

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022

Present

Chairman: Cllr R. Smith

Members: Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr J. Broom, Cllr B. Larcombe, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Stammers

Officers: M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), A. Mullins (support services manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

Absent: Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr T. Webb

Vice-chairman Cllr R. Smith took the chair as the chairman, Cllr B. Bawden, had health issues which made it difficult for her to run the meeting.

21/49/ENV Public Forum

V. Elcoate

V. Elcoate asked if the future dates of this committee could be included as part of the calendar on the town council website.

Cllr B. Bawden said she had sent Turn Lyme Green (TLG) a list of the dates of all Environment Committee meetings.

21/50/ENV Apologies

A. Bristow (TLG rep)

21/51/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2022 were **ADOPTED**.

21/52/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

21/53/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

Water Quality on the River Lim

Cllr D. Sarson said he found it encouraging to see how many organisations had taken an interest in the Lim and were actively gathering information and working on a variety of investigations. He asked whether the results of the testing were still awaited.

V. Elcoate, of TLG was invited to speak. She said a proper report would be available from the Westcountry Rivers Trust after a year. She said they were thinking of extending their testing as they were concerned they were not picking up sewage in the tests and they believed this might be one of the problems. She added people were going out every month to test and compile the results.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if there was any idea of context and how the Lim compared to other rivers. He said it would be good to know if the pollution found in the Lim was common in other rivers.

V. Elcoate said they were linking up through the Axe Vale Rivers Association and Chardstock Eco Group so they had an idea of the state of some other rivers. She said the plan was to have a public gathering when they were more up to speed, to invite some speakers, have a strategic look at it, compare and contrast and learn lessons from each other.

L. Davis from TLG was also invited to speak. She said the Westcountry Rivers Trust, which TLG was putting all its data into, was monitoring rivers all over south west England so when all the data was available, they would be able to compare the Lim with other rivers.

21/55/ENV Update Report

Plastic cups

V. Elcoate said TLG had an initiative on plastic cups, which included carrying out a survey and testing opinion to see what they could do to improve the situation. She said respondents said they would make more effort to take their own cups and they had been in talks with the Kiosk about the issue because a lot of waste was created from the establishment.

V. Elcoate said the real issue was the collection of waste and how it was segregated and processed and the next step was to talk to Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) to see if there was a better solution for separating waste. She said the Kiosk was using fully compostable cups but they were going in the bins with everything else.

The operations manager said the operations manager of DWP had confirmed that even though all the waste was going into the same bins, it was sorted later in the process.

V. Elcoate said DWP had asked the Kiosk to use plastic cups rather than compostable ones as they were easier to recycle.

Cllr B. Larcombe said the difficulty was when buying a drink, most people wouldn't look to see what the cup was made of or which bin to put it in. He said it was a question of making it as easy as possible for the public to get it right, which the takeaway outlets also had a responsibility to help with.

Greening up businesses

V. Elcoate said there had been a gathering of 25 businesses, organised by TLG, to talk about how they could 'green up'. She said there were lots of good ideas raised and the next step was to go back to the businesses to talk about what they could commit to doing. For example, businesses may work together to find a solution to composting again.

Great British Beach Clean

V. Elcoate said there would be further beach cleaning efforts as part of the Great British Beach Clean.

Sunflower seeds

V. Elcoate said there was a partnership between TLG and the library to hand out sunflower seeds for children to plant around the library in May.

Boomerang Bags

L. Davis said nearly every shop now had Boomerang Bags; the idea was to give them out to customers instead of a paper or plastic bags and boomerang them back to any participating shop in Lyme or in the world, as it was a worldwide initiative. She said fabric was needed to make more bags.

Cllr R. Smith said there had been many initiatives to try and get businesses to talk and engage and this initiative seemed to be one of the most successful in doing this. He said Boomerang Bags had also had a side effect of engaging people who might otherwise be struggling with loneliness to get involved so it also tackled a social need.

Fiver Fest

V. Elcoate said the traders which were intending to participate in Fiver Fest in March had postponed the event until October because they were too busy to organise themselves and there wasn't enough take-up from local businesses to make it worth it. She said they were trying to get engagement from businesses in both Lyme Regis and Charmouth.

21/56/ENV United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report 2022

The operations manager said the language was beginning to change as people were getting more worried about the 1.5-degree Celsius limit on global warming.

Cllr R. Smith said at COP26 there was a feeling the 1.5-degree limit would be overshoot and if things went past the tipping point, it would be very hard to pull it back. He said it seemed the direction of travel was not only getting worse, the predictions were also getting worse and there was very little happening worldwide to tackle the problem.

Cllr B. Larcombe said due to the situation in Ukraine, there could be a hike in oil, which could lead to a re-visit of coal. He said this showed the fragility of climate arguments when there were economic arguments caused by the Ukraine crisis.

21/57/ENV Carbon Literacy update report

Cllr B. Bawden said since writing the report, the Carbon Literacy Project had informed her it would accept 20% of both staff and members being trained to achieve the Silver level of accreditation. She said this meant there should now be enough people for the council to achieve silver accreditation, in addition to the participants achieving individual accreditation.

Members discussed the territorial emissions data for Lyme Regis and were concerned to read the consumption average for the town was much higher than the national average. They were also surprised to note only 16% of emissions in Lyme Regis were from surface transport, given the traffic and parking issues in the town.

Cllr B. Bawden said the data would help to prioritise where action needed to be taken in the town and how residents could be helped to reduce their carbon use. She said the data also didn't take into account the visitor impact, which would have a huge effect on the outcomes.

Cllr R. Smith said if people didn't have the basic knowledge and tools, it was difficult to motivate them, so education was an important part of the environmental process.

Cllr B. Bawden said a group of people, including herself, were now discussing whether there was a next stage of carbon literacy training they could deliver to town and parish councils; she said it had been very difficult to know where to pitch the training as some people didn't have any knowledge of carbon literacy, whereas other councils were well advanced and would benefit from more detailed training.

21/58/ENV Community Energy Champions

Cllr B. Bawden said one of the champions had written an article in the local newspaper about some of the easy insulation solutions people could implement at home, with a guide of how much they cost and some of the grants which may be available. She said it was also planned to put some of this information on the council's environment page on the website when it was up and running.

Cllr R. Smith asked when the training would be completed.

Cllr B. Bawden said the training was originally expected to take six months, but it would be completed sooner, with five of the six sessions already done.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked which other groups in Lyme Regis were working on community energy type projects.

Cllr B. Bawden said Lyme Regis Development Trust (LRDT) had done an energy project on generation of renewable energy, looking at major buildings in the town with a potential for generating solar energy, e.g. The Hub, Woodroffe School and the Boat Building Academy. However, because there needed to be a high energy use during the day, the buildings that were looked at didn't make it a town-wide viable project. She said LRDT instead worked with individual organisations to help them apply for funding to generate their own energy.

V. Elcoate was invited to speak. She said the Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN) had organised Green Open Homes in October last year, the idea being to get people to open up their homes to show off any energy saving, renewable technology, good ideas or

anything that dealt with climate and environmental emergency issues. She said Dorset Council was keen on working with Dorset CAN this year to publicise it to get more hosts and more visitors, so it was expected to be a bigger scheme.

Cllr R. Smith asked when people would be able to access the community energy champions.

Cllr B. Bawden said details of how to contact them would be publicised in the local newspaper this week. However, she stressed the champions were not experts, it was mostly about signposting to the right place. She said they hadn't yet planned community events because they were still forming as a team but this was planned for the future.

21/59/ENV Lyme 2030 Vision Community Conversation update and presentation

Cllr B. Bawden said this presentation was further to discussion at the Full Council meeting on 16 February 2022 and aimed to provide more information on how the council worked with other community groups and partnerships on environmental issues.

The presentation recapped on carbon literacy training in the town council, explained the Royal College of Art (RCA) and Transport Planning Society 'Our Future Town' project, outlined young people's contribution to the Our Future Town project, referenced wider community collaborations with organisations including Dorset CAN, and summarised the council's recent funding bid to the Transport to Tackle Loneliness fund.

Cllr B. Larcombe left the meeting at 8.17pm.

Cllr B. Bawden said the deputy town clerk had been notified the Transport to Tackle Loneliness bid had not been successful.

Cllr B. Larcombe returned to the meeting at 8.18pm.

Cllr B. Bawden explained what Lyme's 2030 Vision – Community Conversation was. She said it was about finding out people's priorities and building on the Future Town findings, although the scope would be much wider than just sustainable transport.

Cllr R. Smith asked for clarification that this wasn't a town council project, it was a community group, i.e. Lyme Regis Development Trust (LRDT), doing a consultation to see how the community would like to see the town growing and developing.

Cllr B. Bawden confirmed it was not a town council-led project and there was no expectation of promises to be able to deliver any of the suggestions which came from the consultation, although it was hoped key priorities would emerge.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked who would pick up the outcomes from the consultation.

Cllr B. Bawden said the consultation may inform what the council decided and what its priorities were, but other organisations might pick up some projects, such as Dorset Council, or Dorset CAN might pick up projects like the electric bike rental hubs.

Cllr B. Bawden said LRDT had already spoken to the Woodroffe School about a video project as part of this project. Since the last meeting, she said LRDT had secured Togetherness for Our Planet funding from the National Lottery for venue hire and to secure the involvement of the RCA. She said the request for funding from the town

council would further secure the RCA being part of the project and what would also emerge was a Lyme Regis zero carbon action plan.

Cllr B. Bawden said it was not intended to tie the project or the council to being able to deliver anything, but when the action plan was produced, if there were perhaps three projects identified, the council could choose to get involved at that point to deliver a project or help to deliver a project in collaboration with another organisation.

Cllr R. Smith asked why the RCA was involved specifically.

Cllr B. Bawden said the RCA was the world's best art and design academy and they had many resident experts in fields such as architecture, with intelligent mobility design being one of the units of the RCA. She said they were also closely linked with other stakeholders and government and were very people-centred.

Cllr R. Smith asked how long the consultation would run and whether there would be a period of gathering information and a period of analysing feedback.

Cllr B. Bawden said face-to-face consultation would take place between 9 April and 12 May 2022, aimed at local residents, followed by a period of analysing the information and prioritising the themes that emerged. She said at the end of the year, they would look at which of those proposals they could approach stakeholders with to develop as project proposals. She added that she could feedback to this committee as the project progressed.

Cllr R. Smith asked if the request for funding from the council was to allow the council to have some buy-in.

Cllr B. Bawden said the funding would help the RCA become more actively involved. She said the National Lottery funding would already help to fund the RCA's involvement but any funding from the town council would enable further funding to be offered to the RCA.

Cllr R. Smith asked the town clerk what the council would need in terms of information and structure if it was to put together a proposition to part-fund this project.

The town clerk said any proposal would need to comply with the council's standing orders and financial regulations. However, if the work was of such a specialist nature that only one organisation could provide the work, there could be exceptions to the rules. He said the council needed to see a proper process, with a timetable and the anticipated outcomes, and he suggested Cllrs B. Bawden and R. Smith worked with him on a proposal to present to the council.

Cllr R. Smith asked if they would report back to this committee or the Full Council about the best way to agree funding for this project.

The town clerk said it was within this committee's gift to allocate the funding that had been ring-fenced for environmental purposes, as long as it was done properly.

Cllr B. Bawden said reporting back to this committee and the subsequent Full Council would be too late as the consultations were due to start on 9 April 2022. She said if the town council didn't financially support the project, there was less chance of the RCA being involved. Even if it was a small amount, she said it would show the town council was on board with the idea.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Cllrs R. Smith and B. Bawden work with the town clerk to produce a project plan for the Lyme 2030 Vision - Community Conversation, to comply with the council's standing orders and financial regulations, and to report back directly to the Full Council on 6 April 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.