



John Wright  
Town Clerk

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### **Environment Committee**

**Core Membership:** Cllr S. Cockerell (chairman), Cllr J. Trevena (vice-chairman), Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr P. May, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr A. Wood

Notice is given of a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at the **Guildhall, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis** on Wednesday 20 November 2024 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright  
Town Clerk  
15.11.24

*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 2 October 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 2 October 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. To receive the minutes of the Bathing Water Quality meeting held on 1 October 2024**

### **9. To receive a report from the River Lim Action Group**

### **10. Budget Report**

To allow members to consider the 2024-25 budget position, which includes sums accrued from 2023-24

### **11. Consultation on the Reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013**

To allow members to consider a consultation on the reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 and to decide how best to respond to it

### **12. Exempt Business**

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2024

**Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr J. Trevena

**Members:** Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Larcombe

**Other members:** Cllr A. Wood

**Officers:** M. Green (deputy town clerk), K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant)

**Guests:** G. Barr (River Lim Action Group), C. Matheson (Little Green Change), L. Davis (River Lim Action Group)

**24/17/ENV Public Forum**

G. Barr and J. Breeze from the River Lim Action Group introduced themselves to the council in relation to their applications to be co-opted as non-members to the Environment Committee.

**24/18/ENV Apologies**

Cllr S. Cockerell – holiday  
Cllr G. Stammers – holiday

The chairman explained that Cllr A. Wood was not a voting member of the committee.

**24/19/ENV Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2024 were **ADOPTED**.

**24/20/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 9 because one of the candidates for co-option, V. Elcoate, was his civil partner. He also disclosed that he was a member of the Dorset Climate Action Network. He also disclosed that two of the co-optees represented Turn Lyme Green, of which he was a member and sat on the steering committee.

**24/21/ENV Dispensations**

There were none.

## **24/22/ENV Matters arising from previous meeting held on 28 February 2024**

### **Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

The deputy town clerk reminded members that further training courses for Carbon Literacy accreditation were on offer in October, November and that all members that had not already undergone the training were encouraged to participate.

### **Update on Contaminated Land Strategy Consultation**

Cllr S. Larcombe asked that he be kept updated on the consultation.

## **24/23/ENV Update Report**

### **Little Green Change**

The chairman invited C. Matheson from Little Green Change to speak.

C. Matheson presented her report to the committee and thanked the council for the funding it had provided to the organisation.

### **Rainwater harvesting**

A member spoke about rainwater harvesting being an important objective because pristine water was being used to water plants in the gardens. He said it would be better to use something cheaper and more environmentally friendly and urged officers to continue looking for opportunities for rainwater harvesting.

The deputy town clerk said officers would continue to investigate options. In the meantime, the intention was to harvest rainwater from the gazebo roof.

### **Electric Supply to Gardens Lighting**

A member asked if there was a timescale to look for additional quotations for the switch over of the lighting in the gardens to a metered supply.

The deputy town clerk said he expected to have a quotation by next week and would look to see if there was some kind of business case for the switch over. However, in his opinion, there wasn't much of an incentive to change over to a metered supply.

## **24/24/ENV 2025/26 Budget Proposals**

The committee put forward the following objectives:

- Continuation of biodiversity projects, including additional wildflower gardens (and maintenance on the existing wildflower gardens)
- Planting of trees, which might be hard to do on council land but could be facilitated in other areas of the town
- Exemplar renewable energy projects that the town council could undertake (PV, heat pumps, etc)
- Adoption of heat pumps and solar panels
- Battery installations to make use of renewable energy
- The installation of LED lighting wherever possible.

- Following up of EPC recommendations to guide the town council to reduce energy consumption further
- Further investigation into rainwater harvesting
- Continued funding of biodiesel tank to power main diesel vehicles
- River Lim improvement projects
- Removal of vegetation in the lower Lim River, in particular Japanese knotweed which has started to appear near the Town Mill
- Feasibility study for hydroelectric power.

A member suggested the council investigated ways to reduce waste and packaging but perhaps this initiative could be tied in with the Town Management and Highways Committee.

#### **24/25/ENV Co-option**

A member said they found the current co-option policy confusing and wondered if the policy should be used for the town council as a whole and not necessarily for this committee.

The deputy town clerk said the issue was whether the process was proper or if a more transparent process was needed; one which would allow anyone who was interested in applying to be co-opted to the committee to apply on equal terms. He accepted the existing procedure for co-opting a member to the council wasn't precisely suitable without some amendment and suggested officers came back to members with a more suitable process for co-opting members to this and other committees.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that officers be asked to produce a suitable bespoke policy and procedure for the co-option of members to this or other committees.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Grenville Barr and Janet Breeze be co-opted as non-members to the Environment Committee for the current year.

*Cllr P. May left the meeting at 7.49pm.*

Proposed by Cllr. C Aldridge and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Vicki Elcoate be co-opted as a non-member to the Environment Committee for the current year.

*Cllr P. May returned to the meeting at 7.51pm.*

#### **24/26/ENV Minutes of the Environment Agency, Southwest Water/Pennon Group, Dorset Council and Lyme Regis Town Council Bathing Water Quality Meeting 6**

The chairman said meeting 7 had taken place on 1 October 2024 but no minutes had come through yet.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, the minutes of the bathing water quality meeting 6 were **RECEIVED**.

#### **24/27/ENV River Lim Action Group Report**

The chairman invited G. Barr and L. Davis from the River Lim Action Group to present the report. They thanked the town council for the huge joint effort and its ongoing support.

#### **24/28/ENV Budget Report**

The deputy town clerk reminded members there was currently no spend against the current year's budget and that perhaps some of the ideas that had been mentioned earlier could be funded this year. He also reminded them that although they had already identified potential adjectives for 2025-26, 2024-25 was the final year of budget allocation to carry out the council's climate action plan and they might want to consider extending it for further years.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe members agreed to **RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL** that the Environment Committee be awarded an annual budget of £25k for the remaining four years of the council.

#### **24/29/ENV Dorset Council's Nature Emergency Declaration**

The deputy town clerk suggested if members decided they wanted to develop a policy, a working group could be set up to discuss as it was too big a subject to be discussed at this meeting.

Members were concerned this was a very broad subject and the town council's influence on it was relatively small compared to Dorset Council who could better impact the wider Dorset area. It was noted the town council was already being proactive and pursuing projects that were fulfilling aspects of nature protection.

It was agreed the possibility of declaring a nature emergency should be kept under review by this committee.

#### **24/30/ENV Migration to Battery Powered Equipment**

A member said the council should be aware of how companies were disposing of the batteries rather than just assuming they were disposing of them responsibly.

It was suggested biodiesel could be used in any suitable mowers going forward.

#### **24/31/ENV Use of Biodiesel/HVO in council vehicles**

The deputy town clerk said the tractor had the greatest carbon emissions and he had now received confirmation from the manufacturer that it could run on biodiesel.

A member asked how secure the biodiesel tank would be.

The deputy town clerk said there was a secure and lockable location for it next to the refurbished harbour store building, although it could go inside the building if necessary. He also pointed out that there would be new CCTV cameras monitoring the building and the area around it.

**24/32/ENV Appointment to Repairs Café Steering Group**

It was noted the steering group meetings were likely to take place in the daytime and would be held monthly.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr P. May that members **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Cllr S. Larcombe be appointed to the Repairs Café Steering Group.

**24/33/ENV Low Carbon Dorset Exhibition**

It was suggested the posters designed by the council for the exhibition be used for future projects.

**24/34/ENV Citizens Advice Energy Advice**

Members noted the report.

*The meeting closed at 8.46pm.*

DRAFT

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 20 November 2024

**Title:** Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 October 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**

#### **24/22/ENV – Matters arising from previous meeting held on 28 February 2024**

##### **Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

The council will continue with its commitment to Carbon Literacy training and will therefore carry out in-house training as and when required. The deputy town clerk will undertake the trainers' course followed by other managers who will then train members and staff.

##### **Update on Contaminated Land Strategy Consultation**

Dorset Council published the 2024-2029 Contaminated Land Strategy in September 2024; members can access the document via the following link:

<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/s43178/Appendix%201%20-%20Contaminated%20Land%20Strategy.pdf>

#### **24/23/ENV – Update Report**

##### **Rainwater harvesting**

The gardening and maintenance team are working on incorporating a rainwater harvesting system while they refurbish the gazebo. This rainwater can then be used to irrigate the plants in the community garden next year.

##### **Electric Supply to Gardens Lighting**

The deputy town clerk is obtaining a quote for a metered supply to the gardens lighting; this is expected within the next few days. Analysis will be carried out to see if there is a viable business case to take this forward for a report to be presented to the Strategy and Finance Committee.

#### **24/24/ENV – 2025/26 Budget Proposals**

The objectives proposed by this committee will be considered at the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on 27 November 2024.



### **24/28/ENV – Budget Report**

At the Full Council meeting on 23 October 2024, the recommendation from this committee 'that the Environment Committee be awarded an annual budget of £25k for the remaining four years of the council' was not resolved.

### **24/31/ENV Use of Biodiesel/HVO in council vehicles**

The concrete base for the biodiesel tank at the new beach store has been constructed and security measures have been installed. A 3,500L pumped twin walled tank has been ordered and delivery is awaited. The cost was £3,500 + VAT for the tank, plus the costs of associated works.

### **24/32/ENV – Appointment to Repairs Café Steering Group**

The Boat Building Academy has been informed Cllr S. Larcombe is the council's representative on the Repairs' Café steering group and he has been invited to attend an update meeting on 18 November 2024.

Adrian Turner  
Operations manager  
November 2024

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 20 November 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.

**Update on Lyme Area Energy Champions (report from Cllr P. May)**

There are currently three active Lyme Area Energy Champions based in Lyme Regis, Uplyme and Charmouth with additional active support and engagement from our Dorset Council ward member Belinda Bawden.

From 30 November 2024 until 31 March 2025 we will again be offering free thermal energy surveys to residents.

In Lyme Regis we have been trained from funding from the Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee and we will be using a thermal camera funded by the town council.

As in previous years, we kindly ask the town council to promote this free service on their website.

The Energy Champions co-ordinator recently met for a refresher training session with our counter parts in Bridport and exchanged useful information on our joint activities and community engagement strategies.

Our Charmouth energy champion plans to join a session at the Bank House Café in Charmouth on Saturday 14 December from 10.00-12.00 to discuss environmental issues, where all local residents will be welcome.

Adrian Turner  
Operations manager  
November 2024

Minutes of meeting on 1 October 2024

A meeting to determine, the cause and, an action plan for improving the bathing water quality of Front Beach and the River Lim, Lyme Regis as a collaborative effort of all agencies and councils.

1. Minutes of meeting on 18 June 2024 – accepted as a true record
2. In Attendance: Adrian Turner (LRTC), John Trevena (LRTC), Philip May (LRTC), Belinda Bawden (DC), Tristan Kelsall-Spurr (SWW), Jay Harris (SWW), Jim Flory (EA), Chris Angell (EA), Liz Davis (RLAG), Rob Thomas (RLAG)

Apologies for absence – Stuart Cockerill (LRTC), Adam Steele, Vicki Elcoate.

3. **Actions from meeting 18<sup>th</sup> June**
  - a. Front beach drainage – surface and contamination  
DC have emailed a drainage map  
Provide an update on surface drain outlet solution – **Action – Mark Green**
  - b. Boat Building academy Action SWW  
JH has visited twice and found nothing  
LRTC were supposed to have posted notices in the chalets about what to put down drains – **Action – AT – check if this has happened**
  - c. Monmouth Beach/Cobb Pumping station: RLA  
Better this year. Still concerns re upgrade Cobb PS
  - d. Uplyme STW upgrade: SWW  
See SWW update below
  - e. Church Beach\*:  
Map of drains bottom of river: SWW Action last meeting – **Action – TK to chase**  
Ecological study: RLA has been shared  
RLA have also circulated the Wild Trout Trust survey they commissioned.

#### 4. Updates

##### EA

Church Beach monitoring: final samples just collected. Formal results will be prepared by Defra at the end of November, but there were four elevated samples which will affect the classification. There was a high fresh water content in the four elevated samples pointing to the Lim as the source of the pollution. Other than the four, the results were good.

The farms at Cannington Shapwick and Carswell have not been visited in relation to reports from RLA. They may have had routine EA farm visits. LD reported on-going issues at Shapwick - **Action – CA to follow up** LD suggested CA to liaise with officers carrying out routine farm visits.

JH highlighted that there were only four pollution reports to the EA in the past 12 months – **Action – RLA to reiterate to pollution reporters to report to EA every incidence**

TK pointed out that SWW had received ten reports in the last twelve months (against 24 in 2022)

There are still issues at outflow 1410, although SWW are struggling to find the source. TK revisiting next week – **Action – TK to revisit and see if Cadets Hut and/or Candles on the Cobb Pavilion could be source of pollution**

Also still problems by the Mill – **Action – CA/TK to follow up**

JF reported that the river was in a pretty good ecological state although elevated nutrient levels were adversely affecting plant growth. The electric fishing at Jericho on 24 September

had found minnows. Bullheads, trout and eels. RT suggested that regular Riverfly monitoring during the summer months detected species but mainly in extremely low numbers suggesting the river was not in good health.

LD talked about RLA's desire to install debris dams, for which funding has been agreed from LRTC. – **Action – Graham Roberts (RLAG)/CA to take forward. Funding available up to 31.3.25**

## **SWW**

TK presented a map showing current areas of work focus

- In Uplyme there's a private misconnection to an outflow
- Woodmead Road – slightly elevated for bacteria
- Outflow from pipe below path by weir in Jericho
- 1410 (already discussed)
- Mill/Brewery – leaking from wall. Complete mystery. The Brewery has been tested and is fine.

Need to look between the Mill and the sea as there are more sources of sewage going into the river – **Action – TK**

In terms of the Investment Plan, JH reiterated that SWW funding is in place for Lyme Regis, with the focus being on the outflows, infiltration, removal and surface water separation.

There are no plans to increase the capacity of the Sewage Treatment Works. LD and RT pointed out that this was contrary to what SWW had promised.

The impermeable area survey has been completed and SWW are now working to come up with a plan. All the work to be completed by 2027.

The total was £16million of investment. The draft determination had been approved by OFWAT with it now going for full approval in December. Routine maintenance work such as misconnections and malfunctioning drains is in addition to this funding.

LD asked about the Horn Bridge upgrade which has been promised by 2025 – **Action – JH to follow up**

Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Report and data: RLAG have still not received the report requested by EIR. RLA have received a summary of the findings, which they feel does not clearly report the evidence of human sewage in the river. RLAG have a number of questions. **Action – RLA repeats their request for the report and will communicate their comments/questions to SWW.**

In answer to RT's question, JH explained that the recent significant discharges from Gun Cliff are completely mechanical. There is no facility to manually discharge at Gun Cliff. The discharges happen when the tanks fill owing to more effluent arriving than what the pumps send up to the STW.

Springhead Road area Uplyme: JH explained that there had been a partial blockage at Springhead Road which coincided with work to reline the pipes resulting in raw sewage being discharged into the river. There was a split of responsibilities between SWW and the Network Company. LD suggested liaison/communication between TK and Network Plus– **Action – JH to follow up.**

Waterfit Live Reports and alerts – JH explained that SWW are aware that Waterfit only shows the most recent data and not the history but currently aren't doing anything about it despite the fact that many other groups are as frustrated as RLA about this. **Action – JH to pass on RLA's frustration about the absence of historic data**

LD asked about the possible installation of detechnic meter at Cobb Pumping Station. TK explained that it such meters are in the pipes and it isn't appropriate to have them elsewhere.

RT asked about the promised remote open access to the Sonde data – **Action – JH to follow up**

### **LR TOWN COUNCIL**

Woodmead Road car park drainage work: this has now been costed and is coming in significantly over budget. The decision as to whether to proceed now is going to Strategy and Finance Committee on 9 October. PM said the recommendation would be to proceed with the work now.

Maintenance of Leat/Lynch area: the area is to be surveyed by Dorset Council.

### **DORSET COUNCIL**

Front Beach area drainage – **Action – AT to forward map**

The date of the beach replenishment in 2025 is yet to be determined but it will be after Easter.

### **RLA**

The RLA are continuing their monitoring programme – testing for Ecoli, Ammonia and Phosphate and Riverfly set points along the river on a monthly basis. The Ecoli samples are sent to a laboratory for expert analysis and confirm high levels of Ecoli towards the mouth of the river and at Springhead Road.

RLA have organised five Himalayan Balsam pulling days over the summer that have been supported by volunteers, but there's a huge amount to be pulled and more sessions are planned for next summer.

The Japanese Knotweed at Bumpy Field is now being treated, partially funded by LRTC, but there is also Knotweed where the River flows through the town now. The responsibility for eradicating this lies with LRTC.

Planned projects:

Woody debris: working with landowners, retain flood waters, slow river, improve biodiversity.

Graham Roberts would appreciate EA visit/help to identify suitable areas.

JF said the contact was Tracy Laphome(?) – **Action – JF to put her in contact with Graham**  
Land management - scoping for Land Recovery Project. In association with AXE Valley Project E Devon. Keen/practical to work w E Devon.

Fish passes

Wild Trout Trust survey carried out: identified four possible sites for fish passes. RLA will be looking for funding.

**Action – CA to assist.**

Events:

Displays at 4 local events

World Rivers Day walk 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept

Exhibition 23Sept – 6<sup>th</sup> Oct

Public meeting Jan 25

## **5. New Items**

Hemlock Water Dropwort incident: a dog died after eating the roots on Church Cliff Beach after a resident had chucked the plant in the river. LRTC responded by leafletting owners of properties on the River and doing eradication work.

Water quality notices for Church Cliff Beach: no notices have appeared. It is believed the Harbour Master has responsibility for this – **Action – BB to follow up**

Drainage problems at Colway Lane...LRTC (raised by local resident) - LD asked which agency is responsible for surface water drainage from two recent new developments at the top of Colway Lane, Woodbury Down and Monmouth Park.

A culvert from Woodbury Down is malfunctioning, Monmouth Park has insufficient permeable surface areas. Were Planning requirements for effective drainage, such as attenuation tanks and permeable surfaces, met during these developments? Is there a map of the drainage systems? **Action – LRTC**

Monmouth Beach ground stability and associated works – LRTC will do whatever the experts tell them to do to ensure H&S.

## **6. AOB**

CA explained that the EA are piloting a new reporting tool and asked is RLAG would like to be involved in the piloting process. RT said RLAG would be delighted to help in any way they can. – **Action – CA to take forward**

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

DRAFT

**Paper to LRTC Environment Committee – November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024**

This update from the River Lim Action group covers:

1. Government consultation on bathing waters – LRTC possible response
2. Monitoring report – water quality and invertebrates
3. Report on how LRTC funds for 2023-4 have been spent
4. Request for funding from 2024-25 budget

**1. Bathing water Government consultation: request to LRTC to respond to the consultation**

The Government has launched a consultation to modernise bathing waters in the first shake up in over a decade. This involves removing fixed season dates from regulations and improved water quality measures. Changes to bathing water rules will prioritise public safety and water quality so more people can enjoy our rivers, lakes and seas throughout the seasons in the first shake up since 2013.

**LRTC is requested to respond supporting the proposals including:**

- Year round monitoring of bathing beaches as ours in Lyme Regis are used all year round
- Extending the definition of “bathers” to include paddle boarders and surfers
- Ending the automatic de-designation of bathing water status after 5 consecutive years of a site being rated ‘poor’, which can damage local tourism and businesses. Instead, underperforming sites will be individually reviewed by regulators, taking into account their unique circumstances. This would be of particular benefit to Church Cliff beach.

**2. River Lim Water Quality Monitoring**

The River Lim Action group monitors water quality using several methods. We are writing up all our results for the year and will shortly have a longer report available which we will circulate to Councillors.

Here are our headline findings for the season with the main conclusions in bold.

**2a. Water Quality**

The Environment Agency (EA) uses monitoring for two bacteria which can affect human health as indicators of water quality. These inform the annual classifications for our bathing beaches.

River Lim Action started laboratory testing for E. coli and Enterococci bacteria on 24 January, using the same methodology as the EA. The same sampling points were tested as were sampled with the home tests last year: Sandy Beach, Church Beach, Jericho, Haye Bridge and Springhead Lane. In May Haye Bridge was dropped to include a new test site at the bottom of Coombe Street as the water quality in Town is of more concern. Then as the results were frequently capped at 1000 cfu/100ml the group agreed to move from 1 in 10 dilution to 1 in 100 dilution. This test is a little more expensive but gives us more accurate results for the river where the bacteria levels are often very high. However, this testing is less sensitive for the beaches as the minimum result is 100cfu/100ml and yet the beaches are thankfully often lower than this. As the beach results are also duplicated by EA data throughout the bathing season, the collection sites were changed again dropping the beaches to focus on the river and a new sample site near the Town Mill was introduced in October.

The bacteria monitoring results are below at Appendix 1. In the river the ammonia levels have not approached the high levels found at Woodmead Road bridge when there was an active leak in 2023. This is generally good news, but we are aware that a leak needs to be active to get a high ammonia result. So, the timing of a test matters. **The generally raised levels of phosphate in the lower river shown in the monthly CSI monitoring and ad hoc Hanna monitoring are an indication that there is ongoing low-level pollution in the town even if a leak or outfall isn't active at the time of testing.**

One marine Hanna ammonia meter has been kept available by Lyme Bay Swimming and the Lifeguards to test the seawater if there are any concerns about water quality. Thankfully they have not felt the need to use it very often and have not had any concerning results.

The full cost for bacteria monitoring for 2024 should come to just under £750 – our request for funding for 2025 is below.

The Hanna monitors cost £781.11. The use of these monitors is ongoing - extra reagents maybe needed in 2025 - approx. £100 (included in our funding request below).

Thank you to LRTC for funding our monitoring.

## **2b. Riverfly Monitoring**

This is the first year that the Riverfly Monitoring Group has uploaded their verified results onto the Cartographer database. So we are now officially recognised as part of the national scheme. We have a strong, dynamic group of volunteers who are reliable and enthusiastic.

Generally, the eight key invertebrate species seem to be holding their own since last year although there have been definite dips in some species on sites further downstream. For example, Cased Caddisfly, Caseless Caddisfly and Mayfly larvae are rarely found at the Jericho site whereas they are upstream, even at Hays Bridge. It is always a thrill when any of the monitors find any Mayfly larvae and they are always worth filming!

Olives, Gammarus and Flat Bodied Stone Clingers can usually be relied on to make an appearance and boost the total score for any of the seven sites.

From Jericho moving upstream to the Headwater sites, the average scores over the season increase from 9 to 13. As these scores indicate the ecological health of the river, this is giving us actual evidence that **the river is healthier upstream and deteriorates further down**, probably for a number of reasons.

The season for monitoring has finished until next April although some monitors will continue to sample throughout the winter out of interest and to gain more data. Many of the riverfly species spend the colder months as larvae so can still be observed.

There is a RLA monitors' training and review session this month to review our findings, strategies, health and safety issues and plans for next year. We hope to introduce at least two more sites for Riverfly surveying to give us more information about other tributaries and so plan to offer training sessions to four more volunteers next Spring. This will take place at the Dorset Wildlife Trust in Dorchester.

**Conclusion: by carrying out own monitoring we are able to share information with the EA and SWW and use our findings to apply pressure to improve water quality. This is facilitated by our regular meetings, organised by LRTC, which have led to a significant increase in resources being applied to cleaning up our river and beaches in Lyme Regis.**

## **3. Funding report – progress so far**

This is an update on the other three main areas of expenditure that LRTC kindly agreed to fund out of its 2023/24 budget and future plans:

- Japanese Knotweed Treatment
- Volunteer efforts to remove Himalayan Balsam
- Woody debris

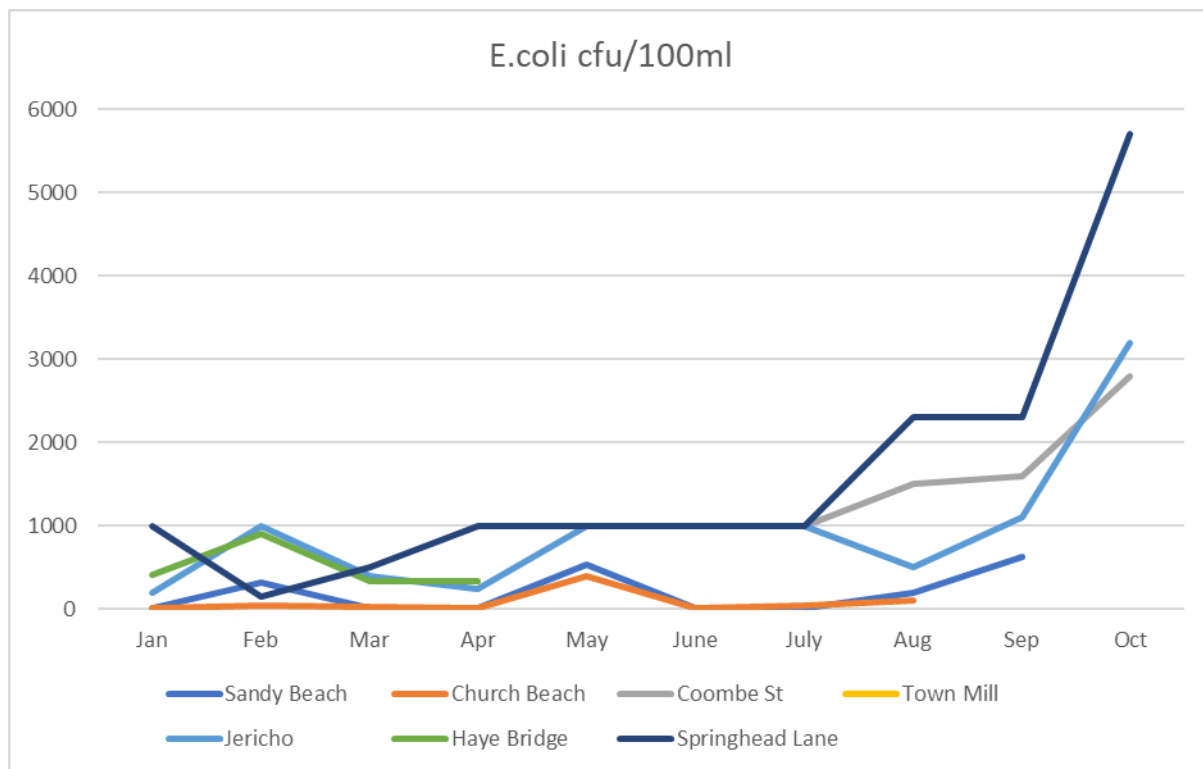
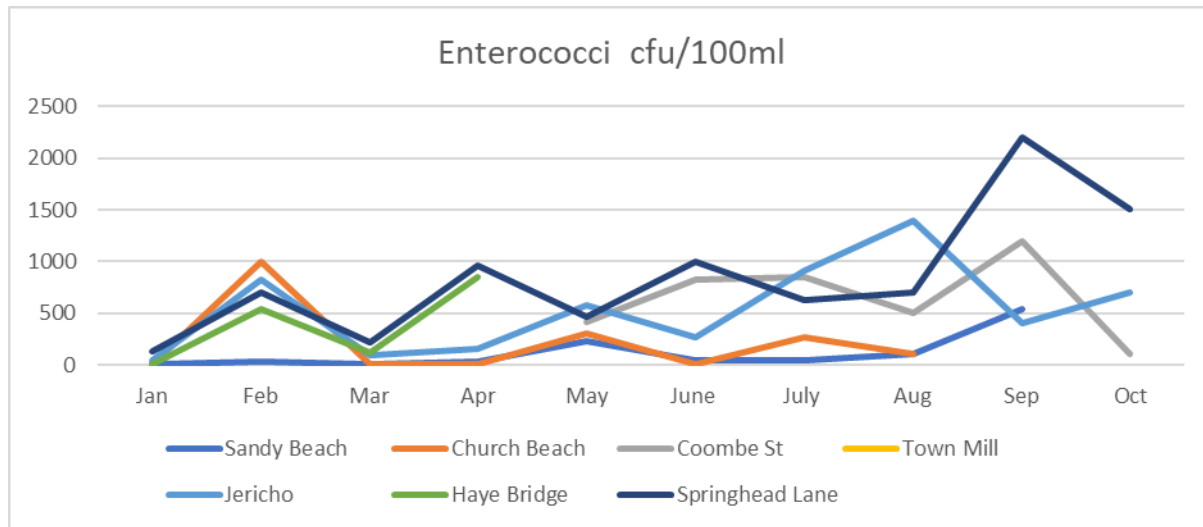
**Japanese Knotweed** has been treated twice in Bumpy field and follow up at this site will also happen in 2025. There are however three other significant sites on the River Lim that ideally can be starting treatment in June next year. These are at Old Mill, Duran Farm and Middle Mill Farm---approximate costs for ongoing treatments and a five year guarantee £8,500--with 50% funding requested from LRTC. There are several small areas in town that have been identified and LRTC should deal with these. The two larger areas of JK in Uplyme (East Devon) area hopefully will be addressed in conjunction with respective landowners and Uplyme Parish Council





Postage for empty sample bottles £6.50 + vat x 4 = £7.8 x 4 = £31.2

### Appendix 1 – bacteria monitoring results



The high results from August onwards show that the early results were capped significantly using the early test. Result of 1000 cfu/100ml E.coli would be at best sufficient in the bathing water classification.

Classification	Thresholds (percentile)
<b>Coastal Bathing Waters</b>	
Excellent	EC: $\leq 250$ cfu/100ml ; IE: $\leq 100$ cfu/100ml (95th percentile)
Good	EC: $\leq 500$ cfu/100ml ; IE: $\leq 200$ cfu/100ml (95th percentile)
Sufficient	EC: $\leq 500$ cfu/100ml ; IE: $\leq 185$ cfu/100ml (90th percentile)
Poor	means that the values are worse than the sufficient
<b>Inland Bathing Waters</b>	
Excellent	EC: $\leq 500$ cfu/100ml ; IE: $\leq 200$ cfu/100ml (95th percentile)
Good	EC: $\leq 1000$ cfu/100ml ; IE: $\leq 400$ cfu/100ml (95th percentile)
Sufficient	EC: $\leq 900$ cfu/100ml ; IE: $\leq 330$ cfu/100ml (90th percentile)
Poor	means that the values are worse than the sufficient

**Key** EC: Escherichia coli, IE: Intestinal enterococci, cfu: [Colony Forming Units](#)

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 20 November 2024

**Title:** Budget Report

**Purpose of Report**

To allow members to consider the 2024-25 budget position, which includes sums accrued from 2023-24

**Recommendation**

Members note the report

**Background**

1. Following a recommendation by the Strategy and Finance Committee, on 15 December 2021, the Full Council approved a resolution to:  
 ‘commit £75,000 over the remaining life of the council, i.e. £25,000 per year, to carry out a climate action plan.’
2. The funding years are 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25.
3. In 2023-24, the £25,000 budget allocation was not fully spent. Three projects were deferred to 2024-25, and the associated budgets were accrued:

	£
The Great Big Dorset Hedge	1,364
River Lim Action Group	8,036
Baseline biodiversity assessment	1,200

4. In addition, the 2023-24 budget had a projected underspend of £4,496 and following a recommendation from this committee, on 13 March 2024, the Full Council resolved:  
 ‘that the £4,496 left in the 2023-24 environment budget is earmarked to go towards the use of biodiesel in council tractor and other vehicles, in principle.’

**Report**

5. Spend against the accrued 2023-24 budgets is:

	£
Liver Lim Action Group	2,362
Great Big Dorset Hedge	1,086

6. The River Lim Action Group’s grant, including its remaining grant of £5,644, is allocated against projects detailed in **appendix 10A**. The River Lim Action Group has stated in its update report, which is elsewhere on this agenda, it will not be able to spend £2,100 allocated to ‘debris dam’ and hopes the council will reconsider an application for this project in 2025-26.
7. In its update report, the River Lim Action Group also includes a 2024-25 grant funding request for £7,908; it is noted that not all of this will be able to be spent in 2024-25. Further clarification was sought and possibly over half of the request would fall into 2025-26. In the 2025-26

budget papers, there is also a separate funding request from the River Lim Action Group for a £7,000 grant.

8. The baseline biodiversity assessment has been undertaken but the council has not been invoiced.
9. Following discussions with the deputy town clerk, the estimated cost of a biodiesel tank, security doors and CCTV monitoring is now estimated at £5,000, i.e., £504 above the 2023-24 accrued budget.
10. Unless approved otherwise by the Full Council, 2024-25 is the final year of the budget to carry out the council's climate action plan.
11. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 11 December 2024.

John Wright  
Town clerk  
November 2024

## APPENDIX 10A

<b>What needs to be done</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Requests for funding</b>	<b>Total amount £s</b>	<b>LRTC request £s</b>
Japanese Knotweed clearance – 5 years (contractor) <sup>1</sup>	Below Haye Farm to the river	LRTC/landowner	4752	2376 – depending on length of treatment time
Himalayan Balsam clearance (volunteers' equipment, training and publicity) <sup>2</sup>	Upstream/RLA organised volunteers		950	950
12 in channel woody debris improvement works subject to EA approval (volunteers and contractors) <sup>3</sup>	Upstream	LRTC	2100	2100
E-Coli lab testing equipment for 1 year <sup>4</sup>	RLA	LRTC	1000	1000
Enhanced water quality testing equipment (Hanna monitors for ammonia) <sup>5</sup>	RLA	LRTC	700	700
Replenishing existing water quality equipment	RLA	LRTC	150	150
Health & Safety training	RLA	LRTC	200	200
Social media – retainer for specialist	RLA	50 a month est (self funded)	600	0
Interpretation/signage on the river/leaflet for riparian owners <sup>6</sup>	Dogs out of the water/more info on water quality and ecology	AONB/SWW neighbourhood fund/LRTC	560	560
<b>Total</b>			<b>11,012</b>	<b>8,036</b>

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 20 November 2024

**Title:** Consultation on the Reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013

### **Purpose of Report**

To allow members to consider a consultation on the reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 and to decide how best to respond to it

### **Recommendation**

Members consider a consultation on the reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 and decide how best to respond to it

### **Report**

1. The Government is currently consulting about possible reforms of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013. The consultation period ends on 23 December 2024 and members are asked to consider the consultation and agree how best to respond to it.
2. The online consultation includes 32 specific questions, and it is probably impractical to agree answers to every question at this committee meeting. It may be more practical to delegate authority to deal with the response to the town clerk, in consultation with members nominated by this committee.
3. The executive summary of the consultation received from DEFRA is reproduced below and the full consultation, which includes an explanation for the suggested changes, is attached as **appendix 11A**.

#### **Executive Summary of DEFRA Consultation**

'Bathing waters are currently managed under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 ('the Regulations') which apply to both England and Wales. The Regulations transposed the 2006 EU Bathing Water Directive into domestic law and were assimilated into UK law under the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023.

Following final designation as bathing waters, coastal and inland waters are monitored by the Environment Agency (EA) in England and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in Wales respectively. Water quality sampling and testing is used by local authorities to inform public health messaging on the health risks associated with bathing and identify where improvements are necessary.

There have been changes in how and where people use bathing waters since the Regulations were introduced. In their current form, the Regulations take a generally 'one-size-fits-all' approach to bathing water designations, water quality monitoring and the de-designation process. There may be advantages to reforming the Regulations to allow for greater consideration of site-specific factors in these processes. The purpose of the Regulations is to ensure the protection of public health through the use of monitoring and classifications. It is the government's intention to pursue an increase in the designation of safe bathing water sites.

For these reasons, Defra and the Welsh Government are consulting on potential reform measures to improve the current Regulations and increase flexibility. This consultation seeks views on 3 proposed reforms as well as 9 technical amendments to improve the use of EA and NRW resources and bring the Regulations in line with modern sampling practices. It also seeks views on two wider reforms that may form part of future phases of regulatory reform. This is a joint consultation from Defra and the Welsh Government. The decisions on whether legislation should be made to introduce reforms will be taken independently by relevant Ministers with respect to their own national jurisdictions. Regulations are currently shared, but the EA & NRW independently manage bathing waters within their own national jurisdiction.

### **Proposed reforms**

**Core reform 1:** Remove the automatic de-designation provision from the Regulations. Currently, bathing waters are automatically de-designated following five consecutive years of 'poor' classification. This is often too short a time for investments and improvements to be made. De-designations would instead be based on review and recommendation by the EA and NRW.

**Core reform 2:** Include the feasibility of improving a site's water quality to at least 'sufficient' as a criterion for final designation. This would avoid poor value for money, by limiting expenditure where water quality improvement is not feasible or proportionate.

**Core reform 3:** Remove the fixed dates of the monitored bathing season from the Regulations. Season dates would be moved into guidance allowing the EA and NRW to adapt the dates to better suit local needs in the future.

**Wider reform 1:** Clarification and expansion of the definition of 'bathers' to include other water users. 'Bathers' is currently understood by its common meaning as swimmers only. We are seeking views on whether a wider range of water users should be considered, and if so, what other types of users should be included and how their needs can be balanced against current users.

**Wider reform 2:** Use of multiple monitoring points at each bathing water site where useful to classify water quality. We are seeking views on whether additional monitoring to capture water quality variation across sites would be beneficial.

4. In Lyme Regis, Front Beach and Church Cliff Beach are both monitored and reported on separately. The Harbourmaster is currently responsible for displaying any notices of poor water quality
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by Full Council on 11 December 2024.

Mark Green  
Deputy town clerk  
November 2024