



John Wright
Town Clerk

Lyme Regis Town Council

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

email: enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01297 445175
Fax: 01297 443773

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 23 November 2022 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
17.11.22

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 5 October 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 5 October 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. 2030 Lyme Vision – Community Conversation Update

To update members with a presentation on the 2030 Lyme Vision – Community Conversation

9. River Lim Action Group Report

To update members on the River Lim Action Group

10. Big Hedge

To present a community project funding request for biodiversity-rewilding-hedgerow planting in the Lyme Area

11. Community Energy Champions Progress report

To update members on Community Energy Champions' progress

12. Budget update

To update members on the climate action plan budget

13. Update on Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan

To update members on Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan

14. Exempt Business

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2022

Present

Chairman: Cllr R. Smith

Members: Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr P. May, Cllr D. Sarson

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

Absent: Cllr G. Turner

Guests: V. Elcoate (River Lym Monitoring Group), J. Flory (Environment Agency), Jacqui Besley (Round Britain eRib), Harry Besley (Round Britain eRib)

22/12/ENV Public Forum

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

22/13/ENV Apologies

Cllr J. Broom – illness

Cllr B. Larcombe – illness

Cllr D. Ruffle – holiday

Cllr G. Stammers – holiday

22/14/ENV Minutes

Cllr B. Bawden requested an amendment to minute number 22/09/ENV as Cllr G. Stammers had commented that the gardeners would benefit from carbon literacy training due to the biodiversity element; however, the training dealt with the carbon crisis, not biodiversity. It was agreed 'due to the biodiversity element' would be removed from the minutes.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2022, with the above amendment, were **ADOPTED**.

22/15/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

22/16/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

Carbon literate organisation accreditation

Cllr D. Sarson clarified that the Human Resources Committee hadn't yet considered ways of integrating Carbon Literacy into the performance management and assessment systems of the organisation.

The operations manager said it wasn't clear what was required of the council to meet the silver level of accreditation for the organisation in this respect so he had contacted the Carbon Literacy organisation to get more of a steer as to what it wanted, so that more guidance could be given to the Human Resources Committee.

River Lym project monitoring

Cllr P. May asked if a response had been received to the council's letter to Chris Loder MP regarding water quality on the River Lym.

The operations manager said a response had been received and the MP said he was championing the issue on the council's behalf. He said he would forward the response to members.

Climate change director

Cllr R. Smith asked how Dorset Council's (DC) new climate director was getting on and when the council might be able to meet him.

Cllr B. Bawden said he was in post but was still physically based in Cornwall. Given he had come from Cornwall Council, DC was adopting a similar approach and using the decision wheel used at Cornwall Council. She said this was very promising as DC would be integrating the climate and ecological emergency plan much more with the local plan and every decision had to take into consideration the climate and ecological impact.

Update Report

Investment in Nature

Cllr D. Sarson suggested the River Lym monitoring group might want to consider applying for a grant.

Cllr R. Smith agreed there might be some local businesses and groups that would want to apply. He asked the operations manager to obtain more information about how they would apply.

Litter Free Sustainable Awards

Cllr R. Smith asked whether the council could get its leaseholders involved with the award.

The operations manager said they could be invited to get involved.

V. Elcoate from the River Lym monitoring group was invited to present her report. She said a Freedom of Information request to the Environment Agency (EA) had provided some shocking data on the river; the agency was monitoring water quality between May and September four times a month and it showed high levels of bacterial contamination in both wet and dry weather and the readings were very high all the time. The EA had identified a number of contaminated surface water discharges and were working with South West Water (SWW) to resolve this.

V. Elcoate said the other issue was Front Beach, a designated bathing beach, so it was monitored every week between May and September and there had been two incidents of bacterial contamination; as a result, the EA said the water quality at the beach was at risk of being downgraded from 'good' to 'sufficient'. Because it was a threat to businesses, tourism and the reputation of the town, she suggested the council asked for an urgent meeting with the EA and SWW to discuss this and determine their action plan for sorting it out.

V. Elcoate said they had learned from the EA there were two possible causes for the issues at the beach. One was a sewer running along Marine Parade, as there had been a problem in the past which had caused similar pollution and it might have reoccurred. The other was a possible failure of the outfall pipe on Monmouth Beach as people had reported seeing sewage coming out of the manhole.

With regards to the river, V. Elcoate said there had been a meeting of residents and some groups the previous night and there was support for forming a River Lym action group. She said the meeting discussed the seven-year gap in monitoring, as it was last monitored in 2015 and was monitored again in summer 2022, presumably because there were so many complaints about the water quality and the smell. She said they assumed monitoring stopped in 2015 because Church Cliff Beach was de-designated as a bathing beach, which indicated that having a bathing beach drove resources being put into cleaning up pollution.

V. Elcoate said it would be helpful for the EA's monitoring of the river to continue through the winter so there was more data available. She said they had met SWW and EA to walk the river and look at outfalls and they had taken action to deal with it. There did seem to be a slight improvement but they wouldn't know if it was working unless the monitoring continued.

V. Elcoate said SWW would not be publishing the results of its additional monitoring of Front Beach until next year and under the current circumstances, she suggested the town council could write to SWW to ask for more prompt release of this data.

J. Flory of the Environment Agency was invited to give a presentation on water quality.

J. Flory said sampling took place between May and September each year, with 20 samples taken per season. He said the beach controller was responsible for putting forward to Defra beaches for designation and the EA was then responsible for monitoring the beaches. He explained what the EA sampled and the standards that were given – Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor. He explained the classification history for Lyme Regis bathing waters and said it looked like the results for Front Beach would be 'Good' for this year and these results would be confirmed in November. He also explained the process for publicising pollution risk forecasts.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the town council asks for an urgent meeting with the Environment Agency, South West Water and Dorset Council to discuss how to prevent Front Beach's bathing waters from being at risk of being downgraded from 'Good' to 'Sufficient'.

J. Flory said he could provide contact details for the relevant person at SWW to attend any meeting.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to write to South West Water asking them to release the data on the bathing water investigation carried out on Front Beach between May and September before Christmas.

It was proposed by Cllr P. May to ask the Environment Agency to continue monitoring the River Lym beyond September to determine if solutions put in place by South West Water to improve water quality have been successful.

J. Flory said this request would come to him and it would be considered in relation to the resources the EA had. He said the water quality wasn't part of the decision for Defra in designating a beach; it was about usage, safety and access. He said if the town council was interested in re-designating Church Cliff Beach as a bathing beach or designating another beach, that would give the EA the rationale and he could tie up the funding and sampling time to do that.

Cllr P. May withdrew his earlier motion and proposed an amended motion.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council considers furthering the re-designation of Church Cliff Beach as a bathing beach so further monitoring resources of the River Lym can be deployed.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to ask the Environment Agency to monitor the River Lym in the winter so it can be determined if the actions South West Water have taken are having any effect on the water quality.

22/20/ENV eRIB Round Britain 2023

The chairman invited J. Besley and H. Besley to give a presentation about the Round Britain eRib challenge. They explained how they were attempting to set two world records in summer 2023 for the fastest circumnavigation of Great Britain by electric boat and H. Besley as the youngest skipper to circumnavigate Great Britain by powerboat.

They set out their missions for the challenge, the challenge objectives and how organisations like the town council could get involved. J. Besley said they would like the support of the council and there were a number of ways it could do this.

Cllr B. Bawden asked what would be involved in getting the charging infrastructure for charging electric boats installed in Lyme Regis and how much this would cost.

J. Besley said to do it permanently and properly it would be part of the infrastructure upgrade to the Cobb. She said once there was three-phase supply at the end of the

Cobb, charging infrastructure could be installed there. However, for their challenge, the harbourmaster was going to install a charging pillar outside his office.

Cllr B. Bawden said Western Power Distribution had repeatedly said there wasn't enough of an electricity supply in Lyme Regis and asked how that would affect the challenge.

J. Besley said the supply they needed was already in place at the harbourmaster's office so no further connections were needed.

The operations manager reminded members the substation at Monmouth Beach was also being upgraded by Western Power Distribution so this might help with any future installation of charging infrastructure.

J. Besley said they expected to be in Lyme Regis on 1 June 2023 to do range trials and the challenge would take place in the summer when there was a three to four week still period of weather.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr B. Bawden, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve Gold Level sponsorship at £5,000 for the Round Britain eRib, to be paid from the budget for environmental purposes.

22/21/ENV Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

Cllr P. May suggested some hedgehog highway surrounds could be offered to Uplyme Parish Council to purchase, as well as Charmouth Parish Council.

Members agreed the surrounds should be given free to Lyme Regis residents.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to purchase a box of 50 hedgehog surrounds at £150, to sell 10 surrounds at £30 to Charmouth Parish Council, to offer to sell a quantity to Uplyme Parish Council, and to give the surrounds to Lyme Regis residents free-of-charge.

22/22/ENV Mares Tail Treatment

Cllr R. Smith said mares tail was an indigenous plant so it wasn't the case that the gardeners were trying to tackle a non-native plant. He was concerned using glyphosate in this instance was a slippery slope to using it on other plants.

The operations manager said the gardening team felt it was a particularly difficult issue and nothing else would touch it, although they could try some alternatives before considering glyphosate again.

Cllr P. May said there was an alternative that claimed to be able to tackle mares tail and as the council did agree to stop using glyphosate where possible, members shouldn't forget that.

Proposed by Cllr R. Smith and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to trial a non-glyphosate product to treat mares tail and if this fails, to allow limited use of glyphosate.

22/23/ENV School Tree Planting Project

The operations manager said he believed everyone would like to support this project but space for planting trees in Lyme Regis was limited. He said the only possible area he could suggest was Anning Road playing field.

Cllr P. May said the council didn't want to upset residents living nearby so it would have to be done sensitively, although he felt the council should be encouraging schoolchildren in this initiative.

The operations manager said he could come back to the next meeting with more information about where it might be possible to plant trees on the playing field.

Proposed by Cllr D. Sarson and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to ask officers to investigate whether there might be space at Anning Road playing field to plant trees as part of the School Tree Planting Project.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Committee: Environment

Date: 23 November 2022

Title: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 October 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

22/17/ENV – Matters Arising

Carbon Literate Organisation Accreditation

The town clerk, chairman of the Environment Committee and Cllr B. Bawden are in discussion about how the council can meet the requirements for silver level accreditation.

22/18/ENV – Update Report

Investment in Nature

Members requested more information on this funding. The full press release is at the link: [DEFRA Press Release](#).

Litter Free Sustainable Awards

Businesses that have signed up to the council's business briefing have received the information on how they can get involved in the awards.

22/19/ENV – Water Quality

A meeting between the Environment Agency, South West Water, Dorset Council and the town council is being arranged by the operations manager.

The operations manager has been contacted by Chris Loder MP's staff. We are establishing what data, and in which format/template, DEFRA requires the usage information of Church Cliff Beach to be able to support a decision on designation as a bathing beach.

Furthermore, a letter has been sent to South West Water asking them to release the data on the bathing water investigations carried out on Front Beach, between May to September, before Christmas.

In addition, a letter has been sent to the Environment Agency to ask them to monitor the River Lim in the winter so it can be determined if the actions South West Water have taken are having any effect on the water quality.

At the time of writing no replies to these letters had been received.

The operations manager met with Doug Parker of the Environment Agency (EA) at Woodmead Bridge on 31 October 2022 to further discuss misconnections to the river. At that meeting it was estimated that South West Water had already identified and dealt with around 75% of all the reported misconnections into the river in Lyme Regis. Nevertheless, the EA officer left the meeting to investigate a problem further up the river near Horn Bridge.

22/20/ENV – eRIB Round Britain

Jaqui Besley has agreed to send the committee regular updates on the project to be reported to this committee next year.

22/21/ENV – Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

A box of 50 hedgehog highway surrounds for £150 have been purchased. Charmouth Parish Council have agreed to purchase 10 from this council. Uplyme Parish Council discussed and declined the offer. The surrounds will be available to Lyme Regis residents free of charge at the council office and will be publicised in the council's newspaper column and on social media.

22/22/ENV – Mares Tail treatment

A trial of SBK weedkiller is underway.

22/23/ENV – School Tree Planting Project

Officers have investigated the possibility of adding further trees to Anning Road playing field but the recent addition of perimeter trees has, in a practical sense, left no room to add any more without impacting on residents' views across the field.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
November 2022

Committee: Environment

Date: 23 November 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.

Car Club and E Bikes

A meeting was held on 17 November 2022 between Co Cars, Cllr B. Bawden and the operations manager. Information discussed included costs, location feasibility and charging infrastructure required. Co Cars would be supplying further information soon. A report will be brought to a future meeting to highlight the options available.

COP 27 update

Climate crisis calls for rapid transformation of societies

The latest report from the UN Environment Program shows that updated national pledges since COP26 will make a negligible difference to predicted 2030 emissions. We are far from the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C, let alone 1.5°C. Policies currently in place point to a 2.8°C temperature rise by the end of the century. This would deliver "unliveable heat" for parts of the year across areas of the tropics and subtropics. Biodiversity would be enormously depleted, food security would drop, and extreme weather would exceed most urban infrastructure's capacity to cope, scientists have said.

The report finds that only an urgent system-wide transformation can deliver the enormous cuts needed to limit greenhouse gas emissions by 2030: 45% to get on track to 1.5°C and 30% for 2°C.

The UN Environment Program report provides an in-depth exploration of how to deliver this transformation, looking at the required actions in the electricity supply, industry, transport and buildings sectors, and the food and financial systems.

A link to the report is provided to members as reference <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2022>

See also <https://youtu.be/IQxIFi7nG4Y>

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
November 2022

Committee: Environment

Date: 23 November 2022

Title: 2030 Lyme Vision – Community Conversation Update

Purpose of Report

To update members with a presentation on the 2030 Lyme Vision – Community Conversation

Recommendation

Members note the report and presentation.

Background

1. The Lyme Regis Development Trust (LRDT) has organised a series of 'Lyme 2030 Vision Community Conversations' as the consultation or listening stage of the Lyme 2030 Vision project, leading to the development of a 2030 Net Zero Plan for the town. Running alongside this will be a Climate Heatmap on the online Commonplace community engagement platform to identify key concerns and communicate the findings to stimulate further discussion.
2. The 2030 Vision Community Conversations were a series of open public events covering Lyme, Uplyme and Charmouth run by the Lyme Regis Development Trust and supported by Dorset Action, trained facilitators and local volunteers to listen to concerns, discuss climate and environmental impacts – known and predicted – and engage 'hearts and minds' in planning collectively how to shape our future.
3. At the Full Council meeting on 6 April 2022, Full Council resolved to allocate a budget of up to £2,000 for the consultation and analysis phases of the Lyme 2030 Vision Community Conversation project, and a further budget of £8,000 was allocated to the project development phase, which may or may not be carried out by the Royal College of Art, in line with the council's financial regulations.

Report

4. Cllr Belinda Bawden will give a presentation at the meeting to update members on the 2030 Lyme Vision.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 14 December 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
November 2022

Committee: Environment

Date: 23 November 2022

Title: River Lim Action Group Report

Purpose of Report

To update members on the River Lim Action Group

Recommendation

Members note the report and instruct officers

Report

1. The River Lim Action (RLA) Group have forwarded a report for members at **appendix 9A**.
2. The RLA group are looking for funding from the town council as detailed in the appendix. As the council budget has been set for this and next year, members may wish to consider funding the £6,044 exc VAT from the Environment Committee's annual £25,000 budget. Normally, funding of this nature would be considered through the community grants' application process. Members may wish to debate which is most appropriate.
3. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 14 December 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
November 2022

Update to LRTC Environment Committee – meeting November 23rd 2022

From the River Lim Action group (RLA)

Update:

Sewage incidents

1. Front Beach:

There have been repeated reports of sewage discharge onto Front Beach from the groyne at the East side of the beach. Laura Noel (chair of Turn Lyme Green and member of the River Lim Action group) and Liz Davis (member of the River Lim Action group) met Doug Parker from the Environment Agency on November 9th. Doug Parker tested the discharge from the pipe and confirmed evidence of sewage (by the level of ammonia). The pipe leads from a storage tank in front of the amusement arcade on Marine Terrace. It should be for storm water only but seems to be contaminated with sewage. This is having an impact on the swimming community rightly worried about health impacts.

Laura Noel also reported pollution at the same location to the EA and SWW on 27 Oct. It was half term and the beach was packed. Surface water should not contain sewage. SWW must investigate and put the problem right to protect sea users asap.

As the Environment Agency only monitors the beach between 15th May and 15th September, there are no alerts that the water is unsafe for bathing. Constant swimming and sea-based activities suggest the need for all year monitoring and alerts. The Environment Committee is invited to write to the Environment Agency and South West Water about this.

Beach alerts currently go to LRTC. These should be posted on the board opposite Herbies. It has not been updated since 2019. This should be revived to advise of water quality issues.

We wait to hear from South West Water what action they plan to take.

2. Storm drains on the seafront

31.10.22 We have video and photos of sewage bubbling out of storm water drains on the path outside the Royal Standard and Harbour Inns. The Environment Agency, SW Water and LRTC were notified. Highways (Dorset Council) were sent to investigate but the drains are still overflowing at low tide after rain. Sewage is leaking into those drains and bubbling up onto the path - very close to food outlets. This has to be a real health hazard. It is unclear where those drains are discharging but it seems likely it will be the harbour area where sewage smells are often noted. Urgent remedial work needs to be carried out during the quieter season to reduce disruption to businesses.

3. Monmouth Beach

The Monmouth Beach outfall pipe was shortened in 2018 as it was deteriorating. Although the EA carried out a "desktop" assessment of the impact of this at the time, no further assessment has been carried out despite continued reports of sewage smells on the beach by the Cobb. It would be timely to request a full assessment of the water quality in that area, despite it not being a bathing beach (the reason given for no further action). The TC could follow this up directly with the EA.

4. Horn Bridge Pumping Station

The Horn Bridge pumping station, which pumps sewage from the Gun Cliff pumping station up to the Uplyme Sewage treatment works, has been blocked and malfunctioning over the last month. We understand that this will almost certainly have resulted in raw sewage being discharged into the River. It also seems likely that it will have caused a back-up of sewage at Gun Cliff which would have been

discharged into the sea. We understand that a new pump has been installed but further work is needed apparently.

5. River Water Quality

After Jim Flory's presentation at the last Committee meeting the EA have carried out further analysis – at our request – of the source of the river's pollution. They say: "the microbial source tracking data available for the River Lim (from both the Environment Agency and South West Water) indicates that a mixture of sources contribute to the bacterial contamination in the river including humans, ruminants, birds and dogs. However, the data collected to date indicates that human (sewage) sources are dominant over ruminant (agricultural) sources. All samples collected from the River Lim next bathing water season will be prepared for microbial source tracking analysis and a selection will be analysed in full (depending on results)".

6. Good News!

As a result of the River Lim Action Group and other local people reporting smelly water, South West Water have carried out extensive investigations into the sewage discharging into the river at Woodmead Bridge and Windsor Terrace and there seems to be an improvement.

The Environment Agency has said it will carry out invertebrate monitoring in the River in the Spring.

It has also said it will carry out extra monitoring next year: "we are planning to take a number of investigative samples from the river prior to the start of next bathing season. We are also keen to understand whether the cause of poor water quality is from the urban catchment only or is additionally affected by the wider rural catchment, therefore from next bathing water season we will be monitoring an additional sampling point in the River Lim at Woodmead Road Bridge to capture this information. This will be in addition to our routine bacteriological monitoring at our River Lim at Beach site throughout the next bathing water season". It will not, however, carry out any monitoring over the winter which is why the River Monitors want to improve their equipment to carry out monitoring for sewage indicators. This will inform the Church Beach redesignation project.

After our visit to the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works in June, South West Water agreed that their plastic biobeads (used in water treatment) had washed down the river and ended up on Charmouth Beach (during a specific incident). They have offered to support a beach clean in Charmouth in the Spring.

7. Next Steps

We are waiting for answers to a series of Freedom of Information questions we put to South West Water in mid October. These cover a range of issues including why there were so many permitted sewage discharges into the Lim between May and August when the weather was generally dry. We will share these replies when we receive them.

A group of local residents including the RLA, River Monitors and the Blue Tits sea swimmers are meeting South West Water in the Gun Cliff Pumping Station on November 30th. We aim to gain a better understanding of Lyme's pumping stations and drainage system, Combined Sewer Overflows and their permits to discharge sewage and what progress they've made on unlicensed discharging. SWW has an ambitious target to cut CSO discharges into the Lim and we will be asking more about it and pressing for it to be brought forward.

The RLA has a number of activities planned including invasive plant clearance next year.

Funding application:

The Town Council has part funded test kits for the River Lim Action Group which have proved invaluable in gathering the evidence we need to raise the pollution issues with South West Water and

the Environment Agency. The river monitoring has enabled more of the local community to get involved and has led to the formation of a River Lim Action Group (RLA) which has a rapidly growing membership list.

The RLA is working in several areas to apply the necessary pressure and keep up the profile of Lyme Regis so that resources are made available by the statutory bodies. But it is starting from scratch and needs start up funding to establish it as a viable group and to enable the River Monitors to keep up the monitoring work over the next year.

If we are to measure improvement, a crucial element of this is a freshwater ecological survey which would be carried out in the Spring and provide important baseline data on the ecological state of the river. It would also provide recommendations on how to address some of the problems it will identify. The EA says it supports this work and would be interested in the results if we can gain funding for it as it will contribute to understanding of how we can improve the River water quality.

Some of the amounts in the below budget are estimates pending firmer quotations.

Funding is needed for:

Purpose	Method	Cost
To gain information about the ecological state of the River Lim, the key factors that affect it and recommendations about how to improve the River's health and public enjoyment of it	Freshwater Ecological Survey: Consultancy fee @approx £500 per day	£5,000
To enable the River Monitors to test more accurately for sewage indicators and to update and replace their testing equipment	Standard test kits from the West Country Rivers Trust (to replace and update old equipment), including ammonia strips, and e-coli tests and/or a more accurate ammonia monitor	£30 each per test kit (6 needed) £26 per 25 ammonia strips (4 needed) £400 per 50 e-coli tests/or contribution towards a better ammonia tester Stainless steel receptacles for e-coli testing £40 Total for testing: £724
Publicity and communications - to engage the local community effectively	Mailings, social media, leaflets, posters	Mailchimp account £120 p.a Printing £100 Social media boosts £50
Increase pollution reporting and gathering data	Widget on Turn Lyme Green website/volunteer IT support	£50
Total		£6044

Paper by Vicki Elcoate, Laura Noel and Liz Davis

Committee: Environment

Date: 23 November 2022

Title: Big Hedge

Purpose of Report

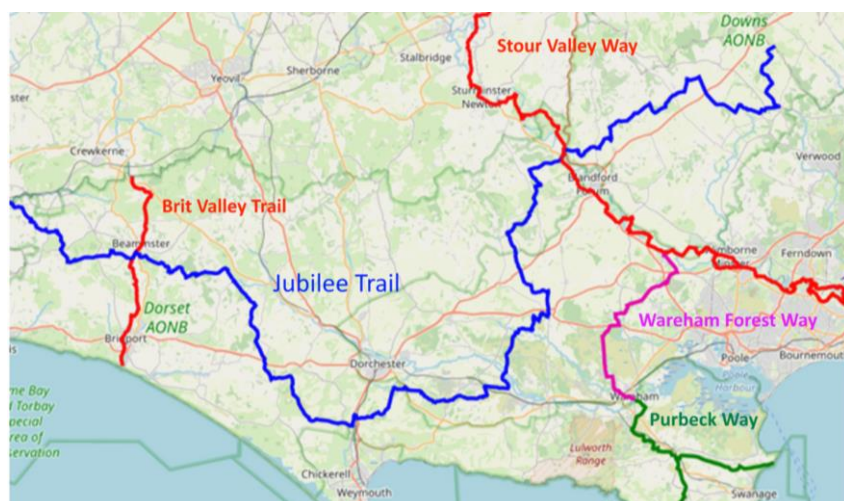
To present a community project funding request for biodiversity-rewilding-hedgerow planting in the Lyme Area

Recommendation

Members note the report and instruct officers

Report

1. The Great Big Dorset Hedge is a Dorset Climate Action Network campaign to map, plant, extend and join up sections of hedgerow around and across Dorset into multiple corridors that promote biodiversity and help wildlife of all sorts (birds, insects, amphibians, mammals, wildflowers, trees, fungi) to flourish across the county. [Great Big Dorset Hedge - Dorset Climate Action Network \(dorsetcan.org\)](https://dorsetcan.org/great-big-dorset-hedge)
2. The nearest main Dorset Great Big Hedge areas to Lyme Regis involve the Jubilee trail to the north and the Brit Valley trail running from West Bay up to Crewkerne and therefore it may not be appropriate for the town council to fund a project that is geographically displaced from the Lyme Regis area. Nevertheless, there may be options to commence a smaller project in the Lyme Regis area to improve hedgerow connectivity on the Ridgeway path up to Uplyme and other local paths. All this will be highly dependent upon landowners being willing to allow hedge planting on their land.



3. **Appendix 10A** has further details on such a local project with a request for funding of £2,340. The funds will be used for administration, travel, printing and marketing to conduct a two-month pilot trial, surveying the Ridgeway and other rights of way within a two-mile radius of Lyme Regis. Members should be mindful that if the pilot is supported and be successful further funding may be requested.

4. As the council budget has been set for this and next year, members may wish to consider funding the £2,340 from the Environment Committee's annual £25,000 budget. Normally, funding of this nature would be considered through the community grants' application process. Members may wish to debate which is most appropriate.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 14 December 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
November 2022

Request to the Environment Committee of Lyme Regis Town Council for support for community engagement in the area for Dorset CAN's Great Big Dorset Hedge project

16th November 2022

Background

The [Dorset Climate Action Network](#) (Dorset CAN) was set up in 2020 to create a network of community groups and individuals working together for a shared vision of a clean, green, sustainable Dorset.

The [Great Big Dorset Hedge](#) (GBDH) is a Dorset CAN campaign to map, plant, expand, extend and join up sections of hedgerow around and across Dorset into multiple corridors that promote biodiversity and help wildlife of all sorts (birds, insects, amphibians, mammals, wildflowers, trees, fungi) to flourish across the county.

The project attracted national attention recently with a [BBC news feature and article](#) and articles in the Dorset Echo, Bournemouth Daily Echo, the Times and Daily Telegraph.

Project Co-ordinator Julie Leah presented recently to a meeting of Turn Lyme Green and this, alongside the local and national press coverage, has generated a lot of interest from people in the Lyme area to get involved.

Project details

The Great Big Dorset Hedge has been set up by the Land Use team of Dorset Climate Action Network. We are all volunteers. The project aims to promote an understanding of the importance of hedgerows and enable the planting of new hedgerows / enhancement of existing hedgerows throughout Dorset. The primary route is the Jubilee Trail. Other trails will be included. Some pass into urban areas so connecting the AONB and urban areas.

The project will promote:

- Hedgerows as wildlife refuges and corridors linking key habitats.
- An appreciation of the beauty of hedgerows within our landscape.
- Environmental services provided by hedging such as run-off reduction, soil retention and carbon sequestration.

It will be achieved by:

- Creating a mapping layer to show progress of the Great Big Dorset Hedge as it is planted.
- Training volunteers to assess hedgerow health.
- Trained volunteers walking the routes and assessing sections to determine scope for new planting and / or in-filling of gaps.
- Liaison with landowners to determine the possibility of hedging.
- Liaison with planting groups and / or inspiring new volunteers, encouraging access to nature of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.
- Liaison with groups such as The National Trust, CPRE and Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Request for LRTC support for a two month pilot scheme in the Lyme area

Lyme Regis is the perfect community to roll out a pilot trial because of its range of population demographics and the geographical setting. As Lyme Regis has one of the oldest public rights of way, The Ridgeway, extending from Lyme up to join the Jubilee Trail this would be a key link in the Great Big Dorset Hedge, starting the focus at the coast. We would also include surveying any of the hedgerows linking footpaths from Lyme Regis into the surrounding countryside. Urban gardens are often very high in biodiversity and the hedgerows which run from gardens through semi-rural areas

have a key role in linking across habitats between gardens and areas of woodland in farmed land. This would also encourage the aspects of local access to permitted paths for recreation.

We would like to engage these members of the community where possible:

- The Turn Lyme Green network (c 550 people)
- Schools - primary and secondary
- Groups needing support or active, outdoor activity
- Ukrainian and other refugee / minority groups

The project involves a considerable amount of data, administrative support so even where people are not able to physically take part there are other supporting roles.

Each survey would involve a small group of individuals (maximum 4) assessing approximately 2-3 km of hedgerow. A report is then written and submitted to the local landowner to see if there are any planting opportunities. Where planting is possible and funding can be sourced, larger groups of the community usually join in. Individuals are guided and trained initially until they are independent. In trials already carried out, both surveys and planting have been found to significantly improve the wellbeing of individuals taking part.

For the project to roll out in Lyme in a way to progress its environmental impact and community benefits we would need the following support:

Administrative:

Database management time = approx 2 hrs per week

Training coordinator time = approx 6 hours per week

Labelling sections of map ready for survey = approx 4 hours per week

(approximately 12 hours per week at £20 / hour admin time = £960 / month)

Direct Costs:

Printing out of maps / hedge diagrams / spreadsheets for surveys (£50 ink / month)

Clip boards and weather shields (£50, one off)

Transport = expenses for coordinators and for community engagement talks (45 p / mile) allow £135 / month. Based on 3 local surveys of max 5 people (4 plus coordinator) per week plus other travel costs TBC.

Total for 2 months to roll out a significant pilot trial out surveying the Ridgeway and other rights of way within a 2 mile radius of Lyme Regis: £2,340

Summary

A total of £2,340 is requested from the Climate and Environmental Emergency budget for community engagement to cover the administration, travel expenses and printing/marketing costs of a two month pilot project in the Lyme area to engage the community in a skills-based, hands-on, friendly and fun way to contribute to improving our local biodiversity and reduce our environmental impact by creating the Great Big Dorset Hedge.

Julie Leah and Henry Lovegrove (DCAN Treasurer)

On behalf of Dorset CAN's Great Big Dorset Hedge project



Committee: Environment

Date: 23 November 2022

Title: Community Energy Champions Progress report

Purpose of Report

To update members on Community Energy Champions' progress

Recommendation

Members consider the request from the Community Energy Champions to pay for an additional thermal imaging camera at a cost of £370

Background

1. The Community Energy Champions project was discussed by this committee on 26 January 2022. It was recommended and subsequently resolved by Full Council on 16 February 2022 'to allocate up to £2,750, i.e. £500 for each person, for up to five people to train as community energy champions and £250 of optional funding for costs'.
2. Further, it was recommended and subsequently resolved by Full Council on 18 May 2022 to purchase a thermal imaging camera for the Community Energy Champions at £370.

Report

3. The Community Energy Champions believe it would be a good idea to train more volunteer champions and to purchase a further thermal imaging camera to service potential demand. Several households are waiting for a visit even though there has been minimal advertising of the service to date. Over winter it is expected that demand for the service will substantially increase.
4. The operations manager is in the process of establishing the costs for a further training course and will report back at the next meeting.
5. A further camera would provide flexibility for the volunteers. The price for the same product, a FLIR TG165 camera, remains at £370 (exc VAT). The Community Energy Champions have requested that the council funds this.
6. As the council budget has been set for this and next year, members may wish to consider funding the £370 from the Environment Committee's annual £25,000 budget. Normally, funding of this nature would be considered through the community grants' application process. Members may wish to debate which is most appropriate.
7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 14 December 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
November 2022

Committee: Environment

Date: 23 November 2022

Title: Budget update

Purpose of Report

To update members on the climate action plan budget

Recommendation

Members consider the report and instruct officers

Background

1. It was resolved by the Full Council on 15 December 2021 to commit £75,000 over the remaining life of the council i.e. £25,000 per year would be allocated for 2021-22 / 2022-23 / 2023-24 to carry out a climate action plan.
2. At a meeting of this committee on 26 January 2022 and resolved by Full Council on 6 April 2022, it was resolved to allocate for the Lyme 2030 Vision Community Conversation, £2,000 for the consultation and analysis phase and £8,000 for the project development phase (which may or may not be the Royal College of Art).
3. At a meeting of this committee on 5 October 2022 and resolved by Full Council on 26 October, it was resolved to sponsor the eRIB Round Britain project with £5,000.
4. At a meeting of this committee on 4 May 2022 and resolved by Full Council on 18 May 2022, it was resolved to purchase a thermal imaging camera for the Community Energy Champions.
5. At a meeting of this committee on and resolved by Full Council on 16 February 2022, it was resolved to fund Community Energy Champion training up to £2,750.

Report

3. The £25,000 Environment Committee budget for 2022-23 is expected to be underspent and the budget for the next financial year 2023-24 (the last financial year of this council) has been set at £25,000.
4. Budget expenditure by the Environment Committee in this financial year:

Thermal imaging camera	£370
Energy Champion training	£2,750 approved
eRIB sponsorship	£5,000 approved but not yet spent
2030 Vision	£10,000 approved but not yet spent
River Lim Action Group	£6,044 requested
Big Hedge	£2,340 requested
Thermal imaging camera	£370 requested
Energy Champion Training	requested – can fall in 2023-24

Potential Total: **£26,924**

5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 14 December 2022.

Matt Adamson-Drage
Operations manager
November 2022

Committee: Environment

Date: 23 November 2022

Title: Update on Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan

Purpose of Report

To update members on Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan

Recommendation

Members note the report

Report

1. Dorset Council's portfolio holder for highways, travel and environment, Cllr Ray Bryan, introduced a members' briefing on Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan on 3 November 2022.
2. Cllr B. Bawden and others requested a copy of the presentation to inform town and parish councils and community groups. This was agreed and the recording of the briefing is being prepared and checked by the legal team.
3. A series of consultations is being planned from the New Year by Dorset Council's sustainability team, including working with schools.
4. Key points from the presentation are attached at **appendix 13A**.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 14 December 2022.

Cllr Belinda Bawden
November 2022

Update on Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan

Cllr Ray Bryan, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment introduced a series of 'bite-size' presentations by officers and partners to update members on progress so far on 3 Nov. He said:

"Climate and ecology has been at the heart of our Council plan.

It underpins everything that we do.

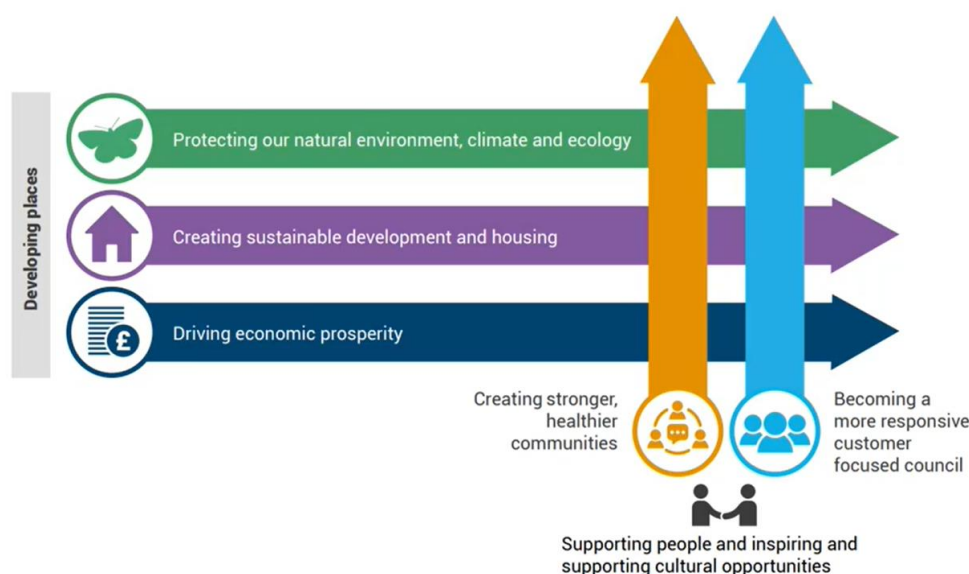
We are driving change across the Council in the way that we operate and work with partners, stakeholders, businesses and residents.

It's a monumental task.

The climate and ecological strategy deals with many of the issues that you will see in the media today, our transport, our homes, how we deal with waste, how we manage our land and how business operates.

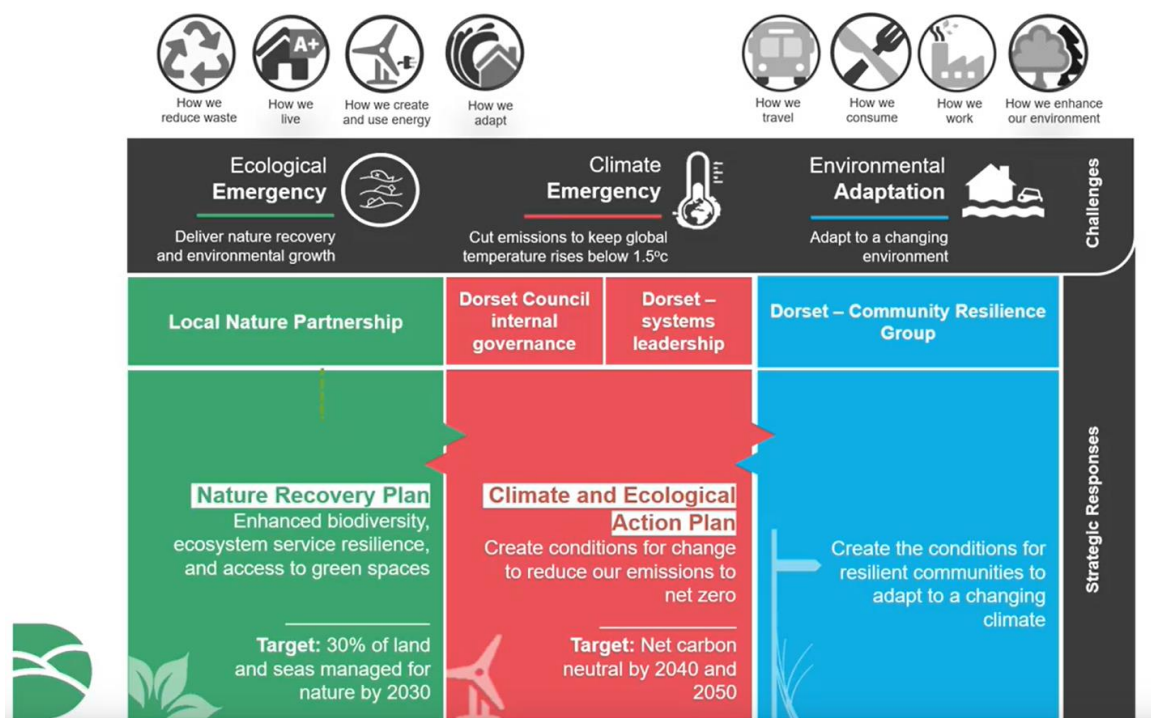
It also it it also places an obligation on us as an organization to reduce our carbon emissions to a net zero position.

The need to act now is manifest."



Dorset Council has adopted a Three Pillars Approach:

- Local **Nature Recovery** Strategy in line with national targets
- Focusing on the **Climate Emergency** with operational and place-based actions
- Managing risk through building **Adaptation** into our operations and thinking



The scale of the challenge is daunting but we must put our best foot forward.

For example, to get all of our properties to EPC or above would involve retrofitting circle 170,000 homes. We will need to increase our renewable energy generation fivefold.

Dorset: Scale of the challenge

Where we are now	Where we need to be by 2050
5% of energy from renewables	100% of energy from renewables
Total energy used 13,803 GWh	Reduction of between 55% and 67%
Carbon emissions from energy use 3,187 ktCO₂e	Net zero carbon emissions
Circa 34% (or 103,000) properties with EPC C or better	Circa 90% (or 270,000) properties with EPC C or better
491 MW (additional 197 accepted for connection) installed capacity	2,600 MW installed capacity
Dorset – 15% good condition or known ecological interest	30% of our land and seas to be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030

Regen 2021, DWT 2021 (not an exhaustive list)

CLlr Belinda Bawden
November 2022