



John Wright
Town Clerk

Lyme Regis Town Council
Town Council Offices
St. Michael's Business Centre
Church Street
Lyme Regis
Dorset
DT7 3DB

Tel: 01297 445175

email: enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk

Environment Committee

Core Membership: Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr A. Wood, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Stammers

Co-Opted Membership: G. Barr, J. Breeze, V. Elcoate.

Notice is given of a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at the Council Offices, St Michael's Business Centre, Church Street, Lyme Regis on Wednesday 26 November 2025 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
21.11.25

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 08 October 2025

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 08 October 2025

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. Environment Committee – Objectives

To allow members to review progress of the committee's 2025-26 objectives

9. River Lim Action Group Report

To allow members to receive a report from the River Lim Action Group

10. Cigarette Butt Waste Outside Licensed Premises

To allow members to consider concerns raised by Grenville Barr, co-opted member of the Environment Committee, regarding cigarette butt waste outside licensed premises.

11. Town Public Drinking Water Tap Provision

To allow members to consider a proposal submitted by Grenville Barr, co-opted member of the Environment Committee, regarding the installation of additional public drinking water taps

12. Food Security discussion

To follow up with members on the review of the food security paper for consideration following the absence of member feedback at the last Environment Committee meeting on 8 October 2025.

13. Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030

To allow members to review the live action plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030

14. Exempt Business

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2025

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S. Cockerell

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr P. May, Cllr M. Denney, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr A. Wood, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr G. Stammers

Officers: A. Shepherd (administrative and community engagement assistant), S. O'Connell (operations manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

Guests: G. Barr

25/22/ENV Public Forum

N. Newman

N. Newman raised concerns about the Environment Agency (EA) letters indicating withdrawal from routine river maintenance after six months. They questioned reliance on individual riparian owners and asked the town council to consider a coordinated response.

25/23/ENV Apologies

J. Breeze (non-member)

V. Elcoate (non-member)

25/24/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr A. Wood, the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2025 were **ADOPTED**.

25/25/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

25/26/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

25/27/ENV Matters Arising

River Lim Action Group Report

A member asked if there were any updates regarding the council's assistance to the River Lim Action Group in establishing the ownership of the riparian land below Gosling Bridge.

The operations manager said there was no update at present and that the council was still awaiting a response.

Food Security

It was noted that no comments had been received on the food security paper put forward at the previous meeting, which contained a substantial amount of useful information. In the absence of any feedback, it was reported Cllr P. May and Cllr S. Cockerell had recently met to review possible actions in relation to the paper. Members were urged to read the document and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss it, whether to endorse some of the proposed actions, suggest alternatives, or indicate that the current proposals are not suitable.

25/28/ENV Update Report

Riparian Owners

A member asked for clarification on who holds responsibility for informing the riparian owners and providing them with the necessary information, and whether this was the responsibility of the EA.

The operations manager said the riparian owners should be notified by the EA directly by letter, but the town council had not been informed as riparian owners.

It was suggested the council could put pressure on the EA to ensure the information was sent out to all relevant people.

The town clerk said council could share general guidance from the EA via the website, social media and the Lyme Living magazine.

It was agreed the council would write to the EA requesting that they convene and lead a handover/briefing meeting for all relevant stakeholders (riparian owners, Dorset Council, the town council, Woodland Trust, Town Mill, Upper Mill, River Lim Action Group, etc.) to explain responsibilities, permitting and support available.

Battery Powered Landscaping Tools

A member asked if there was any update or feedback from the battery powered landscaping tools trial.

The operations manager said the general feedback was positive as they were quieter, no hearing protection was needed, they had adequate battery life, and produced no fumes.

25/29/ENV Environment Committee Objectives

EPC recommendations

Caution was advised on cavity wall insulation in marine environments and to consider internal/external insulation options instead.

Undertake further investigation into rainwater harvesting

It was agreed the council would continue seeking opportunities on suitable council assets and where reuse was practical.

25/30/ENV Budget Proposals 2026-2027

It was suggested food security issues was put forward as an objective.

The town clerk said a cost would need to go against it before being considered by the Strategy and Finance Committee.

Members discussed officers' suggestion for additional staffing resources to fulfil this committee's requirements.

The town clerk said as far as he was aware, only Bridport Town Council had dedicated environmental staff. He said the council had been reviewing the monitoring systems proposed by Low Carbon Dorset and intended to seek their advice on what would be reasonable and proportionate for an organisation of the town council's size. A meeting with them was expected within the next two or three weeks, after which a more formal recommendation could be made.

Members agreed that a further discussion would take place following the meeting with Low Carbon Dorset.

25/33/ENV Co-option of Non-Members

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members co-opted Grenville Barr, Janet Breeze, and Vicki Elcoate onto the Environment Committee.

25/34/ENV To receive the minutes of the Bathing Water Quality Meeting on 9 September 2025

It was suggested some motorhome users were dumping sewage directly into the overflow drains in Holmbush car park that led directly to the sea, which was believed to cause E. Coli spikes during the summer months.

It was suggested the council put signs up to discourage this behaviour but it was noted it was a Dorset Council car park.

It was suggested officers worked with South West Water to ensure the Turning the Tide plan was implemented in a timely manner, noting the impact it might have on the town and the roads.

Members discussed the issues around displaying the water quality signs and the suggestion about funding an electronic sign for Church Cliff Beach. It was suggested match funding could be sought from Dorset Council.

It was suggested Dorset Council should either instruct the harbourmaster to continue updating the existing signs or agree to installation of a new electronic sign that could be operated remotely.

The operations manager was asked to contact the Dorset Council ward member to obtain an update on discussions with Dorset Council and the EA.

A member suggested a letter was written to the EA encouraging continued work with farmers to prevent run-off, especially to notify them to avoid feeding cattle beside a watercourse.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, the minutes from the bathing water quality meeting held on 9 September 2025 were **RECEIVED**.

25/35/ENV Town and Parish Climate and Nature Workshop

The town clerk reported back from the town and parish climate and nature workshop, adding that it was noted that Lyme Regis Town Council had already undertaken a considerable amount of work in comparison to other councils.

One of the key outcomes and opportunities identified for the town council included exploring potential collaborations between Solar Together and Solar Communities.

Members were informed that individuals, including members of the committee, could apply to become Climate Ambassadors. It was suggested that the council might consider establishing an employee volunteering scheme, whereby a council employee or member could act as an ambassador to local schools or institutions to discuss climate matters.

25/36/ENV Climate Response of the Year

The town clerk said the application had been submitted so retrospective approval would be required from Full Council.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to retrospectively **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** the approval of the application to the National Association of Local Councils for its Climate Response of the Year award 2025.

25/37/ENV EcoVend Reverse Vending Recycling Machines

Members raised concerns regarding the high cost, ongoing management requirements, maintenance in a coastal environment, and limited storage for collected materials. Members also noted that similar schemes were more successful in urban or retail settings and that there was no trial period available.

It was agreed that while the initiative had merit, further consideration was required to assess its long-term viability and relevance to the area.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to defer any decision on the EcoVend machine for 12 months.

24/38/ENV Round Britain eRIB – Commemorative Noticeboard

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to proceed with exploratory discussions with the Round Britain eRIB team and to install a commemorative noticeboard or plaque in Lyme Regis recognising the electric world record achieved by the Round Britain eRIB project.

25/39/ENV Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr N. Hampton-Rumbold, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to adopt the amended net carbon zero emissions action plan.

25/40/ENV Low Carbon Dorset Impact Survey

Members noted the report.

25/41/ENV Progress on Energy Performance Certificates

Members noted the report.

25/42/ENV River Lim Action Group 2024-25 Budget Spend

Members noted the report.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Committee: Environment

Date: 26 November 2025

Title: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 October 2025

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.

25/28/ENV – Update Report

Riparian Owners

At the previous meeting, members discussed concerns about the lack of communication from the Environment Agency (EA) to riparian owners along the River Lim following its decision to withdraw from routine river maintenance. Representatives from Upper Mill attended and raised their concerns about unclear responsibilities and support.

The committee agreed that the EA should convene and lead a stakeholder briefing session to clarify riparian responsibilities, permitting requirements, and available support. Suggested stakeholders include Dorset Council, Lyme Regis Town Council, Woodland Trust, Town Mill, Upper Mill, and the River Lim Action Group.

The operations manager has written to the EA formally requesting such a session and offered council assistance in sharing EA guidance through its website, social media, and Lyme Living magazine. A response from the EA is awaited, and members will be updated as progress is made.

In the meantime, a meeting is also being sought about responsibilities for bank structures between Gosling Bridge and the sea, including the Lynch. These discussions will be co-ordinated, but the issue is being reported to Town Management and Highways committee because it includes town council assets, i.e., the land and revetted embankment to Lepers Well.

25/36/ENV – Climate Response of the Year

The application has been submitted and the outcome is not expected until the end of December 2025.

24/38/ENV – Round Britain eRIB – Commemorative Noticeboard

At the previous meeting, members agreed to recommend to Full Council to proceed with exploratory discussions with the Round Britain eRIB team regarding the installation of a commemorative noticeboard or plaque in Lyme Regis to recognise the electric world record achieved by the project.

The operations manager has contacted Jacqui Besley from the eRIB team and arranged an initial review meeting to discuss design concepts and location options. This meeting is scheduled for 21 November 2025. Updates will be provided to members as the project discussions progress.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
November 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 26 November 2025

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.

Fish Passages

Lyme Regis Town Council is supporting the Bathing Water Quality Action Group's efforts to improve the fish passage along the River Lim, with feasibility studies to be considered at Gosling Bridge weir and the Leat.

The Environment Agency has confirmed its support for these initiatives, recognising the ecological significance of improving fish passage and identifying Gosling Bridge weir as a priority site. The Agency welcomed the proposal for a collaborative stakeholder meeting to develop practical and coordinated solutions.

Following this, the Operations Manager has arranged a meeting with representatives from the EA, the River Lim Action Group, The Town Mill, and Lyme Regis Town Council. The meeting will take place on 28 November 2025.

Updates on outcomes and next steps will be provided following the meeting.

Electric Rapid vehicle charging

Dorset Council had previously indicated that they would be willing for their advisors, JoJu, to look at the feasibility of installing additional EV charging points in the town council's public car parks. This was offered because they were also undertaking a similar exercise for Dorset Council's car parks with a view to their preferred installer, Mer, then implementing any proposals.

On 19 November, Dorset Council advised they are looking to instal an extra charger in Holmbush, but this is dependent on the upgrade being carried out to the sub-station at Ozone Terrace. There is currently insufficient capacity.

With regards to any other sites, Mer, has stepped away from installing AC "fast" (not fast) chargers and Dorset Council is now looking to a new supplier and their plans for installing on-street.

Apparently, there is a webinar planned for early December aimed specifically at town and parish councils to which this council will be invited.

In the meantime, Joju will still carry out the promised feasibility work relating to the town council's car parks, but not until the upgrade to the Ozone Terrace substation has been completed and 'spare' capacity can be accurately assessed. This may not be for some months; Dorset Council is currently trying to get an updated programme of works from National Grid. Any further information will be reported verbally at the meeting.

Monitoring and Bathing Water Quality Church Beach Notices

Following the discussion at the previous meeting regarding the display of bathing water quality notices and the potential installation of an electronic sign at Church Cliff Beach, the following actions have been progressed:

- Contact has been made with the Dorset Council ward member to obtain an update on discussions with Dorset Council about a permanent resolution to manage the signage at church beach. A response is awaited.
- Initial enquiries have been made by the operations manager, with Portsmouth City Council regarding their electronic signage initiative at Eastney, to gather information on suppliers, costings, and operational requirements.

Engagement with Farmers – Environment Agency

Further to the discussion at the Environment Committee meeting on 8 October 2025, the operations manager has written to the Environment Agency to encourage continued engagement with local farmers regarding watercourse protection. The correspondence highlighted concerns about cattle feeding stations located near watercourses and requested that farmers be reminded to avoid feeding cattle in these areas, given the associated environmental risks and impact on water quality. No response has been received back to date from the Environment Agency.

Carbon Literacy

The operations manager is currently completing the Carbon Literacy Train the Trainer course, which consists of four sessions. One final session remains and is scheduled for Thursday 27 November 2025.

The town clerk will also undertake the same training in the new year to ensure continuity and capacity for delivering accredited carbon literacy training within the organisation.

Further updates will be provided once the course is completed and a delivery plan for staff and members is developed.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Committee: Environment

Date: 26 November 2025

Title: Environment Committee – Objectives

Purpose

To allow members to review progress of the committee's 2025-26 objectives

Recommendation

Members note the report

Background

1. During the 2025-26 budget-setting process, objectives were agreed for the year and a budget estimate identified against each project.
2. At the Full Council meeting on 3 April 2025, the objectives were formally assigned to committees.

Report

3. Members can review progress on the objectives at each meeting.
4. This committee's 2025-26 objectives, along with the allocated budget, completion date and lead officer, are at **appendix 8A**. Updates are highlighted in yellow.
5. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 December 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
November 2025

APPENDIX 8A

| Objective (RAG Rated) Red: Not Started/Behind Schedule Amber: Started/Action Needed Green: Complete/On schedule | Budget | Lead officer | Committee | Target completion date | Updates/comments |
|---|--------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|---|
| To progress the 2030 carbon net zero plan | | SO | Environment | March '25 | <p>The action plan and a summary of what's been achieved was presented to the Environment Committee on 12 March 2025. The plan will be populated with further actions and target dates and presented to the Environment Committee on 23 April 2025.</p> <p>On 12 March 2025, the Environment Committee made a recommendation to the Full Council on 3 April 2025 to establish a working group for the council's strategic plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. One of the purposes of the working group is to monitor the delivery of the action plan.</p> <p>The plan was considered by this committee on 23 April 2025 and a working group meeting took place on 8 May 2025 to further develop the plan. An update report is elsewhere on this agenda.</p> <p>The working group met on 4 September 2025 to review</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|----|-------------|-----------|--|
| | | | | | the plan, which is presented elsewhere on this agenda for reference, final meeting is planned for 4 December 2025 |
| Support River Lim Action Group projects | 7,9 | SO | Environment | March | <p>The council has approved annual funding of c.£7,000pa to projects from April 2025 to 2030.</p> <p>A plan of how the funding will be spent has been provided to the council by the River Lim Action Group. Funding will be issued on receipt of evidence of expenditure.</p> |
| Migrate to electric hedge trimmers | 1.4 | SO | Environment | April '25 | <p>The external works team has trialled equipment from three suppliers, with Stihl selected as the preferred option. Equipment was loaned for an initial three-month period and remains on loan. Feedback from the external works team has been very positive, noting quieter operation, no fumes, and adequate battery life.</p> <p>The supplier has been approached for pricing, and further updates will be provided once costings and purchase options are confirmed</p> |
| Undertake tree planting schemes | 5 | SO | Environment | TBC | <p>Officers are investigating suitable areas for tree planting along the boundary of the footgolf, due to the removal of diseased trees.</p> <p>Eight bird-friendly berry trees were planted in mid-October around the perimeter of the footgolf area, replacing the old dead ash trees that had been removed.</p> |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|-------------|-----|--|
| | | | | | <p>We are still awaiting an update from Woodroffe regarding additional tree planting. The Works Supervisor will follow up directly with them to confirm next steps and feasibility. Update deferred to next meeting.</p> |
| Follow up on EPC recommendations | 5 | MG | Environment | TBC | <p>Assessments have been undertaken for all recently refurbished or reprovisioned council buildings, and all have achieved ratings better than the government's recommended target.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the council's tenants regarding practical changes they can implement to further improve their EPC ratings, as part of the council's continuing commitment to energy efficiency.</p> |
| Undertake a hydro feasibility study | 3 | MG | Environment | TBC | <p>Officers have reviewed historical documentation, including a report commissioned by the council around 2007, which assessed the feasibility of hydro-electric generation on the River Lim. The report concluded that such a scheme was not feasible due to site constraints and technical limitations.</p> <p>Based on this previous report and current conditions, it is deemed not feasible to pursue a hydro-electric project at this time.</p> <p>No further action is proposed unless new technology, location conditions or funding opportunities significantly</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|----|-------------|----------|--|
| | | | | | change viability. |
| Undertake biodiversity projects | 5 | SO | Environment | June '25 | <p>Projects identified in a biodiversity report considered by the Environment Committee will be undertaken by June 2025. A comprehensive biodiversity audit will be considered by the Environment Committee 16 July 2025, with a view to putting it forward for consideration as a funded objective for 2026-27.</p> <p>Officers have purchased bat and bird boxes for the woodland walk. Officers have sought advice from the council's geotechnical engineer, who has confirmed a pond is not viable due to stabilisation works in the gardens.</p> <p>This committee agreed on 16 July 2025 to put forward a comprehensive biodiversity audit as a potential objective for 2026-27.</p> |
| Undertake further investigation into rainwater harvesting | 2 | SO | Environment | TBC | <p>A 1,000 litre water butt has been purchased for the amenities hut, in addition to the one on the Garden Pavilion. The water butt at the amenities hut was fitted 9 July 2025.</p> <p>There are currently no plans to install additional water butts. However, officers will continue to monitor and review opportunities for further installations should suitable locations or reasonable options arise.</p> |
| Install garden signs | 7 | SO | Environment | June'25 | A project to link QR codes on signs at the flower beds in the gardens to the council's website will commence in |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---------------|---|
| | | | | September '25 | June 2025 and completed in September 2025. The website will feature plans of each flowerbed and a full list of the plants within. |
| | | | | April 2026 | Prices and designs have been obtained for the signs; this is now reflecting in the increase from £5000 to £7000 set for this objective. A QR code supplier has been identified. The garden's working group has suggested the completion date be pushed back to April 2026. There is no further change or update to this at this time. |

Committee: Environment Committee

Date: 26 November 2025

Title: River Lim Action Group Report

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to receive a report from the River Lim Action Group

Recommendation

Members note the report from the River Lim Action Group

Report

1. The River Lim Action Group has provided a report on their latest activities. The report is attached, **appendix 9A**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 December 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
November 2025

Paper for LRTC Environment Committee

November 26th 2025

River Lim Action update

This is an update paper from the River Lim Action group about pollution in the river and sea, and steps being taken to improve the ecology of the river catchment.

Biobeads

A new issue has emerged with the suspected accidental release of plastic biobeads. Beads like these are used in the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works (USTW). Beach cleans in Charmouth have found large numbers of larger biobeads. Campaigners in the village have evidence via chemical analysis that ties these beads to USTW. RLA has written to South West Water asking for a meeting and to hand over some of the samples for analysis. This problem occurred previously when there was a spill changing over the beads and was remedied. USTW is the only SWW facility using these larger beads so the finger of suspicion about this highly damaging pollution points to them.



South West Water investment programme

RLA was pleased to welcome the news that South West Water had firmed up its plans for reducing discharges from the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) in the town. The target is 10 discharges per year per CSO by March 2027. This should mean a big decrease on the 1100 hours or so happening currently.

The plan initially involved better sewage/rainwater separation and new storage tanks at six locations. However, plans for 1100m³ of new storage at Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works are not currently part of the timetabled project. Details of what is currently in the plan are here:

<https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/about-us/what-we-do/improving-your-service/projects-and-investment/lyme-regis>

This webpage provides a schedule indicating that work, subject to consents, would start in November. There is no sign of that happening yet.

RLA will continue to press for the much needed upgrade at USTW and for resources to be put into public engagement and key stakeholder briefings, to ensure support for the works while they are going on.

LRTC is encouraged to take the same approach to ensure the plans are carried through in full and with as minimum impact as possible.

Water quality issues

Farming

Earlier this year RLA secured Farming in Protected Landscapes funding for a session with farmers and landowners about improving water quality throughout the catchment. Subsequently further funding was secured for ten farm visits and reports by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, which offers advice and support to farmers.

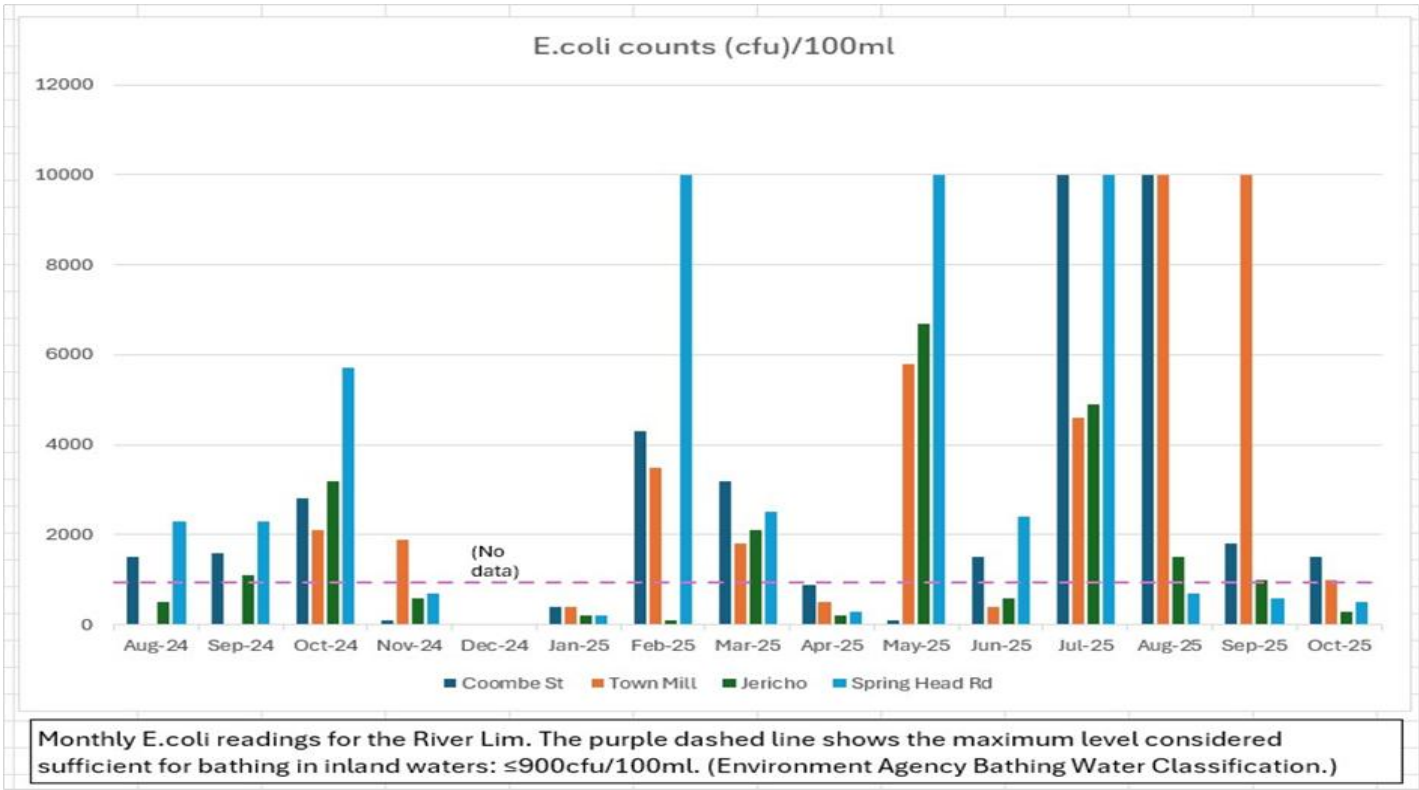
The Environment Agency has been conducting Microbial Source Tracking to work out which species the bacteria at the mouth of the river is coming from. As the weather was dry over the summer, and there were very few permitted discharges, ongoing misconnections, leaks and broken pipes in the antiquated system in the town are likely to blame for the human proportion. The large proportion of bacteria originating from cows in relatively dry conditions is of concern. The EA is working further up the catchment with farmers to address this.

It would be helpful if the Town Council could keep up the pressure on the EA by asking for a progress report.

Bathing Beaches

Both the designated bathing beaches have been monitored weekly by the EA over the bathing season. It looks like Front Beach will keep its “good” classification and Church Beach is likely to remain “poor”. Water quality at Church Beach has improved from previous years of bad pollution but the classification is based on four years of monitoring, which would include the poor past history.

The RLA’s own monitoring is still showing high levels of bacterial contamination in the river, particularly at the Town Mill, Coombe Street and Springhead Road (see graph below). SWW and the EA have been looking into these sites to try to remedy the pollution there.



Environment Agency withdrawal of river maintenance

In June residents and landowners by the river received a letter from the EA saying that they would be ceasing river maintenance in six months. In fact the EA has now confirmed to the RLA that there will be no further maintenance in 2025.

This is of concern as vegetation is already causing problems in the river and no one is dealing with it. The EA says: "Following a number of concerns and representations regarding this withdraw of maintenance, the Environment Agency will be writing again to riparian owners, and partner organisations; inviting them to provide any additional information that may help support the Environment Agency's bids for funds to deliver maintenance work. Any information this consultation yields about flood risk and/or environmental benefit will be considered by the Environment Agency to support bids next year and in the future".

The RLA looks forward to discussing this with the key stakeholders and thanks LRTC for organising a meeting about this issue which is now urgent.

RLA programme of ecological improvements

1. Himalayan Balsam removal. During the growing season eight formal and a few evening sessions were organised by RLA to remove Balsam in the catchment. About 40 volunteers got stuck in and achieved clearance over a wide area. However Balsam is present along the river – inaccessible locations for volunteers include the land at Slopes Farm and Windsor Terrace. *Can the Town Council help with the remaining clumps of Balsam in the town?*
2. Japanese Knotweed. Contractors have been engaged and carried out work in September to control Knotweed at several sites further up the catchment. This work was part funded by LRTC and part by the landowners.
3. Fish passes. A meeting agreed at the last Environment Committee to discuss this is scheduled for November 28. RLA has commissioned a consultant to advise on feasibility. LRTC has provided funding for this.
4. Bird and bat boxes. A RLA volunteer with relevant expertise has developed a plan for putting up boxes at 10 locations over the winter. This project aims to boost the breeding populations of grey wagtails and dippers. LRTC has already agreed to fund purchase of the boxes and RLA volunteers plan to put them up soon, with LRTC approval for locations where relevant.

Funding and other Town Council support

The RLA is grateful to the Town Council for funding the water monitoring and programme of ecological improvements. The TC also carries out a valuable role in organising the quarterly meetings with the EA, DC, RLA and SWW which was very well attended in September.

Vicki Elcoate November 2025, on behalf of the RLA coordinators

Committee: Environment

Date: 26 November 2025

Title: Cigarette Butt Waste Outside Licensed Premises

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider concerns raised by Grenville Barr, co-opted member of the Environment Committee, regarding cigarette butt waste outside licensed premises.

Recommendation

Members acknowledge the concern raised and review the proposal to consider whether any further action or engagement is appropriate within the council's remit.

Report

1. Grenville Barr, on behalf of Turn Lyme Green and Plastic Free Lyme Regis, has raised concerns about the accumulation of cigarette butts outside licensed premises in the town.
2. Previous efforts by these groups to encourage publicans to install butt bins have only been partially effective, and cigarette litter remains a persistent issue.
3. Grenville proposed that a more formal approach could improve compliance and reduce cigarette waste entering street gutters, rivers, and the sea.
4. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, littering, including cigarette butts, is a criminal offence. Local authorities have the power to issue fixed penalty notices of up to £150 or prosecute offenders with fines up to £2,500.
5. Members are asked to consider whether the town council should engage with Dorset Council to explore options for encouraging publicans to install butt bins and maintain the cleanliness of the area outside their premises.
6. Dorset Council is the principal litter authority and holds enforcement powers for littering and street cleanliness. Lyme Regis Town Council does not have enforcement powers in this area.
7. Businesses may be issued with Street Litter Control Notices if litter problems are linked to their premises. These notices require businesses to clear litter and take steps to prevent recurrence.
8. Members are asked to consider whether the town council should engage with Dorset Council to explore enforcement or advisory options, and whether to support further outreach to local publicans encouraging the installation of butt bins and regular cleaning of frontage areas.
9. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 December 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
November 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 26 November 2025

Title: Town Public Drinking Water Tap Provision

Purpose of Report

To allow members to consider a proposal submitted by Grenville Barr, co-opted member of the Environment Committee, regarding the installation of additional public drinking water taps.

Recommendation

Members review the proposal and consider whether to support further investigation into suitable locations for new drinking water taps, with the aim of reducing single-use plastic bottle consumption.

Report

1. Grenville Barr has proposed the installation of additional drinking water taps in Lyme Regis to support environmental objectives and reduce plastic waste around the town.
2. The town currently has two taps located on the seafront and another at the Candles on the Cobb Pavilion, but Grenville suggests there are other suitable locations where taps could be installed at relatively low cost.
3. Grenville has offered to work with the operations manager or another officer to identify potential sites.
4. The proposal aligns with the council's environmental objectives, particularly around reducing single-use plastics and promoting sustainable practices.
5. Members are asked to consider supporting further investigation into this initiative but to note there is no budget allocated for the installation of taps. However, if relatively low cost, this could be covered through the operations budget.
6. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 December 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
November 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 26 November 2025

Title: Food Security discussion

Purpose of Report

To follow up with members on the review of the food security paper for consideration following the absence of member feedback at the last Environment Committee meeting on 8 October 2025.

Recommendation

- a) Members review the proposed initiatives outlined in this report.
- b) Members decide whether to endorse these proposals, suggest alternatives, or indicate that the current proposals are not suitable or proceedable.

Background

7. At the 16 July 2025 meeting, a comprehensive food security paper from co-opted committee member Janet Breeze was presented, outlining potential actions to strengthen local food resilience. Members were invited to provide feedback by 1 September 2025, but no comments were received by the deadline.
8. Following this, the chairman and vice-chairman met to review the paper and concluded that commissioning a formal report would not be beneficial. While other councils, such as Bridport, have made commendable efforts in this area, they lack the capacity to deliver town-wide food security.
9. Instead, several practical initiatives have been proposed for consideration and discussion at this meeting:
 - Explore the creation of a food hub accessible to all residents, potentially by expanding the community café and/or seaside stores.
 - Encourage public procurement policies, including the town councils, to prioritise local food suppliers.
 - Consider promoting a local food market aimed at serving Lyme Regis residents.
 - Raise awareness of existing local food suppliers, such as Trill Farm's veg box delivery service.
 - Assess the potential to increase town council land allocated for food growing, e.g., new allotment areas.
 - Collaborate with community groups like Turn Lyme Green to support further local food initiatives.
10. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 December 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
November 2025

Committee: Environment

Date: 26 November 2025

Title: Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030

Purpose of Report

To allow members to review the live action plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030

Recommendation

Members consider the report and suggest amendments to the plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030

Report

1. On 4 September 2025, the net carbon zero working group met and considered the action plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030. The action plan is attached, **appendix 13A**.
2. It was agreed at the meeting that good progress was being made. It was also agreed there would be a final meeting on the 4 December 2025 to review any outstanding actions and to finalise the plan.
3. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 17 December 2025.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
November 2025

AGENDA ITEM 13A

| Draft Climate Action Plan Ideas | Summary | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Town Council Management | | Budget | 30-Jun | 30-Sep-25 | 31-Dec-25 | 31-Mar-26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 |
| 1.1 Review vehicle & equipment needs and where possible move to electric machines. | Proposals already submitted to the environment committee | £1,400 | Review options to purchase battery hedge cutter | Trial battery tools and equipment | Develop budget proposals for further battery replacement and electric vehicle replacement. A report will be brought to this committee 08/10/25 | Still reviewing Vehicles currently, lower spec 5K HiSun was reviewed and trialled Aug 26. Estimate £15,000 cost for used replacement electric vehicle. a report will be brought to this committee on 28 January 26 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1.2 Maintain an environmental monitoring system for the Town Council's business & operations, including tracking carbon use. | Introduce a monitoring system to track carbon emissions by July 2025 | | Investigate monitoring systems, by seeking professional advice/consultants | Report updates to Environment Committee 16/07/25. We intend to use the Low Carbon Dorset Toolkit - Carbon footprinting Tool. This exercise will be brought to this committee on the 08/10/25 | Low carbon Dorset have been contacted; in order to utilise 15 hours' time credit - a report will be brought to this committee on 28 January 26 | | | | | |
| 1.3 Develop a system to monitor & review the Council's waste streams, with a view to reducing waste to XX% (to be agreed) of the baseline; recycle above 80% (to be agreed) of waste where reducing is impossible. | Introduce a policy and procedure by September 2025 | | Operations manager to review undertaking an audit of recycled office waste once a month | Introduce a policy and procedure to Environment committee 08/10/25 | This has been reviewed, and it involves resources to manage. Further consideration needs to be made. Report to be provided to this committee on 28 January 26 | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1.4 Provide carbon literacy training for all LRTC staff and councillors and take the necessary steps to maintain accreditation status. | Training to take place end of May / June. Training provider SSC. Aim to provide training for all employees and members. Training for trainers to take place in June/July 2025. | | Online training completed by 7. A further 14 members of staff attended the recent training event bringing the total to 21 members of staff trained in Carbon Literacy. No members attended the additional training event, so the total no of members trained remains at 4. Officers are considering offering members evening online training in Carbon literacy. | Training for the trainers by 30 July. Discussions with the training provider now indicate that there will not be any courses available until October /November. | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|

[illegible]

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 2.1 Identify & implement energy reduction measures. | Replaced 39 streetlights to LED bulbs. Garden decorative lighting is LED. All newly refurbished and new buildings have LED lighting, sensor lights, electric heating fed from roof PV`s and all buildings meet current building regulations for insulation | | LED lighting and light sensors to be introduced into the new offices. This was completed by June 25. | | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |
| 2.2 Identify options for reducing water use and harvesting rainwater. | LRTC have a water butt on the newly refurbished garden Pavillion, and plan to introduce water butts on the amenities hut and Cemetery lodge. Consideration will be given to move towards sensor taps | | Purchase two large water butts for these locations. Water butts have been purchased and installed at the amenities hut and the garden pavilion. 3rd water butt to be purchased and installed at the | Work with SWW to capture rainwater to avoid CSO`s. PW to attend update meeting from SWW on 28th July 25 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Cemetery lodge by August | | | | | | | |
| 2.3 Apply sustainability measures to all new and refurbished LRTC buildings. | LRTC will continue to introduce sustainability measures as part of our Environmental objectives such as, LED lighting in all buildings, and where possible introduce PV panels | | | | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |
| 2.4 Support local initiatives to promote community renewable energy schemes or take up of renewables by residents and businesses. Also working towards supporting the grid capacity to be able to achieve these. | LRTC will work with other organisations to promote schemes - Greener Open Homes, Solar Roofs and others. | | | | promote through our social media platforms, website and notice boards | | | | | |
| 2.5 Support local energy champions who carry out thermal surveys, promote better insulation and a switch away from fossil fuel usage in the home. | LRTC will work with and promote local energy champions | | | | promote through our social media platforms, website and notice boards | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|----------|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 3. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 Garden organically and limit the use of chemicals to the essential where organic gardening is not time or cost-effective. Glyphosate products will only be used to tackle Japanese Knotweed and mares tail. | LRTC has an existing policy to ban the use of glyphosate. The policy has an exemption for Japanese Knotweed and Mares tail | | Complete | | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |
| 3.2 Develop more drought resistant planting plans and continue to plant wildflower gardens and ensure plants in beds, borders and planters are pollinator friendly and where possible, sourced locally and grown organically. | LRTC currently source plants locally and employ drought tolerant planting | | Complete | | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |
| 3.3 Set a target to increase biodiversity on council land in line with current government targets. | LRTC needs to consider and understand the governments targets for 2030 and 2050. | | | | Consider bio-diversity assessment as 26/27 project | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 3.4 Continue to plant more trees and identify sites for biodiverse tree planting and hedgerow restoration/enhancement. | LRTC have previously planted C500 whip trees gifted to us by The Word Forest Organisation, we have introduced wildlife corridors, supporting the great Dorset hedge and is due to embark on biodiversity projects. Opportunities for tree planting are limited on LRTC land. We will talk to other organisations about land availability. | | Lyme Regis Town Councils green spaces offer no further opportunities for tree planting however we will continue to work with other organisations like Magna to review feasibility | Discussions held with Woodroffe School to plant native and fruit trees in their communal areas. LRTC funding opportunity to support as our spaces limited. | Review initiative for DT7 landowners to have opportunities to be provided trees for planting on their land | | | | | |
| 4. Encouraging, educating and adopting environmental best practice | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 Support Dorset Waste Services to increase the household & businesses recycling rate in Lyme Regis. | Meeting arranged with DC, business association and members on the 17 March 2025. LRTC has agreed | | Broad street bin store is being taken to TMH on 9 April 25 and will be considered | Report to be submitted to the Environment committee for 16/07/25. Reverse | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| | to repost workplace recycling requirements and is considering reopening the Broad Street bin store. | | at full Council on 14 May 25 | vending machines, which are highly efficient recycling machines that are used by the general public to deposit empty, single-use beverage containers in return for a pre-paid deposit or non-monetary reward – for example, vouchers, discounts, credit, or charity donations. | | | | | | |
| 4.2 Work with community organisations like Turn Lyme Green and others to deliver community based environmental improvements. | We work with, promote and fund community organisations | | Ongoing | | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 4.3 Support public events aimed at raising awareness about opportunities for environmental improvements. | LRTC supports public events and uses its communication channels to promote them | | Ongoing as good practice | | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |
| 4.4 Promote Lyme's status as a Plastic Free town and encourage more businesses to sign up. | LRTC supports a plastic free town | | Ongoing through our social media platforms, website and shall be introducing regular features in LRTC's magazine | Lyme Regis Town Council aim to reduce plastic via utilising a collection and refill solution for all cleaning products by Jan 2026 | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |
| 5. Protecting local infrastructure | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 Develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to increase the number of charging facilities in LRTC car parks. | LRTC will contact National Grid to explore the possibilities of introducing additional charging points within our carparks | | Further work required to understand demand for EV charging points and to establish the National Grids capacity in Lyme Regis | Update to the Environment Committee on the 16 July 25 | Follow up with Jack Osbourne (National grid) to establish capacity at Monmouth beach carpark for additional EV chargers. | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 5.2 Support & encourage local businesses to put sustainability at the heart of their operations. | LRTC will promote and encourage sustainability through meetings and briefings | | Ongoing through our social media platforms, website and shall be introducing regular features in LRTC`s magazine - Example Fossil Festival promotion. | At event Management meetings, this will be promoted to the event organisers by LRTC | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |
| 5.3 Support the provision of a community town bus in Lyme Regis. | LRTC now has the Lyme Link bus service up and operational as from 7 May 2025 | | Complete | | | | | | | |
| 5.4 Support the provision of a park & ride facility. | LRTC supports and underwrites the park and ride | | Ongoing | | | | | | | |
| 5.5 Where practical, promote essential services are retained in Lyme Regis. | Where practical LRTC supports essential services e.g., grant funding for the Post office, town bus, park and ride and grant funding for the food bank from April 2025 | | Ongoing as good practice | | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| 6. Supporting Sustainable Tourism | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1 Continue to provide and maintain a beach equipment recycling box. | Agree | | Ongoing | | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |
| 6.2 Develop & promote a sustainable tourism vision for Lyme Regis. | LRTC will promote and encourage sustainable tourism | | | Produce a report to the Environment Committee, in consultation with TCP 8 October 25 | | | | | | |
| 6.3 Work with Dorset Council to improve signage that reduces traffic congestion in the town. | Officers will contact DC and work with them to introduce improved signage within the town | | To discuss at ward meeting on 29 April | Discussed at TMH as an agenda item for further review. | Consider as 26/27 project | | | | | |
| 6.4 Promote sustainable transport and safe walking in and around the town to reduce the need for visitors (and residents) to use cars. | LRTC will promote the use of the town bus and park and ride facilities within the town to minimise congestion | | Ongoing through our social media platforms, website and shall be introducing regular features in LRTC`s magazine | | | | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering | Review to confirm we are still delivering |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 7. Resilience & adaptation measures | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7.1 Maintain emergency plans to address and mitigate future challenges, e.g. Flooding, Storms, Power cuts, Blocked roads, Sea defence breaches | LRTC will continue to manage and review the emergency policy on a yearly basis | | | | We review and publish our Emergency plan in November | | | | | |
| 7.2 Work with partners to promote local food security, shortening supply chains and encouraging local food growing and production. | LRTC will encourage, advise and help promote local food growing and production through the garden growers' bed and our local allotments | | LRTC has the local community garden growers' bed which has the sole purpose to produce and deliver food to local people. We will also look to support the Lyme Regis community café and food bank | Work with organisation Turn Lyme Green to review strategies and initiatives. | | | | | | |

