conditions, please contact your assigned AONB Team member.

I wish you good luck with your project and look forward to its successful completion. Your work will make a significant contribution to the conservation and enhancement of the AONB and the Partnership is delighted to be supporting you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Munro', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

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Tom Munro  
**Dorset AONB Team Manager**

**APPENDIX 10D**

<b>NAME:</b>	JOHN CALDER & his surveyors		<b>PERIOD:</b>	1 July to 3 December 2022			
<b>DORSET CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK GREAT BIG DORSET HEDGE TIMESHEET</b>							
DATE	ACTIVITY	TRAIL KM	PARISH	VOL number	VOL HOURS	MILES @ 45P per mile	petrol claimed £
28/07/22	Preparing survey maps (30 mins / km)	3.8	Broadwindsor	1	1.9	n/a	n/a
30/07/22	Preparing survey maps (30 mins / km)	5.0	Thorncombe	1	2.5	n/a	n/a
31/07/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km)	2.5	Broadwindsor	3	7.5	n/a	n/a
31/07/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Broadwindsor	n/a	0.4	16	£7.20
01/08/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km)	2.0	Thorncombe	4	8.0	n/a	n/a
01/08/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Thorncombe	n/a	0.4	16	£7.20
02/08/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km)	1.3	Broadwindsor	1	1.3	n/a	n/a
02/08/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Broadwindsor	n/a	0.4	16	£7.20
02/08/22	Amending maps & results (30 min /km)	3.8	Broadwindsor	1	1.9	n/a	n/a
10/08/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km)	3.0	Thorncombe	1	3.0	n/a	n/a
10/08/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Thorncombe	n/a	0.4	16	£7.20
10/08/22	Amending maps & results (30 min /km)	5.0	Thorncombe	1	2.5	n/a	n/a
14/08/22	Amending maps & results (30 min /km)	3.3	Mapperton	1	1.7	n/a	n/a
20/09/22	Preparing survey maps (30 mins / km)	4.0	Toller Porcorum	1	2.0	n/a	n/a
21/09/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km) a.m.	2.0	Toller Porcorum	2	4.0	n/a	n/a
21/09/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km) p.m.	2.0	Toller Porcorum	2	4.0	n/a	n/a
21/09/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Toller Porcorum	n/a	1.1	42	£18.90
21/09/22	Amending maps & results (30 min /km)	4.3	Toller Porcorum	1	2.2	n/a	n/a
25/10/22	Preparing survey maps (30 mins / km)	5.0	Portesham	1	2.5	n/a	n/a
27/10/22	Preparing survey maps (30 mins / km)	1.8	Kingston Russell	1	0.9	n/a	n/a
28/10/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km) p.m.	1.8	Kingston Russell	6	10.5	n/a	n/a
28/10/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Kingston Russell	n/a	0.9	35	£15.75
28/10/22	Amending maps & results (30 min /km)	1.8	Kingston Russell	1	0.9	n/a	n/a
09/11/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km)	1.5	Portesham	2	3.0	n/a	n/a
09/11/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Portesham	n/a	1.1	43	£19.35
10/11/22	Preparing survey maps (30 mins / km)	3.3	Mapperton	1	1.7	n/a	n/a
13/11/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km) a.m.	2.0	Mapperton	5	10.0	n/a	n/a
13/11/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km) p.m.	1.3	Mapperton	6	7.8	n/a	n/a
13/11/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Mapperton	n/a	0.8	30	£13.50
24/11/22	Preparing survey maps (30 mins / km)	3.5	Littlebredy/W Ste	1	1.8	n/a	n/a
25/11/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km)	3.0	Littlebredy/W Ste	3	9.0	n/a	n/a
25/11/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Littlebredy/W Ste	n/a	1.0	40	£18.00
25/11/22	Amending maps & results (30 min /km)	3.0	Littlebredy/W Ste	1	1.5	n/a	n/a
02/12/22	Doing the hedge survey (60 mins / km)	3.5	Portesham	5	17.5	n/a	n/a
02/12/22	Travelling from/to Charmouth	n/a	Portesham	n/a	1.1	43	£19.35
02/12/22	Amending maps & results (30 min /km)	5.0	Portesham	1	2.5	n/a	n/a
					<b>119.2</b>		<b>£133.65</b>
	<b>ADDITIONAL EXPENSES</b>						
	Order GB221017-LA5058427 from the Cartridge People						
17/10/22	Toner cartridge multipack						<b>£103.41</b>
	<b>Total claim for July to 3 Dec 2022</b>						
							<b>£237.06</b>
					238.4	297.00	
					0.0		
					133.7		
					133.7		

Order **GB221017-LA5058427** will be delivered to:

Mr xxxx  
 108146663  
 xxxxxxxxxxxx  
 Charmouth, Bridport  
 Dorset  
 DT6 6BP  
 United Kingdom

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Line Price
 <u>Own Brand Brother TN-243BK/C/M/Y Toner Cartridge Multipack</u> <i>Product Code: 18159-CP</i>	1	£103.41	£103.41

<b>Total Delivery Charge:</b>	Free
<b>Net Total:</b>	£86.17
<b>VAT:</b>	£17.24
<b>Total:</b>	£103.41

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 25 January 2023

**Title:** Use of the Town Council Logo

**Purpose of Report**

To allow members to consider a request from the Lyme Area Community Energy Champions to use the town council logo on their literature

**Recommendation**

Members consider supporting the Lyme Area Community Energy Champions by allowing the use of the town council logo on their literature

**Report**

1. The Lyme Area Community Energy Champions produce various literature sharing information such as energy saving tips and how to make your own draft excluder.
2. The community energy champions would like permission to use the town council logo on their literature to demonstrate the council's support of the energy champions. Other logos used on their literature include Bridport Town Council and Open Greener Homes.
3. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 15 February 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
January 2023

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 25 January 2023

**Title:** Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide members with an update on gaining the silver-level carbon literacy accreditation

### **Recommendation**

Members note the report and instruct officers

### **Report**

1. Following discussions at the Human Resources Committee on 4 January 2023 and with the town clerk, the operations manager is putting together an application for accreditation at silver level to the Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO).

2. Requirements are:

#### Bronze Level:

- Having a registered training initiative with the project
- Having a board member or organisational leader certified as Carbon Literate

#### Silver Level:

- Having met and evidenced each commitment for Bronze Level
- Having a substantial percentage of the workforce certified as carbon literate
- Having integrated carbon literacy into the performance management and assessment systems of the organisation
- Having demonstrated a visual promotion of the organisations' Carbon Literacy
- Publication of a one-page case study

3. Evidencing Bronze Level:

The council is registered with the project and the operations manager is carbon literate and environmental management certificated.

4. Evidencing Silver Level:

The council has eight councillors and two members of staff carbon literate trained.

The council can add to the website that it has ambitions to be a carbon literate accredited organisation and that a majority of councillors and a senior member of staff have undertaken the training. It can also visually promote via person specifications and job adverts that carbon literate trained individuals are desirable.

5. Based on 'Environmental Key Performance Indicators – Reporting Guidelines for Business' published by DEFRA, the council can identify key annual performance indicators that fall within some of the six KPI areas: emissions to air, emissions to water, emissions to land, resource use, supplies chains and products. These need to be specific and measurable year-on-year.

The council can report progress against environmental KPIs, as part of annual corporate reporting, already undertaken. KPIs that could be reported on include:

- Emissions to Air:
    - Vehicle/equipment emissions
    - Bonfires (number)
  - Emissions to Land:
    - Pesticides and Fertilisers (used)
    - Waste
  - Resource Use:
    - Water
    - Gas
    - Paper
  - Product Use:
    - Fuel & Oil
    - Electricity
      - Street lamps (sodium to LED)
6. The operations manager will establish a baseline and report this as part of the silver level accreditation application.
7. In addition, a one-page case study has been written and is at **appendix 12A**.
8. Once the environmental KPI baselines are established, the operations manager will apply for the silver-level accreditation.
9. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 15 February 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
January 2023



## LYME REGIS ARBORETUM – CASE STUDY

Lyme Regis Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019. An Environment Committee was established and a number of councillors and staff have been trained in carbon literacy and environmental management. Since 2019 all decisions at the council have been taken with environmental impacts first in mind. An aspect assessment was undertaken which identified areas the council needed to improve upon, in its' own operations, to drive towards a target of carbon net-zero by 2030. A strategic top-ten was identified to focus on first. In addition, projects across the community to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> such as tree planting with local charity '[Word Forest](#)' and investing in community energy champions have been at the forefront of the Environment Committee's remit, along with other projects such as river and bathing water quality and electric car charging in public car parks. There is much more in the pipeline for the Lyme Regis community.

Tree planting and land management across the council's limited estate has dovetailed neatly with commemorative projects such as; HM The Queen's Green Canopy, the replanting of trees around the perimeter of Anning Road playing field which existed many years ago - commemorating WW2 D-Day troops who exercised there and cherry tree memorials in the seafront gardens. The pinnacle of this planting has been the Lyme Regis Arboretum, opened by the Mayoress in early 2022, and Queen Elizabeth II tree lined walkway.

An area of steeply sloping ground with some existing trees and ground cover to the northwest of the seafront gardens that had been basically maintained for many years was identified as an ideal area to plant an arboretum. Tree management due to Ash dieback required some removal of trees in any case and provided an opportunity to plant a wider variety of species that are not only pleasing in their arrangement and leaf colour and texture but capture the largest amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>. Fast growing trees absorb carbon quicker, and longer living trees absorb more over their lifetime<sup>1</sup>.

Existing trees maintained due to their longevity and absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> were: quercus ilex (holm oak), english oak (quercus robur), maritime pine (pinus pinaster), field maple (acer campestre), sweet chestnut (castanea sativa), white poplar (populus alba) and english yew (taxus baccata). Deliberately selected trees include: tulip tree (liriodendron tulipifera), flowering dogwood (cornus kousa), silver birch (betula utilis jacquemontii), magnolia grandiflora and great white cherry (prunus tai-haku & prunus kanzan). In addition, native hedging plants for biodiversity and creating wildlife corridors have been planted; blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, eunonymous and honeysuckle (for dormice).

If the council's tree-planting actions can lead and inspire the wider local community to plant more trees in spaces they own for carbon sequestration, and many other local communities follow suit, the idea of re-forestation as part of a national solution to carbon might take root.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://mytree.org.uk/which-trees-best-offset-global-warming/>