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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 3 May 2023 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
27.04.23

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 15 March 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 15 March 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 review and implement a new Environment Policy

9. Bathing Water Quality Meeting

To present the minutes of the second bathing water quality meeting

10. River Lim Action Group Report

To receive a report from the River Lim Action group

11. Local Energy Clubs

To explain the concept of local energy clubs to members

12. Exempt Business

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2023

Present

Chairman: Cllr R. Smith

Members: Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

Officers: M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), C. Austin (administrative and community engagement assistant)

Guests: J. Besley (eRIB Round Britain Project), L. Davis and V. Elcoate (River Lim Action Group)

22/49/ENV Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

22/50/ENV Apologies

Cllr D. Ruffle - holiday

22/51/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, the minutes of the meeting held on 01 January 2023, were **ADOPTED**.

22/52/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr P. May declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 11, River Lim Action Group – Update Report as he was a member of the group, and item 12, Community Energy Champions, as he was a community energy champion.

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

22/53/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

22/54/ENV Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 01 January 2023

Cllr B. Bawden gave updates on the carbon literacy organisation accreditation and said a carbon toolkit was to launch the following week alongside a national launch of a parish, town and community council toolkit.

The operations said the second bathing water quality meeting had taken place as planned and the minutes would be presented at the next committee meeting.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked whether the tide times had been added to the water quality noticeboard.

The operations manager said this was still being investigated.

22/55/ENV Update Report

Cllr B. Bawden said more electric vehicle charging points had been installed at Holmbush car park

Members discussed public access to information on electric vehicle charge point locations.

22/56/ENV eRIB Round Britain – Update

The chairman invited J. Besley from the eRIB Round Britain project to give a presentation to members. She said there would be a start and finish event in Lyme Regis co-ordinated with the harbour master and the operations manager.

22/57/ENV Designation of Church Cliff Beach as a Bathing Beach

Cllr B. Larcombe said he had concerns over Church Cliff Beach being a dog-friendly designated beach.

Concerns were also raised over the safety of the beach without a lifeguard station.

Cllr R. Smith said Church Cliff Beach would be regularly tested for harmful bacteria.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the RNLI lifeguard station currently based on the main sandy beach should also cover Church Cliff Beach. He said he would take a proposal to the harbour users' group to enquire about availability from the RNLI.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the draft letter 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.

22/58/ENV River Lim Action Group - Update

The chairman invited L. Davis and V. Elcoate from the River Lim Action (RLA) Group to give a presentation to members.

V. Elcoate said South West Water had responded quickly and were dedicated to resolving the problems regarding illegal pollution into the river. Several properties in Woodmead Road had been tested for misconnections.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the results from the Town Mill hotspot area, tested in February were alarming. He said the Town Mill area of Lyme Regis was the oldest part of the town and questions on whether old pipes could be the cause of the problem were raised and discussed.

V. Elcoate said the River Lim Action Group had been testing the river for levels of E-Coli, and the results had been backed up by the reports from the Environment Agency. She said the main concern was the presence of ammonia, which indicated sewage pollution and regular monitoring of the river would be carried out. She said the town council was funding a river corridor survey of the Lim and the contracted ecologist had done an initial survey of the area. She said the work would be carried out in the spring and the River Lim Action Group expected to have the full survey report by the end of September 2023.

L. Davis said Monmouth Beach pumping station pipe was shortened due to a degrading pipe and reports of combined sewer overflow release at Monmouth Beach had raised concerns. She said the Environment Agency had agreed to investigate the issue.

L. Davis said the harbour dredging undertaken by Dorset Council had found no E-Coli present in the sediment and was being tested for heavy metal content.

Cllr B. Larcombe said he was concerned about bad publicity for a tourist hotspot.

L. Davis said the success of the collaborative working between South West Water, the Environment Agency and the River Lim Action Group would create positive headlines.

Cllr R. Smith thanked the River Lim Action Group for all the hard work and dedication put in to resolving the river pollution problems.

V. Elcoate said the River Lim Action Group would launch Riverfly monitoring in May, which involved training by Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the funding request of £400 from the environment budget to pay for Riverfly training in May 2023, if the River Lim Action Group cannot secure funding elsewhere.

22/59/ENV Environment Policy Review

Members discussed the current policy and raised concerns over whether it was comprehensive enough.

Cllr P. May suggested the current policy was more of a work in progress and should take into account the wider environmental issues that were present.

Cllr B. Bawden said she did not want to approve the current policy as it did not mention the net zero policy or carbon literacy.

Cllr B. Larcombe suggested the policy should be renewed annually.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the environment policy is adopted, however members recognise the policy needs updating and should be reviewed at the earliest opportunity.

22/60/ENV Proposed budget for Invertebrate Garden

Cllr P. May said the proposal did not currently have funding and the funding would need to come from the environment budget.

Cllr B. Larcombe said there was a balance of unspent monies from the environment budget.

As the recommendation from the Town Management and Highways Committee to create an invertebrate garden had yet to be approved by the Full Council, any recommendation to approve a budget for the project would need to be 'in principle'.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** approve, in principle, £3,000 for the element of the Plan Bee project by the table tennis from the environment budget.

22/61/ENV Community Energy Champions

Cllr P. May asked members to consider booking a 40-minute survey for their own homes so they could understand the process and could recommend the benefits of a consultation to others.

Cllr P. May said the Lyme area Community Energy Champions had received funding from several sources including Lyme Regis Town Council, 2030 Vision and Dorset Community Energy to provide thermal imaging surveys to households in the community. He said the funding from Dorset Community Energy required the group to work across communities.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to recognise the Lyme area Community Energy Champions deploy resources, including those funded by the town council, flexibly across Lyme Regis and the neighbouring parishes, in the interest of efficiency and volunteer availability.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Committee: Environment

Date: 3 May 2023

Title: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 March 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

22/56/ENV – eRIB Round Britain – Update

The boat show event went well, although the boat is not quite on the water yet, and a newsletter updating sponsors is currently in production. ‘Gill’ have also recently agreed to be a sponsor.

22/57/ENV – Designation of Church Cliff Beach as a Bathing Beach

Appendix 6A written by Vicki Elcoate of the River Lim Action Group refers to the latest actions surrounding the plan for redesignation of Church Cliff Beach.

Moving the bathing water quality noticeboard is in discussion with the harbourmaster. Dorset Council has installed a new sign on the bathing water quality board since taking over as ‘Beach Manager’ (responsible for displaying the pollution risk forecast notices).

22/60/ENV – Proposed budget for Invertebrate Garden

Due to the planting calendar, the operations supervisor, in conjunction with the gardens’ team, has prepared the ground and sown wildflowers across the area. Due to the lateness in the season, the planting of selected herbs, shrubs and plants is intended for next year.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
May 2023

Church Cliff Beach redesignation

River Lim Action group – update for LRTC Environment Committee May 3rd 2023

The Church Cliff Beach redesignation campaign is well under way with the aim of gaining public support. A press release has gone out to publicise the campaign and get people to participate in the public consultation. Lyme Regis Blue Tits, RLA members and other campaign supporters gathered on the beach for a photo, which has gone out with the press release.

We organised a well attended meeting (April 17th) for seafront businesses and water user organisations (see Drains paper) and received unanimous support for the campaign. Attendees welcomed the support of the Town Council for our attempts to get the beaches clean and suitable for bathing.

DEFRA requirements

1. Support to be secured from all the landowners and relevant local councils. This has now been achieved and the letters will go in with the submission in October. Thank you to the Town Council for the letter of support.
2. Water user survey: this will start from May 15th (the start of the bathing season) and cover the busiest days over the season (till the end of September). There was low water use when the survey was carried out by DEFRA in 2014 – probably because of concerns about the water quality. We need to demonstrate that people are getting into the water to have a chance of success.
3. Public consultation: we have now opened up the public consultation which seeks support for the application. **It would be helpful if the Town Council could publicise the consultation (eg by circulating a link to it in any communications to local residents). This will remain open over the summer so further boosts would be welcome.**
4. Facilities: we are writing up a short summary of local facilities which need to be nearby and accessible as part of any bathing beach application.

Other issues

We are preparing a FAQs page on the Turn Lyme Green website to deal with other issues including dogs, lifeguards, pollution, role of the water company. We welcome suggestions for questions which it might be helpful to include.

Committee: Environment

Date: 3 May 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 separate items on the agenda.

Front Beach

Since the last bathing water quality meeting, both South West Water and Dorset Highways have conducted CCTV investigations of sewers and storm drains on the seafront. **Appendix 7A** by Vicki Elcoate of the River Lim Action Group refers.

The results of testing the dredged sediment were expected at the end of April.

Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

The application for silver level (and bronze) accreditation was submitted by the operations manager on 25 April 2023.

Environment pages on the town council website

The support services manager is making final adjustments to the environment pages which will be available on the website soon.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
May 2023

The Drains around the Cobb Area

River Lim Action group – update for LRTC Environment Committee May 3rd 2023

It is heartening that SWW, their contractors, Dorset Council, the Town Council and The River Lim Action Group are working together and pooling information.

Dorset Council Highways have cleared the storm drains on the seaside of the Standard Inn and have sent a report to SWW describing the drains and their actions.

From the DC Highways report the reasons the drains in the areas behind and in front of the Royal Standard repeatedly overflow has become apparent. Both flow towards the sandy beach but are blocked and unable to discharge.

The CCTV survey carried out by SWW contractors on 03.02.23 was of the drains in the Cobb Pumping Station area rather than the 2 areas we had identified. They shared a redacted copy of this report which showed that one sewage drain outside the Cobb Arms is cracked.

On 19th April, SWW contractors carried out further CCTV surveys above the groyne on the sandy beach and on the sea side of the Royal Standard. Communication with RLA and the Town Council enabled them to access these areas via the barriers. The contractors seemed to welcome additional information from the RLA regarding the drains. We look forward to receiving a report.

RLA has been in contact with the Dorset Council site engineer regarding the testing and analysis carried out during dredging. We understand the results will be available on 28th April.

There is very strong community support for the campaign for clean Lyme. On 17th April, RLA held a meeting at the Sailing Club for clubs, organisations and businesses in the Cobb area. There were representatives from almost all the water using groups: Three swimming groups and businesses: the Blue Tits, Efficient Swimming and Lyme Bay Swimming; the Sailing Club, the Sea School, the Gig club, Go Row Pavilion, the Boat Building Academy, the Powder Monkeys Explorer Sea scouts, Boylos Paddle Boarding, RLNI, the Rotary club Lyme Lunge, Lyme Splash water polo, The Harbour Users group, the proprietor of the Harbour Inn and others.

We ask that the Town Council :

1. work with Dorset Council Highways in the area behind and in front of the Royal Standard to create a discharge system for the storm water drains.
2. work with SWW and DC to prevent sewage leaking into the storm gullies.
3. liaise with SWW and Dorset Council to stop sewage leaking into the storm drain in the groyne on the sandy beach.

Committee: Environment

Date: 3 May 2023

Title: Environment Policy Review

Purpose of Report

To review and implement a new Environment Policy

Recommendation

Members select a template for a new Environment Policy

Report

1. The current Environment Policy is at **appendix 8A**. At the last meeting of this committee members wanted to overhaul the current policy.
2. There is no agreed template on how to write an environmental policy. Guidance has been sought from the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and by researching the construction of other similar organisation policies.
3. An environment policy may include an environmental policy statement about the aims and objectives of the organisation.
4. It should include a commitment to continually improve, prevent pollution and comply with environmental legislation.
5. It could also include commitments related to: the efficient use of water, energy and natural resources; recycling and minimising waste; sustainable transport; responsible purchasing; minimising noise disturbance; use of non-toxic products; working with clients and suppliers to encourage high environmental standards; raising awareness and training employees.
6. An environmental action plan is a separate document but may be added as an appendix or treated as a complementary standalone document. The council's Carbon Net Zero plan may fulfil this function.
7. Members may wish to align the policy with Dorset Council's strategy where possible. Dorset Council's strategy is here: [Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/strategy)
8. A selection of other councils' policies are at the following links. Members may wish to select the elements they prefer:

[Swanage Town Council Environment Action Plan & Policy.pdf \(swanage.gov.uk\)](https://www.swanage.gov.uk/media/10000/Environment/Environment%20Action%20Plan%20and%20Policy.pdf)

[Glastonbury Town Council – Charter for the Environment](#)

[Cornwall Council-Generic Town Council Environmental Policy Template.pdf](#)

9. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 May 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
May 2023



Policy

Environment

1. Introduction

1.1 Lyme Regis Town Council recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our strategy and operating methods, with annual reviews. We will encourage the public, suppliers and stakeholders to do the same. 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 that 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 that 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 Identifying, adopting and promoting technologies to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, within council properties and the wider community.

4.2 Minimising and, where possible, eliminating the release of any pollutant which may cause damage to health and the environment.

5. Paper and office supplies

5.1 We will minimise the use of paper in the office.

5.2 We will seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products.

5.3 We will reuse and recycle all paper where possible.

5.4 We will evaluate the need and environmental impact of products we purchase.

5.5 We will favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products wherever possible.

5.6 We will reuse and recycle everything we are able to.

6. Energy and Water

6.1 We 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 We will reduce the need to travel where possible.

7.2 We will promote the use of travel alternatives such as email and phone conferencing.

7.3 We will accommodate the needs of those staff using public transport or bicycles where possible.

7.4 We will favour 'green' vehicles where possible when considering replacements and consider installing electric charging points for our vehicles and in our car parks.

8. Cleaning, maintenance and waste

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

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

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

8.4 Minimising waste by the best practicable environmental option by eliminating, reducing, reusing, composting and recycling.

9. Gardening

9.1 We 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 We will favour 'green' machinery where possible when considering replacements.

10. Natural and Built Environment

10.1 Protecting, conserving and enhancing the environment including landscape character, habitats and heritage.

10.2 Promoting bio-diversity and local distinctiveness and the conservation of both renewable and non-renewable resources.

11. Culture

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

11.2 We will provide staff with relevant environmental training.

11.3 We will work with the public, suppliers and contractors to improve their environmental performance.

11.4 We will use local labour and materials where available to reduce CO2 and help the community.

12. Monitoring and review

12.1 We will continually improve and monitor environmental performance by complying with and exceeding, where possible, all regulatory requirements. We will continually improve and reduce environmental impacts. Incorporate environmental impacts into decision making and increase employee awareness and training.

12.2 We will review this policy at least annually.

Implementation date: 20 March 2019

Review date: March 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wright', written in a cursive style.

John Wright
Town clerk

Committee: Environment

Date: 3 May 2023

Title: Bathing Water Quality Meeting

Purpose of Report

To present the minutes of the second bathing water quality meeting

Recommendation

Members note the report

Report

1. The second bathing water quality meeting took place on 15 March 2023 and the minutes are at **appendix 9A**.
2. The next meeting will take place on 14 June 2023 in the Guildhall.
3. A letter sent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is at **appendix 9B**.
4. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 May 2023.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
May 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 15 MARCH 2023
AT 12PM 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;
Chris Angel, Environment Agency Area Officer
Vicky Garner, Pennon Group - Community and Partnerships Manager;
Blair Turner, Dorset Council Community Highways Officer;
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 (joined on Teams);
Cllr Philip May, Deputy Chairman of Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee;
Vicki Elcoate, Lyme Regis River Lim Action group.
Liz Davis, Lyme Regis River Lim Action group.

Apologies None

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. The inaugural meeting was held 14 December 2022.

Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were seen fit as a true record

ITEM 1. INTRODUCTIONS

Members introduced themselves. The meeting welcomed those attending for the first time: Chris Angel, Blair Turner and Vicki Elcoate.

ITEM 2. MATTERS ARISING

The chair went through the actions from the minutes as follows:

Bathing Water Quality Noticeboard to be moved to the sandy beach.
This will be actioned after the dredging when access is re-established.

Action LRTC

The chair reported that the drain outside SWIM was being worked on.

DC Highways confirmed that surface water jetting at Marine Parade had been completed.

SWW reported they had largely completed CCTV investigations around the harbour area.

DC Highways would investigate drainage issues to the harbour side of the Royal Standard pub/Harbour Inn and employ CCTV as required and liaise with DC Environmental Health if required.

Action DC Highways

SWW reported that the Fats, Oils and Greases (FOG) environmental compliance campaign was due to get underway next week. The project, which was being rolled out across the region, was a collaborative campaign directed by and for the benefit of the community to highlight and tackle drainage issues in the harbour area.

The chair reported he had been unable to confirm where all the surface water drains at the west end of the seafront discharge to. DC Highways would investigate with the DC Assets team.

Action DC Highways

SWW reported that Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) data release was part of the Waterfit live programme and it was hoped to be able to achieve this by the end of 2023. More widely SWW has undertaken to achieve this by 2025 in any case.

The EA reported that the invertebrate study had been shared.

Town Council funds had been allocated to the River Lim Action group to engage an ecological study of the river. This work was in its initial stages and the final report was expected in September.

SWW reported that the Waterfit programme to upgrade Horn Bridge was due to be implemented by 2025.

ITEM 3. CART ROAD CONCESSIONS AREA POTENTIALLY COMPROMISED DRAINS/SEWERS

SWW confirmed that the report following the CCTV investigations of the sewers near the harbour was being finalised and a redacted version would be available for members of the meeting very soon.

Action SWW

SWW agreed to look into whether a redraw of sewer maps was required.

Action SWW

SWW agreed to pass details to LRTC about Crantock's electronic beach sign.

Action SWW

Cllr Rob Smith, who had attended via Teams, left the meeting at 1pm.

ITEM 4. MONMOUTH BEACH CSO

The EA said they would look into the modelling surrounding the shortened CSO at Monmouth Beach.

Action EA

ITEM 5. RIVER LIM

The RLA group reported that they had River Fly monitoring equipment and training was booked for 26 May 2023. The EA commented that the amount of invertebrates present or not present was a good indicator of the health of the river and a trigger level would be set for the RLA group to alert the EA should the numbers drop through that level. Further collaboration between the EA and RLA will be required.

Action EA & RLA

ITEM 6. DREDGING

The RLA group were delighted that DC were testing the sediment for heavy metals and that in addition LRTC had asked them to test for hydrocarbons. The RLA group had conducted its own water quality testing during the dredging and had not found any bacterial contamination.

ITEM 7. CHURCH CLIFF BEACH DESIGNATION

The RLA group were taking the lead on this with support from LRTC. The EA said that investigative work and modelling to establish what might need to be done, for example perhaps the lengthening of the CSO pipe, would commence once the designation of the beach had been decided by the Secretary of State.

Action RLA with support from LRTC

ITEM 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works Upgrade and Spill Hours

Liz Davis asked if the sewage works was planned to receive an upgrade and asked about the number of spill hours which seemed very high as a proportion of the total amount. The RLA group had planned a visit to the sewage works in the near future and the question would be asked at that visit. SWW would also investigate.

Action RLA & SWW

ITEM 9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting would be convened in 3 months. The chair would be in touch with everyone to understand preferred dates.

Action LRTC

The meeting closed at 135pm



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: 3 May 2023

Title: River Lim Action Group Report

Purpose of Report

To receive a report from the River Lim Action group

Recommendation

Members consider supporting the River Lim Action Group's request to South West Water for investment in their 2024-25 budget to help solve the severe impacts being caused by the sewage in the river

Report

River Lim Action group – update for LRTC Environment Committee, 3 May 2023

1. River Lim Water Quality

Since the last Environment Committee meeting we have received the sewage spill data for 2022 (compiled by the Environment Agency). This report showed that discharges into the River Lim more than tripled over the previous year. This is against the trend for England which showed a slight decrease.

There were nearly 2,200 hours of sewage spills (coming out of the six Combined Sewer Overflows [CSOs]) on the Lim. This compares with 680 in 2021 and 376 in 2020. Importantly, 2022 was a drier year where spills would be expected to be lower.

This huge increase partly explains the high levels of faecal bacteria being found in the River by the River Lim Action group's monitors and by the Environment Agency (EA). High levels of bacteria have been found from just below the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works to the mouth of the river. A CSO at Jericho poured 628 hours of untreated sewage into a foot of water. There could be a further problem at the Gosling Bridge CSO but the monitor on it was only working for 25% of the time.

The CSO just below the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works disgorged sewage for a colossal 1,493 hours despite reassurances from South West Water that the Works have enough capacity. Just this week two of our Monitors found levels of ammonia (an indicator of the presence of sewage) at its highest reading level at Woodmead Road bridge.

The publication of the data and the negative publicity that followed prompted South West Water into a further round of activity on the Lim. They said: "we are investigating the monitor at the Uplyme treatment works and reviewing the configuration of the site as we consider that this may be inflating the spill numbers. In addition, we are also trialling an intervention at the storm tank which should reduce the number of spills to the environment". The latter should have happened by now.

There seems to be a lot of drainage activity. Following our reports of E.coli and sewage in the river by Coombe Street, a hole has been identified in the sewage pipe in the riverbed

underneath the Arched House. On 20th April, the SWW contractors, Gregorys, were seen to be mending or replacing the pipe.

Woodmead Bridge: The Gregory contractors confirmed that they are still working on misconnections above Woodmead Bridge.

On 19th April the SWW CCTV contractors, Granville, were scheduled to carry out a CCTV survey around the Town Mill.

On 20th April SWW engineers were seen to be inspecting the repair of drains and CSOs along the river.

Some RLA supporters have had another visit to the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works and we're grateful to SWW for hosting visits and providing information when asked.

We have just sent them another round of questions to probe the £20million they are promising to spend on the Lim from 2025; why that work can't be brought forward and what it will achieve. They have promised us a 90% reduction in sewage spills and that's what we hope the investment will fund.

Request: It would be helpful if the Town Council could get behind our requests for investment to be expedited and brought into the 2024-25 SWW budget due to the severity of the impacts being caused by the sewage issues in the river (more information available if needed).

2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 May 2023.

Vicki Elcoate
River Lim Action group
May 2023

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager

Committee: Environment

Date: 3 May 2023

Title: Local Energy Clubs

Purpose of Report

To explain the concept of local energy clubs to members

Recommendation

Members note the report

Report

1. **Introduction**

This paper is to explain the Local Energy Club concept. Local Energy Clubs are a way to reduce electricity bills in a community, and a way for those generating electricity to earn more for what they generate. As LRTC considers solar PV, it should consider a Local Energy Club model to support consumers in the town.

2. **The Status Quo**

Currently, anyone selling the electricity they generate back to the grid receives a paltry sum (~5p/kwh), because the grid assumes that the electricity could be used anywhere in the UK, and factors in transmission costs accordingly.

3. **The Local Energy Club Idea**

A Local Energy Club enables electricity consumers to buy the electricity off a generator – assuming they are under the same substation. This enables the consumer to get a big discount on the electricity they use and allows the generator to be paid more than they would if they were selling to the grid. This reduces consumer's bills and encourages investment in renewable energy.

The magic is done by an IT system, talking to the consumers' and the generators' smart meters, and matching consumption against generation. When cheap electricity isn't available from the local generator, the consumer pays a standard rate for any electricity from the utility company.

4. **The Bridport Club**

There are a number of examples around the country. Most notably, Bridport have a club using a local wind turbine as the generator. Much of the information in preparing this report has come from Ali Jay, who helped set up the Bridport scheme.

5. **What Needs Putting in Place**

The main generator must be pushing to the grid via a three-phase smart meter dedicated to that generator. Currently there are only two utility companies offering this scheme: Octopus and Green Energy UK.

Octopus can only handle a single local generator at present – so there is no opportunity for residents to benefit from the scheme by joining with their own generation, e.g., solar panels. The Bridport scheme uses Octopus.

Green Energy UK are a new entrant to this. They hope to allow additional generators to join the scheme – so this could benefit a town by encouraging businesses and residents to generate. This would make use of a portfolio of multiple generating sites and technologies, reducing the variability of the generation. Totnes Town Council are starting an energy club using Green Energy UK, with solar PV on the town council building as the backbone generator.

A Local Energy Club has a fee of around £10-12k which would include the cost of training an advisor for 20 days of work promoting the scheme in the community.

6. **What Next**

We should stay up to date with Totnes, who may have a scheme in place by the summer. We should also track other developments in this sector, watching especially for other utility companies embrace this model. If an Energy Local Scheme needs to be a legal entity, then LRTC would need to decide if it were to set up that entity, or whether we would look to members of the community to do so.

You can find out more about local energy clubs at <https://energylocal.org.uk/>.

7. Lastly, as with anything, the law may change, and prevent energy suppliers from offsetting energy bills against local generation.
8. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 May 2023.

Rob Smith
Councillor
May 2023