



John Wright
Town Clerk

Lyme Regis Town Council

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Environment Committee

Core Membership: Cllr R. Smith (chairman), Cllr S. Cockerell (vice-chairman), Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr B. Larcombe MBE, Cllr P. May, Cllr D. Ruffle, 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 4 October 2023 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
29.09.23

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 5 July 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 5 July 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. To receive a presentation on the new environment pages on the town council website

9. Environment Policy

To allow members to consider a new Environment Policy

10. Little Green Change

To receive a presentation from Clare Mattheson from the Little Green Change

11. River Lim Action Group Reports

To receive reports from the River Lim Action group

12. 2024-25 Budget Proposals

To allow members to consider environment objectives for 2024-25 ahead of the formal launch of the budget-setting process at the Strategy and Finance Committee on 11 October 2023

13. Promoting Wildlife and Biodiversity

To allow members to consider introducing further wildlife friendly and biodiversity planting into the council grounds, along with the associated costs

14. Electric Vehicle Charging Points

To allow members to consider the usage of two electric vehicle charging points in Monmouth Beach car park and two electric vehicle charging points in Woodmead car park car park

15. Exempt Business

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2023

Present

Chairman: Cllr R. Smith

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

Officers: M. Green (deputy town clerk), A. Mullins (support services manager)

Other members: Cllr D. Sarson

Guests: V. Elcoate (River Lim Action Group)

23/01/ENV Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner that Cllr R. Smith is chairman of the Environment Committee.

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

Cllr D. Sarson left the meeting at 7.39pm.

It was proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner that Cllr S. Cockerell is vice-chairman of the Environment Committee.

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

23/02/ENV Terms of Reference

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, the committee's terms of reference were **RECEIVED**.

23/03/ENV Public Forum

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

23/04/ENV Apologies

Cllr D. Ruffle – illness

23/05/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr P. May, the minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2023, were **ADOPTED**.

23/06/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10, River Lim Action Group Report, as he was a member of the group.

Cllr B. Bawden declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same agenda item for the same reason.

23/07/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

23/08/ENV Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 3 May 2023

Members noted the report.

23/09/ENV Update Report

Round Britain eRIB project

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if the council had paid the agreed funding to the project, given the record attempt was delayed until next summer.

Cllr R. Smith said the council had paid the agreed £5k sponsorship.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if the sponsorship was conditional if the project collapsed and if the council had anything that secured its contribution.

The deputy town clerk said there was a detailed legal agreement relating to the council's support for the project and he believed the contribution was deemed to be for specific costs.

Members discussed whether the contribution was to provide an electric charging point at the harbour, which would also benefit other harbour users, although it was believed this was something Dorset Council (DC) was looking into separately.

As the ward member, Cllr B. Bawden said she had been speaking to the harbourmaster and the relevant DC officer about whether the provision for charging boats would be included in the works to the Cobb. She said DC hadn't budgeted specifically for it but it had the infrastructure in place when the time came.

The deputy town clerk said there wasn't currently sufficient electricity in that part of town to install an electric charging point at the harbour and it would be reliant on the upgrade to the Ozone Terrace substation.

The deputy town clerk said he would confirm exactly what the council's sponsorship had paid for, including clarification of whether it was linked to the electric charging point, and send a note to members.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked when grant applications came from local groups, whether the council gave consideration to environmental issues.

The support services manager said this wasn't stated in the council's community grants policy and procedure; however, it was probably due for review so this could be referred to the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee, with a suggestion that environmental considerations should be included in the criteria.

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if the council could also include environmental elements into its contracts.

The deputy town clerk said many of the council's tenants were on long leases so it was difficult to make changes to those leases, but the council could have discussions with its tenants.

Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

Cllr B. Bawden said she was concerned the council's submission for carbon literacy organisation accreditation was biodiversity focused, whereas it should be specifically about reducing carbon emissions. She said there needed to be further discussions with the operations manager about the feedback he had had.

It was agreed this should be an item on the next agenda to allow the operations manager to update the committee.

Transit Route for boots/hooves/wheels/mobility scooters etc

Several members said they found the route difficult to follow, in some areas they thought it might not be safe to cross major roads, and some areas wouldn't be suitable for wheels and mobility scooters.

Cllr R. Smith said he applauded the effort, but there didn't seem to be a safe off-road route into Lyme Regis.

Members agreed they would like to support the idea in principle and requested an item on the next agenda to allow further discussion, with a request for more information about the safety issues surrounding major roads.

23/10/ENV River Lim Action Group Report

The chairman invited V. Elcoate from the River Lim Action Group (RLAG) to present her report.

Cllr G. Stammers said much had been said in the media about any improvement to water quality nationwide would be added to customers' water bills and she asked if South West Water (SWW) had said anything about this.

V. Elcoate said it was going to be funded by shareholders and borrowing money, so customers would end up paying some of the bill.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the lynch was full of weeds, some of which he believed could be Japanese Knotweed, which was now getting into the structure of the walls. He said the leat was milky in colour, which was increasingly so as it got closer to the Town Mill. He said the flow of the river and clearance of some of the weed was also bad from Woodmead Road, through Jericho, up to Horn Bridge.

V. Elcoate said the council had funded an ecological survey of the river and the consultant had been asked to look at these kinds of issues and make recommendations so hopefully there would be some answers on this.

Cllr B. Bawden said DC had fixed the river wall at Jericho, but it was denying responsibility for the water flow from Woodmead Road car park through properties which had blocked at the river. She said DC hadn't cleared the pipe and claimed it was the town council's responsibility.

Regarding the Church Beach redesignation, V. Elcoate said the RLAG had been following the guidelines for bathing beach applications but two days ago the government released revised guidelines, changing the goalposts dramatically. Previously, all they had to do was monitor the beach and if there were enough users, it would be redesignated. She said they now needed a minimum average of 100 bathers every day during the bathing season, which was mid-May to September. However, instead of having to monitor for 20 days and provide evidence, they now had to monitor for two days. V. Elcoate said they were confident there would be 100 bathers in a day in the summer holidays.

V. Elcoate said they would continue to promote the campaign and it would be helpful if the town council also continued to do this. She said the Times was coming to Lyme Regis to do a video about the campaign so this would also be good publicity.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council continues to promote the Church Cliff Beach redesignation survey on the website and social media.

V. Elcoate said they had finally found out what the problem was at Woodmead Road and it had been fixed on 16 June 2023, which meant there was now no discolouration in the water. However, there was another illegal discharge behind Mill Green, which SWW agreed was giving off contamination and they were investigating it. She said the three other discharges that were causing concern down to Gosling Bridge were now clear. However, there were still the permitted discharges to tackle.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to thank the River Lim Action Group for all their achievements and hard work in making the environment of the town and the River Lim better.

23/11/ENV Bathing Water Quality Meeting 3

V. Elcoate was also invited to speak on this item.

V. Elcoate said storm gullies had been blocked up outside the food outlets near the harbour, which was the responsibility of DC. She asked if the town council would approach DC to encourage them to sort it out as it was a health and safety issue near food outlets.

She said sewage was coming out of the groyne on the sandy beach intermittently; it had been tested and it should just be rainwater. She said DC said it was not their responsibility but the RLAG believed it was and SWW was also chasing them.

Cllr B. Bawden said she wasn't aware DC was denying responsibility for the issue at the groyne and she suggested there was a joint approach to someone senior at DC.

The deputy town clerk said the town council may have inadvertently made the situation worse by working with SWiM, which had problems with blocked drains. He said SWiM had re-engineered its drains which had enabled them to discharge more into the problem areas.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council meets with Dorset Council to ask them to ensure there is an adequate outlet for the storm gullies on Front Beach so the overflows in front of the food outlets are eliminated.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council meets with Dorset Council to ask them to take ownership of intermittent sewage discharge at the concrete groyne on Front Beach to ensure they are addressed urgently.

23/12/ENV Climate Emergency Mindset

Cllr B. Bawden said there was quite a lot of new legislation being introduced this year and she wanted the council to consider the role it should have in informing people about it. She said she would like to see the council be more proactive in letting people know about these kinds of things, especially now it had community and business bulletins, even if it was just a link to another webpage.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the council needed to avoid getting involved in areas of dispute.

The deputy town clerk said planning issues should be left to the planning authority, e.g. DC, because with the best intentions, the town council could give people the wrong advice. He said he had no issue in principle with writing to tenants to make sure they were aware of the single-use plastic legislation but it had to be made clear the council was not responsible for enforcing it.

Cllr B. Bawden said she was happy to go back to DC to ask for web links the council could promote in its bulletins so it could show leadership and point people in the right direction, but not to act as an enforcement agency.

Cllr R. Smith suggested this kind of information could also be provided on the environment tab on the council website.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council includes in its business briefings links to signpost businesses to Dorset Council or other third-party websites where environmental guidance is available on future legislation.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm.

Committee: Environment

Date: 4 October 2023

Title: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 July 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

23/09/ENV – Update Report

Round Britain eRIB project

At the previous meeting, the sponsorship of the challenge was discussed and officers said they would go away and clarify the status of the funding and the exact purpose of the funding. An email was sent to members of this committee on 1 August 2023 with the contract attached.

This clarifies that the funding isn't committed to anything in particular (it was suggested at the meeting it might be related to providing electric charging infrastructure at the harbour but this is not the case).

The agreement is valid until 30 September 2023 as the challenge was due to take place this summer. As the challenge has been delayed until next summer, officers have been in touch with the challenge organiser Jaqui Besley to discuss extending the agreement.

Reference was made at the last meeting to grant applications and it was agreed the council's community grants' policy and procedure should be reviewed, with a suggestion that environmental considerations should be included in the criteria. The policy and procedure was reviewed by the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee on 27 September 2023.

Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

Cllr B. Bawden and the deputy town clerk are meeting with the Carbon Literacy Organisation on Monday 2 October 2023 to clarify the requirements to achieve silver level accreditation. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Transit Route for boots/hooves/wheels/mobility scooters etc

Officers have contacted Winston Maskell, the Chideock resident, who is attempting to create an east/west - west/east transit route for boots/hooves/wheels/mobility scooters and asked for more information about the route, specifically around safety and the crossing of major roads. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

23/10/ENV – River Lim Action Group Report

The council has continued to promote the Church Cliff redesignation survey on its social media and in the community and business briefings. If the survey is still open within the next month or so, it can also be promoted in the first residents' newsletter.

A letter was sent from the town clerk on behalf of the council, thanking the River Lim Action Group for their efforts.

23/11/ENV – Bathing Water Quality Meeting 3

Dorset Council has investigated the conditions of and the responsibilities for drains around the harbour area, including the drain at the groyne on Front Beach, and concluded it is largely responsible and has set up an internal officer working group to look at all the issues and investigate solutions.

In the meantime, officers are setting up the next meeting of the Bathing Water Quality Group, which is likely to take place in October.

23/12/ENV – Climate Emergency Mindset

Dorset Council has provided us with a round-up of relevant legislation and environmental guidance which we can include in future business briefings.

Adrienne Mullins
Support services manager
September 2023

Mark Green
Deputy town clerk

Committee: Environment

Date: 4 October 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.

Mark Green
Deputy town clerk
September 2023

Committee: Environment

Date: 4 October 2023

Title: Environment Policy

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider a new Environment Policy

Recommendation

Members consider the report and policy, and instruct officers

Background

1. On 3 May 2023, this committee considered a report on the review and implementation of a new Environment Policy; the council's extant Environment Policy has been in place since 2019. The committee also considered a preferred format for the policy.
2. Following discussion, this committee recommended to the Full Council to set up a working group to formulate an Environmental Policy for consideration by the Environment Committee and to appoint Cllrs P. May, B. Larcombe, B. Bawden, D. Ruffle and S. Cockerell to the working group.

Report

3. On 24 July 2023, Matt Adamson-Drage, who is currently on long-term sickness leave, circulated a draft Environment Policy to the working group.
4. In Matt Adamson-Drage's absence, Cllr P. May undertook to seek comments on the draft policy; Cllr P. May set the closing date for the return of comments on 21 August 2023.
5. The draft policy is attached, **appendix 9A**, for consideration.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2023



Policy

Environment

1. Introduction

1.1 Lyme Regis Town Council recognises it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. The council 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 and influence 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, culture and monitoring.

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 councillors and employees have a responsibility to ensure the aims and purpose of the policy are met.

3. Aims

- 3.1 The council declared a climate and environmental emergency in 2019, with ambitions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2030.
- 3.2 To comply with, and exceed where possible, all regulatory requirements following government guidance and in concert with the principal authority.
- 3.3 To undergo accreditation as a Carbon Literate Organisation.
- 3.4 To continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- 3.5 To continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- 3.6 To incorporate environmental factors into council decision-making by undertaking environmental impact assessments.
- 3.7 To increase employee awareness and training and have all staff Carbon Literacy accredited within their first six months of employment.

4. Pollution

- 4.1 The council will identify, adopt and promote technologies to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, within council properties and the wider community.
- 4.2 The council will 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 minimise the use of paper in the office.
- 5.2 The council will reuse and recycle all paper.
- 5.3 The council will favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products.
- 5.4 The council will reuse and recycle everything we are able to.

6. Energy and Water

- 6.1 The council will reduce the amount of energy and water used as much as possible and use renewable energy providers.
- 6.2 The council will introduce solar panels on council buildings as they are refurbished.

7. Transport

- 7.1 The council will reduce the need to travel.
- 7.2 The council will promote the use of travel alternatives such as email and phone conferencing.
- 7.3 The council will accommodate the needs of those staff using public transport or bicycles.
- 7.4 The council will 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 and limit the use of chemicals to the essential where organic gardening is not time or cost-effective. Glyphosate products will only be used to tackle invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and mare's tail.
- 9.2 The council will favour 'green' machinery where possible when considering replacements.

10. Natural and Built Environment

- 10.1 The council will protect, conserve and enhance the environment including landscape character, habitats and heritage.

10.2 The council will promote bio-diversity and local distinctiveness and the conservation of both renewable and non-renewable resources.

11. Culture

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

11.2 The council will provide staff with relevant environmental training, including Carbon Literacy accreditation.

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

11.4 The council will 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 conducting annual environmental audits and by monitoring key performance indicators. The audit will feed into the council's annual corporate report and the council's strategic five-year plan.

12.2 This policy will be reviewed at least annually.

Implementation date: October 2023

Review date: October 2024

Committee: Environment

Date: 4 October 2023

Title: Little Green Change

Purpose of Report

To receive a presentation from Clare Mattheson from the Little Green Change

Recommendation

Members consider the presentation

Background

1. Clare Mattheson is the founder and director of Little Green Change. One of the main aims of Little Green Change is to provide environmental education and opportunities for children in primary and secondary schools.
2. Clare is keen to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration with the town council and others.
3. Separately, Clare Mattheson has expressed an interest in using the Jubilee Pavilion; this will be considered at the Strategy and Finance Committee on 11 October 2023.
4. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 25 October 2023.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2023

Committee: Environment

Date: 4 October 2023

Title: River Lim Action Group Reports

Purpose of Report

To receive reports from the River Lim Action group

Recommendation

Members consider the River Lim Action Group reports

Report

1. The River Lim Action Group has provided three reports to the meeting:
 - A general River Lim Action Group update, **appendix 11A**
 - A report on the Church Cliff Beach redesignation, **appendix 11B**
 - A report on the ecological survey of the River Lim, **appendix 11C**
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 25 October 2023.

Adrienne Mullins
Support services manager
September 2023

River Lim Action group – update for Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee

October 4th 2023

Other Matters – River and Beach related

1. Meeting with South West Water’s Chief Operating Officer – July 24

Members of the River Lim Action group met John Halsall, the COO for SWW, in late July at the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works. He pledged that the investment needed in the town would be forthcoming regardless of any decision by OFWAT (although the funding bid would be included in the business plan to be approved this autumn). He said the funding had been underwritten by the company so the work could start without delay.

South West Water have explained: “We have commissioned an impermeable area survey of the whole of Lyme Regis, we have not done this before. The surveyor will colour a map showing where each area drains, e.g. highways drains, surface water, soakaways, or combined sewer. We can then see where we need to carry out surface water separation. We need to complete this survey to know the detail of where surface water separation will take place, how much is needed and when it will happen”.

After the meeting the RLA received an online briefing session on the continuous water quality monitors (Sondes) which can be seen along the river. We’re grateful for the information that SWW has been forthcoming in providing.

2. Repair Works

A problem with the rising main near Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works caused sewage to be moved by tankers from Gun Cliff and Horn Bridge (late September). Initially this repair was supposed to take a couple of days but was then protracted as the problem was more serious than first thought. A temporary solution is in place pending the full repair.

The Storm Water Overflow behind the houses in Mill Lane and below Anning Road, is still discharging sewage illegally (as it’s not a permitted CSO). SWW have been investigating it for some time but no resolution yet.

3. Sewage discharges from groyne on sandy beach

There is conclusive evidence that sewage has been discharging through this groyne for several years. Environment Agency reports (resource at/ data/bathing-water-profile) 2021 and 2022 state that: 'In 2006 the local authority built an outfall which drains surface water from the surrounding area and discharges next to the Environment Agency monitoring point. Environment Agency investigations have shown that this outfall is vulnerable to contamination with sewage.' This is supported by recent reports by local water users of smelly, foamy scum around the groyne. Alarmingly, this has correlated with some swimmers using the designated bathing beach experiencing ill health.

RLA appreciates that action is being taken to address this problem. LR Town Council has carried out remedial work at one of their assets, SWIM, and Dorset Council has acknowledged responsibility for the groyne and is taking investigative action.

On behalf of Dorset Council, Michael Hansford has carried out a survey of the drains in this area and has revealed two previously unidentified drains that connect to the outfall at the concrete groyne on Marine Parade. One from 'the back of properties in Broad Street' and the other 'a storm water sewer system from land near the top of Cobb Road'. Both seem to show sections of collapse and may be sources of sewage discharge. Neither seems to be shown on SWW or any other maps we have seen of the area. We are pleased that Michael is liaising with SWW to discuss this system, to ensure this has been investigated properly for any foul connections. We look forward to hearing the nature of the investigation and the conclusions.

4. Blocked Storm Gullies in front of the Royal Standard

These drains overflow during heavy rain and Dorset Council are aware that they require an outlet system. Dorset Councillor Belinda Bawden has requested that work could be carried out during dredging next Spring.

5. CSO Monmouth Beach

We continue to request that SWW investigate possible misconnections to the CSO on Monmouth Beach which discharges unrecorded sewage. EA reports 2021 and 2022 suggest that this outfall, 'can lead to a drop in bathing water quality.'

6. Sewage drains in Monmouth Beach car park

LR Town Council has been investigating the drains serving the chalets and mobile homes above Monmouth Beach. Persistent blockages and smells have been reported from an interceptor trap outside the Boat Building Academy. This interceptor trap connects the chalets with Cobb Pumping Station in Monmouth carpark.

7. Sewage smells at the mouth of the river outside the Rock Point.

SWW have agreed to investigate the 1903 drain in the base of the river which we believe is degrading and leaking sewage. A video report last week shows a discharge of some sort bubbling up into the river alongside the Pilot Boat Inn.

8. Sewage discharge data

The Combined Sewer Overflow discharge data for the River Lim in 2022, which South West Water released in February, has now been confirmed as incorrect. The high level of published discharges in Lyme Regis hit the headlines and caused the River Lim Action group to probe the accuracy of the data. Using the Environment Information Regulations the RLA has now secured the revised data and asked the Environment Agency to investigate. The data has to be provided to comply with the environmental permitting regime for discharges and is audited by the EA. South West Water have now set up a team dedicated to checking the discharge data which seems to be as a result of the situation the RLA highlighted here in Lyme Regis. The revised data are below¹. Although it seems nothing can be done about past inaccuracies it's vital that future data is accurate as public confidence in the provision of information by water companies has been badly dented.

South West Water is already being investigated for discharges in dry weather by Ofwat.

9. Partnership meetings

Many of these issues are explored and addressed in roundtable meetings organised by the Town Council and involving all the key players – SWW, Dorset Council, the EA and the RLA. The next is due to be held in October (date TBC). These are an important mechanism for securing progress and identifying who is responsible for the various actions. The RLA is grateful to the Town Council for bringing everyone together.

Q1. Reported v amended for 2022

Site Name	EA Permit Reference	Storm Discharge Asset Type	Outlet Discharge NGR	WFD Waterbody Catchment Name (Cycle 2)	Receiving Water / Environment (common name)	Total Duration (hrs) all spills prior to processing through 12-24h count method	Spill Count all spills prior to processing through 12-24h count method	Revised 2022 spill data	Revised 2022 duration hrs	comments
UPLYME STW_SSO_UPLYME	3269	Storm tank at WwTW	SY 3338 9329	Lim	TRIBUTARY OF THE RIVER LIM	1492.5	81	117	1098	using alternative EDM signal which is a flow meter recording flows to the Lim - data corrected.
JERICO_CSO_LYME REGIS	003955/CS/01	SO on sewer network	SY 3402 9251	Lim	RIVER LIM	628.4	43	20	29.90	Corrected due to system error - data corrected.
HORN BRIDGE SPST_PSCSOEO_LYME REGIS	003956/PC/01	Storm discharge at pumping station	SY 3366 9286	Lim	RIVER LIM	68.7	21	-	-	No change - data correct.
GUN CLIFF SPST_PSCSOEO_LYME REGIS	200051/PC/01	Storm discharge at pumping station	SY 3426 9207	Lim	RIVER LIM	5.3	1	-	-	No change - data correct.
GOSLINGS BRIDGE_CSO_LYME REGIS	003957/CS/01	SO on sewer network	SY 3411 9232	Lim	RIVER LIM(S)	0	0	-	-	No change - data correct.
MILL LN_CSO_UPLYME	201817	SO on sewer network	SY 3312 9331	Lim	RIVER LIM (S)	0	0	-	-	No change - data correct.

River Lim Action group – update for Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee

October 4th 2023

Church Beach Redesignation

The campaign to get Church Beach redesignated as a bathing beach is moving to its conclusion. After DEFRA moved the goalposts on the bathing beach designation criteria we had to provide evidence of 100 bathers in four hours on average over two days. July and August were beset with poor weather but eventually the sun came out, as did the bathers. The other criteria were easier to fulfil – permission from the landowners, support from our public consultation (221 responses to the online form - 98% in favour - plus another 100 or so from events) and proximity to public amenities. Once the form is submitted we will wait to hear with baited breath if we've been successful (there were a lot of rejections last time around!). We're grateful to Surfers Against Sewage for providing advice on the campaign and to the Town Council for promoting the survey and the campaign.

Defra will hold a public consultation on all applications that meet the criteria and evidence requirements for bathing water designation. It consults organisations like the National Farmers' Union, swimming and visitor bodies. There will be a decision by the end of April. We can reapply next year if unsuccessful.

Rob Thomas will be available at the meeting to provide further information if needed.

River Lim Action group – update for Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee

October 4th 2023

Ecological Survey

Earlier this year the Town Council agreed to fund a river corridor ecological survey and the River Lim Action group engaged Dr Dominic Stubbings to carry it out. His research was mainly carried out from June – August, after improvements were made at the Sewage Treatment Works in May and the cessation of sewage discharges at two unpermitted points on the river.

The report is now in draft form and covers:

- Water quality
- Habitats including migration barriers
- Macro-invertebrates
- Fish and other wildlife
- Issues affecting the ecosystem and suggested resolutions for conflicting influences

The main recommendations are still being worked on but will include:

1. The sewage system needs repair, development and better management for storm influx.
2. Farm improvements in water separation systems and waste containment. Also protection of river banks by cattle fencing in places.
3. Making the lower barrier to fish and eels passable and ensure middle mill stream passable. Add eel pass on existing fish pass.
4. Start strategic Himalayan balsam control. Eradicate Japanese knot weed. Educate on trapping and restricting movement of non native crayfish.
5. Hinge tree limbs into barren river. Some laurel canopy thinning.
6. Monitor macro-invertebrates to detect pollution

Graham Roberts will be available at the meeting to present some of the findings, if needed

Committee: Environment

Date: 4 October 2023

Title: 2024-25 Budget Proposals

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider environment objectives for 2024-25 ahead of the formal launch of the budget-setting process at the Strategy and Finance Committee on 11 October 2023

Recommendation

Members identify environment objectives for 2024-25

Background

1. On 10 October 2023, the 2024-25 budget-setting process commences with a budget briefing for members. The formal process starts the following day with the presentation of a series of budget-related reports to the Strategy and Finance Committee.
2. The budget is taken through two committee cycles and concludes at the Full Council on 13 December 2023.

Report

3. This item has been placed on all committee agendas in the run-up the Strategy and Finance Committee on 11 October 2023; the Strategy and Finance Committee on 11 October 2023 formally starts discussion on the 2024-25 budget and the five-year financial plan.
4. Members are asked to identify any environment-related objectives that need to be considered alongside other committee objectives during the budget-setting process.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Strategy and Finance Committee on 11 October 2023 and the Full Council on 25 October 2023.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2023

Committee: Environment

Date: 11 October 2023

Title: Promoting Wildlife and Biodiversity

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider introducing further wildlife friendly and biodiversity planting into the council grounds, along with the associated costs

Recommendation

Members consider the report and instruct the acting operations manager

Background

1. In spring 2023, the council rewilded an area of ground next to the table tennis compound.

Report

2. This report highlights the locations and benefits of introducing wildlife friendly planting into additional sites owned and managed by the council.
3. This will allow the council to create ecosystems which will benefit all wildlife, from invertebrates such as insects, beetles, moths and butterflies to songbirds, bats, and predatory birds such as Kestrels and Sparrowhawks.
4. These long-term benefits can be achieved relatively easily with minimal cost.
5. Areas which the council currently mows and maintains can be set aside for native planting and rewilding, and the gardeners' time spent maintaining these areas can be directed to other work and projects.
6. It is important the council chooses the right locations to maximise ecosystem benefits and visual impact. The proposed areas and estimated cost of wild seed mix and planting shrubs are:

Lister Gardens next to the table tennis compound

7. This area was planted in spring 2023 with an annual native wildflower mix with great success.
8. The original concept of the "mini meadow" was to introduce wildlife into an area of the gardens; the project has received positive public comments and photos of the location have been shared on social media platforms.
9. The location would benefit from a more permanent planting approach using the same style of meadow planting or an all-year-round shrub approach.
10. Estimated cost, £1,137–1,395.

The lower side of the gazebo

11. There is a cleared small flowerbed below the gazebo which would benefit from the planting of tougher shrubs to withstand its windy location.
12. Estimated cost, £317–370.

Land adjacent to Marine Theatre

13. There is a triangular area of land on East Cliff Walkway between The Marine Theatre and the Mary Anning statue which could become a simple wildflower meadow.
14. Estimated cost, £4,055–4,080.

Lyme Regis football club bank

15. The Lyme Regis Football club bank on Charmouth Road has already been set aside as a “no mow” area but could be enhanced by planting simple things like Shasta Daisy’s and other flowering perennials.
16. Estimated cost, £1,583-1,603.

Cost

17. The total estimated cost of these proposals is up to £7,448.
18. There is no provision in 2023-24 budget for these proposals. This project could be funded from this committee’s delegated budget, the project could be considered as a budget proposal for 2024-25, it could be funded from the 2023-24 budget surplus or it could be funded by a reduction in the council’s reserve.
19. The last three options will have an impact on budget availability in 2024-25.

Further information

20. Attached at **appendix 13A**, is a seasonal list of invertebrate friendly plants which will work across the proposed sites.
21. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 25 October 2023.

Pete Williams
Acting operations manager
September 2023

Seasonal Planting

Below is a seasonal list of the kinds of invertebrate friendly plants which will work across all the sites in this report.

Winter interest November - February

Crocus species crocus (winter-flowering) bulbs
 Helleborus species and hybrids hellebore (winter-flowering) herbaceous perennial
 Mahonia species oregon grape shrub
 Sarcococca confusa sweet box shrub.

Spring interest March – May

Ceanothus species California lilac shrub
 Geranium species cranesbill herbaceous perennial
 Skimmia japonica skimmia shrub
 Hebe species' shrub.

Summer June – August

Achillea species yarrow herbaceous perennial
 Buddleja davidii butterfly bush shrub
 Buphthalmum salicifolium yellow ox-eye herbaceous perennial
 Lavandula angustifolia English lavender shrub
 Hydrotelephium spectabile & hybrids herbaceous perennial
 Hebe species' shrub
 Oenothera species evening primrose biennial.

Autumn Interest September – October

Salvia species sage (autumn-flowering types) herbaceous perennial
 Anemone x hybrida Japanese anemone herbaceous perennial
 Machaeranthera tanacetifolia tansy-leaf aster annual
 Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii "Goldstrum" herbaceous perennial.

For further information, there is a link to a company who has provided these and similar products to the council: meadowmania.co.uk

Committee: Environment

Date: 4 October 2023

Title: Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Purpose

To allow members to consider the usage of two electric vehicle charging points in Monmouth Beach car park and two electric vehicle charging points in Woodmead car park

Recommendation

Members consider the report and instruct officers

Background

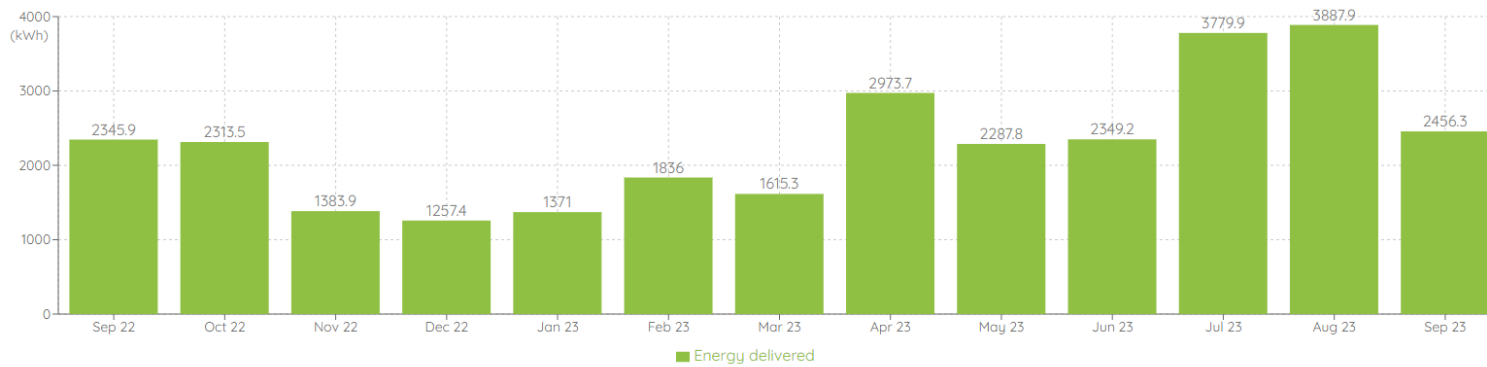
1. The town council has installed four electric vehicle (EV) charging points at Monmouth Beach and Woodmead car park.

Report

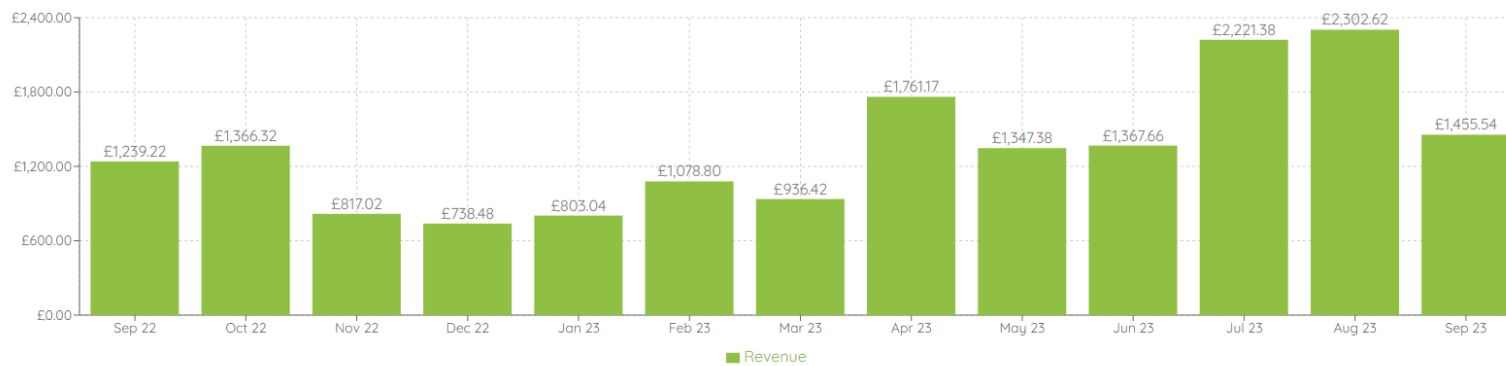
2. The chairman of this committee has asked for data on the use of the council's EV charging points, see **appendix 14A**.
3. The data provided covers charging points in both car parks.
4. In summary, for the year 1 September 2022 until 31 August 2023, 27,401.5 kwh of energy was delivered. Energy delivery ranged from 1,257.4 in December 2022 and peaked at 3,835.47 in August 2023.
5. For the same period, the revenue generated by the energy delivered was £15,979.51. The monthly profile of energy delivered and revenue mirror each other.
6. The energy cost to the council for the year 1 September 2022 until 31 August 2023 was £3,835.47. Again, the energy cost and revenue profiles mirror the energy delivered profile.
7. Over the period, energy cost to revenue provides an operating surplus of £12,144.04. This surplus is significantly higher than officers estimated, and further examination will take place. Any material variations will be reported back to this committee.
8. The shaded box provides data from 1 to 25 September 2023, only. It also provides data on CO² and usage.
9. Interpolation of CO² avoided against energy delivered from 1 September to 25 September 2023 indicates the CO² saved from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 is 15,344.9kg.
10. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 25 October 2023.

John Wright
Town clerk
September 2023

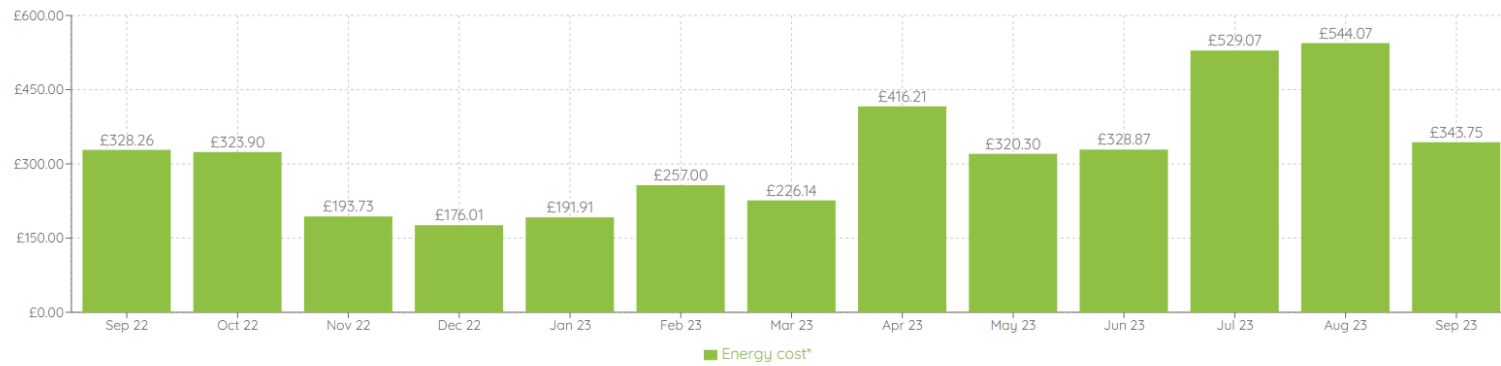
Energy delivered



Revenue



Energy cost*



Home Lyme Regis Town Council

Welcome to the Site Management Service.

This month in review

So far this month you have generated £1,455.54 in revenue from 2 sites and delivered 2,456.3 kWh of energy

Energy delivered

2,456.3 kWh

CO₂ avoided*

1,375.53 Kg

Revenue

£1,455.54

Energy cost

£343.75

* Estimated based on calculations. We are working hard to improve the accuracy of CO₂ data by improving data modelling. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this information.

Usage

102 customers used your chargers resulting in 190 charges

Charges

190

Total charge duration

23,030 minutes

Unique drivers*

102

* Unique drivers are only counted where a charge has been claimed. Unclaimed charges will not contribute to this total. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this information.