



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 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 at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright  
Town Clerk  
09.03.23

*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 25 January 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 25 January 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. Environment Policy Review**

To allow members to review the Environment Policy

### **9. Proposed Budget for Invertebrate Garden**

To present a proposed budget for planting a bed to attract pollinators and insects by the table tennis area – part of the Plan Bee project

### **10. Designation of Church Cliff Beach as a Bathing Beach**

To present a draft letter to the committee for the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in support of the designation of Church Cliff Beach as a bathing beach

### **11. River Lim Action Group Update**

To allow the River Lim Action Group to present an update to the committee

To allow members to consider a request for £400 funding from the environment budget for Riverfly training if the River Lim Action Group cannot secure funding elsewhere

**12. Community Energy Champions**

To ask members to actively support the energy champions by booking an appointment for a consultation

**13. eRIB Round Britain Update**

To receive a presentation from Jaqui Besley on the latest developments of the eRIB Round Britain project

**14. Exempt Business**

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2023

**Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr R. Smith

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

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

**22/37/ENV Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

**22/38/ENV Apologies**

None.

**22/39/ENV Minutes**

Under minute number, 22/29/ENV, Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 5 October 2022, it was clarified by Cllr B. Bawden that both she and Cllr R. Smith had met with the town clerk to discuss carbon literacy.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2022, with the above amendment, were **ADOPTED**.

**22/40/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr P. May declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 8, River Lim Action Group – Update 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, Use of the Town Council Logo, as he was a community energy champion.

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

**22/41/ENV Dispensations**

There were none.

**22/42/ENV Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 23 November 2022**

Members noted the report.

## **22/43/ENV Update Report**

### **2030 Vision**

Cllr B. Bawden gave updates on various projects under the 2030 Vision banner:

- Speedwatch training was taking place on 30 January 2023
- A home energy workshop was taking place on 4 February 2023, attended by two community energy champions, Ridgewater Energy, Warmer Homes Dorset, and Turn Lyme Green would be making draft excluders
- She was planning a public open workshop on traffic, transport and speeding for end-February/beginning-March, which would be attended by Dorset Council (DC) officers
- She was organising climate and environmental emergency workshops and DC would be involved in these.

## **22/44/ENV River Lim Action Group – Update Report**

Cllr P. May gave an update on behalf of the group. He said the River Lim was cleaner now than it had ever been and it was an ongoing project to get South West Water (SWW) in particular to clean up the river by stopping illegal sewage releases and to reduce, where possible, legal releases of untreated sewage when there was stormy weather.

Cllr P. May said the River Lim Action Group (RLAG) had found a respected Dorset-based ecologist who had provided a satisfactory quote to do the river survey. He said the quote was £4,700 but this excluded some testing equipment at £500, although the group might be able to get this funded elsewhere. Therefore, the amount was within the £5,000 approved by the council. He said the report from the ecologist would be available to anyone who wanted to see it.

It was agreed the RLAG would speak to officers outside the meeting to discuss the payment terms.

Cllr B. Larcombe said if Church Cliff Beach was redesignated as a bathing beach, it would become part of the town's offering. He said having Blue Flag status wasn't just about bathing water quality, it was also about other factors such as nearby facilities and availability of lifeguards, so re-designating Church Cliff Beach might detract from that.

Cllr R. Smith said the RLAG was aware this was a potential issue but the main reason for trying to re-designate Church Cliff Beach as a bathing beach was to drive improved water quality.

Cllr P. May said Church Cliff Beach was already being used by bathers all year round for swimming. He said the reason it kept failing water quality tests was because of the quality of the water coming down the River Lim and the Environment Agency wouldn't make the resources available to monitor the river close to the beach unless it was designated as a bathing beach. He said the group had concluded it was in the best interests of the River Lim to get the beach re-designated and they were prepared to do the work to make it happen.

Members acknowledged the importance and value of partnership working between SWW, the Environment Agency, the town council, RLAG and Dorset Council in

progressing the issue of water quality and thanked the operations manager for arranging the first meeting.

## **22/45/ENV Bathing Water Quality Meeting 1**

Cllr Belinda Bawden said Dorset Council had agreed to get quotes to carry out monitoring of the sand before and after it was dredged from the harbour to confirm if there were any contaminants present.

Members discussed the suggestion to move the water quality noticeboard from the harbour to the sandy beach.

Cllr B. Larcombe suggested tide times could be included on the same board.

The operations manager said tide times were displayed on the harbourmaster's office but he could look into also displaying them on the water quality noticeboard.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to note the minutes of the initial bathing water quality meeting, the actions from the meeting and the date of the next meeting, and to agree to move the water quality noticeboard from the harbour to the sandy beach entrance.

## **22/46/ENV Big Hedge**

Cllr P. May said Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) had slimmed the project down and had submitted a funding application for £1,512. He said there was a public meeting last year about the Great Big Dorset Hedge project where there was a lot of interest from residents and it had received national press coverage so he felt it would be good for the council to adopt it as its biodiversity project.

Cllr D. Ruffle said he wasn't convinced about the precise benefits for Lyme Regis and he had reservations about where the money would be spent as a significant amount would go to the contractor/expert at £15 per hour.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the council had given funding to other organisations that were outside Lyme Regis so it wouldn't be setting a precedent and the amount requested was modest.

Cllr B. Bawden said the benefits of the project included engaging with people to do something positive, community volunteers learning new skills about planting and different types of hedging and trees to encourage wildlife, and education and raising awareness.

Cllr G. Stammers asked whether it was appropriate for the person submitting the funding application to be a beneficiary as the contractor/expert. She also asked if the Big Hedge could become a standalone charity in its own right as it was an ongoing project.

Cllr P. May said DCAN was in the process of applying to become a charity. He said the administrative work required to gather and process the data was quite specialist so a specialist rate had been quoted for the contractor/expert.

The support services manager said as this wasn't a community grant application, there were no rules as such. However, if it was a community grant, there was no rule against

paying the wages of the person making the request. She said other community grants had been used to pay for a person's services, but it was unusual for the person submitting the application to request funding to pay themselves. She added that no funding would be released until evidence of expenditure had been provided so this may give members some comfort.

Cllr R. Smith raised a query about the mileage expenses element of the request as it stated 45p per kilometre but it would usually be per mile.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve funding of up to £1,512 to the Dorset Climate Action Network for the Great Big Dorset Hedge project, subject to clarification of the mileage element of the request.

## **22/47/ENV Use of the Town Council Logo**

Cllr P. May said the community energy champions had information to give to residents with tips on how to save energy and where to get help to reduce energy bills. He said the community energy champions, Bridport Town Council and Dorset Greener Homes logos were on the letter but they wanted permission to add this council's logo.

Cllr P. May said the community energy champions had done around 15 home visits so far, with around 10 surveyed using the thermal imaging camera, and this would continue through January and February. He said they were trying to recruit more champions and also working with Charmouth and Char Valley to get champions up and running. He suggested members could offer their properties to be surveyed to set a good example.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if there was any indemnity against the advice given by the champions.

Cllr P. May said they didn't give advice, they gave tips, they made it clear they were not professionals and any advice they gave was in good faith. Homeowners were told to get professional advice and it was up to them if they chose to make any improvements.

Cllr B. Bawden said the champions were also working closely with the Bridport group and funding may be available from Ridgewater Energy to train new volunteers. She said the champions couldn't advertise themselves too widely as they were volunteers and didn't have the capacity to help significant numbers of people.

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support the Lyme Area Community Energy Champions by allowing the use of the town council logo on their literature.

## **22/48/ENV Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

Members noted the report.

*The meeting closed at 9.03pm.*

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 15 March 2023

**Title:** Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2023

**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**

**22/45/ENV – Bathing Water Quality Meeting 1**

The water quality noticeboard, on discussions with the harbourmaster, will be moved to the beach after the dredging has been completed.

**22/48/ENV – Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

The application for silver level accreditation is being compiled by the operations manager. Data is being collected to form a baseline to commence governance reporting annually on a series of key performance indicators.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
March 2023

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 15 March 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.

The River Lim Action group have a separate agenda item.

**Dorset Council - Rapid EV charging**

Dorset Council's second electric vehicle rapid charging station at Holmbush car park was commissioned on 31 January 2023. Each of these 22kW stations can charge two vehicles. However, at the time of writing they were out of action.

According to ZapMap the town now has the following charging stations:

Holmbush car park: 2x 22kW, each unit can charge two vehicles.

Charmouth Road: 1x 50kW unit, it can charge two vehicles.

Monmouth beach car park: 2x 7kw units.

Woodmead car park: 2x 7kW, one unit that can charge two vehicles.

Alexandra Hotel: A tesla 11kW unit, a 7kW unit and a 3kW three pin unit

In addition, there are three local homeowners, including one in Uplyme, that allow charging at their houses. Further afield Wood Farm Caravan and Camping Park have 2x 7kW units.

**Environment pages on the town council website**

The layout of the navigation for the environment pages has been agreed with the chairman and vice-chairman of this committee. The content for each page and subpage has been broadly agreed and the support services manager is now writing the content and gathering photos and logos to accompany the text.

The aim is to get the pages live by the next meeting of this committee.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
March 2023

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 15 March 2023

**Title:** Environment Policy Review

**Purpose of Report**

To allow members to review the Environment Policy

**Recommendation**

Members approve the Environment Policy

**Report**

1. The Environment Policy was last reviewed in March 2019.
2. It has come to officers' attention that the review of the Environment Policy was due in March 2020 but was overlooked due to Covid and therefore requires immediate review.
3. The only change proposed to the existing policy is the review frequency and review date. The proposition is to review the policy every two years with the next review being in March 2025.
4. The policy is attached, **appendix 8A**.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 5 April 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
March 2023



## Policy

### Environment

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Lyme Regis Town Council recognises it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. It is committed to reducing its environmental impact and continually improving its environmental performance as an integral part of its strategy and operating methods, with annual reviews. The council will encourage the public, suppliers and stakeholders to do the same.
- 1.2 This policy will specifically refer to, but is not limited to; paper, energy, water, transport, maintenance, cleaning, monitoring and culture.

#### 2. Responsibility

- 2.1 The town clerk has overall responsibility for ensuring the environmental policy is implemented and delegates day-to-day management of the policy to the operations manager. However, all employees have a responsibility in their area to ensure the aims and purpose of the policy are met.

#### 3. Aims

- 3.1 Comply with all and exceed, where possible, all regulatory requirements.
- 3.2 Continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- 3.3 Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- 3.4 Incorporate environmental factors into council decision-making.
- 3.5 Increase employee awareness and training.

#### 4. Pollution

- 4.1 The council will:
- 4.1.1 Identify, adopt and promote technologies to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, within council properties and the wider community.

4.1.2 Minimise and, where possible, eliminate the release of any pollutant which may cause damage to health and the environment.

## **5. Paper and office supplies**

5.1 The council will:

5.1.1 minimise the use of paper in the office.

5.1.2 seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products.

5.1.3 reuse and recycle all paper where possible.

5.1.4 evaluate the need and environmental impact of products we purchase.

5.1.5 favour more environmentally-friendly and efficient products wherever possible.

5.1.6 reuse and recycle everything it is able to.

## **6. Energy and Water**

6.1 The council will reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible.

6.2 Lights and electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use.

6.3 Heating will be adjusted with energy consumption in mind.

6.4 The energy consumption and efficiency will be taken into account when purchasing new products.

## **7. Transport**

7.1 The council will:

7.1.1 reduce the need to travel where possible.

7.1.2 promote the use of travel alternatives such as email and phone conferencing.

7.1.3 accommodate the needs of staff using public transport or bicycles where possible.

7.1.4 favour 'green' vehicles where possible when considering replacements and consider installing electric charging points for its vehicles and in its car parks.

## **8. Cleaning, maintenance and waste**

8.1 Cleaning materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible.

8.2 The council will favour 'green' machinery where possible when considering replacements.

8.3 The council will manage unavoidable waste and use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste.

8.4 The council will minimise waste by the best practicable environmental option by eliminating, reducing, reusing, composting and recycling.

## **9. Gardening**

9.1 The council will garden organically where possible and limit the use of chemicals to the essential where organic gardening is not time or cost-effective.

9.2 The council will favour 'green' machinery where possible when considering replacements.

## **10. Natural and Built Environment**

10.1 The council will:

10.1.1 Protect, conserve and enhance the environment including landscape character, habitats and heritage.

10.1.2 Promote bio-diversity and local distinctiveness and the conservation of both renewable and non-renewable resources.

## **11. Culture**

11.1 The council will:

11.1.1 involve staff in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improved performance.

11.1.2 provide staff with relevant environmental training.

11.1.3 work with the public, suppliers and contractors to improve their environmental performance.

11.1.4 use local labour and materials where available to reduce CO2 and help the community.

## **12. Monitoring and review**

12.1 The council will continually improve and monitor environmental performance by complying with and exceeding, where possible, all regulatory requirements.

The council will continually improve and reduce environmental impacts, incorporate environmental impacts into decision-making and increase employee awareness and training.

~~42.2 This policy will be reviewed at least annually.~~

Implementation date: ~~20 March 2019~~ 5 April 2023

Review date: ~~March 2020~~ April 2025

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 15 March 2023

**Title:** Proposed Budget for Invertebrate Garden

**Purpose of Report**

To present a proposed budget for planting a bed to attract pollinators and insects by the table tennis area – part of the Plan Bee project

**Recommendation**

Members approve, in principle, £3,000 for the element of the Plan Bee project by the table tennis from the environment budget

**Background**

1. At the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting on 1 March 2023, members considered a report about Plan Bee, a project to encourage pollinators and other insects into Langmoor and Lister Gardens.
2. It was recommended to Full Council to ‘create an invertebrate garden in the area to be vacated by the decking for the Oyster and Fish House and the area in the gardens suggested by officers where an existing bed could be re-populated, in consultation with experts in invertebrate gardens and council staff’.
3. This recommendation is yet to be approved by the Full Council and will be considered at its meeting on 5 April 2023.

**Report**

4. The ground proposed for part of the Plan Bee project next to the table tennis area, i.e. the area to be vacated by the Oyster and Fish House decking, is approximately 75m<sup>2</sup>. Weed control matting, compost and plants, allowing for £40 per m<sup>2</sup>, would require a budget of £3,000 to create an invertebrate garden.
5. Plant suggestions were presented to the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting on 1 March 2023, as follows:

Early season

Mid season

Late season

*Aubretia* spp

Heather - *Erica cinerea*

Coneflower - *Echinacea* spp.

English bluebell - *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*

Lady’s bedstraw - *Galium verum*

French marigold - *Tagetes patula*

Currant - *Ribes* spp.

Lavender - *Lavandula*

Golden rod - *Solidago* spp.

*angustifolia*

Grape hyacinth - *Muscari armeniacum*

Common mallow - *Malva sylvestri*

Honeysuckle - *Lonicera periclymenum*

Lungwort - *Pulmonaria officinalis*

Purple toadflax - *Linaria purpurea*

Ice plant - *Sedum spectabile*

Primrose - *Primula vulgaris*

Rock cress - *Arabis* spp.

Ivy - *Hedera helix*

Sweet violet - *Viola odorata*

Sea holly - *Eryngium maritimum*

Meadow saffron - *Colchicum autumnale*

Winter aconite - *Eranthis hyemalis*

Verbena - *Verbena bonariensis*

Michaelmas daisy - *Aster pyrenaeus*

Wood anemone - *Anemone nemorosa*

Wallflower - *Erysimum cheiri*

Common sunflower - *Helianthus annuus*

Alyssum - *Alyssum montanum*

Red valerian - *Centranthus ruber*

6. As the recommendation from the Town Management and Highways Committee to create an invertebrate garden has yet to be approved by the Full Council, any recommendation to approve a budget for the project would need to be 'in principle'.
7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 5 April 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
March 2023

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 15 March 2023

**Title:** Designation of Church Cliff Beach as a Bathing Beach

### **Purpose of Report**

To present a draft letter to the committee for the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in support of the designation of Church Cliff Beach as a bathing beach

### **Recommendation**

- a) Members approve the draft letter is sent to the committee for the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in support of the designation of Church Cliff Beach as a bathing beach
- b) Members and officers help with advice to the River Lim Action Group on the public consultation for designation of Church Cliff Beach, including publicity

### **Background**

1. It was recommended by this committee on 5 October 2022 and subsequently resolved by the Full Council on 26 October 2022 'that the council considers furthering the re-designation of Church Cliff Beach as a bathing beach so further monitoring resources of the River Lym can be deployed'.

### **Report**

2. The River Lim Action Group (RLA), supported with training by Surfers Against Sewage, is progressing through the process to apply to get Church Cliff Beach designated as a bathing beach again. The initial step is to secure the permission of the landowners – the Crown Estate and Dorset Council. RLA have already secured the former and are going through the formalities with Dorset Council.
3. The next steps are to carry out a survey of water users and a public consultation. Both of these need to coincide with the bathing season. The Blue Tits open water swimming group are helping with the survey, which requires at least 20 days of counting water users. The RLA would welcome help with the design and publicity around the public consultation.
4. Members are asked to approve a draft letter, **appendix 10A**, to be sent to the committee for the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in support of the designation of Church Cliff Beach as a bathing beach.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 5 April 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
March 2023



John Wright  
Town Clerk

## LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
70 Whitehall  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2AS

9 March 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Bathing Water designation - Church Cliff Beach, Lyme Regis

I am writing on behalf of the Town Council in support of the application for Designated Bathing Status for Church Cliff Beach, Lyme Regis, at the mouth of the River Lim. This is in accordance with a resolution approved by the Full Council meeting of 26 October 2022.

The Town Council has been supporting the development of this application by funding some water quality testing by the local River Lim Action group and by regular meetings with the Environment Agency, South West Water and Dorset Council with the aim of cleaning up the discharges into the river. Further to this aim, a detailed ecological study of the river has been organised.

A Bathing Water Designation for Church Cliff Beach, by the mouth of the river, would support the overall aims of the Town Council, and other agencies, to progress water quality and environmental improvements to the river and the sea.

Church Cliff Beach has become more popular in recent years as a recreational beach and it contributes to the wellbeing of the town's residents and the enjoyment of the many visitors Lyme Regis receives every year. Achieving Designated Bathing Status would be an important next step in ensuring a regulatory environment for the beach and river that will protect current and future users, and the aquatic environment itself.

Yours sincerely,

John Wright  
Town Clerk

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 15 March 2023

**Title:** River Lim Action Group Update

**Purpose of Report**

To allow the River Lim Action Group to present an update to the committee

To allow members to consider a request for £400 funding from the environment budget for Riverfly training if the River Lim Action Group cannot secure funding elsewhere

**Recommendation**

- a) Members note the River Lim Action Group's update report
- b) Members consider approving £400 from the environment budget for Riverfly training, if the River Lim Action Group cannot secure funding from elsewhere

**Report**

- 1. The River Lim Action Group (RLA) has provided an update to the committee, **appendix 11A**.
- 2. Within that report, the RLA has made a request that the council earmarks £400 for Riverfly training. In May, the group will launch its Riverfly monitoring, which involves training by Dorset Wildlife Trust, and kits for this testing have been donated by the Axe Valley Rivers Association. Riverfly is a better indicator of long-term ecological health. The RLA has asked the council to earmark funding for the training if it cannot be found elsewhere, although a funding application has been made.
- 3. The report on the recent water quality testing on the River Lim is at **appendix 11B**.
- 4. A meeting between the Environment Agency, South West Water, Dorset Council, the town council and RLA is due to be held on the afternoon of 15 March 2023. A verbal update on the meeting may be given by officers and the RLA at this committee meeting but the minutes of that meeting will follow in a future agenda of this committee.
- 5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 5 April 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
March 2023

## Lyme Regis Town Council, Environment Committee March 15 2023

### River Lim Action group (RLA) Update paper

This paper will be updated at the meeting following an in person roundtable involving LRTC, Dorset Council, South West Water and the Environment Agency, which is earlier in the day on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Water Quality in the River

At the last roundtable meeting the Environment Agency agreed to carry out bacterial testing in the river over the winter. The River Lim Action group was disappointed to receive the results of the testing which was carried out in February at two points on the Lim. It found high levels of e-coli from Woodmead Road downstream.

Water was sampled twice at five locations. The results indicate that the river is still contaminated by unacceptably high levels of bacteria. These discharges all appear to be unlicensed or due to misconnections or leakage into surface water drains. The Environment Agency concluded: *"E. coli concentrations increased markedly between Woodmead Road Bridge and the Town Mill indicating multiple sources of faecal contamination between these sites. The largest increase in E. coli concentrations was between Jordan Flats and Gosling's Bridge. Two problematic surface water outfalls with a history of contamination are known to discharge to the river between these sites.*

*"Given that no storm overflows were discharging to the river at the time, the most likely source of this increase is contaminated surface water drainage. Several contaminated surface water outfalls between Woodmead Road and Gosling's Bridge, including the outfall at Woodmead Road, have been identified and mapped. This report will be shared with South West Water".*

South West Water have responded: *"As you know, the recent EA survey demonstrates an increase in the levels of E. coli in the River Lim at a time when there were no storm overflows operating. The EA has suggested that the most likely source of this contamination are the surface water outfalls in the area. We are therefore liaising with the EA and have asked for the specific locations of the surface water outfalls that they have identified so that we might focus our ongoing investigations on the specific areas they have highlighted. My colleagues have indicated that they will monitor for Ammonia as part of this.*

*In terms of Woodmead Road, our investigations so far have revealed that the majority of properties on Woodmead Road are correctly connected. We found one misconnection to the foul sewer which has now been rectified. We had finished our investigations on the road (relating to the previous pollution incident report) but we will be investigating a number more as a result of the more recent report. We will be carrying out drainage inspections at 10 properties in Charmouth Close on the 15th March and are also planning to extend investigations to new sites at Henry's Way and Pine Ridge*

*As we hope is clear through our work with both yourselves, the EA and the Town Council, we are committed to investigating this area and we will continue to roll out our CCTV survey to ensure all properties on Woodmead Road have been covered".*

#### Ecological Survey

LRTC is funding a river corridor survey of the Lim. The contracted ecologist, Dr Dominic Stubbing, has done an initial survey of the area with the help of Graham Roberts of the RLA. The work will be carried out in the Spring and we expect to have the full survey report by the end of September. Encouragingly there have been recent sightings of trout, an adult eel and otter spraint. This indicates that if we can remove the main sources of pollution and other harm to the natural environment the River should recover quickly.

#### Beachfront drains

Since the last roundtable meeting SWW has carried out a CCTV survey of the drains on the seafront which may be causing sewage ingress onto Front Beach. They have said they will share the report. Some adjustments to drainage have been made at SWIM with thanks for a contribution from LRTC.

## **Harbour Dredging**

We're grateful to LRTC, Councillor Bawden and Matt Adamson-Drage for helping get environmental testing done in relation to the harbour dredging. Concerns are raised every year about the possible environmental and human health impacts of this activity. Dorset Council agreed to arrange testing of the sediment for the presence of heavy metals and hydrocarbons. This data is important because the harbour sediment is shifted onto the bathing beach. They will publish the results. The RLA also requested bacterial testing to be carried out by the EA. However they said as they carried it out last year (when the dredging happened during their testing period) they would not repeat the exercise. They did not find increased bacteria during that time. To check that is still the correct position, the RLA has carried out its own e. coli tests using the kit funded by LRTC before and during the dredging.

## **Licensed discharges**

Just a reminder that regardless of the illegal and unregulated discharges into the river, there are still hundreds of hours of permitted sewage discharges into the Lim. However last year there were ten discharges during the dry period May-September. No discharging is permitted outside storm conditions. SWW is now being investigated by Ofwat over the issue of dry spills, which are illegal and would have a big impact on a small river like the Lim.

## **Monitoring**

We now have three monitoring teams. The water quality team – with kits funded by LRTC – is monitoring at eight locations on the river. Their main concern is the presence of ammonia, which indicates sewage pollution. We now have a small e.coli team who will carry out regular monitoring. And in May we will launch our Riverfly monitoring, which involves training by Dorset Wildlife Trust. Kits for that have been donated by the Axe Valley Rivers Association. Riverfly is a better indicator of long term ecological health. We may need to apply to LRTC for the cost of training (£400) if it cannot be funded elsewhere.

Request: LRTC earmarks £400 for Riverfly training (which leads to formal accreditation) if funding is not secured from elsewhere (an application has been made).

## Bacteriological survey of the River Lim in Lyme Regis, February 2023

### Data collection

Water samples were collected on both 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February at five sites on the River Lim between Woodmead Road Bridge and the routine EA sampling point 'Lim at Beach' (see map in Figure 1). A sample was also collected from the surface water outfall immediately downstream of Woodmead Road Bridge on 14<sup>th</sup> February. At the time of sampling this outfall was discharging grey water with a high ammonia content (>10 mg/l) indicating it was contaminated with domestic sewage. All samples were analysed at the Blandford laboratory using a Fluidion Alert Lab system with *E. coli* reagent.

### Results

*E. coli* concentrations obtained from the Fluidion Alert Lab system are given in Table 1. The data are summarised graphically in Figures 2 and 3.

Absolute and relative *E. coli* concentrations were similar on both sampling occasions. *E. coli* concentrations increased markedly between Woodmead Road Bridge and the Town Mill indicating multiple sources of faecal contamination between these sites. The largest increase in *E. coli* concentrations was between Jordan Flats and Gosling's Bridge. Two problematic surface water outfalls with a history of contamination are known to discharge to the river between these sites.

The high *E. coli* result for the surface water outfall at Woodmead Road Bridge confirmed that it was contaminated with faecal bacteria.

**Table 1.** *E. coli* results (number per 100ml) obtained using a Fluidion Alert Lab system

Site	Site Name	14.02.2023	22.02.2023
1	Lim at Woodmead Road	110	149
2	Lim at Jordan Flats	482	356
3	Lim at Gosling's Bridge	4,405	2,343
4	Lim at Town Mill	9,326	3,252
5	Lim at Beach	4,992	3,252
-	Surface water outfall d/s Woodmead Road	27,200	-
-	Blank (deionised water)	-	<4

### Conclusions and recommendations

The survey results clearly demonstrate that under baseflow conditions there is an increase in levels of *E. coli* in the River Lim as it flows through Lyme Regis. Given that no storm overflows were discharging to the river at the time, the most likely source of this increase is contaminated surface water drainage. Several contaminated surface water outfalls between Woodmead Road and Gosling's Bridge, including the outfall at Woodmead Road, have been identified and mapped. This report will be shared with South West Water.

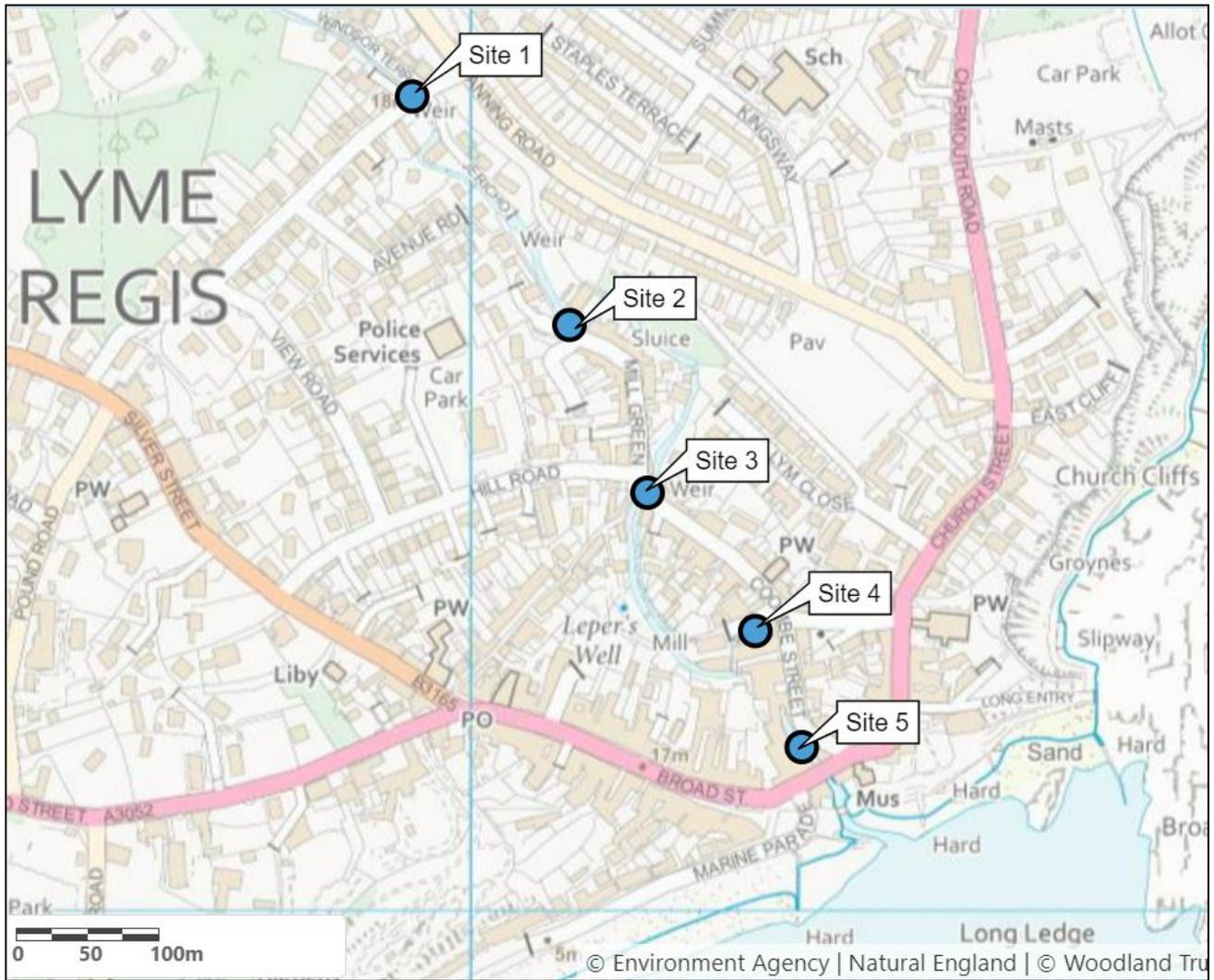
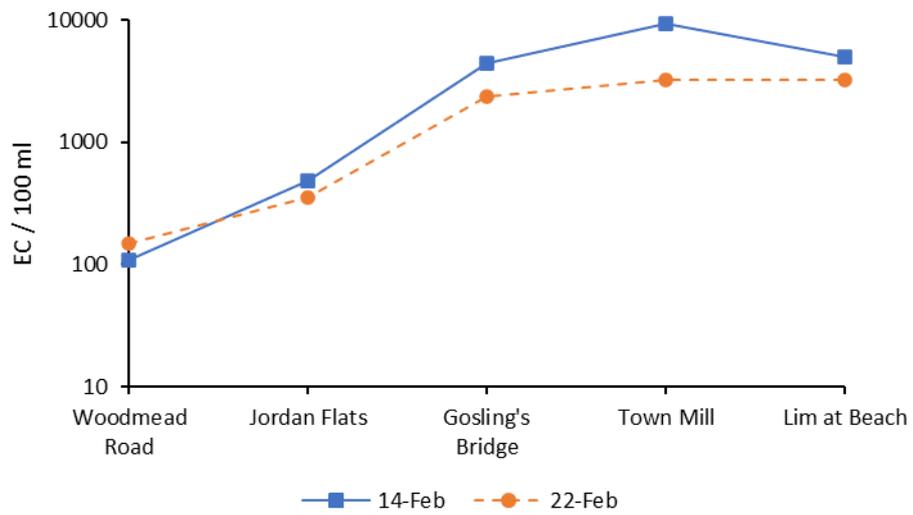
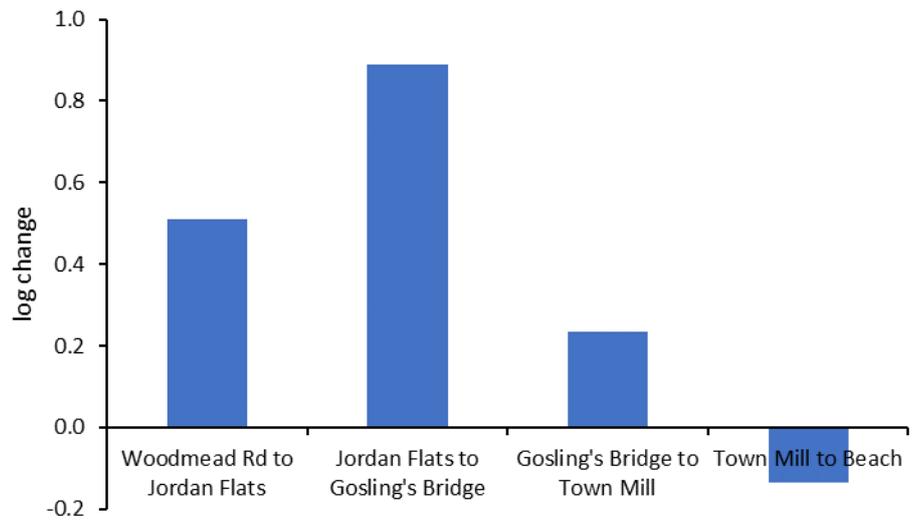


Figure 1. Map of sampling sites on the River Lim



**Figure 2.** *E. coli* concentrations in the River Lim on 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023



**Figure 3.** Average log increase in *E. coli* between adjacent sampling points

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 15 March 2023

**Title:** Community Energy Champions

**Purpose of Report**

To ask members to actively support the energy champions by booking an appointment for a consultation

**Recommendation**

Members note the report and consider booking an energy champion appointment

**Report**

1. The Community Energy Champions are currently carrying out free thermal camera property surveys for local residents to identify where energy savings might be possible. They have become busier over the winter but they would like more support from town councillors.
2. To encourage others, they would like members to book appointments for their own homes so they can understand the process and can recommend the benefits of a consultation to others.
3. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 5 April 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
March 2023

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 15 March 2023

**Title:** eRIB Round Britain Update

**Purpose of Report**

To receive a presentation from Jacqui Besley on the latest developments of the eRIB Round Britain project

**Recommendation**

Members note the report and presentation

**Background**

1. On 5 October 2022, this committee received a presentation from Jacqui and Harry Besley about the eRIB Round Britain project.
2. They explained at the meeting how they were attempting to set two world records in summer 2023 for the fastest circumnavigation of Great Britain by electric boat and Harry as the youngest skipper to circumnavigate Great Britain by powerboat.
3. The world record attempt is expected to have national publicity and is due to start and finish in Lyme Regis.

**Report**

4. Jacqui Besley will be attending the committee meeting and will update the committee on the latest developments of the project.
5. Jacqui and the team would like to thank the council for its support given so far. There is a small hosted event planned to get together at around 10 or 11am on Friday 21 April in the Press Room at the MDL Green Tech Boat Show, Ocean Village, Southampton, where the boat may be unveiled. Further information will be available in due course but in the meantime please save the date in your diaries. If members would like a ticket, please contact officers.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 5 April 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
March 2023