



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 17 January 2024 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright  
Town Clerk  
11.01.24

*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 22 November 2023

### **4. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members are reminded that if they have a disclosable pecuniary interest on their register of interests relating to any item on the agenda they are prevented from participating in any discussion or voting on that matter at the meeting and to do so would amount to a criminal offence. Similarly if you are or become aware of a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter under consideration at this meeting which is not on your register of interests or is in the process of being added to your register you must disclose such interest at this meeting and register it within 28 days.

### **5. Dispensations**

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

### **6. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 November 2023**

To update members on matters arising from the previous meeting that are not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda and to allow members to seek further information on issues raised within the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **7. Update Report**

To inform members about progress on significant environmental developments

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

To receive a report from the River Lim Action Group (RLAG)

To allow members to consider four requests from the RLAG:

- Help from town council staff to clear areas of the River Lim
- Support in publicising the RLAG's mass effort to clear Himalayan Balsam
- Funding to purchase a monitoring kit
- To secure a date for the next bathing water quality meeting

### **9. Low Carbon Dorset Road Show**

To inform members about Low Carbon Dorset roadshow

### **10. Cop-28**

To provide the Environment Committee with a summary of the recent COP-28 climate negotiations. Although these issues seem far from life in Lyme Regis, the effectiveness (or otherwise) of these agreements will directly affect our lives in terms of climate, sea level rise and food supply (both agriculture and fishery).

### **11. Exempt Business**

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2023

**Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr S. Cockerell

**Members:** Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr P. May, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr B. Larcombe

**Officers:** A. Mullins (support services manager), K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant), P. Williams (acting operations manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

**Guests:** V. Elcoate, G. Roberts, R. Thomas (River Lim Action Group), C. Matheson (Little Green Change)

**23/27/ENV Public Forum**

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

**23/28/ENV Apologies**

Cllr C. Aldridge – holiday  
Cllr D. Ruffle – illness  
Cllr G. Stammers – illness  
Cllr R. Smith – holiday

**23/29/ENV Minutes**

Cllr B. Larcombe said Cllr G. Stammers was recorded as being present at the previous meeting and sending apologies. It was agreed she would be removed from the attendance list.

Cllr B. Bawden felt minute 23/18/ENV didn't accurately represent what she had said and it was agreed 'rather than' would be replaced with 'rather than just'.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, the minutes of the meeting 4 October, with the above amendments, were **ADOPTED**.

**23/30/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9, 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 and agenda item 15, Carbon Literacy Training as she was a river monitor for the River Lim Action Group and a carbon literacy facilitator.

**23/31/ENV      Dispensations**

There were none.

**23/32/ENV      Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 4 October 2023**

Members noted the report.

**23/33/ENV      Update Report**

Members noted the report.

**23/34/ENV      Environment Policy**

The town clerk said the wording in paragraph 11.2 should be changed to 'reviews' instead of 'audit'.

Cllr P. May said an amendment was required to paragraph 4.2 to change 'minimising' to 'minimise'.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the Environment Policy, with an amendment to paragraph 11.2 to replace 'audit' and 'reviews' and an amendment to paragraph 4.2 to replace 'minimising' with 'minimise'.

**23/34/ENV      River Lim Action Group Report**

The chairman invited V. Elcoate, G. Roberts and R. Thomas from the River Lim Action Group (RLAG) to speak and present the findings from the most recent ecological survey to the council.

G. Roberts said the RLAG had received a copy of the ecological survey but weren't quite happy with the layout as they wanted it to be easy reading and logical in certain sections as it would be valuable for everyone to work from. They hoped to have the final report before Christmas so the group could look over it and then share it with the council.

G. Roberts explained how they planned to remove invasive Himalayan balsam and Japanese Knotweed with the help of local volunteers and specialist contractors and how they were liaising with affected landowners.

Cllr S. Cockerell asked what was done with the weeds once they had been pulled up.

G. Roberts said Himalayan balsam was good for compost but Japanese knotweed needed contractors to assist because it was very labour intensive.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked how the RLAG were engaging with landowners and property owners.

G. Roberts said they had 90% coverage between the group but had little access to housing that backed onto the river. With the requested funding, they would like to deliver literature via volunteers to these houses.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if the group had managed to get to the bottom of why the most polluted area was the lower mill and if it had been resolved yet.

G. Roberts said this was one of the monitoring sites and five surveys had been done there, which showed the number of invertebrates was very low. He said RLAG's view was South West Water was discharging there way beyond its licensing consents and they were working in partnership to address this.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if any monitoring was being carried out at the gully, which used to be a natural area of the town.

G. Roberts said it was an area they were interested in and they suspected there had been a discharge feeding into it, although it wasn't easy to access. He said they were hoping to purchase waders to gain better access.

V. Elcoate said South West Water's £20 million transition funding to improve the whole infrastructure in Lyme Regis had now been withdrawn. She said RLAG had asked for an update but had not received a reply and said it would be helpful if the council could also ask for an update.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council writes to South West Water asking them what has happened to the £20 million funding for the Lyme Regis improvement plan.

Members considered the funding request from RLAG.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the funding request of £8,036 from the River Lim Action Group from the 2023-24 environment budget.

23/35/ENV

#### **Environment Budget 2023-2024**

The town clerk said there was £2,901 left in the budget after the allocation of £8,036 to RLAG, without taking into consideration the funding request from Little Green Change and the proposed biodiversity baseline assessment testing later in the agenda.

Cllr P. May said some of the weed clearance activity by RLAG would have to be done after April and asked if the council could make provision that the funding given to the group could be carried over to next year and specifically allocated for that purpose.

The town clerk said it was important expenditure was identified against a project and profiled. He said the finance manager could profile the £8,036 to get a sense of how much would need to be carried over to the next year.

Cllr B. Bawden said £1,500 had already been approved for carbon literacy accreditation but there would be a fee of £10 per head for the accreditation and certification process, and asked whether this should be included in the environment or training budget.

The town clerk said this could be reviewed at the time.

Cllr P. May asked what the latest expenditure was on the Plan Bee project as some of it was just a contingency and he believed there was some budget remaining.

The town clerk said he would check with the finance manager and let members know.

### **23/36/ENV Biodiversity Baseline Assessment**

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if the assessment would be a one-off information gathering exercise to allow the council to carry out the assessment itself in future.

The acting operations manager agreed council staff could learn from the exercise and do it themselves in future.

Cllr. B Bawden said it was a good idea to have a starting point and then learn from it, so the council could then start to look at the recovery targets. She said RLAG might be willing to help with the assessments.

The town clerk suggested there was a winter and spring assessment. He suggested committing funding from this year's budget for a winter assessment and earmarking funds from next year's budget for a spring assessment. If at the end of the year the environment budget hadn't been spent, the council could identify it as a continuum of this project and carry the funds across.

The acting operational manager said the cost would potentially be higher than the proposed £1,200 due to the size of the council's green spaces.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to undertake a biodiversity baseline assessment in the town council's public gardens and green spaces, to be paid for from the 2023-24 environment budget.

### **23/37/ENV Motion for the Ocean**

Cllr B. Larcombe said although he agreed the ocean needed to be maintained and assessed, he didn't fully understand what was behind this initiative. He said the council needed to understand what it was paying for, how it was measured, and how it made a difference.

Cllr S. Cockerell suggested defer this item when the chairman was present as he had put this motion forward.

Cllr B. Bawden Dorset Council were going to pledge to the motion straight away but was seriously looking into it and what it entailed. She said she couldn't see any reference to any costs associated with the initiative.

The town clerk said this initiative needed to come from a councillor and not an officer. He said behind the motion sat funding pledges and sponsorship so the council needed to be clear on what was involved. He believed it would take Dorset Council some months to produce anything and advised members to wait for this before considering anything.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to defer the Motion for the Ocean item to a future meeting of the Environment Committee when there is more information available from Dorset Council.

## 23/38/ENV Funding Request from Little Green Change

The chairman invited C. Matheson to speak.

C. Matheson said since requesting funding from the council, she had secured funding from two local companies and was no longer in need of funding for this particular event.

It was proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden to approve a funding request of £350 from Little Green Change Ltd to run a Children's Christmas Give or Take event.

The support services manager said the event had already been funded and didn't require funding from the council.

However, members were keen to support the principle and discussed how they could support the organisation.

C. Matheson said she was intending to run another Give and Take event in the summer and suggested the council could fund this.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to provide £350 from the environment budget for a future children's 'Give or Take' event/s in the next 12 months, run by Little Green Change.

## 23/39/ENV Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The town clerk said given the current economic situation, the council needed to make sure it covered its costs in providing electric vehicle charging points. He said the current policy decision was to charge an additional 10p on top of the purchase price for administration so if the council charged users 70p, it would just about cover costs with very little surplus. He added that the council would be on the current two-year fixed rate until November 2024.

Cllr B. Larcombe felt the council should have a charge for users to pay, rather than having a policy of adding a premium on top for administration.

Cllr P. May agreed it would be better to charge the equivalent of what the council pays for electricity until November 2024 so it was only charging what it was paying.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council revises its current policy for electric vehicle charging and in future charges for the KWs of electricity at the equivalent cost that it pays to its provider until November 2024.

## 23/40/ENV Carbon Literacy Training

The town clerk the council was now able to move forward with the carbon literacy training and had all the necessary documentation that was needed to proceed. He said Cllr B. Bawden had agreed to do some training and it had been clarified with the Carbon Literacy Organisation that this would follow the town and parish councils' toolkit.

Cllr B. Bawden said as part of the submission, members who had already done the training were asked to provide feedback on how it impacted on the way they fulfilled their role as a councillor.

Members discussed whether this feedback should be individual or collective feedback but the town clerk said as members couldn't make individual decisions, it would have to be collective.

*The meeting closed at 8.37pm.*

DRAFT



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 17 January 2024

**Title:** Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 November 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**

**23/34/ENV – Environment Policy**

The new Environment Policy was emailed to members on 2 January 2024 and published on the website.

**23/34/ENV – River Lim Action Group Report**

An email was sent to South West Water on 8 January 2024 seeking further details on the funding for the improvements to the River Lim catchment area. The deputy town clerk is meeting with South West Water on 15 January 2024 and the town clerk has asked for an update to be provided at that meeting.

An email was sent to the River Lim Action Group on 8 January 2024 confirming the approval of £8,036 funding from the environment budget.

**23/35/ENV – Environment Budget 2023-2024**

At the previous meeting, Cllr P. May asked what the latest expenditure was on the Plan Bee project as some of it was just a contingency and he believed there was some budget remaining.

Only £165 + VAT has been spent on this project so the remainder will go back into the environment budget.

**23/36/ENV – Biodiversity Baseline Assessment**

Officers contacted Abbas Ecology on 20 December 2023 to arrange a date to carry out the biodiversity baseline assessment. A follow up email was sent on 8 January 2024, and we are still waiting for a response.

Any further updates will be reported verbally at the meeting.

**23/38/ENV – Funding Request from Little Green Change**

The funding was confirmed in an email to Little Green Change on 3 January 2024.

### **23/39/ENV – Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

Officers are arranging replacement signs/amending the existing signs for the car parks to display the new charging structure. Once the signs are ready, the new charges can be implemented.

### **23/40/ENV – Carbon Literacy Training**

Carbon literacy training will be taking place for staff and members on 17, 23 and 30 January and 6, 7 and 14 February. It is one day of training, split into two half days, to be delivered virtually.

The course incorporates an accreditation process whereby participants undertake an individual and a group pledge to reduce carbon (greenhouse gas) emissions, which they may develop during the workshops. Everyone has to attend both workshops and have their pledges assessed in order to achieve certification as Carbon Literate.

John Wright  
Town clerk  
January 2024

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 17 January 2024

**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.

**eRib**

Officers contacted Jaqui Besley for a progress report on the eRib project and received a response, detailed below, on 9 January 2024:

‘Yes – we’re hoping to start re-engaging with sponsors in February when (and if) I get the go ahead from the boat builder.

They are (in principle) completely committed to the timeframes but I am wary as this is their first electric boat and they seem to be taking their time. I need to wait for a more definite position from them before we ramp things up.

It turns out that, despite there being a 3 phase fuse board in the Harbour Masters office, there is only single phase available. This didn’t become clear until quite late in the day last Summer. This means that we won’t be able to ‘fast charge’ at Lyme so may not be able to use Lyme as a base for the pre-Challenge training and sea trials. We still intend to depart from Lyme but the pre Challenge period that we may have the boat there will be less than originally envisaged (unless things have changed with the electric infrastructure?)

We have a local team lined up to organise the start and finish events, so we’re all set to ramp up in due course.

Please let me know if you need more info. I hope to be able to invite a representative from the Council to come and see the boat in March/April sometime should we get the go ahead.’

**Community Energy Champions**

The community energy champions’ website has been updated and is ready to receive new bookings so now is the ideal time to take advantage of this scheme.

A further 10 visits have taken place this year in the Lyme Regis and surrounding area, with no doubt more to follow.

All the relevant information and advice can be found on the town council website under the new environment section [Advice and funding | Lyme Regis Town Council](#) or at <https://www.lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk/news-article/free-thermal-camera-property-surveys-for-residents-of-lyme-regis--uplyme---charmouh>

John Wright  
Town clerk  
January 2024

**Committee:** Environment committee

**Date:** 17 January 2024

**Title:** River Lim Action Group Report

### **Purpose of Report**

To receive a report from the River Lim Action Group (RLAG)

To allow members to consider four requests from the RLAG:

- Help from town council staff to clear areas of the River Lim
- Support in publicising the RLAG's mass effort to clear Himalayan Balsam
- Funding to purchase a monitoring kit
- To secure a date for the next bathing water quality meeting

### **Recommendation**

- a) Members consider note the report from the RLAG
- b) Members consider the four requests from the RLAG

### **Report**

1. The RLAG's latest update report is attached at **appendix 8A**. It includes a number of requests of this council:
  - **Request 1:** Could the town council help publicise the planned mass effort to clear Himalayan Balsam?
  - **Request 2:** Is the town council able to take charge of the clearance of the river banks from Gosling Bridge down past the Town Mill? They are concerned about health and safety if this work were to be carried out by volunteers.
  - **Request 3:** Purchasing monitoring kit. Please could the town council provide funds for the purchases upfront based on the quotes we have previously provided (and final quotes where we provided estimates)? Some of the testing requires a monthly payment to a laboratory and it would need far less administration if this could be facilitated by payment for the year in advance. We can provide information about how much is needed and the quotes which support the request, which have already been approved in principle.
  - **Request 4:** please could the town council team try to secure a date for the next water quality partnership meeting, e.g., March?
2. With regard to request 1, information can be published on the town council's website, shared on social media, and in the business and community briefings.
3. With regard to request 2, discussions were held with the Dorset Council property team on 9 January 2024 and this subject was raised. The last time works were carried out in this location, they were coordinated and managed by Dorset County Council as highway authority, with input and funding from both West Dorset District Council and the town council. The river in this

location isn't 'main river' and, therefore, responsibilities for bank maintenance and clearance rest with adjacent 'riparian' owners, of which the town council is one of several, by virtue of its ownership of 'Lepers Well'.

4. It may be best to pursue any new works through Dorset Council in the first instance, and officers are happy to continue the discussions instigated on 9 January 2024. The need to take remedial action is entirely accepted with growth now penetrating the Lynch structure and potentially compromising its long-term integrity.
5. With regard to request 3, members need to consider the matter and figures will be provided verbally at the meeting.
6. With regard to request 4, the intention is to organise a meeting for early March and requests for availability and invites will be sent out very shortly.
7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 7 February 2024.

Vicki Elcoate  
River Lim Action Group  
January 2024

Pete Williams  
Acting operations manager

River Lim Action update for Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee

Meeting January 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Ecological Survey**

Work is still continuing to produce the final report. We have already started work on the actions and recommendations contained in it:

- a) Japanese knotweed – we will talk to the owners of Bumpy Field and the contractors who quoted for the work and bring a plan back to the Town Council to implement the clearance.
- b) Himalayan Balsam – we have already gathered about 20 volunteers and will also be working with local (and slightly further away) businesses to offer team days. We need a real concerted effort to physically pull out as much as possible during the growing season (starting in May). **Request 1:** could the Town Council help publicise this mass effort? We can provide further information. **Request 2:** is the Town Council able to take charge of the clearance from Gosling Bridge down past the Town Mill? We are concerned about health and safety if this work were to be carried out by volunteers.
- c) Purchasing monitoring kit: **Request 3:** please could the Town Council provide funds for the purchases upfront based on the quotes we have previously provided (and final quotes where we provided estimates)? Some of the testing requires a monthly payment to a laboratory and it would need far less administration if this could be facilitated by payment for the year in advance. We can provide information about how much is needed and the quotes which support the request, which have already been approved in principle.
- d) Interpretation signage – this has been progressed and will go into final production as soon as we have a website page that attaches to the QR code on it (Turn Lyme Green website currently being redone).
- e) Fish passage – we have arranged for the Wild Trout Trust to visit in February to discuss the barriers to fish passage (eg the weirs) and what could be done to improve things. We hope they will also provide information on sources of funding. We will report back.

### **Next partnership meeting**

It would be timely to try to arrange a date for the next partnership meeting between South West Water, Dorset Council, LRTC and the RLA. Our main contact at SWW has moved on and we are planning to invite her successor to visit the town in the near future. We have a number of issues to discuss including:

- Seafront drainage (jetting has been carried out and we're waiting for the results of the CCTV work) – we then need the work carried out to stop sewage on the Front Beach before the bathing season starts.
- What progress is being made on the SWW sewage infrastructure improvement plan? We are waiting for a timetable and programme for this. In the meantime we were pleased to meet a SWW employee who is carrying out a drainage survey of the whole town by visiting individual properties, which could be part of the delivery of this work. It would be good to have prior notice of this sort of strategic work as we can help publicise locally.
- Has work now finished on replacing the damaged rising main to the Sewage Treatment Works?
- Why is Microbial Source Testing not being done to ascertain the sources of pollution? Both the EA and Dorset Council have not so far proceeded with this as requested.
- Woodmead Road car park progress report
- Monmouth Beach progress report

**Request 4:** please could the TC team try to secure a date for the next meeting (eg March)?

### **Monitoring and alerts**

The Environment Agency (Devon) is carrying out regular monitoring at Woodmead Road bridge over the winter (we requested monitoring outside the bathing season so this is good news). However it does not include E.Coli and I.E (Intestinal Enterococci) monitoring which it did until September. The RLA is about to start E.Coli monitoring using the laboratory system which will then give us more robust results which correlate with the methodology used by the EA

(thanks to LRTC for funding). We will also do it at more locations including Front Beach. This should provide good data for the winter months in the absence of any other.

We are running a health and safety training session and monitoring review for all our monitors on January 22.

There have been several sewage alerts on SSW Waterfit Live and the Surfers Against Sewage app following the recent heavy rain. This included one on December 31<sup>st</sup> which affected the Lyme Lunge and raised concerns about water quality. We are aiming to produce a briefing sheet about how we can find out about the water quality for swimming. Ideally there would be no discharges from the Monmouth Beach CSO which has been identified as the CSO affecting the bathing beach.

We are still waiting for SWW's Waterfit Live to go live for all the CSOs so we can find out what is going on in the river. So far only CSOs affecting bathing beaches have live monitoring data available.

### **Visits to the river hosted by the RLA**

The Westcountry Rivers Trust is visiting Lyme Regis on January 19<sup>th</sup> and Woodroffe 6<sup>th</sup> form students are having a tour and monitoring demo on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed the outing with some of the Town Councillors and staff on November 28<sup>th</sup> and hope it was helpful.

### **Talk**

Giles Bristow, new CEO of Surfers Against Sewage, is giving a Turn Lyme Green talk on Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (in the Baptist Church). All are welcome and it's free. Giles's topic: **Motion for the Ocean** – *a discussion about what we can do to ensure the General Election creates a sea-change in how we treat our rivers and seas.*



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 17 January 2024

**Title:** Low Carbon Dorset Road Show

**Purpose of Report**

To inform members about Low Carbon Dorset roadshow

**Recommendation**

Members note the report

**Background**

1. Low Carbon Dorset provides free energy-saving advice and grant funding to help local organisations reduce their carbon emissions and save on energy costs.
2. Low Carbon Dorset was set up by Dorset Council and is part-funded by the UK government.
3. So far, Low Carbon Dorset have been responsible for saving 16,043 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, installing 12.8MW of renewable energy, awarding grants of £6.17M, and supporting 397 businesses.

**Report**

4. Starting end-May 2024, Low Carbon Dorset is touring its 'Journey to Net-Zero' photo exhibition around the county. So far, Low Carbon Dorset has Kingston Maurward and Durlston Country Park signed up to host events and are in talks with Bridport Arts Centre and Hilfield Friary which is just north of Dorchester.
5. Discussions are taking place to host a Low Carbon Dorset photo exhibition in the Jubilee Pavilion from Monday 10 to Sunday 23 June 2024.
6. The photo exhibition will showcase the inspiring projects that have been supported by the Low Carbon Dorset programme. Through the exhibition, Low Carbon Dorset aim to share best practice and encourage others to follow suit.
7. The exhibition will comprise of 15 boards, each with an image and accompanying text telling the story of the businesses and community groups who are cutting emissions and leading the charge to net zero in Dorset.
8. There could be an opportunity to create displays of some of our carbon reducing initiatives, the work of the Community Energy Champions, 2030 Vision, Carbon Literacy and other projects. Also, Turn Lyme Green-Plastic Free Lyme and the River Lim Action Group might like to have displays.
9. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 7 February 2024.

John Wright  
Town clerk  
January 2024

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 17 January 2024

**Title:** Cop-28

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Environment Committee with a summary of the recent COP-28 climate negotiations. Although these issues seem far from life in Lyme Regis, the effectiveness (or otherwise) of these agreements will directly affect our lives in terms of climate, sea level rise and food supply (both agriculture and fishery)

### **Recommendation**

Members note the report

### **Report**

1. A lot of progress was made, and important agreements set in place. However, despite the 1.5C rhetoric, there is concern that vested interests have undue influence, and that the actions agreed fall short of what is needed to achieve the 1.5C goal.
2. Controversial Choice of Presidency:
  - The UN climate change presidency is rotated around the world, and controversially the UAE was chosen to represent the Asia-Pacific region.
  - Protests are not usually permitted in the UAE, so a special area was allocated. COP-29 will be held in Azerbaijan – another oil producing country.
  - Dr Sultan Al Jaber, the head of the UAE's state-owned oil company Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) was appointed COP28 president-designate in January of this year.
  - There was widespread concern about a conflict of interests. In the days ahead of the summit, the presidency was rocked when an investigation by BBC News and the Centre for Climate Reporting alleged that the UAE planned to use its role as COP host to strike "secret" oil-and-gas deals behind the scenes of the summit. However, the presidency insisted that they remained "laser focussed" on keeping the 1.5C goal with reach.
3. Global Stocktake
  - COP-21 in Paris called for regular stocktakes every five years to track the world progress in keeping to the Paris Agreement. This was the first stocktake; the next will be in 2028, when the world is likely to have almost completely used the carbon budget to remain within 1.5C.
  - Embedded with the stocktake is the agreement from nearly every country at COP28 agreed to "call for countries to transition away from fossil fuels". Although the language is weak, it is a landmark commitment marks the first time such an agreement has been reached in 28 years of international climate negotiations. However, many countries left the negotiations frustrated. They expected a more explicit call for a fossil-fuel "phase-out" within this decade, and believed the text contained loopholes.
4. Loss and Damage Fund:

- COP28 achieved an early breakthrough by launching a fund to address “loss and damage” caused by climate change. This fund aims to compensate countries and communities impacted by climate-related disasters. A total of \$770.6 was pledged. However, this appears to fall far short of developing countries’ needs.

5. Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

- Adaptation has long been a priority for climate vulnerable countries, and framework was agreed – but with only weak text around financing.

6. A fuller discussion of the outcomes of COP-28 can be found at <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop28-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-dubai/>

7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 7 February 2024.

Cllr Rob Smith  
Chairman  
January 2024