



**John Wright**  
Town Clerk

**Lyme Regis Town Council**

Town Council Offices  
Guildhall Cottage  
Church Street  
Lyme Regis  
Dorset  
DT7 3BS

email: [enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk)

Tel: 01297  
445175  
Fax: 01297  
443773

**Environment Committee**

**Core Membership:** Cllr R. Smith (chairman), Cllr S. Cockerell (vice-chairman), Cllr C. Aldridge, 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 28 March 2024 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright  
Town Clerk  
23.02.24

*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 17 January 2024

**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 17 January 2024**

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)

**9. Funding Transfer Great Big Dorset Hedge to Little Green Change**

To receive a request from Julie Leah of GBDH and Clare Matheson of LGC

**10. Bathing Water Quality Meeting minutes**

To receive the minutes of the Bathing Water Quality Meeting 4 held on 13 November 2023

**11. Solar Panels (Photovoltaic Cells) and Other Ideas for the Gardens and Toilets**

To consider a report about the potential Installation of PV's on flat roof above toilets, rainwater harvesting and use in the gardens, 'grey water' use and recycling in Marine Parade toilets and the change to a metered electricity supply to gardens lighting

**12. Use of Biodiesel**

To consider a report about the principle of running the council's tractor and, possibly other diesel vehicles in the current fleet, on biodiesel and providing a pumped and bunded tank at or within the harbour store to facilitate this

### **13. Environment Committee Budget Spend**

To inform members of 2023-24 budget spend and the 2022-23 reserve held for solar panels

**LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2024**

**Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr R. Smith

**Members:** Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr P. May

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

**Guests:** V. Elcoate (River Lim Action Group)

**24/41/ENV Public Forum**

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

**24/42/ENV Apologies**

Cllr S. Cockerell – holiday  
Cllr B. Larcombe  
Cllr D. Ruffle  
Cllr G. Stammers  
Cllr G. Turner

**24/43/ENV Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023 were **ADOPTED**.

**24/44/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8, 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 as she as she was a river monitor for the River Lim Action Group and a carbon literacy facilitator.

**24/45/ENV Dispensations**

There were none.

**24/46/ENV Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 22 November 2023**

## **River Lim Action Group Report**

Cllr P May asked for feedback on the meeting that was held on 15 January 2024 with South West Water and what the response was to the email from the council requesting information on what had happened to the £20 million transition funding.

The town clerk said South West Water were going to get back to the council separately in terms of their interim business plan and the status of the £20 million funding for works that were discussed.

## **Carbon Literacy Training**

Cllr B. Bawden said the first Carbon Literacy training workshop had been delivered online that day and involved Weymouth Town Council staff, two members and town council staff.

## **Biodiversity Baseline Assessment**

The acting operations manager said Abbas Ecology would hopefully be coming out the following week to see and get to know the site a little better and would then go away and compile the report.

## **Environment Budget 2023-2024**

The town clerk said that he would bring a report to the next meeting on the environment budget.

Cllr C. Aldridge asked what was happening with the planting for next year, with regards to the Plan Bee project.

The acting operations manager said the groundworks team were in the process of removing grass in all locations, which had to be removed to create space for wildflowers to grow. Planting would commence in the spring, similar to last year.

## **24/47/ENV Update Report**

### **eRib**

Cllr P. May said he was dismayed the town council didn't have three-phase power supply suitable for fast charging of the eRib and this might mean the project didn't start and finish in Lyme, which was a driver in the decision to agree funding.

Cllr B. Bawden asked if this was due to a grid capacity issue or if it was a Dorset Council issue. She said she had raised it with Dorset Council months ago and although it had put the infrastructure in so that the ducting could go on the mooring points, which were going to be capable of supporting electric charging, it was not part of its active proposal. She added that she was due to meet with the harbourmaster and would raise the issue with him.

## **Community energy champions**

Cllr P. May said the community energy champions had no website of its own, but they were a group of volunteers who had been trained and were now delivering energy saving tips to residents of Lyme Regis and the surrounding areas. They had a few thermal cameras, one of which had been purchased with funds from the town council, and they could be used to visit residents' homes and give them tips on how to improve their energy usage.

Cllr P. May said the group relied on the town council to publicise their presence. They had conducted around 40+ visits to residents, approximately 10 of which have been done this year and they expected to conduct another 10 to 20 visits this year.

Cllr R. Smith asked if the community energy champions were maxed out or under-utilised.

Cllr P. May said that they were about right for the number of people, but they had lost two members and gained one over the last 12 months which had limited their capability to do things. However, if they had more enquiries, they would be unable to cope.

Cllr B. Bawden said the community energy champions were promoted in the Community Café, and it was mostly word of mouth and via the leaflets that the word got around.

## **24/48/ENV River Lim Action Group Report**

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

V. Elcoate said RLAG were taking forward the main recommendations of the ecological survey report and would present the final version to the council as soon as it was finished. She said the first recommendation was the clearance of the Himalayan Balsam, which was a long-term project, but they felt that with enough volunteers, they could succeed over a period of years. Their plan was to launch year one in May with teams going out every month and she asked if the council could help publicise the dates so they could recruit more volunteers.

The town clerk said the town council would be more than happy to publicise the efforts if RLAG gave them all the information they needed to do so.

V. Elcoate said the person organising the clear-up wasn't very happy about the health and safety aspects of clearing the area below Gosling Bridge.

The acting operations manager said Dorset Council would be doing the clearing up in this area but if they couldn't, the town council could pick it up. He said it would have to be burned as it was an invasive weed and could only be transported by a registered waste carrier. He suggested using the electric vehicle and loading it up in bulk bags to be burnt off site to prevent the spread of seeds.

V. Elcoate said Himalayan Balsam could also be composted. She asked if the town council would still be able to assist if the majority of the clearance took place in Uplyme.

The acting operations manager confirmed the town council would still be able to help. It was agreed he would discuss the details directly with V. Elcoate.

V. Elcoate spoke about the RLAG's request for the council to provide up front funds for the monitoring kit it had already agreed to fund. She said an up front payment would be preferred as it required a monthly payment to a laboratory.

The town clerk said it wasn't normal policy to give funding up front but the RLAG could write to him with the rationale and amount requested and he would discuss it with the finance manager.

V. Elcoate said RLAG were losing ground with South West Water so it was crucial to get a date in the diary for the next partnership meeting.

The acting operations manager said he would try to get a date booked in the diary in March when the official bathing season started.

V. Elcoate said once an initial meeting had been held with the Wild Trout Trust to discuss the barriers to fish passage, they would come and speak to the council.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council supports the River Lim Action Group with the removal of Himalayan Balsam in the river, in accordance with the regulations.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that subject to agreement by the town clerk and finance manager, having had correspondence from the River Lim Action Group, the council allows funds to be paid up front to purchase monitoring kit.

## **24/50/ENV Low Carbon Dorset Roadshow**

Cllr B. Bawden said Low Carbon Dorset would be bringing an exhibition made up largely of displays but it would not be manned. She said she had asked if local groups could also have a display and there was the possibility of sharing the display with the town council. She suggested there could be a day when members were available to meet the public.

Cllr P. May asked for clarification of what was being asked of the town council other than to support the initiative itself.

Cllr B. Bawden said the town council could have a presence, displaying all the environmental initiatives it had supported in the town. She suggested the council set aside a budget for display boards, which were around £35 each.

The town clerk said officers could find out what boards the council already had and there was still money left in the environment budget to purchase more if

necessary. He said the council could extend the exhibition into the performance or market areas and that it was a great opportunity for community groups to talk about what they were doing.

**24/51/ENV COP-28**

Cllr P. May said the council should concentrate on making sure that it did as much as it could to reduce its carbon footprint actively, and that would be the most important role it could play.

Cllr B. Bawden said the more the council could do locally, the better and that it did not have to wait for government or even Dorset Council to do the right thing.

Cllr R. Smith said it would be good if there was a way to educate and reach out to the wider public in a way that the town council could not do.

Cllr B. Bawden said that she didn't feel it was the town council's role to talk about personal behaviour change, but rather an understanding of why emissions needed to drop, and quickly.

The town clerk suggested Cllr B. Bawden invited Dorset Council to come to the Low Carbon Dorset event in June to tell the public what it's doing for the environment.

*The meeting closed at 7.51pm.*



## **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 28 February 2024

**Title:** Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 January 2024

### **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**

#### **24/46/ENV – Matters Arising - Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

The electric vehicle charging bay signs, with respect to the rate of charge for the service, have been altered. Charges are now at electricity cost rather than 10p over the rate.

#### **24/46/ENV – Matters Arising - Carbon Literacy Training**

Attached at **appendix 6A** is a report from Cllr. B. Bawden.

She hopes there will be between 15 and 20 accredited councillors, clerks, staff and community group representatives by the end of next month.

This council should have between 5 and 8 certified as Carbon Literate as a result of the recent training, in addition to those previously trained.

The application for Silver level accreditation is being finalised with a revised case study based around transport and the park and ride. It will be re-submitted before the end of February to give adequate time for its consideration and assessment prior to the 31 March deadline.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
February

## Appendix 6A



### **Carbon Literacy for town and parish councillors and community groups**

A series of six Carbon Literacy workshops for town and parish councillors and community groups were recently co-facilitated online by Belinda Bawden of Lyme Regis Town Council, Dorset Council and the Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN); Ben Heath, Development Manager of Weymouth Town Council; Helen Sumbler and Sam Wilberforce of DCAN.

Carbon Literacy is defined as:

“An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organizational basis.”

The Carbon Literacy Project offers everyone a day’s worth of Carbon Literacy® learning, covering climate change, carbon footprints, how you can do your bit and why it’s relevant to you and your community.

The Parish, Town and Community Council Toolkit equips councillors, clerks and officers with the information they need to communicate the significance of climate change and achieve the behavioural change necessary in their local area to address the climate emergency.

We aim to give town and parish clerks, staff and councillors, as well as community group representatives, the confidence to respond to the climate crisis locally with enough knowledge and understanding to turn climate declarations and plans into practical action.

Clerks, officers and elected members from Lyme Regis and Weymouth Town Councils; Char Valley, Broadwindsor, The Stours and Queen Thorne Parish Councils; alongside volunteers from the Dorset Climate Action Network and local climate and environmental groups, attended two half day workshops throughout January and February to work together to find ways to increase awareness and understanding of the urgency for and benefits of positive local action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The training is peer-led, locally relevant and solutions-focused, using group discussions and breakout rooms to encourage sharing and developing practical ideas. Some very exciting ideas were generated and several ambitious personal and group pledges have been submitted for accreditation – these include:

- developing a car-sharing scheme and designing cycle routes
- creating a brand identity for the climate action group and convene working partnerships with wider community groups to plan combined climate action
- liaising with Dorset Council to ensure planning applications are considered from an environmental & climate impact prospective
- mapping areas in the area suitable for solar potential
- working with the village hall committee to improve energy efficiency, utilise renewable energy sources and reduce waste
- creating a brochure to help community groups reduce their carbon impact
- run carbon-neutral events and encourage attendees to walk, lift-share or use public transport to show reducing carbon can be fairly easily achieved.

Further workshops are planned and can be offered in person or online, bespoke to your organisation or town/parish council or as part of the local toolkit.

Please contact Dorset CAN [dorsetcan@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetcan@gmail.com) for further information.

Belinda Bawden

18 Feb 2024

## **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 28 February 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.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
February 2024

## **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Committee:** Environment committee

**Date:** 28 February 2024

**Title:** River Lim Action Group Report

### **Purpose of Report**

To receive a River Lim update report, a discussion document as an addendum to the River Lim ecology report, an extract from the River Lim ecology report and details of the River Lim water quality meeting in February 2024

### **Recommendation**

Members note the reports from the RLAG

### **Report**

1. The RLAG's latest update reports are attached at **appendix 8A, 8B, 8C and 8D**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 13 March 2024.

Graham Roberts  
RLAG  
February 2024

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
February 2024

River Lim Action update for Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee

Meeting February 28<sup>th</sup>

Graham Roberts 18.02.24

In the absence of Vicki Elcoate, I am providing you with a brief update of the various activities from the River Lim Action Group.

### **Himalayan Balsam (HB) removal.**

Following a very successful social and awareness raising meeting at the beginning of last December over 30 volunteers have come forward to help with the removal of Himalayan Balsam from within the River Lim Catchment. Monthly task events have been booked for Saturday mornings on the following days. Each event will be for four hours from 10am in the morning. A comprehensive Health and Safety briefing has already been provided for all our river monitors and a Health and Safety briefing will be held at the start of each "Invasive Species" event planned.

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

It is important to tackle the issue strategically and all efforts this year will be concentrating on the upper catchment area and tributaries. However certain landowners are also now planning to remove HB on their own stretches with family and friends. It is also planned to distribute leaflets to all riparian owners particularly in the middle reaches to encourage their own actions this coming year. It is hoped that the LRTC will be able to tackle the invasive plant issues within the revetted section of the river Lim below Gosling Bridge and down to the Town Mill area.

Other events may be added following any publicity and to encourage Corporate Team Building Days. Some preparatory work has also commenced at facilitating access to strategic sites and getting the necessary landowner permissions.

### **Japanese Knotweed (JK)**

With the support from LRTC two of the bad location sites adjacent to the River Lim are going to be professionally treated by Contractors this coming season when effective and consented chemical control can be applied. It is hoped in addition that Uplyme Parish Council may engage in tackling a further expanding patch of JK on the Cannington Tributary below the Viaduct.

We are awaiting a visit from the Environment Agency EA in Exeter to decide how best to tackle the issue of American Signal Crayfish (ASC). Due to its presence, it is very unlikely that the native White Claw Crayfish survives anywhere within the catchment. However, ASC can become very invasive and significantly impact the already depleted invertebrate populations within the river that we are currently monitoring.

### **Ongoing Monitoring**

All the current monitoring activity will be continuing this year. This includes Riverfly monitoring, chemical monitoring and E. coli monitoring with generous support from the LRTC.

Full results can be presented to the LRTC and EA at appropriate occasions and shared with Southwest Water (SWW), particularly where inconsistencies of results may arise near their discharge sites.

There is definitely an increased awareness of sewage and discharge issues all around the River Lim catchment which is resulting in constant reporting to both EA and SWW. Hopefully this will keep up the pressure on SWW to fulfil its promised obligations of upgrading the Sewage Treatment Works.

### **Ecological Report**

We are still in the process of trying to re-format the full ecological report (84 pages) which hopefully will be completed by the next LRTC Environment meeting in March. However, an email containing this update document and two useful extracts from the Ecological Report being the Summary and Discussion documents are being sent to you now. These will inform us of actions needed to be taken in forthcoming years to bring the whole catchment back into good ecological health.

### **Meetings**

A successful meeting was held recently with the West Country Rivers Trust who shared with our group extensive knowledge of potential activities we may be able to apply to the River Lim. We also have meetings planned shortly with both the East Devon Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) and the Dorset AONB as well as The Wild Trout Trust.

We are extremely grateful to LRTC for your ongoing interest and support.

.

# Discussion document for LRTC as an addendum for River Lim Ecology Report

Catchment management of the River Lim, Lyme Regis. 2023.

DOMINIC STUBBING HND, PhD, MIFM, CEnv.

Watergates Fisheries Ltd

For and on behalf of River Lim Action Group





# Table of Contents

## Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
Table of Figures .....	3
Objective assessment.....	4
Study summary.....	5
Geology .....	5
Abstraction .....	5
Land-use .....	5
Sewage and drainage network .....	5
Mills and weirs .....	5
Water quality.....	5
Habitats .....	5
Macro-invertebrates.....	5
Fish .....	6
Discussion.....	7
Issues affecting ecosystem .....	7
Groundwater and its use .....	7
Sewage effluent.....	8
Diffuse pollution .....	11
Damaged habitats .....	12
Alien species .....	13
Migration barriers.....	16
Potential resolutions to conflicting influences.....	21
Groundwater .....	21
Sewage effluent.....	22
Diffuse pollution .....	22
Damaged habitats .....	22
Alien species .....	23
Migration barriers.....	23
Summary .....	24
Action list.....	25
Sewage effluent.....	25
Diffuse pollution .....	25

Damaged habitats .....	25
Alien species .....	26
Migration barriers.....	26
Bibliography.....	26

## Table of Figures

<a href="#">Figure 1 Dry tributary, Carswell .....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Figure 2 Sewage works CSO.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Figure 3 Rain drain.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Figure 4 Pumping station CSO .....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Figure 5 Track with manure .....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Figure 6 Landfill .....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Figure 7 Cattle poaching banks of river .....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Figure 8 Himalayan balsam.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Figure 9 Himalayan balsam white seeds.....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Figure 10 Signal crayfish .....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Figure 11 Lower barrier by Banksy .....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Figure 12 Fish pass weir.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">Figure 13 Middle mill weir barrier .....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Figure 14 Summary diagram of focus points .....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>

## Objective assessment

Taking the results from the Catchment Study of the River Lim, Lyme Regis (Stubbing 2023) we can apply assessment to inform management of the river. Firstly, we can see a summary of results. The main discussion following this is broken down into topics. The detail here is important in terms firstly the problems faced and then secondly the resolutions to take forward.

Summary of these concepts are noted and displayed conceptually. Then, finally a list of actions is provided to aid strategic delivery.

## Study summary

Below is a summary of the River Lim study (Stubbing 2023).

### Geology

The geology principally shows that there is Greensands deep down and, also near the surface around the edge of the catchment, this holds water and produces springs. Lias is in the middle of the catchment on the surface and has poor permeability and fissures, it does not hold water well and effectively leaks it.

### Abstraction

There is a widespread history of abstractions that are mostly small but currently there appear to be no major abstractions.

### Land-use

The land-use in the catchments is mostly grassland and woodland. Some woodland is forestry and there are a few arable fields. The grassland is of mixed use, some has been improved and there are some small cattle farms with silage pits. There is a small landfill site.

### Sewage and drainage network

The sewage treatment works is between Lyme Regis and Uplyme, with a main storage tank at the bottom of the town, which should get pumped up to the works. There have been visual records of untreated sewage coming out of various pipes and pumps in recent years, along with records of high *E. coli* levels. Some improvements to misconnections and broken pumps have happened. There are probably still a lot of rainwater connections to some sewer pipes.

### Mills and weirs

There are many old mills in the area. The weirs associated with them are, in certain places, a barrier to fish migration. One has had a fish pass put on it, two more still form a barrier to fish passage.

### Water quality

Water quality data shows that general nutrient values don't appear excessive, but some spikes do occur. *E. coli* data, some from human sources, does however show spikes – some very large at times. Levels are being recorded as unsafe much of the time.

### Habitats

Habitats in the tributaries are generally good, with rough woody and hedge edges. Also, there is rough grassland but with some overgrazed patches. Below Uplyme there is wooded channel, but it lacks instream debris. Macrophytes are notably absent from most of the catchment. There is just

one patch of instream weed in the section between the Old Mill and Middle Mill. Within the town and to the top of Windsor Terrace, the channel sides are walled or concrete channeled and the riverbed is mostly natural. There is seasonal emergent vegetation in spring and summer along some sections.

Himalayan balsam is widespread throughout the catchment particularly in the upper reaches and there are dense patches of Japanese knotweed at least at four sites.

### Macro-invertebrates

The macro invertebrate populations are reasonable but there was variation in numbers and diversity. There is not an index for the scores yet, but this will be forthcoming with a National based Riverfly score. This will be based on eight species currently being recorded by volunteers monthly at six different sites.

### Fish

The fish population is small and not very diverse. It has trout and smaller species, such as bullheads and minnows. Eels were observed, however, the loach that previously existed were not apparent in this survey. Otters were present as were non- native signal crayfish.

## Discussion

### Issues affecting the ecosystem.

From the results we can understand the ecology. If we look at the background, we can understand how some of the activities in the catchment influence ecology and water quality it hinges on. Below are details of some of the influences.

### Groundwater and its use

It can be seen from the geology that the good water-bearing Greensand is near the surface only at the edges of the catchment. Otherwise, it is deep down. Lias is, therefore, the main bedrock around the catchment and this has poor water resource capacity.

It can be seen that over the past years many boreholes have been licensed. Most are shallow at 10 m and would produce minimal water from Lias. One was at 100 m and another 50 m, presumably designed to go through to the Greensand deep under the Lias. Of course, many if not most are dysfunctional. It can be seen from 1995 records of abstraction that there is little of consequence.

This is very important, as the river and its tributaries with springs (from catchment edge Greensand) at the top, dries out in the lower part of some tributaries ([Figure 1](#)). This must be a natural occurrence due to the dry Lias letting water straight through, which has been associated with fissures, and can be seen going underground in places. Water reoccurs lower downstream as the cumulative mass of water is rebuilt.

*Figure 1 Dry tributary, Carswell*



It is interesting that these sites had good macro-invertebrate populations in the late Spring. The repopulation will mostly come from the spring-fed upper river where they drift down from.

The trout population would seem low and the lack of year-round nursery streams (which you would normally find with alluvial streams) probably limits this population.

### Sewage effluent



It is the case there is a direct discharge of treated wastewater to the sea, with some storm overflow (untreated) allowance from sewage treatment works via CSOs (Consented Storm Overflows) ([Figure 2](#)). There are also two CSO discharges to sea that are not treated waste. There were broken pumps recently that were supposed to pump wastewater to the sewage works from the town storage tank. There have been cases of the pumping stations overflowing through their CSOs ([Figure 4](#)).

There have been visual records of sewage coming from three rainwater drains: some, presumably all due to misconnections and damage. They have apparently had preventative work ([Figure 3](#)).

*Figure 2 Sewage works CSO*



*Figure 3 Rain drain.*





Figure 4 Pumping station CSO



Nora virus has been a problem to shellfish in other harbours in Dorset and is not effectively treated by UV. It has been an issue since Covid19 due to a lack of imported chemicals to treat it, although it may not be an issue in Lyme Regis which lacks a major hospital. It may not necessarily be an issue here for SWW water, but the 'know how' is there to prevent it entering natural water bodies.

River records of *E. coli* are high in the data from recent years. This would be one signatory factor of untreated sewage. Species were recorded for human, bovine and avian. Treated waste should not have *E. coli* as the treatment site is fitted with UV filtration.

*E. coli* can also survive in biofilm for some time and can spread through the water course without being in solution and so being picked up by monitored water quality sampling. It impacts ecology (the natural bacteria complex included) and humans. Riverine mammals can ingest it with water.

There are at times high levels of phosphate in data which would also be a signatory factor. The untreated waste would cause phosphate. It causes excessive algal blooms and associated problems. Currently, levels of algae are seen in the town river.

Data from the sea have shown some similar problems. This is due to the direct untreated releases from CSOs and the main town storage tank in particular. This is partly related to high volumes due to Summer population increase in town, but also likely storm rainwater influx. A broken pump has prevented some correct removal to sewage works.

Cesspits around the catchment can cause issues if not maintained correctly. There may be a problem from the odd one, but it may not directly reach the river and is unlikely to be a widespread issue.

It is interesting that the sites had good macro-invertebrate populations in the late Spring. The impact of flush-throughs of sewage would be short term, with repopulation coming from the river upstream. This could really cause problems in a Summer with high temperatures when deoxygenation would happen with low flows. Fish would also be affected if this were bad. Trout would have limited repopulation abilities due to restricted habitat access and a low population.

### Diffuse pollution

Forestry forms a large portion of sub-catchments North and East. These can be an issue during felling operations although nothing significant was noted in the walkover looking for muddy water.

Livestock farming is common in the rest of the upland areas. Two farms did show slight runoff during rain but nothing that would cause major concern at the time. Carswell tributary was very slightly coloured downstream and was probably due to yard and manure-heap seepage. Cannington tributary was a similar situation with slight coloration in the stream and yards involved, here the road seemed to be part conduit to runoff ([Figure 5](#)).

*Figure 5 Track with manure*



Again, if there were a problem for aquatic life it would likely be in Summer, but the input levels seen should be manageable.

A waste pit exists to the West in the sub-catchment, but it is only rubble ([Figure 6](#)). This may have a negative impact on the ground-life around the wooded area involved. In terms of the river, the main issue is to ensure that powdered cement and plaster are not deposited here. It certainly could wash into the river and settle in gravels, where it can directly affect fish gills, fish eggs and invertebrates eggs.



*Figure 6 Landfill*



### Damaged habitats

The main areas with notably overgrazed habitat were a little way down from the viaduct ([Figure 7](#)). This area could benefit from some protection, such as fencing, but still allowing drinking points. Further down where the next stream joins from the West there is short grass but fencing could enable bankside reed growth.

*Figure 7 Cattle poaching banks of river*



In the cricket pitch park a slight fringe along the bank edge would help establish vegetation and slow erosion. Downriver from Uplyme and just above Mill Lane there is a lot of dense laurels



growing along the river edge and little else. The riverbed is in an acceptable state here, but if the shrub growth was cut back and opened up in patches along the river, more light would encourage marginal habitats to establish.

The big factor below here is in Lyme Regis town where there is concrete and walled channelisation. Plants have done well to colonize the area, but they die back leaving the river barren in Winter.

Fish numbers in these barren areas are low, with lack of habitats providing cover. Also, as it is barren, the macro-invertebrate populations would be lower in total, and so less able to support fish and bird life.

Instream weed seems to be lacking generally and may always have been so due to the shaded and dry nature of the river. Lack of weed and woody debris below Uplyme would explain the lower fish numbers (lack of cover and food organisms). Fortunately, there is one patch of *Ranunculus* next to Middle Mill, which presents a great opportunity for spreading and recolonization.

#### Alien species

Himalayan balsam ([Figure 8](#), [Figure 9](#)) was found throughout the catchments and sub-catchments, with the exception of the middle and upper Rhodes tributary. Some patches were dense and extensive beyond the river. These areas are impacting natural vegetation and spreading seeds annually which will continue to colonise the whole catchment area.

Japanese knotweed was found in at least four locations and mainly around the Middle Mill and Bumpy Field in great quantity. Efforts are being made to kill it off. A small area downstream of the viaduct should be removed as soon as possible to prevent spreading into the scrub areas here. Native plant species would only be locally impacted by this species in the actual vicinity.

Non- native Signal crayfish are regularly being found throughout much of the catchment. They are also up at the lakes area in the Yawl tributary ([Figure 10](#)). This will mean the native crayfish are unlikely to exist in the river catchment, although there is always a small chance of an isolated population.

Figure 8 Himalayan Balsam  
Figure 9 Himalayan balsam white seeds



*Figure 10 Signal crayfish*





## Migration barriers

Due to the history of mills on the river there are various weirs to impound the water, which cause barriers to migrating fish. The significant weirs are now only really in three places ([Figure 11](#)- [Figure 13](#)). There is a fish pass on a weir ([Figure 12](#)) but a board makes the lower chamber relatively shallow. There are no eel passes on the weirs.

*Figure 11 Lower barrier by Banksy artwork*



*Figure 12 Fish pass weir*





Figure 13 Middle Mill weir barrier



The brown trout should have genetics that could provide the basis for sea trout in the future. Small fish species will not be able to pass upstream, which should not be an issue for spawning, indeed eggs were found locally of small fish species. Although stone loach were not found, this could have been affected by pollution and lack of repopulation.

The trout population as a whole would appear low and the lack of sea trout egg deposition may contribute to this. Also, the lack of good access to the river above Middle Mill would be a cause for some limits on productive habitat availability, along with the lack of instream cover and drying up sections of river.

### Potential resolutions to conflicting influences

If we look at the conflicting influences, we can understand how some of the activities in the catchment can be adjusted to protect and improve ecology and water quality.

#### Groundwater

The river would seem to be dry in parts of the catchment for natural geological reasons. Despite there being abstractions in the area there would appear to be no major abstractions in operation. The river is dry in places that are mostly mid-catchment. Springs run at the top and the water disappears but builds up again in Uplyme.

It is important to discuss dry rivers as this place's emphasis on the protection of habitats and water in the upper tributaries. These spring areas are obviously what repopulates the dry reaches with fly life in Autumn/Winter. In the Spring there is good fly life and this downstream drift from fully wetted tributaries will also be important to repopulating any population crashes in fly life on the lower river after pollution.

In fish terms, there is unlikely to be any migration cycles of trout if there is annual severance of flow and only very low flows around springs. Trout spawning is, therefore, limited which weakens the population's tolerance to other impacts. Small species, such as bullhead could probably sustain themselves in the spring waters.

### Sewage effluent

The main sewage works needs to be provided with nitrogen and phosphate strippers to ensure there is no eutrophication of Lyme Bay. There is UV sterilisation, but this does require upkeep as bulbs need regular replacement. UV sterilisation should be used all year round, not just in the tourist season. Correct treatments for Norovirus should be used as required to ensure clean water into Lyme Bay.

The main tank for storage should be kept at a level that enables storm water to be captured without overloading incoming pipes or the tank itself. This will mean higher input to the sewage works, especially in a wet Summer. It is said that the tank is able to cope with current loading, but if the sewage works needs enlarging to achieve treatment of full load, then that should be done.

If storm overflow pipes still overload, then a programme of rainwater separation from foul water will need to be completed on a priority basis. Whether these overflows are within consented limits or not at times of discharge is unknown. This is in terms of volumes and water quality parameters. However, rather than investing in trying to prove compliance it would be prudent to eliminate the problem as recommended, considering it would be possible. And staying within consent is unlikely without investment and, ultimately, costly.

If the sewage works is not enlarged as required, then rainwater separation should be pushed through to reduce volume going to works. This could be done by using pipe network maps and on-the-ground observation. Potentially, this could be forwarded by locals who could help direct works. Large volume rain drains could be prioritised. However, there is always the issue of where water goes, and soakaways are sometimes an option if there are no other pipes.

Seafront improvements are underway and must be completed. Storm drains below the town council depot should be surveyed and rectified, if not complete yet.

### Diffuse pollution

There are possibilities for fencing some upland riverbanks that would create good habitat and also reduce poaching and the direct inputs of faeces and sediments. There are a few areas where there is considerable cattle access, such as on the Cannington tributary. Drinking points still would need to be left.

Other farm issues may be blocked drains increasing road and yard wash off. There is good guttering on the whole, so water separation from manure is occurring. This water could be used for cattle water, if it is not already, thereby reducing mains water costs to the farms. If and where there is seepage from pits, they can be repaired and a reed bed area could be established before entering the water course. Further bunding or repairs of pits should be done.

Forestry should continue to avoid rutting and tracks across slopes. As conifer plantations get felled replanting a mix with deciduous trees would be best.

In terms of the landfill sites near the river, the main issue is to ensure powdered cement and plaster is not deposited, so it cannot wash into the river. Also, no other chemical treated rubble should be allowed. Building sites should conform to EA guidance.

### Damaged habitats

As stated for diffuse pollution, the river being fenced off would form better marginal habitat.

Areas of heavy shading, such as the laurel area (which is evergreen), would benefit from being sky lighted along the river, which would enable better marginal habitats to establish.

The concrete and walled area is the sort of area where some brushwood bundles might help with marginal plants, but there are naturally shallow areas that offer marginal growth. However, this does die back in winter. There are more realistic opportunities though the lower reaches to hinge and lower some downstream directed branches into the river to increase year-round instream habitats. Woody debris is a good winter cover for fish.

Spreading the *Ranunculus* to new areas that have good light will offer great opportunity. This weed can be cut as lengths and then wrapped around stones and buried in the gravel. Areas with good water flow that are protected from grazing are preferable. Bat boxes are advised in trees where there is good flight access and minimal human disturbance. Many current bat boxes are in various stages of serious decay

#### Alien species

There is potential for control, but this would need to be organised working from upstream to downstream. For Himalayan balsam, however, tackling large swards is currently a massive and costly task. Securing “HB-free zones” – relatively unaffected sub-catchments areas – would help contain the problem and be low cost. Cleared zones can be secured by long-term monitoring and some signage and/or written agreements. The Lim sub-catchment to the East would be a first choice as it is seemingly clear already. In chosen sub-catchments of the Lim this could initially be done by deciding with all concerned to have Himalayan balsam-free zones. Initially this would need to be focused on upstream reaches. Added to this, small areas of Himalayan balsam present could be targeted for eradication using standard and new techniques.

One new technique involves focusing removals to when the plant is at a stage of having white seeds ([Figure 9](#)), (not fertile) which is in the first 2 weeks of August when the plant is fairly spent. This is then repeated 3 weeks later. In early years, slashing is warranted, as it is quicker and less demoralizing. Then for later years hand pulling is acceptable. Subsequently, clear zones can be secured by long-term monitoring and signage.

Removing Japanese Knotweed can be very difficult in most circumstances and it is recommended that help from licensed contractors is sought to eradicate this species from the valley as soon as possible

Education should be provided on trapping and restricting movement of crayfish. Leaflets and information are available from the EA.

#### Migration barriers

The main barrier adjacent to the Banksy artwork (Gosling Bridge) and onwards should be made passable to provide the possibility for sea trout migration to occur. A similar stepped pool-to-pool system to that seen upstream might be best but because of existing buildings a bolt-on metal ladder styled pass may have less impact. The barrier upstream probably needs the board removed and depth checked to ensure it is 1.5 times the height of the jump. Eel passes would be important on these dams.

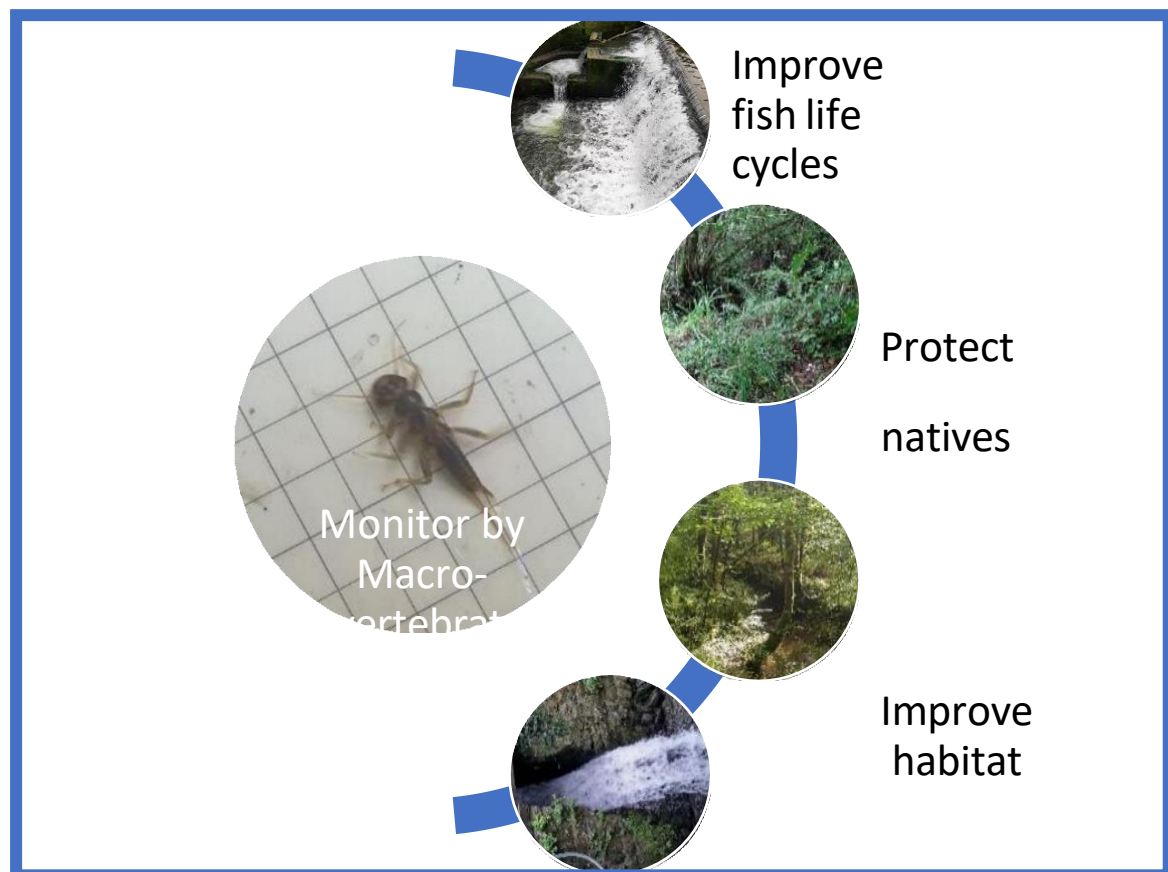
The weir at Middle Mill Farm is large and impassable, although it has a millstream that offers potential for trout to reach the upper river. However, full access under all flow conditions would be important to assure access upstream for trout. Even just having the millstream running and fully passable when rainfall is heavier in October/November would be beneficial as this is the key time for the final migration push.

## Summary

Key points and diagram ([Figure 14](#)) of their relationship with each other:

1. The sewage system needs repair, development and to be managed for storm influx.  
Monitoring of water quality data to continue
2. Farm improvements in water separation systems and waste containment are necessary.  
Also, protection of riverbanks by cattle fencing in places. Land-fill sites to be advised
3. Make the lower barrier to fish and eels passable and ensure Middle Mill stream is passable.  
Add eel pass on existing fish pass
4. Start strategic Himalayan balsam control. Eradicate Japanese knotweed. Educate on trapping and restricting movement of crayfish
5. Hinge tree limbs into barren river. Some laurel canopy thinning
6. Monitor macro-invertebrates to detect pollution and look for further stone loach

Figure 14 Summary diagram of focus points





## Action list

### Sewage effluent

1. The main sewage works needs to be fitted out with nitrogen and phosphate strippers
2. There is UV sterilisation, but this requires upkeep as bulbs need regular replacement; it should be used all year
3. The main tank for storage should be kept at a level that enables the storm water to be captured and not overload incoming pipes or the tank itself
4. The sewage works is said to be able to cope with volume but unlikely with increased tourist numbers over the Summer. If it needs enlarging, then this should be done.
5. If storm overflow pipes still overload, then then a programme of rainwater separation from foul water will need to be completed on a priority basis until discharges stay within consent limits. Should be undertaken to take pressure off existing sewage works
6. Seafront improvement is underway and must be completed
7. Storm drain below the town council depot should be surveyed and rectified. River mouth aerial pipe checked
8. Monitoring of water quality data should be continued

### Diffuse pollution

1. There are possibilities for fencing riverbanks to create good habitat (an action to benefit damaged habitats), in a few areas where there are cattle, e.g., the Cannington tributary. Drinking spots still need to be left
2. Other farm issues would be clearing blocked drains to decrease road and yard wash off
3. Guttering for water separation from dung is important. This water could then be used for cattle water
4. If and where there is seepage from pits, such as at Carswell, a reedbed area could be established pre entering the water course
5. Further bunding or repairs of pits should be done
6. In terms of the landfill near the river, the main issue is to ensure powdered cement and plaster or other chemically treated rubble is not put down
7. Building sites should conform to EA guidance

### Damaged habitats

1. Areas of heavy shading, such as for laurel area (which is evergreen) can be sky lighted along the river
2. In the channelised lengths of river there could be some brushwood bundles might help with marginal plants
3. Spreading the *Ranunculus* around to new areas
4. Bat boxes in trees with flight access and in undisturbed areas

### Alien species

1. There is potential for control, but this would need to be organised working from upstream to downstream, securing as, "HB-free zones" – relatively unaffected sub-catchment areas. The Lim sub-catchment to the east would be a first choice as seemingly clear already
2. Added to this, small areas of Himalayan balsam present could be targeted for eradication using one new technique that involves focusing removals to when the plant is at a stage of having white seeds (not fertile), which is the first 2 weeks of August; following this the plant is spent. This is then repeated 3 weeks later. In early years slashing is warranted, then later years hand pulling is acceptable
3. Cleared zones will be secured by long-term monitoring and some signage and/or written agreements
4. Educate on trapping and restricting movement of crayfish

### Migration barriers

1. The main barrier adjacent to the Banksy artwork (Gosling Bridge) should be made passable. An eel pass would be important here
2. The barrier upstream probably needs the board removed and depth checked to ensure it is 1.5 times the height of the jump. Also, an eel pass could be added

3. The weir at Middle Mill Farm has a millstream that offers potential for a bypass channel for trout to reach the upper river. However, the full access under all flow conditions would be important to assure access upstream for trout
4. Establish the presence of stone loach.

## Bibliography

National Rivers Authority (1996) Rivers Axe and Lim catchment management plan consultation report National Rivers

Authority (1992) River Corridor Surveys

National Rivers Authority (1991) River Lim Catchment Action Plan

Stubbing (2023) Catchment Study of the River Lim, Lyme Regis. River Lim Action Group.

## Extract for Lyme Regis Town Council

### Summary from River Lim Ecological Report

The following is a report commissioned by the River Lim Action Group following concerns over water quality issues in the lower River Lim. It has been funded by the Lyme Regis Town Council.

This is a study into the historic and current ecology of the the River Lim, in the context of its catchment land-use. These surveys were done at 14 sites around the full spread of the catchment. Electric fishing was only done at four downstream sites due to low flow.

#### Geology

The geology principle shows that there is Greensands deep down and also near the surface around the edge of the catchment, this holds water and produces springs. Lias is in the middle of the catchment on the surface and has poor permeability and has fissures, it's does not hold water well and effectively leaks it.

#### Abstraction

There is widespread history of abstractions that are mostly small but currently there are no major abstractions.

#### Land use

The land use in the catchments is mostly grassland with a few arable fields and woodland. Some woodland is forestry. The grassland is of mixed use, some is improved and there are some small cattle farms with silage pits. There is a small land-fill site.

#### Sewage and drainage network

The sewage works is between Lyme Regis and Uplyme, and a main storage tank is at the bottom of the town, which should get pumped up to the works. There have been visual records of untreated sewage coming out of various pipes and pumps into the river in recent years. Some improvements have happened. There are probably rainwater connections to some sewer pipes that overload the works.

#### Mills and weirs

There are many old mills in the area. The weirs associated with them are    in places    a barrier to fish migration. One has had a fish pass put on it, two more still form a barrier.

#### Water quality

Water quality data show that general nutrient values don't appear excessive, but some spikes do occur. *E.coli* data, some from human source do    however    show spikes - some big at times. Levels are recorded as unsafe much of the time.

#### Habitats

Habitats in the tributaries are generally good    with rough woody and hedge edges. Also, there is rough grassland but with some overgrazed stretches of riverbank. Below Uplyme there is wooded channel, but it lacks instream debris. There is just one patch of instream weed in the middle mill section. Through Lyme Regis the channel is walled or concrete channel edge. The bed is natural. There is seasonal vegetation in spring and summer.

Himalayan balsam was widespread and there were patches of Japanese knotweed.

#### Macro-invertebrates

The macro-invertebrate population was fairly good but there was variation in numbers and diversity. There is not an index for the scores yet, but this will be possible with the Riverfly score based on eight species currently being recorded by volunteers.

#### Fish

The fish population is fairly small and not very diverse. It has trout and smaller species, such as bullheads and minnows. Eels were apparent. Loach did previously exist but were not apparent in this survey.

Otters were present and so were signal crayfish.

#### Future

Working co-operatively with SouthWest Water and Landowners the overall ecology of the river catchment could be greatly improved. Actions along the the following lines, but detailed specifically to RLAG will make this possible.

1. The sewage system needs repair and development, and to be managed for storm influx. Monitoring of water quality data
2. Farm improvements to be made in water separation systems and waste containment. Also, protection of riverbanks by cattle fencing in places. Land-fill sites to be advised.
3. Make 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 knotweed. Educate on trapping and restricting movement of crayfish.
5. Hinge tree limbs into barren river. Carry out some laurel canopy thinning.
6. Monitor macro-invertebrates to detect pollution and look more widely for stone loach.



## River Lim Water Quality Monitoring February 2024

The laboratory testing for E. coli and Enterococci bacteria started on 24 January. The same sampling points are being tested as were sampled with the home tests last year: Sandy Beach, Church Beach, Jericho, Hay Bridge and Springhead Lane. All were within acceptable levels in January except Springhead Lane in Uplyme, which has consistently had high levels of E. coli and needs further investigation. A second set of samples were taken on 14 February; after heavy rain. Higher levels of E. coli and or Enterococci are seen at all sites.

The costs per month for laboratory testing are £60.30 + vat. This may need to change slightly if we switch to using a courier instead of posting the samples as Royal Mail is proving unreliable. Every 3 months there will be an additional £7 + vat for the empty sample bottles to be posted to Lyme Regis.

Hopefully the E. coli testing will give an indication whether recent repairs to sewers have been successful or, as we suspect, there are more problems to be found.

Total cost for the year for laboratory E. coli testing:

$12 \times £60.30 = £723.40 + \text{vat}$

$4 \times £7 = £28 + \text{vat}$

**£751.40 + vat**

**£901.68**

The Citizen Science water monitoring continues monthly, and this gives a background level of chemical pollution in the river. There was a health and safety training session for all monitors in January.

We appreciate the confirmation of funding for some more accurate water monitoring equipment, Hanna monitors. Rather than using these at all the existing water monitoring spots as originally proposed we would like to use the equipment to search for active sewage outfalls. We have learnt that high ammonia levels are an indication of an active outfall, and these have become more apparent in times of low water levels. The ammonia levels drop off very rapidly as you move away from the source. So, we may be more successful at finding problems if we do systematic testing along a stretch of river in low flow conditions and this is likely to be a better deployment of the Hanna monitors. We also hope to do this when the presence of sewage is suspected in the sea but will have to buy a Hanna monitor for marine environments to achieve this. Having taken advice from the West Country Rivers Trust it seems sensible to also purchase a phosphate Hanna monitor for monitoring the tributaries where agriculture may be a bigger source of pollution.

The River Fly Monitoring will begin again in April and will be the best indication of the water quality in the river and whether recent repairs are helping to improve the health of the river.

We would like to request the approved funding for water monitoring in advance if possible. This would include the £1000 for laboratory testing and £700 for Hanna monitors as originally requested (although it is now anticipated this will actually be £900 for laboratory testing and £800 for the Hanna monitors). Also £150 for replenishing existing water quality equipment. **A total of £1850.**

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 28 February 2023

**Title:** Great Big Dorset Hedge transfer of Funding to Little Green Change Request

**Purpose of report**

To consider a transfer of funding request from Great Big Dorset Hedge to Little Green Change Ltd

**Recommendation**

Members consider the report and instruct officers

**Background**

1. Officers received an email, at appendix 9C, from Julie Leah of Great Big Dorset Hedge on 17 February. It details a request to transfer the remainder of funding for the project to Clare Matheson at Little Green Change.
2. This committee in January 2023 recommended to Full Council to provide £1,512 of funding to the Great Big Dorset Hedge project. This was for surveying hedgerows and providing education on the project for the wider community.

**Report**

3. Julie Leah and Clare Matheson have a proposed breakdown of how the remaining funding will be used by Little Green Change at appendix 9A and a potential service agreement written at appendix 9B.
4. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered retrospectively by the Full Council on 13 March 2024.

Matt Adamson-Drage  
Operations manager  
February 2024

## APPENDIX 9A

Proposed breakdown of funding for transfer of work from Julie Leah to Little Green Change

Jan 2023 Funding agreement item and £		Claimed already	Remaining	Little Green Change suggested breakdown of funding	Hours at £20 /hour (total 49.5 = £990)	Costs to be claimed by LGC
Weather writer -	40	40	-	-	-	-
Clipboards	10	-	10	10	N/A	10
Travel expenses	54	18.45	62.55	Petrol to & from the relevant sites for school assemblies, meetings, and surveys.	N/A	62.55 max
Petrol	27					
Ink cartridges	206	-	301	Printing of promotional/educational materials, feedback forms, and surveying sheets	N/A	301 max
Flyers and cards	45					
	50					
Design and meeting prep time	240	£90	630	Creation of co-branded assembly presentations	8	160
Database	480			Poster creation and social media management for the project	4	80
				Little Green Change website content creation and management	2	40
				Press releases	1	20
				Email promotion based on the organisation list provided by Dorset CAN	2	40
				Feedback form creation and data analysis for assemblies and surveying sessions	4	80
				End of project report including photos		

				Additional admin for the duration of the project (emails, phone calls etc)	3	60
					12	240
Survey time	360			School surveying sessions x 2 including organising / preparation and travel time	3.5	70
				Community surveying sessions x 3 including organising / preparation and travel time	5	100
				Delivery of 3 x assemblies including organising / preparation and travel time	5	100

**SERVICE AGREEMENT.**

This service Agreement (The “Agreement”) is dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

**The Parties (the “Parties”).**

- Dorset Climate Action Network, Comforts Orchard, Corscombe, DORCHESTER, DT2 0NX (the “Client”).
- Little Green Change, 23 Barnes Meadow, Lyme Regis, DT7 3TD (the “Contractor”).
- Lyme Regis Town Council, Guildhall Cottage, Church Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3BS (the “Funder”).

**Services provided.**

1. The Client hereby agrees to engage the Contractor to provide the following services (the “Services”):
  - Lyme Regis hedgerow education project.
2. The specific services to be provided by the Contractor for the Client and the costs of those Services are more particularly described in the Project Rate Sheet(s) attached hereto as Appendix A, which has or have been prepared by the Contractor and accepted by the Client.

**Term of Agreement.**

3. The term of this agreement (the “Term”) will begin on the date of this Agreement and will remain in effect until the completion of the Services. The Term may be extended by the written consent of both the Contractor and the Client.

**Currency.**

4. All monetary amounts referred to in this Agreement are in Pound Sterling (£).

**Compensation.**

5. The Contractor will charge the Client a flat fee of £1,363.55
6. The Contractor will invoice the Client when the Services are complete, providing the details of the Contractor's business bank account for payment.
7. Invoices submitted by the Contractor to the Client are due within 10 days of receipt.
8. The above Compensation includes all applicable taxes as required by law.
9. The Contractor will be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses incurred in connection with providing the Services of this Agreement.

**Autonomy.**

10. The Contractor will have full control over working time, methods, and decision making in relation to the provision of the Services in accordance with the Agreement. The Contractor will work autonomously and not at the direction of the Client. However, the Contractor will be responsive to the reasonable needs of the Client.

**Equipment.**

11. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the Contractor will provide any and all tools, equipment, supplies, workwear and any other items necessary to deliver the Services in accordance with the Agreement, excluding those already purchased by the Client for the purposes of this Agreement.

**No exclusivity.**

12. The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement is non-exclusive and that the Contractor will be free, during or after the Term, to engage or contract with third parties for the provision of services similar to the Services.

**Data protection.**

13. The Parties shall comply with their obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 in relation to any personal data processed in relation to this Agreement.

Rights of termination.

14. Neither Party hereto may assign or delegate any portion of this Agreement without the prior express written consent of the other. In the event of the filing of a petition by or against the Customer under any bankruptcy or insolvency, or the appointment of a receiver, then the Contractor may forthwith terminate this Agreement without further obligation or liability by the Contractor to the Client.

15. The Contractor shall promptly repay to the Client any unused payments to them.

Force Majeure

16. The Contractor shall not be liable for any failure to provide services pursuant to this Agreement if such failure is caused directly or indirectly by acts of God; acts of war (including acts of terrorism); weather conditions; labour disputes or strikes; accidents; fires; explosions; floods; sabotage; fuel shortages; equipment malfunctions or failures; laws, rules, regulations, actions or inactions of any town council, county council or local governmental agency, department, court or body having jurisdiction over the activities of Client or Contractor; changes in laws, or any other matters beyond the reasonable control of the Contractor.

Modification of Agreement.

17. Any amendment or modification of this Agreement or additional obligation assumed by any Party in connection with this Agreement will only be binding if evidenced in writing signed by each Party or an authorised representative of each Party.

Governing law and jurisdiction.

18. This Agreement is governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with, the laws of England and Wales.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement effective as of the day and year first above written.

CLIENT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRACTOR

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix A: Project Rate Sheet.**

1. Purchase of items required to deliver this project. Receipts for printing and materials to be submitted by the Contractor to the Client.
2. Creation of a tailored hedgerows Powerpoint presentation by Little Green Change for school assembly use. To be co-branded (Dorset CAN, Little Green Change, Lyme Regis Town Council).
3. Delivery of assemblies by Little Green Change (Little Green Change to contact the following –

Woodroffe School, St Michael's CE VA Primary School, and the Scouts). Where possible with work commitments, Julie Leah to be included as the Dorset CAN representative at the assemblies.

4. One hedgerow surveying session consisting of 1 hour (maximum) each to be offered to each school, to be led by Little Green Change on school grounds or locally. The Scouts to be given priority at a community surveying session. Where possible with work commitments, Julie Leah to be included as the Dorset CAN representative at the surveys.
5. Delivery of 3 x 1 hour community surveying sessions in the Parish of Lyme Regis (in addition to the school sessions). 1 x weekend session and 2 x daytime sessions. Where possible with work commitments, Julie Leah to be included as the Dorset CAN representative at the surveys. Results to be sent to Dorset CAN. Dates to be rescheduled, where possible, in the event of bad weather (heavy rain, ice or extremely muddy ground - H&S slip hazards, storms).
6. Transferring the surveying data to Dorset CAN who run the mapping layer and records the data such as species of plant and hedgerow condition.
7. The creation by Little Green Change of co-branded social media posts and posters (to be approved first by Dorset CAN), which can be used by our organisations on our websites and social media channels. The printing of posters for display in schools and by key community organisations.
8. Co-branded press releases to be created by Little Green Change and sent to local press (to be approved first by Dorset CAN).
9. Creation of content on Little Green Change's website, dedicated to this project.
10. Email promotion of this project by Little Green Change to each of the organisations on the list sent by Alex (email dated 15th December 2023). Email wording be approved first by Dorset CAN.
11. Feedback forms checking knowledge gained and feedback on the assemblies and surveying sessions to be created by Little Green Change.
12. End of project summary report to be created by Little Green Change to include photographs, plus a data and comments summary (the latter to come from the feedback forms).

#### **Costings:**

- Petrol to & from the relevant sites plus parking charges, where required = £62.55
- Printing of promotional materials, feedback forms, and surveying sheets and clip boards = £311
- Staff costs to deliver the project as outlined above: 49.5 hours at £20 / hour = £990
- **Total = £1,363.55**

#### **\*Staff time hourly breakdown below:**

- Creation of co-branded assembly presentations = 8 hours.
- Delivery of 3 x assemblies including preparation and travel time = 5 hours.
- School surveying sessions x 2 including preparation and travel time = 3.5 hours
- Community surveying sessions x 3 including preparation and travel time = 5 hours.
- Poster creation and social media management for the project = 4 hours.
- Little Green Change website content creation and management = 2 hours.
- Press releases = 1 hour.
- Email promotion based on the organisation list provided by Dorset CAN on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 = 2 hours.
- Feedback form creation and data analysis for assemblies and surveying sessions = 4 hours.
- End of project report including photos = 3 hours.
- Additional admin for the duration of the project (emails, etc) = 12 hours.

## APPENDIX 9C

*Great Big Dorset Hedge project (Dorset Climate Action Network). - request by Julie Leah to transfer the work to Little Green Change*

*Funding of up to £1,512 for a Lyme dimension of the Great Big Dorset Hedge Project was agreed last January 2023 by the Environment Committee. Unfortunately due illness last spring and work commitments I have been unable to find the necessary time to continue to develop and deliver the project. I apologise for that and we have been trying to find a solution. As part of this, Dorset CAN has been in dialogue with Clare Matheson at Little Green Change (LGC). Clare (who is based in Lyme) and her team are qualified and knowledgeable on the topic of both the environment and education. Dorset CAN is hoping that the funding could be passed over to LGC to fulfill the bulk of the work. Some of the public engagement could still be fulfilled by me as Great Big Dorset Hedge public engagement coordinator. A draft contract between Dorset CAN and LGC has been drawn up (see attached) and they are able to do the work starting within this financial year.*

*The project would be refocused mainly towards schools and youth groups rather than the wider community as some work has already been done in the community such as the U3A and Turn Lyme Green and some early work on engagement materials. A sum of £148.45 has so far been claimed from the grant, leaving a sum of £1363.55.*

*The main outcomes from the LGC work would be:*

- Educational material developed for local schools on the importance of hedgerows in climate change mitigation and biodiversity*
- Assemblies / talks given to local schools and youth groups such as the Scouts*
- Hedgerow surveys organised with local schools and youth groups*
- Discussions with the Town Council about optimum locations to benefit nature recovery*
- Passing of survey data to Dorset CAN for input into the Great Big Dorset Hedge Map*
- Promotion of the project and awareness raising*

*The biodiversity objectives are unchanged and the understanding of the importance of hedgerows in the urban setting is becoming increasingly significant, especially within the context of the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. Community grants are now widely available for hedgerow projects - the Tree Council offers free trees for schools and the Community Tree Project run by Dorset Council also links into free trees. The significance of this project is that we can act as a catalyst to the community to link into these funds and expertise. The wider project has gone from strength to strength with over 5000 volunteer hours logged so far, more funding recently secured from CPRE and an increasing number of farmers and landowners involved in the work.*

*I have attached a table of current funding allocation and how Little Green Change would allocate staff time to fulfill the objectives of the project. It would be appreciated if some flexibility in funding was possible where costs are difficult to predict, for example, petrol and ink costs may vary from the allocation but could perhaps be offset or added to hours of other costs such as labour.*

*It is appreciated that the Council has been extremely patient with the lack of progress with this project but I would be really grateful if the deadline of the end of the March for claiming the funding could be adjusted (perhaps to a specific end of June deadline ?) just for the following specific activities. These are really the ultimate aim of the project i.e to get young local people engaged in their immediate environment and hopefully result in new planting projects:*

- School assemblies (including petrol costs component)*
- Surveys (including petrol costs component) as these can really only be carried out efficiently on plants in leaf, ideally in late spring*
- Submission of data to Dorset CAN and Project summary report (which would be critical for feedback to the Council),*

*Although the majority of the preparatory work for the above can probably be done before the end of March, it is unlikely that the actual events can be arranged within the deadline, in particular taking into account the Easter holiday dates. Many thanks again for your patience. Best wishes Julie Leah*



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 28 February 2024

**Title:** Bathing Water Quality Meeting 4

**Purpose of Report**

To present the minutes of the fourth bathing water quality meeting

**Recommendation**

Members note the report

**Report**

1. The fourth bathing water quality meeting took place on 13 November 2023 and the minutes are attached at **appendix A**.
2. The meetings continue to be productive and both the Environment Agency and South West Water (SWW) are fully engaged in the process and are actioning issues that are brought to their attention in a timely fashion. The River Lim Action Group are to be commended for their tenacious, yet supportive and productive approach to these meetings.
3. There remains a long way to go to clean the river up, to sort of drainage and other issues of misconnections, etc and to secure the necessary investment in the required improvements, but everyone involved would agree that working together in this way, productively with the key agencies, is having a positive effect.
4. Some uncertainty remains about the £20m of investment by SWW previously referred to. It is understood that the investment programme remains with Offwat awaiting approval.
5. The next meeting date is still to be decided but is expected to be in early to mid-March.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 13 March 2024.

Mark Green  
Deputy town clerk  
February 2024

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, SOUTH WEST WATER/PENNON GROUP, DORSET COUNCIL HIGHWAYS  
& LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL BATHING WATER QUALITY MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023  
AT 12PM IN THE LYME REGIS GUILDHALL

**Chairman & Secretary:** Pete Williams and Mark Green, Lyme Regis Town Council acting Operations Manager and Deputy Town Clerk respectively.

**Members:**

Jim Flory, Environment Agency Area Environment Manager – Hampshire Avon;  
Chris Angel, Environment Agency Area Officer  
Alan Burrows, South West Water - Director of Environmental Liaison and Culture;  
Vicky Garner, Pennon Group - Community and Partnerships Manager;  
Helen Dobby, South West Water – Director of Bioresources  
Jay Harris, South West Water – Regional Operations Manager  
Paul McNie, South West Water – Waste Water Environment Manager  
Tristan Kelsall-Spurr, South West Water – Senior Environmental Manager  
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.  
Graham Roberts, River Lim Action group co-ordinator and ecologist  
James Radcliffe, Harbourmaster and Dorset Council  
Ian Fitz, Engineer, Dorset Council  
Matthew Penny, Dorset Council  
Blair Turner, Community Highways Officer, Dorset Council

**Apologies:**

Alan Burrows (Attended via Teams)  
Cllr Rob Smith  
Cllr Philip May  
James Radcliffe  
Matthew Penny

**Purpose of Meeting**

The meeting was convened from a resolution of the Lyme Regis Town Council's Environment Committee. The purpose was to encourage all relevant parties to work collaboratively and to identify and implement solutions for potential poor bathing water quality on Front beach. The inaugural meeting was held 14 December 2022. The meetings are held quarterly.

**ITEM 1. INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting commenced with introductions around the table because there were several new or replacement members.

**ITEM 2. MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

### ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING

Matters Arising from 14 June 2023 meeting:

- a. Water Quality Noticeboard move to the beach

The board had now been moved.

- b. Investigate gully blockages beach side of the Royal Standard pub/Harbour Inn

Update awaited from DC. SWW had completed 'their' repairs on 14 June 2023.

**Action DC**

- c. Drains locations at the west end of the seafront investigation through the DC Assets Team.

These had now been accepted as DC assets. DC will jet any debris out of the drains that may be causing sewage ingress to the sandy beach groyne. They will then CCTV with a full report to follow. No date as yet. DC has also designed a scheme to put a "positive outfall" into the system, rather than having sewage discharging under the beach where previous outlets were cut off.

**Action DC**

- d. Outcomes following SWW CCTV surveys of the sewers at the west end of the seafront.

LRTC to provide all the historical files drains from the gardens to the beach area to DC.

**Action LRTC**

'Problem' drain at Boat Building Academy appears to be adopted and SWW responsibility. SWW to check out the interceptor by the Boat Building Academy – possibility of removing it to resolve sewage issues.

**Action SWW**

LRTC to write to the residents' association for the chalets and offer SWW posters on what not to put down the loo.

**Action LRTC**

- e. Possibility of Monmouth Beach Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) shortening and deterioration having an adverse impact.

RLA/Liz to provide evidence (again) of sewage spilling when no EDM record. SWW will CCTV the SCO and pipes incoming.

**Action RLA/SWW**

- f. Progress on the River Fly monitoring collaboration between.

**No Actions**

- g. Ongoing work to provide beach user numbers for the designation of Church Cliff beach.

Criteria with regard to beach user numbers had been comfortably exceeded.

## No Actions

### h. Uplyme Sewage Works upgrades and 'tankering'

Rising main had failed, hence all the 'tankering'. A temporary fix was in place. In early Dec SWW would carry out a directional drill from the entrance to the STW to the works to install a new pipe. Open pipe works after Christmas. Shouldn't interfere with local residents. Had talked to adjacent landowners.

## Action SWW

## ITEM 4: EA UPDATE

EA will have the MST data by the end of the month. SWW also has MST data which it will release in a full report once it has "before" and "after" results – after being when the river sewage discharges (unpermitted) are sorted out.

EA confirmed that results for 21 and 22 showed it was 60-70% human sewage.

EA will be monitoring for invertebrates in the river in spring and autumn (i.e., twice).

If the bathing beach designation goes ahead, EA will be able to implement a full programme of monitoring.

## ITEM 5. SWW UPDATE

Springhead Road high E.coli levels – **SWW to investigate**

Have carried out 9 SWO spotchecks in addition to the problems ones we reported. The 9 were all ok. This is a new proactive investigation scheme – Lyme is the first place to benefit from it.

CSOs targets to cut discharges remain in the 2025-30 plan. The fast tracking isn't going ahead: "the transition fund not being supported". Not possible to confirm the amount of money in the business plan for Lyme Regis or what it included. With Offwat for approval.

The permeability study would go ahead.

Faulty EDMs: there is now have a target of 95% operability and accuracy. CSO maintenance team now fully staffed. The EA were keen to be seen as tough regulators of this data. 2023 data would be published March 2024.

Sondes data: has been sent out to end of October. Matt will offer a session to explain it to just a couple of people (so we need to identify who wants to become an expert on this).

Waterfit Live goes live on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> approx – final confirmation awaited. Then it will be possible to see what's coming out of all the CSOs in real time.

## ITEM 6: RLA UPDATE

Applying to EA for trigger level.

The ecological survey was now completed and the report being finalised...it identified a list of preferred actions.

#### **ITEM 7: DC UPDATE- HARBOUR DREDGING**

Ian explained the intended process and likely timescale. Target was to dredge in February and replenish the beach in March, prior to Easter. He emphasised the main purpose of the work was to replenish and reprofile the beach for the benefit of beach users and to protect the town from flooding and storm damage.

JF explained the requirement to test sediment.

#### **ITEM 8: LRTC UPDATE-WOODMEAD CAR PARK**

MG explained the surface and foul water flooding which had taken place in the overflow car park. The town council intended to provide a new and improved surface water drainage system in the car park and had talked with the Fire and Rescue Service about issues with their private combined drain serving the emergency services centre.

Blocked drains had been cleared, gullies would be cleaned shortly and ptrol interceptors serviced.

#### **ITEM 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

#### **ITEM 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A date in March 2024 would be forwarded for consideration to the members in due course.



**Committee:** Environment committee

**Date:** 28 February 2024

**Title:** Potential Installation of PV's on flat roof above toilets, rainwater harvesting and use in the gardens, 'grey water' use and recycling in Marine Parade toilets and the change to a metered electricity supply to gardens lighting

### **Purpose of Report**

To consider a report about the potential Installation of PV's on flat roof above toilets, rainwater harvesting and use in the gardens, 'grey water' use and recycling in Marine Parade toilets and the change to a metered electricity supply to gardens lighting

### **Recommendation**

Members indicate whether they are prepared to support further work to investigate the potential Installation of PV's on flat roof above toilets, rainwater harvesting and use in the gardens, 'grey water' use and recycling in Marine Parade toilets and the change to a metered electricity supply to gardens lighting

### **Report**

1. During recent discussions at a carbon literacy training event, a number of ideas were put forward for consideration as potential measures to reduce carbon emissions and to deliver other wider environmental and cost benefits. These ideas included:
  - The installation of an array of PV's on the flat roof immediately above the Marine Parade toilets to help offset the considerable energy costs of running those toilets.
  - Measures to harvest and reuse rainwater and/or groundwater in the gardens to help reduce the considerable water consumption and costs associated with the management of the gardens.
  - Measures to use and reuse 'grey water' in the Marine Parade toilets to reduce the considerable costs of the water consumption associated with the running of those toilets.
  - A switch to a metered electricity supply for the many lights in the gardens to achieve a financial benefit for the council arising from the planned switch to low consumption lighting units. The supply is currently unmetered.
2. Officers will investigate the technical feasibility of these various ideas and report back with findings and any associated costs and savings in due course. Any costs may well have to feed into the next budget-setting and objectives process later this year.
3. However, it was felt appropriate to give members the opportunity to comment on these ideas before time is spent on the necessary research.
4. In particular, member feedback on the principal of a PV array on part of the flat roof above the toilets is sought. The location is prominent on the seafront and this has potential benefits and disbenefits. On the one hand, it is a very prominent and public statement about this council's commitment to carbon reduction and has the potential to achieve real and significant benefits. On the other hand, some may think this is not the right location for an array of this kind.

5. PV's in this location in an angled array is likely to require planning permission. They would also need to be mounted on a free-standing framework to avoid damage to the roof. Grants may be available to offset costs.
6. With regard to the electricity supply for lights in the gardens, this supply, along with the supply to most street lighting, is currently unmetered. Unmetered charges are typically higher, both in terms of unit cost and standing charge.
7. An unmetered supply can work to the benefit of the recipient of the supply when high consumption lighting is deployed. However, when a change to low energy lighting is made, as proposed in the gardens, the cost of the unmetered supply can exceed the actual cost of the electricity consumed, sometimes by a considerable margin.
8. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 13 March 2024.

Mark Green  
Deputy town clerk  
February 2024

**Committee:** Environment committee

**Date:** 28 February 2024

**Title:** Use of Biodiesel in Council Tractor and Other Vehicles

**Purpose of Report**

To consider a report about the principle of running the council's tractor and, possibly other diesel vehicles in the current fleet, on biodiesel and providing a pumped and bunded tank at or within the harbour store to facilitate this

**Recommendation**

Members support, in principle and subject to detailed costings and technical reports, running the council's tractor and, possibly other diesel vehicles in the current fleet, on biodiesel and providing a pumped and bunded tank at or within the harbour store to facilitate this

**Report**

1. The council's tractor was purchased, brand new, in 2022. A diesel-powered vehicle was chosen because very few electric tractors were available and those that were were very unproven and extremely expensive.
2. The expected service life of this vehicle is at least 8-10 years and possibly more. Unless part-exchanged before then, the council can, therefore, expect to have this diesel-powered vehicle on its fleet for some time to come.
3. The tractor's main purpose is to tow the beach rake, although it can be used for a wide range of other duties, including as a flail mower. Whilst beach cleaning, it operates in a low gear at high throttle openings for extended periods of time. Its fuel consumption and, therefore, overall emissions are relatively high.
4. Its overall emissions are significantly greater than for all of the other diesel vehicles owned by the council combined. In 2022, the Operations Manager estimated the total CO2 emissions of its diesel vehicles (5 in total, including the tractor) as 7,118kg and the total fuel consumption as 2,656 ltrs, of which 1,800 ltrs was accounted for by the tractor, i.e., about two thirds of the total fleet consumption of diesel.
5. In addition to its relatively high emissions and fuel consumption, it is refuelled at Uplyme garage, along with the remainder of the council's petrol and diesel fleet. This means that it does a relatively high number of unnecessary and non-productive road miles.
6. The current tractor is approved by the manufacturer to operate on an up to 20% mix of biodiesel and field trials are currently ongoing at mixes up to and including 100%. Those trials are expected to conclude shortly, but several other manufacturers, including Fendt, have recently authorised their vehicles as safe for use on up to 100% mixes of biodiesel.
7. Even a 10-20% mix of biodiesel has the potential to achieve significant environmental benefits, although some claim that certain types of biodiesel crops have other wider adverse environmental impacts because of their potential effects on biodiversity, etc.

8. Unlike traditional diesel which is produced from crude mineral oil, biodiesel is produced from a variety of vegetable oils; palm oil, rape oil, canola oil, soy oil, linseed oil, coconut oil, mustard oil and cotton oil.
9. Biodiesel offers similar power and energy content to ULSD (ultra-low sulphur diesel). It has emerged as a realistic and desirable alternative to mineral diesel and is becoming an increasingly valuable contributor to the world's drive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
10. It has been in general use for the last 10 years in Continental Europe, and the claimed benefits of its use are:
  - Virtually zero sulphur content.
  - Zero aromatic content (toluene and benzene).
  - Comparable energy and power content to ULSD.
  - Flashpoint of 150°C against 60°C for mineral diesel.
  - Significant reduction in particulates (soot) and hydrocarbons.
  - 70% reduction of carbon monoxide emissions in diesel exhausts.
  - Non-toxic and biodegradable; fully degraded from a waterway environment within approximately 28 days.
  - Significant lubricant characteristics reducing wear & tear.
  - Extended efficiency for injectors and for all engines using ULSD resulting in lower maintenance costs.
11. The transport sector is responsible for at least 25% of UK carbon emissions. Locally, that figure is estimated to be even higher. Improving the efficiency of vehicles and reducing the need to travel are essential elements, but carbon reductions also require low-carbon fuels.
12. The government considers biofuels an important potential means of achieving the long-term goal of zero carbon transport, including the introduction of the 'renewable transport fuel obligation' which requires transport fuel suppliers to increase sales of renewable fuels over time.
13. There are many providers of biodiesel and cost comparisons are currently being obtained and will be reported verbally at the meeting. However, initial figures suggest that, bought in the kind of bulk appropriate to this council, costs per litre are similar to normal forecourt prices of 'standard' diesel.
14. The logical place to put any tank for bulk deliveries would be alongside or inside the harbour store, where the tractor and rake will be based in future. A typical 2500 ltr bunded (double-skinned) tank costs around £1,500-2,000 and the cost of a pumped system would be about the same again.
15. In the first instance, members are asked whether they would support the principle of such a switch. If so, officers will carry out further investigations into the compatibility of the entire diesel fleet with biodiesel. It may then make sense to make any change when the tractor field trials at 100% mix have concluded. If approved, this would allow the use of 'straight' biodiesel without any of the complications associated with running 'mixes'.
16. Discussions with several major suppliers of biodiesel suggest that a 100% mix should be safe, with all claiming to run their entire diesel fleets on the product without any issues whatsoever. Biodiesel is also entirely 'mixable' with any other 'normal' diesel, so fuelling 'mistakes' cause no harm.

17. If the above changes are implemented then the harbour store could become an exemplar of sustainability, involving the reuse and repurposing of an existing building, incorporating PV's on its roof with a local source of biodiesel to 'green' the council's existing fleet and reduce unnecessary road miles.
18. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 13 March 2024.

Mark Green  
Deputy town clerk  
February 2024



**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 28 February 2024

**Title:** Budget Spend

**Purpose of Report**

To inform members of 2023-24 budget spend and the 2022-23 reserve held for solar panels

**Background**

1. At the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on 1 December 2021, it was recommended 'to commit £75,000 over the remaining life of the council, i.e. £25,000 per year, to carry out a climate action plan'. This recommendation was approved by the Full Council on 15 December 2021.
2. In normal circumstances, if a budget isn't fully spent the balance goes back into the council's bank account. However, at the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on 22 March 2023, it was recommended, and subsequently resolved by the Full Council 'to carry over £10,543 of the funding allocated to carry out the council's climate action plan from 2022-23 budget to 2023-24, and that the third year of the funding rolls into the first year of the new council administration'.
3. It was also noted discussions with the chairman of this committee had identified the installation of solar panels on the new amenities hut as an earmarked project for c.£10,000 in 2023-24.

**Report**

4. Attached at appendix xxA is a summary of commitment and spend against the 2023-24 environment budget. In summary, actual spend is, £3,820 and commitment is, £16,684; a total of £20,504. This means there is £4,496 available for spend in 2023-24.
5. There is also a reserve of £10,543 from the 2022-23 budget held specifically for solar panels.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 13 March 2024.

John Wright  
Town clerk  
February 2024

## APPENDIX 13A

No	AC Ref	Date	Reference	Cost Code	Details	Debit
341		17/04/2023	Meadow Mania	MAT1	Plan Bee wild flower mix	165.00
342	DC.	18/04/2023	1801293789	MIX1	Hydrocarbon Testing and other contamina	1,765.00
372	CARBONLI	30/06/2023	3143	OHD1	CLO Accreditation silver	1,500.00
374	CARBONLI	30/09/2023	3987	OHD1	CLO accreditation VAT	-
386	DCAN	04/05/2023		MIX1	Weather writer	40.00
384	LITTLEGR	10/01/2024	Grant	MIX1	Give and take event	350.00
Total spent to date						3,820.00
Committed River Lym						8,036.00
Committed Biodiversity baseline						1,200.00
Committed biodiversity planting						7,448.00
2023-24 Spend/comitted to date						20,504.00
23-24 Budget						25,000.00
22-23 rolled over budget - Solar panels						10,543.00
Total left 2023/24						4,496.00