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Town Clerk

Lyme Regis Town Council

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Environment Committee

Core Membership: Cllr R. Smith (chairman), Cllr P. May (vice-chairman), Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr J. Broom, Cllr B. Larcombe MBE, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, 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 5 October 2022 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
29.09.22

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 6 July 2022

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 6 July 2022

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. Water Quality

To receive a report from Vicki Elcoate on the River Lim monitors and receive a presentation from Jim Flory, area environment manager Hampshire/Avon, of the Environment Agency

9. eRIB Round Britain 2023

To allow members to consider sponsorship of the eRIB Round Britain, Guinness World Record attempt in 2023 and receive a presentation from the organiser, Jacqui Besley

10. Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

To allow members to consider supporting the Hedgehog R Us Highway initiative

11. Mares Tail Treatment

To allow members to consider mares tail weed treatment

12. School Tree Planting Project

To allow members to consider supporting the School Tree Planting Project

13. Exempt Business

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2022

Present

Chairman: Cllr R. Smith

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

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

Other members: Cllr C. Aldridge

22/01/ENV Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden that Cllr R. Smith is chairman of the Environment Committee.

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

It was proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe that Cllr P. May is vice-chairman of the Environment Committee.

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

22/02/ENV Public Forum

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

22/03/ENV Apologies

Cllr G. Turner

22/04/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr J. Broom and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2022 were **ADOPTED**.

22/05/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

22/06/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

22/07/ENV Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 4 May 2022

River Lim Project Monitoring

Cllr P. May asked what response the council had received to the letter to Chris Loder MP.

The operations manager said there had not been a response.

Cllr P. May said the river monitors had discovered some bad outflows at the Woodmead Road bridge, which smelled like sewage and was either grey or blue, although it was quite clear running today. He said they had no idea where it was coming from and he felt the Environment Agency or South West Water had a duty to investigate it. He added that he thought it was the same issue that was reported by the former ward member a year ago.

Other members confirmed this was the same outflow that was being dealt with by the former ward member.

Cllr B. Larcombe said at that time it was deemed to be an overflow so when there was excess water, it used that pipe. He understood South West Water was going to find an alternative solution at the time.

Cllr P. May said the river monitors and others were planning to meet with South West Water on 19 July 2022 and he would be going to observe. He understood the document that would be presented to South West Water at that meeting had been emailed to members by Cllr B. Bawden.

Cllr B. Bawden said the Charmouth river monitoring group had received a grant of £1,500 from Wessex Water and all the local river monitoring groups were working together and communicating.

Cllr B. Larcombe said if Church Cliff Beach was to be awarded Blue Flag status, the water quality wasn't the only factor, it was also the facilities that went with it.

The operations manager said if there was any prospect of Front Beach being awarded Blue Flag status, it may be advisable for Church Cliff Beach to remain de-designated as a bathing beach.

However, Cllr P. May said the river monitoring group wasn't looking for Blue Flag status, it was just asking for improved water quality and the current de-designation of the beach shouldn't be used as a reason not to improve it.

Cllr B. Bawden said she was collecting evidence of illnesses and reactions by sea swimmers to try and build up a picture before next year's harbour dredging to ask Dorset Council to monitor the materials that were deposited.

Community Energy Champions

Cllr P. May said the community energy champions had attended Uplyme Fete and although they found it difficult to engage with the community in general, it had been helpful attending the event and there was a definite interest in the community. As a community energy champion, he had made one home visit and received a call from a Lyme Regis resident with a Grade II listed building which they were struggling to insulate.

Cllr P. May said the community energy champions had received a grant from Dorset Community Energy to purchase a second thermal imaging camera and they hoped the Regatta and Carnival Committee would fund a third.

Cllr C. Aldridge asked if any of the information gathered by the community energy champions using the thermal imaging camera was recorded as there may be an issue with GDPR.

Cllr P. May said the community energy champions had a duty to keep information secure but they didn't have a duty to comply with GDPR as they were acting as individuals, not an entity. He said they didn't intend to keep the images unless the owners wanted to keep them. However, he said they would discuss as a group how they could collect data to be able to provide feedback.

Cllr P. May said it would be good to have a community energy champions page on the council website and there was a good example already on the Bridport Town Council website.

22/08/ENV

Update Report

Updates from Community Organisations

Cllr B. Bawden said there would be a joint community engagement event between Turn Lyme Green, 2030 Vision and Community Energy Champions on 6 August 2022 during Regatta and Carnival Week.

Dorset Council Biodiversity Enhancements Funding

Cllr R. Smith said the council should be thinking about whether anything that happens in the sea needs biodiversity offsetting as people were often land-based in their thinking.

Cllr B. Bawden asked if it could be any biodiversity enhancing project that could benefit from the funding or whether it had to be linked to developments.

The operations manager said it had to be linked to developments.

22/09/ENV

Carbon Literate Organisation Accreditation

Cllr B. Bawden said she was confident the council could meet most of the criteria for Carbon Literacy organisational accreditation at silver level, but she wasn't sure how Carbon Literacy could be integrated into the performance management and assessment systems of the organisation, which was one of the criteria.

Cllr B. Larcombe said members were not involved in the day-to-day things that staff did so he suggested it was down to the operations manager to ensure the Carbon Literacy requirement was met.

The operations manager said he believed the council did actively manage the staff through the decisions it made.

Cllr B. Bawden said the operations supervisor and former senior administrative assistant were also accredited but if this committee felt more staff should undertake the training, it could make that proposal. However, she said the training was provided for free previously and might have to be paid for in future.

Cllr R. Smith asked officers if they felt staff had benefitted from the training, if they needed more help and support with it, or would be positive towards continuing with the training.

The operations manager said any training was useful but the council had already done enough to reach the silver level, so he questioned whether it was necessary to train more staff.

Cllr B. Bawden said it was to do with the culture of the organisation so individuals could understand how their job fitted in with what needed to be done, what the climate emergency was, and what they could do as individuals and as an organisation to adapt to and mitigate the impacts.

Cllr G. Stammers said she felt the gardeners would benefit from the training due to the biodiversity element.

Cllr P. May said he felt it would be a priority for managers within the office to be trained as they were helping members to implement decisions. He said there were clear statutory obligations on the council which took priority but the council needed to find some way of raising environmental issues up the list so they didn't get pushed down by other statutory requirements.

Cllr R. Smith suggested a rolling training programme so, for example, one-fifth of staff attended the training every year so it remained live.

It was clarified that the £750 cost of silver accreditation lasted three years.

The operations manager said if the course had to be paid for and Cllr B. Bawden was delivering the training, this would represent a pecuniary interest.

Cllr B. Bawden said she could find someone else to deliver it. She said there wasn't necessarily a need to train more staff, it just needed to be demonstrated how Carbon Literacy was built into performance management systems.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the Human Resources Committee considers ways of integrating Carbon Literacy into the performance management and assessment systems of the organisation.

The operations manager said it was also about corporate reporting of the green credentials so this would involve the Strategy and Finance Committee. He said visual

promotion of the council's Carbon Literacy could be incorporated into the environment tab on the website.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the proposal to seek Carbon Literacy organisational accreditation at Silver level.

22/10/ENV Lyme's 'Green' Reputation – progress report since the climate and environmental emergency declaration in 2019

Cllr B. Bawden said Dorset Council had appointed a new climate change director, who had come from Cornwall Council, which was one of the first local authorities in the country to declare a climate emergency, so she hoped this appointment meant things would now move faster at Dorset Council.

Cllr R. Smith thanked Cllr B. Bawden as so much of the work had come from her enthusiasm and connections. He said there needed to be a way of discussing some of the ideas and projects suggested in this and the next report but didn't feel this was the best place to do it. He said he would like to engage members by email between this and the next meeting to identify up to four ideas which could then be implemented.

The support services manager said any discussion about projects had to be done in conjunction with 2023-24 budget-setting. She said it was intended to take a report to the Strategy and Finance Committee on 13 July 2022 about proposed projects for 2023-24 as public consultation would need to take place between that meeting and the next Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on 12 October 2022 when the budget-setting process would begin.

The support services manager said a discussion about environmental projects at the next meeting of this committee would be too late for the consultation and budget-setting process so if there were any ideas, these needed to be fed into the Strategy and Finance Committee on 13 July 2022.

22/11/ENV 2030 Vision Community Conversation – update report

Cllr B. Bawden gave a presentation to update members on the 2030 Vision project.

Members noted the difficulties the project had encountered in engaging with the public.

Cllr R. Smith said there could be links to any relevant websites on the environment tab on the website.

The meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Committee: Environment

Date: 5 October 2022

Title: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 July 2022

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

22/07/ENV – Matters Arising

Community Energy Champions

The community energy champions are trained and poised to commence meeting their objectives when the weather becomes colder.

22/09/ENV Carbon Literate Organisation Accreditation

Council has resolved to seek Silver Level Carbon Literate Organisation accreditation (£750 for three years). This cannot be achieved until the council has completed the following objectives (objectives in green have been completed):

- a. **Met and evidenced Bronze Level accreditation.**
 - i. **Have a registered training initiative.**
 - ii. **Have an organisational leader certified as carbon literate.**
- b. **A substantial percentage of the workforce certified as Carbon Literate.**
- c. Integrated carbon literacy into its performance management and assessment systems of the organisation.
- d. Demonstrated a visual promotion of the organisation's carbon literacy e.g. carbon literacy listed as a preference on job adverts, Carbon Literate Organisation logo on main website page, etc.
- e. Publication of a one-page study. This encourages reflection on what the organisation has already achieved and where it intends to be in the future.

Further guidance is at **appendix 6A**. The human resources committee is due to discuss 'integrating carbon literacy into its performance management and assessment systems', as council resolved to do so, but both members and officers need to understand what this means in practice. Further clarification will be sought from the Carbon Literacy Project team.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
October 2022



The Requirements for Carbon Literate Organisation Accreditation:

BRONZE: Awareness

Bronze accreditation focuses on existing environmental performance and sets a baseline against which to measure improvement.

Bronze CLOs will:

Commitment to CL:	Evidenced by:	Notes:
<p>1. Have Registered a Training Initiative with the Project.</p>	<p>A CL course Criteria Checker that has been submitted and approved by the CLP, for your organisation; OR for a consortium of which your organisation is a paid-up member. OR You have access to Criteria Checked training from a training provider which has been approved for use with your organisational audience. AND Successfully certified participants through that training.</p>	<p>Your organisation must either have registered or be able to evidence access to at least one piece of training that has been Criteria Checked by the Project. (For more information on criteria checking and how to register a piece of training, see The Carbon Literacy Standard (Full or Executive Summary versions) or contact the Project on info@carbonliteracy.com)</p> <p>AND Be able to show participants were certified through this training.</p> <p>There is no minimum number of participants but there must be at least one in addition to your Board Member/Organisational leader (see below)</p> <p>Whilst participants already certified through previous employment or other initiatives count towards your total below, an organisation cannot be accredited without delivery of training into the current organisation. For it to be valid for certification, any training intervention must be approved by the Project <i>prior</i> to any training taking place.</p>
<p>2. Have a Board Member / Organisational Leader certified as Carbon Literate.</p>	<p>A named senior member of your organisation must have achieved full Carbon Literacy certification, and be able to supply their unique certificate number.</p>	<p>A Board Member/ Leader means someone at the most senior tier of leadership within your organisation; a board or executive director, or leader if the organisation is not incorporated, to a maximum of one level below Chief Executive. This encourages a "top-down" CL cascade – where Senior staff/ Board members/ Leaders undertake CL before or at the same time as more junior co-workers. Where the application is being made on behalf of a sub-unit within a larger organisation, the organisational leader must be at the most senior tier of leadership within that sub-unit.</p>



SILVER: Action

Silver CLO accreditation, demonstrates that the organisation has taken practical action to reduce its environmental impact.

Silver CLOs will:

Commitment to CL:	Evidenced by:	Notes:												
1. Have met and evidenced each commitment for the Bronze accreditation.	See Bronze accreditation section.	An organisation does not need to have applied for or achieved Bronze accreditation prior to Silver, but needs to demonstrate that they currently meet all the requirements of the Bronze accreditation as part of their evidence for the Silver accreditation.												
2. Have a substantial percentage of the workforce certified as Carbon Literate.	Your organisation must declare how many employees or workforce contributors it has, and provide a list of current Carbon Literate employees, including unique certification numbers for each.	<p>Your organisation needs to demonstrate that a substantial percentage of your workforce must be certified as Carbon Literate. The matrix below demonstrates the <u>minimum</u> numbers required for Silver CLO accreditation. Note that not all these individuals have to have been trained within or on behalf of the applicant organisation, but may be recruited as Carbon Literate.</p> <p>"Workforce contributors" covers voluntary workers or subcontracted staff for organisations that are staffed in this way.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Your Organisational Workforce:</th> <th>Minimum No. CL Staff:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3 workers</td> <td>1 CL worker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-10 workers</td> <td>2 CL workers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11-25 workers</td> <td>25% CL workers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26-99 workers</td> <td>20% CL workers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100+ workers</td> <td>15% CL workers</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Your Organisational Workforce:	Minimum No. CL Staff:	3 workers	1 CL worker	4-10 workers	2 CL workers	11-25 workers	25% CL workers	26-99 workers	20% CL workers	100+ workers	15% CL workers
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100+ workers	15% CL workers													
3. Have integrated Carbon Literacy into the performance management and assessment systems of the organisation.	Your organisation will be able to demonstrate commitment to Carbon Literacy and the actions being taken by your people as a consequence of their Carbon Literacy training in the organisational objectives and performance assessments systems of the organisation.	This is likely to include the appearance of Carbon Literacy and its consequent actions in Organisational, Team and Individual Objectives, but also of the support being offered within the organisation for individuals and teams delivering results as a consequence of the action requirements of training, eg: organisational support for actions within individual and organisational KPIs, discussion within team meetings, initiatives supported, invested in, and carried out.												
4. Have demonstrated a visual promotion of your organisation's Carbon Literacy: e.g. CL listed as a preference on job adverts, CLO logo on main (or local presence page) of website etc.	Evidence for this may include screenshots, web links or other relevant documents. Visible promotion or commitment may be evidenced in alternative ways particularly for national organisations with restrictions on local branding. If you are unsure how to evidence this section then please contact the Project.	Your organisation must show noticeable visual promotion of Carbon Literacy – this means a commitment that is visible to staff, customers, suppliers, stakeholders, learners and other organisations and/or audiences. You must be able to evidence this visual commitment.												
5. Publication of a one-page case study.	Evidence for this may include screenshots, web links or other relevant documents. If you are unsure how to evidence this section then please contact the CL Project.	The one-page case study is intended simply to encourage reflection as to what the organisation has done, and the benefits it has received, and to evidence this in a way that creates a resource for the organisation to use for wider publication to its own customers and suppliers and for use within the wider project.												

Committee: Environment

Date: 5 October 2022

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.

Litter Free Sustainable Awards

Litter Free Dorset's Sustainable Business Award is open to all Dorset businesses who want to reduce their plastic consumption and become more sustainable.

Litter Free Dorset is inviting businesses to take their first steps towards achieving the Sustainable Business Award by completing an initial survey. The survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete. [Click here for survey](#).

Using the survey, businesses can pledge the actions they plan to make in the coming months as well as record what they are already doing which will gain them a Sustainable Business Award and will be a great way of showing customers and the local community they are making a difference.

Actions that can be pledged include:

- Joining the refill campaign
- Increasing your recycling
- Completing a single use plastic audit
- Providing staff with opportunities to take part in sustainable activities

Alongside the award, Litter Free Dorset is developing a Sustainable Business Network where businesses can support each other towards a more sustainable future. Businesses who sign up to the network will be invited to events hosted by environmental experts and will meet other businesses taking similar steps to reduce single use plastic, waste and potential pollution from their business.

For more information about the 'Sustainable Business Award' and the 'Sustainable Business Network', head to Litter Free Dorset's website: <https://www.litterfreedorset.co.uk/>

Investment in Nature – SW Councils Associate Member News

The second round of the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) will provide grants of up to £100,000 to environment groups, local authorities, businesses and other organisations to help them develop nature projects to a point where they can attract private investment.

The funding will help to develop projects so they can demonstrate a return on that investment by capturing the value of carbon, water quality, biodiversity and other benefits provided by natural assets such as woodlands, peatlands and rivers – with revenue generated through the sale of carbon storage, improvements in biodiversity, natural flood management benefits and reduced water treatment costs.

Examples of projects benefitting from the second round include:

- Developing the business case and a pilot transaction for seagrass restoration
Plymouth City Council £99,600
- Developing scalable models for biodiversity offsets and funding urban green space
Plymouth City Council £98,225
- Freshwater biodiversity investment model and UK Freshwater biodiversity code
Bristol Avon Rivers Trust £92,460
- Connecting Natural Capital for the Culm
Devon County Council £72,950

Dormant Asset Funding

The government has launched a public [consultation](#) on what social and environmental causes should benefit from more than £700million of dormant assets funding.

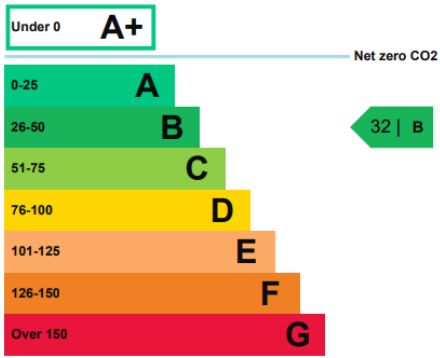
Dormant assets are financial assets, such as bank accounts that have been untouched for a long period. The Dormant Assets Scheme is led by the financial services industry and backed by the government with the aim of reuniting people with these financial assets. Where this is not possible the scheme unlocks this money for social and environmental initiatives across the UK.

To date this fund has been limited to spending on three causes: youth, financial inclusion and social investment. The government believes the time is right to review whether these remain the right causes for where funding from dormant assets can be allocated.

The consultation will close on 9 October 2022.

EPC Rating of the Lister Room

The deputy clerk wished to report to the committee that in the process of organising the leasing of the Lister Room an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) was undertaken. The result has been an EPC energy rating of B32.



Properties are given a rating from A+ (most efficient) to G (least efficient).

Matt Adamson-Drage
 Operations manager
 October 2022

Committee: Environment

Date: 5 October 2022

Title: Water Quality

Purpose of the Report

To receive a report from Vicki Elcoate on the River Lim Monitors and receive a presentation from Jim Flory, area environment manager Hampshire/Avon, of the Environment Agency

Recommendation

Members note the report and presentation

Report

1. Vicki Elcoate has compiled a 'River Lim monitors report' at **appendix 8A**. If any further information is available, post-publication of this agenda, it will be verbally reported at the meeting.
2. Jim Flory, area environment manager Hampshire/Avon, of the Environment Agency, has been invited to give a presentation on the subject of water quality.
3. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 26 October 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
October 2022

River Lim Monitors' report for Lyme Regis Town Council

Environment Committee meeting October 5th 2022

This report covers developments on the water quality issues for Lyme Regis – pollution on our bathing beach; our meeting with South West Water and the Environment Agency and subsequent actions; attendance at a 'Making Rivers Better' event and a visit by Baroness Jenny Jones. It also includes future plans to set up an Action Group covering both the river and beaches with its initial meeting on October 4th (Town Councillors warmly welcome to attend).

Lyme Regis Beaches

Front Beach – pollution incidents and no alerts

Only the Front beach in Lyme Regis is designated as a bathing beach and is therefore eligible for weekly monitoring by the Environment Agency May to September. This monitoring has detected incidents or 'spikes' of bacterial pollution above acceptable limits in August and September. Once again in mid August the e-coli level spiked at around 1000 colonies/per 100ml which is well above the safe level of 500. The same happened last year – the week following Carnival week.

In mid September the e-coli level rose again but not so much, however the intestinal enterococci level rose to around 500 colonies/100mls (with an acceptable level not exceeding 185). These influxes of bacteria matter because, according to the EA, "*The presence of the bacteria indicates that human or animal faeces may be present in bathing water alongside other potentially harmful organisms that could cause illness*". These levels are not acceptable on Lyme's main bathing beach. It is particularly alarming that there have been no pollution warnings, apparently because SWW does not accept this is coming from its sewage releases.

We have checked with the Environment Agency and South West Water who say the sewage processing systems in the town can cope with the visitor numbers in peak summer. However the EA is investigating whether the pressure on the system has caused a problem with a sewer running along Marine Parade and outlets which should not be discharging sewage near the Front Beach monitoring point. Sewage leakage has been a problem here in the past.

This was the response from SWW:

"The 'spike' you noticed is very likely to be due to contamination of the surface water discharging via the outfall immediately adjacent to the Bathing Water sampling point. This surface water outfall is not a South West Water asset, but one managed by the Council".

Monmouth Beach - Sewage outfall

Following our meeting with SWW and the EA the river monitors have been sent notice of where sewage outfalls are present in Lyme. The outfall of most concern is one just to the west of the Cobb on Monmouth Beach (this is the outfall from the Cobb Gate pumping station), where residents are frequently complaining about an offensive odour. Although some of this can be attributed to rotting seaweed the Environment Agency have informed us that the sewage outfall there has relatively recently been shortened so that it hardly clears the end of the Cobb. Sewage is therefore more likely to wash back onto the beach, rather than be discharged to sea. Clarification could be sought on why this happened – the response at present is that as Monmouth Beach isn't a designated Bathing Beach this does not need to be looked at (even though people bathe there).

Church/Back Beach redesignation as a Bathing Beach

A potential campaign to seek redesignation of Back Beach as a bathing beach will be discussed at our Action Group meeting on October 4 and will include the views of swimmers and beach-users. During the summer season Back Beach and Monmouth Beach were used and enjoyed by many bathers. At the same time many of us will not bathe there because of pollution fears. Sweeping the pollution issue under the carpet is not good for residents or visitors.

The EA response on concerns about pollution at Monmouth Beach confirms that Bathing Beach Designation is a key tool in securing good water quality and resources from the water company and regulator.

This is what SWW has had to say about redesignation of Church Beach:

- *“Promoting beaches for designation is normally the responsibility of the local authority or town council, but this can also be promoted by a local swimming group. The application would need to go to Defra and would need to be supported by the appropriate evidence base on use. The guidance advises that designation is appropriate where there is a “large number of bathers”. Defra would then consult on the proposed designation, this would include the Environment Agency, South West Water and other interested organisations.*
- *The de-designation of Church beach in 2015 by Defra was not as a result of water quality but the Environment Agency’s survey evidence on the lack of use, which was initiated by Defra”.*

There seem to be strong arguments in support of redesignation of Church/Back Beach. We will come to the next Environment Committee with more details of our investigations and suggestions.

Developing partnership with South West Water and the Environment Agency and other local groups

Meeting with South West Water and the Environment Agency

Ten people from local river and sea interest groups, Dorset Green Councillor Belinda Bawden, Town Councillor Philip May and retired freshwater ecologist Graham Roberts, met staff from SWW and the EA at the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works in July. The staff were very helpful and walked the river with us to examine the ongoing pollution issues south of Horn Bridge. There is ongoing pollution in Windsor Terrace that is not caused by regulated sewage releases into the river (of which there have been 10 since between May and August 25th this year). Both the EA and SWW have been in touch with householders and the building site operators in Colway Lane to find the cause of it. In addition SWW says:

- *Misconnections in the Woodmead Road area are being investigated and funding is in place.*
- *In the Lyme Regis area, we currently have eleven storm overflows and we are investing over £1million this year to target a reduction in number of spills by c.90%. We will be upgrading Mosterton pumping station along with Broadwindsor, Uplyme and Thorncombe wastewater treatment works, which will help to significantly reduce spills.*

Regarding the misconnection-discharge at Woodmead Bridge, local residents have since reported that one probable source has been identified at Fairfield Park, although the problem at the bridge seems to persist.

One of the more shocking issues to emerge from the visit was that the Uplyme Treatment Works is one of seven in the whole SWW area using bio-beads to clean up sewage (out of a total of 655 STWs). These small plastic balls are regularly found on the beach in Charmouth and a matching sample was provided to SWW, which claims that none escape from the SWT. Contrary to that we found biobeads lying around the SWT yard with the clear potential to escape into the River and thence to the sea. We will continue to press SWW on this issue and the Charmouth Monitoring Group are collecting samples on the beach there to see if there is any improvement.

Information from SWW

Our local water company has a plan in place to improve information to customers. If anyone would like to see the full set of replies from them to our extensive list of questions please email vicki.elcoate@gmail.com

Links with other agencies and individuals

Four River Lim monitors attended the ‘Making Rivers Better’ event on 8th September.

Talks by the Environment Agency and Westcountry Rivers Trust, The Axe Valley Rivers Association (AVRA) and others all indicated that without voluntary monitoring of our waters, many sewage discharges are likely to go undetected. The Environment Agency admit they are responding to problems but have limited capacity for monitoring.

The dangers of flea collars on dogs was explained. They can be lethal for river and riverbank wildlife. We have heard from a retired freshwater ecologist, Graham Roberts, that the ecology of the river Lim has been seriously damaged and this may be one of the reasons. Dog owners may benefit from considering alternatives to collars that are available.

On 8th September, at short notice, river monitors from Lyme Regis and other local groups and Cllr Belinda Bawden were pleased to host a visit from Baroness Jenny Jones, one of the Green peers in the House of Lords. Jenny has been campaigning on water issues and wanted to find out more about our local sewage problems and actions to address them..

Potential Formation of Water Quality Action Group- Meeting Tuesday October 4th at 7pm at the Driftwood Café

Sewage discharges (both regulated and unregulated) onto our beaches and into the River Lim have been identified and need to be investigated and resolved. The River Lim water monitors have been working with SW Water, the Environment Agency and other local groups interested in water issues. There is increasing local interest in setting up an Action Group to clean up the river and our beaches. There are complex issues to resolve but whatever we can do to take the pressure off the River Lim, with its fragile ecosystem, can only improve matters. If any Town Councillors would like to come along the first meeting is on Tuesday October 4th at 7pm at the Driftwood Café. Please let us know if you'll be coming: vicki.elcoate@gmail.com

What can the Town Council do?

- The Town Council could ask the EA to undertake additional sampling of the East and West outfalls before next season. Pressure could then be applied for appropriate resources to sort out the problems on Front Beach and Monmouth Beach.
- It would also be very helpful if the Town Council could write to both SWW and the EA asking them to publish the results of their investigations into the pollution incidents on Front Beach as soon as possible and to press them to take action to prevent further pollution incidences at the height of the tourist and sea bathing season.
- SWW has been undertaking additional monitoring which they have told us won't be published until next year. The Town Council could write to SWW asking for a more prompt release of its Bathing Water Investigations Programme for Lyme Regis Front Beach which was due to be completed in September.

Under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 both the EA and Dorset Council have statutory duties to deal with short term pollution in certain situations and to publish what it is being done about it.

Data is published here: https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/data-samples.html?_search=Lyme%20Regis&bw=ukk2205-21500#current

Vicki Elcoate, September 21st 2022

Committee: Environment

Date: 5 October 2022

Title: eRIB Round Britain 2023

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to consider sponsorship of the eRIB Round Britain, Guinness World Record attempt in 2023 and receive a presentation from the organiser, Jacqui Besley

Recommendation

Members consider Gold or Silver Level sponsorship of the eRIB Round Britain project

Background

1. Full details of the eRIB Round Britain project can be found at www.roundbritain-erib.org
2. The project provides an opportunity for the UK to showcase its leading position in the global transition to zero carbon propulsion maritime technology.
3. Preparations are underway to have 35 locations around Britain able to charge an electric boat by summer 2023.

Report

4. The project and world record attempt are expected to have national publicity and are due to start and finish in Lyme Regis.
5. There are a number of high-profile agencies already supporting the project. This includes: the British Ports Association, UK Harbourmasters Association, British Marine and the Royal Yachting Association.
6. There are two sponsorship levels which the council is being asked to consider:
 - a. Gold Level sponsorship has been set at £5,000.

Benefits: The LRTC logo will appear on the boat and clothing, tags in social media posts and an invitation to come aboard the challenge boat for a demonstration and more. LRTC will also benefit from the rights of first access to the challenge boat at a chosen STOP location.

- b. Silver Level sponsorship has been set at £1,000.

Benefits: LRTC named on the sponsors' page, support team T-shirts, the right to use the eRIB logo, to describe yourself as a Silver Sponsor for the challenge, add a link through to the website and receive an invite to see them at a chosen STOP location.

7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 26 October 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
October 2022

Committee: Environment

Date: 5 October 2022

Title: Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to consider supporting the Hedgehog R Us Highway initiative

Recommendation

- a) Members consider purchasing a box of 50x hedgehog highway surrounds at £150.
- b) Members consider selling 10x hedgehog surrounds at £30 to Charmouth Parish Council

Background

1. Details of the project can be found at www.hedgehogsrus.co.uk/hedgehog-highway-project and at **appendix 10A**.
2. Hedgehogs are valuable pest controllers in gardens. They eat snails, slugs, and insects, protecting plants from disease and pest infections. A single hedgehog can eat over 100 invertebrates in a night, their presence therefore indicates a diverse, healthy and thriving ecosystem.

Report

3. Charmouth Parish Council clerk contacted the office in July asking if this council would consider supporting the hedgehog highway project. Charmouth Parish Council could not commit to purchasing a box of surrounds but would be happy to purchase 10x from a box of 50 if this council purchased a box.
4. Surrounds could be made available for residents to collect for free, or members could choose to sell them on to residents at cost of £3 per surround. Administratively, it would be simpler to give them away free. A box would be a one-off purchase with no commitment to purchase further boxes unless members are minded to.
5. Money is donated by Hedgehogs R Us to hedgehog conservation for every box of surrounds sold.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 26 October 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
October 2022



Linda Cook
12 Richmond Close
Market Weighton
YO433EX

HedgehogsRus@mail.com

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read this letter!

I am writing to all Councils, Parishes, Towns and Wards in the UK to ask them to take part in this amazing project!

Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

With hedgehog numbers in decline and hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to get involved in hedgehog conservation.

A Hedgehog Highway is a 5 inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates. A Highway surround raises awareness to their plight and encourages others to take part.

I am asking for each area of the UK to use a small portion of their assigned funds to purchase just ONE box of hedgehog highway surrounds and make them available for their residents. These could be situated in a Town Council building, a Town Hall or even a Local Shop or Post Office?

Each box of 50 is £150 and includes:

* 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds & 50 leaflets

*A display box & window sticker showing you the project.



information

are part of

allow you to



Depending on what your budget guidelines do, you could:

1. Give the highways to residents for free
2. Sell them for £3 each to regain your invested money
3. Sell for the suggested resale price of £5 and use the £100 profit for a community project / hedgehog project of your choice.

The project will be receiving a lot of publicity in the coming months via Social Media and I really hope that you choose to take part.

My dream is to make the whole of the UK one giant Hedgehog Highway and for that dream to come true, it needs EVERYONE to take part.

Money is donated to Hedgehog Conservation for every box sold too!

If you would like to order or have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch and thank you for caring.

Linda Cook, Founder of Hedgehogs R Us

Committee: Environment

Date: 5 October 2022

Title: Mares Tail Treatment

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to consider mares tail weed treatment

Recommendation

Members consider allowing use of a specific mares tail treatment containing glyphosate

Background

1. At a meeting of the Town Management and Highways Committee on 26 June 2019 it was recommended to Full Council to stop using general weedkiller that contained glyphosate. The recommendation was resolved at Full Council on 24 July 2019.
2. At a meeting of this committee on 7 July 2021 it was recommended to Full Council to allow the use of a glyphosate weedkiller specifically to provide injection stem treatment for Japanese Knotweed. The recommendation was resolved at Full Council on 28 July 2021.

Report

3. The gardening team is having difficulty with mares tail weeds and has found that the weedkiller we currently use does not affect it. A product has been found that is specifically designed to treat this weed but it contains glyphosate (Kurtail – Evo).
4. It is requested by the gardening team that in addition to the relaxation of the council's general glyphosate ban for the treatment of Japanese Knotweed, that the council also relaxes the rule for the specific treatment of mares tail.

<https://www.progreen.co.uk/weed-control/horsetail-marestail-control/kurtail-evo/kurtail-evo-mares-tail-weed-killer/>



5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 26 October 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
October 2022

Committee: Environment

Date: 5 October 2022

Title: School Tree Planting Project

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to consider supporting the School Tree Planting Project

Recommendation

Members consider supporting the School Tree Planting Project and identify an area to plant a tree annually

Background

1. The office received an email from Vicky Abbott in July, the link worker for the West locality (Jurassic Coast Primary Care Network) as part of her role in Public Health for community engagement.

I am contacting you to share a project that I have been initially scoping with a few headteachers in the locality, that I would like to explore with you all also for development within the Bridport, Beaminster and Lyme Regis Town Councils.

The Covid pandemic has given much to think about regarding Children and Young People health and wellbeing, the 2021 COP26 has increased awareness of climate change, and the pandemic has left a legacy in the wealth of being outdoors and appreciating social time with family and friends.

[The BBC Countryfile programme set a two-year goal in 2020 to have a tree planted](#) for every new school starter, which now, with raised climate change awareness, isolation and loneliness understanding for all ages, and children's mental health and obesity levels rising, seems even more sensible. This deadline for the programme has of course passed but does not stop us locally looking at planting options for the locality!

My aim is for every school in the West Dorset locality to participate in a [tree] planting activity in Autumn 2023, for every reception class or reception year group, as I recognise that a tree per child is likely a task too far. The trees themselves can include fruit, miniature, hedge, those of small variety or large!

To date, Bridport St Marys, Burton Bradstock and Bridport Primary schools have been involved with the scoping of the project and are keen to be involved. I am hopeful that as the project grows, the remaining primary schools in West Dorset (Bridport, Beaminster, Lyme Regis and surrounding areas) also take part. If it works well, we can share our learning and experience with other localities to widen the reach across the county.

The intention is that by planting a tree for every reception group, it will give all the children starting school a symbol of their belonging, which will grow with them. The tree can be used as part of cross-curricular activity and will help with the discussions about climate change and the environment with young children. The headteachers already involved have introduced the idea of using the "Welly Walk" activity already established

in the Early Years plan, to incorporate visiting and using the tree in the space it is located.

My intention, with using a community-based area, is to encourage community engagement with the school and the local area. The children can become familiar with where it is located, the children can visit the tree location with family and friends outside of school times to also encourage further discussions and social time together. This of course also encourages physical activity, free of cost.

I am linking with Julie Leah soon from the “Great Big Dorset Hedge” project and will be contacting the Dorset AONB team to see how they may be able to help in regard to resourcing and supporting with trees and planting. My thinking is also to explore a partnership with local garden centres such as Groves in Bridport, for further community engagement and rebuilding of business since the pandemic. The planting activity may encourage more planting at home too!

It would be great to talk to you all on how to explore this within the Town Councils and who best to link with, look at possible community locations for planting close to each primary school (if this will be possible at all), and the important consideration of understanding who the maintenance responsibility will fall with. I would really welcome your thoughts!

Report

2. Space for further tree planting in Lyme Regis is limited. However, members may feel this project merits some creative thinking on areas to plant trees for the school children. For example, Anning Road playing field would be the obvious location for tree planting for St Michael's Primary School. This could involve planting a further line of trees, one per year, inside the line of trees recently planted along the perimeter of the playing field.
3. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 26 October 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
October 2022