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Town Clerk

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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 11 March 2026 commencing **on the rise of the extraordinary Full Council meeting** when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
06.03.26

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 26 November 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 26 November 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. Bathing Water Quality Meeting Minutes

To allow members to receive the minutes from the Bathing Water Quality meeting held on 13 January 2026

10. River Lim Action Group Report

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

11. Bee Friendly Lyme Regis

To allow members to consider a request from Turn Lyme Green for the council to endorse and collaborate on the Bee Friendly Lyme Regis project

12. Riparian Owners (River Lim) - Stakeholder Briefing Session

To update members on the River Lim stakeholder briefing session held on 20 January 2026 with the Environment Agency, to provide a summary of the presentation received and to confirm receipt of the Environment Agency's formal letter regarding the withdrawal of maintenance

13. Big Paddle Out 2026

To allow members to receive information regarding the 2026 Big Paddle Out event

14. Exempt Business

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025

Present:

Chairman: Cllr P. May

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

Co-opted members: G. Barr, V. Elcoate

Officers: K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant), S. O'Connell (operations manager)

25/43/ENV Public Forum

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

25/44/ENV Apologies

Cllr S. Cockerell – holiday
Cllr N. Rumbold – work commitments
J. Breeze – illness

25/45/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr M. Denney and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2025 were **ADOPTED**.

25/46/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

25/47/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

25/48/ENV Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 October 2025

Round Britain eRIB – Commemorative Noticeboard

The operations manager had met with Jackie Besley prior to this meeting. The eRIB team had made a funding request and this would be brought to members at a future meeting.

25/49/ENV Update Report

Electric Rapid vehicle charging

Members raised concerns about the lack of access to rapid charging points within the town and asked if further investigation could be carried out by the deputy town clerk, as well as Dorset Council, as a priority.

Monitoring and Bathing Water Quality Church Beach Notices

The operations manager said an electronic noticeboard would cost around £30,000 but powering the unit with solar would bring costs down to around £10,000.

It was suggested the town council and South West Water could consider contributing to the costs of this. It was suggested this could be considered for the 2027-28 budget.

The operations manager said the next step was to engage with Dorset Council and come to an agreement. He hoped the Dorset Council ward member would be able to advise further at the next bathing water quality meeting on 13 January 2026.

Carbon Literacy

The operations manager said he should be fully accredited as a carbon literacy trainer upon completion of the course on 27 November 2025. The council would then need to put together a course or purchase a license to be able to provide the training, with an average cost of £800 per presentation/accreditation training package. The content would also need to be kept up-to-date.

An item was requested on the next agenda to review ongoing training and members who were not already carbon literacy trained were urged to take up the training.

25/50/ENV Environment Committee – Objectives

Members noted the report.

25/51/ENV River Lim Action Group Report

It was noted South West Water's Turning the Tide programme had not commenced in November, as previously expected, and that the timescales had been removed from their website.

The operations manager said the surveys have not yet taken place so a start date was unknown. It was suggested the town council wrote to South West Water to apply some pressure and that it is also raised at the next bathing water quality meeting.

As part of the Farming in Protected Landscapes project, visits to the 10 local farms had taken place and half of them had received their reports and funding suggestions.

A member asked the operations manager to ask South West Water for a progress report on the project.

The meeting discussed the Environment Agency's withdrawal of river maintenance. The operations manager said he had written to the relevant people at the Environment Agency to arrange a meeting between stakeholders. A response was expected by 10

December 2025 but this could be chased up at a meeting with the Environment Agency on 28 November 2025, set up to discuss fish passages.

The removal of Himalayan Balsam was discussed and whether town council staff would be available to help remove it.

The operations manager said he would discuss this with his team, taking into consideration work schedules and who was trained to do it.

It was suggested the town council engaged with riverbank owners and kept the pressure on Dorset Council to carry out vegetation clearance and to deal with collapsing banks.

It was noted there was an action from the previous meeting to encourage the Environment Agency, Dorset Council, Lyme Regis Town Council and other riparian owners to get together and discuss this.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney that members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that officers engage with South West Water about their revised timescales for the Turning the Tide works in Lyme Regis; that the council continues to press South West Water to carry out the much-needed upgrade at Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works; and for resources to be put into public engagement and key stakeholder briefings to ensure support for the proposed works and minimum disruption while they are taking place.

25/52/ENV Cigarette Butt Waste Outside Licensed Premises

It was suggested the town council asked local publicans to regularly empty the cigarette butt boxes outside their premises and sweep up any butts. It was suggested the enforcement officers would be able to enforce this.

The operations manager said the town council had no powers to enforce this. The council could write to Dorset Council and ask them to try and enforce it but ultimately, publicans were responsible for emptying their own butt bins.

A member suggested putting an article into the town council business briefing and LymeLiving Magazine to raise awareness and educate the public and publicans and praise those that do tidy up outside their premises.

It was noted Litter Free Dorset had run campaigns in the past and suggested the town council engaged with the organisation to further educate publicans.

It was also suggested the issue was raised with the Cobb Traders.

25/53/ENV Town Public Drinking Water Tap Provision

Several locations had been identified where taps could be installed, including outside the toilets next to the Sailing Club and the toilets next to the Pilot Boat. It was suggested taps could be installed for £200 to £400 each.

The operations manager said it would be necessary to carry out legionella testing, which would be more feasible if the taps were installed at town council properties. He said the town council was in discussions with Dorset Council about managing more public toilets in the town so this might provide an opportunity to install more taps.

It was agreed G. Barr would work with officers to identify locations and come up with a proposed programme for installation, to be considered as a future objective.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers that members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that town public drinking water tap provision be added to the proposed list of objectives for 2027-28.

25/54/ENV Food Security discussion

It was suggested an article was included in LymeLiving magazine to raise awareness of local food suppliers.

The operations manager was asked if there was more scope for additional grow your own food or community gardens using town council land, or if more allotments could be created. He said there were currently no resources but the town council was always open to suggestions, depending on feasibility. The potential for more allotments would be a Town Management and Highways issue.

It was noted there were already plans in place for a garden at Woodroffe School, to be maintained by students.

It was agreed everyone would come back to the next meeting with proposals that were within the council's gift. It was also suggested there needed to be a champion to bring the ideas together.

It was agreed there would be an agenda item for food security at the next meeting, and suggestions should be received before that meeting to be included in the report.

25/55/ENV Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030

The operations manager urged members to read the plan and if they wanted to add anything, to let him know before the working group met on 4 December 2025. He suggested that the wording of the action plan be amended to 'achieve carbon neutrality' instead of 'net carbon zero'.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Committee: Environment

Date: 11 March 2026

Title: Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 November 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.

25/48/ENV – Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 October 2025

Round Britain eRIB – Commemorative Noticeboard

The Operations manager met with Jacqui and Harry Besley on 26 November 2025 to discuss the proposed commemorative noticeboard recognising the electric world record achieved by the Round Britain eRIB project.

The discussion focused on identifying a suitable installation location. It was agreed that the most appropriate site would be within the shelters on Marine Parade, ensuring consistency with existing public displays. The left-hand bay of the shelters currently contains a World Heritage Site map; the new noticeboard would sit alongside this and complement the existing layout.

The eRIB team has since advised that they are finalising design options, ensuring the font and sizing are in keeping with the existing World Heritage Site map, and are in the process of obtaining pricing. They have indicated that an installation during the week commencing 20 July 2026 would be preferable.

A further update will be provided at the Environment Committee meeting on 29 April 2026.





25/49/ENV – Update Report

Electric Rapid vehicle charging

Dorset Council has been asked for a further update on progress with the introduction of additional EV charging points in Lyme and on their assessment of capacity to install more charging points in the town council-owned car parks. It would appear that the focus of Dorset Council is switching to on-street provision, but the last communication stated that the assessment relating to this council's car parks would still be undertaken. There remain issues with capacity which may only be resolved in some locations after National Grid has completed planned upgrades to sub-stations. The precise timing for these works is not currently known, but clarification has been sought.

Monitoring and Bathing Water Quality Church Beach Notices

Following previous discussions regarding the display of bathing water quality notices at Church Cliff Beach, and the potential installation of an electronic display system to manage daily updates, the following progress has been made:

- The Operations manager has investigated potential suppliers for an electronic display board and has obtained an indicative cost for a unit including the display screen, solar panel, and mounting kit. The quoted price is £5,768.56 + VAT (total £6,922.27 including VAT).



These details have been shared with the Dorset Council ward member, along with a request for clarification on Dorset Council's position regarding long-term management and responsibility for providing daily notices at Church Cliff Beach. Dorset Council remains responsible for supplying the notices.

- At the recent Bathing Water Quality meeting on 13 January 2026, the ward member confirmed that no budget is currently available within Dorset Council to support this project. Any permanent solution, including an electronic display, would therefore require joint funding between the relevant organisations.
- It was further suggested by the ward member that Public Health may be able to provide grant funding towards the initiative. Enquiries are ongoing by the ward member to determine whether this is a viable option.

Carbon Literacy

The operations manager completed the Carbon Literacy Train the Trainer course on 27 November 2025. Trainer accreditation had previously been on hold pending clarification from Speak Carbon Collective and the Carbon Literacy Project (CLP) regarding licensing arrangements, access to training materials, and ongoing costs.

Further information has now been received from Speak Carbon Collective, confirming that:

- All parish, town and community council training materials within the CLP toolkit are free to use by those councils, with no licence fee required.
- Licence fees only apply to larger local authorities wishing to deliver training on behalf of multiple town and parish councils.
- LRTC is permitted to use the bespoke 'blue slides' developed by Speak Carbon Collective as part of the original training package.

The operations manager has requested further clarification on:

- Whether Speak Carbon Collective or CLP will supply the finalised course materials directly.
- The number of staff and councillors required to remain trained at any given time to maintain our Silver Carbon Literacy accreditation.
- The length of time the accreditation remains valid and whether periodic re-accreditation is required.

All town council staff have now completed carbon literacy training. The following councillors have also completed the course:

- Cllr Stammers
- Cllr May
- Cllr Aldridge
- Cllr Cockerell

A further update will be provided once responses have been received to the above accreditation queries.

25/52/ENV – Cigarette Butt Waste Outside Licensed Premises

A feature on cigarette butt waste and responsible disposal was included in the February edition of Lyme Living, with further messaging planned through the council's social media and business and community briefings, using materials from Litter Free Dorset.

It has been identified that the previous ballot bin at the Cobb Arms toilets was removed in April 2024 after being damaged by a delivery lorry. Litter Free Dorset has confirmed that the replacement unit previously funded was later allocated elsewhere after no suitable new location was agreed. Litter Free Dorset has confirmed that a new ballot bin can be purchased if the council wishes to reinstate one, and they continue to offer free resources and support.

25/53/ENV – Town Public Drinking Water Tap Provision

The operations manager met with the preferred plumbing contractor on 5 March 2026 to review the installation of a public drinking water tap at the amenities hut. The proposed design will match the existing taps currently in place at the Marine Parade Shelters.

We are now awaiting the contractor's pricing. Once received, the installation will proceed as part of the new operational budget from April 2026.

25/54/ENV – Food Security discussion

Unfortunately, no further recommendations or feedback were received from members regarding the proposed food security initiatives. As a result, no progression has been made at this time. The matter will be revisited in the future should an opportunity arise or should members wish to bring it forward again for consideration.

25/55/ENV – Action Plan for Achieving Net Carbon Zero Emissions by 2030

The Net Carbon Zero Working Group met on 4 December 2025 and reviewed the action plan for achieving net carbon zero emissions by 2030.

At the meeting, it was agreed that the operations manager will now finalise the document through the development of a set of agreed principles for each section. These principles will provide a clear and consistent framework to support delivery of the plan and guide its ongoing implementation.

The action plan will remain a live and adaptable document, enabling it to evolve over time as new information, technologies, and opportunities arise. The agreed principles will ensure future updates continue to align with the council's strategic direction.

In addition, the operations manager will arrange a further meeting of the working group in April 2026 (date to be confirmed). This meeting will review the proposed principles, allow for any necessary refinements, and prepare the updated version of the document for formal consideration.

Following this review, the updated plan and principles will be presented to the Environment Committee on 29 April 2026. Subject to endorsement, the final version will then be submitted to Full Council on 13 May 2026 for approval and adoption.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
March 2026

Committee: Environment

Date: 11 March 2026

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.

Garden QR codes and Signs project

Work to install garden signage incorporating QR codes is ongoing. The original proposal aims to link QR codes on signs within the gardens to dedicated pages on the council's website, providing detailed plans of each flowerbed along with full planting lists.

The indicative cost for 11 bespoke aluminium, powder-coated, lectern-style signs is £5,940.00 including VAT, excluding installation labour. A QR code supplier has been identified via Joy of Plants; however, they have advised that four plant varieties are not currently included in their library. They have requested images or supplier information so these can be added. They have also confirmed that their previous free QR code download service has been withdrawn, meaning codes must now be supplied directly by them or generated through provided URLs.

The Gardens Working Group has recommended extending the project deadline to April 2026. Due to the scale of the project and the associated technical requirements, the operations manager notes that meeting this revised deadline may prove challenging, as substantial labour, design work, and printing will be required. Overall project costs also remain significant.

Further research by the operations manager indicates that several free mobile plant-identification apps are widely available and offer a highly accessible alternative for identifying plant species. Prominent examples include PictureThis, iNaturalist, and PlantNet, all supported by extensive user communities and large photographic databases.

This alternative approach could deliver immediate benefits to residents and visitors at no cost, while avoiding the need for the council to develop and maintain its own plant database on the website; a task that would require considerable ongoing resourcing and technical oversight to remain accurate and up-to-date.

Committee: Environment

Date: 11 March 2026

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 1 April 2026.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
March 2026

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	Ongoing	<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 last met on 4 December 2025 to review the plan. Update presented elsewhere on the agenda.</p>
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 '26	The external works team has trialled equipment from three suppliers, with Stihl selected as the preferred

					<p>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>Three quotes now been received from all suppliers – ABA Groundcare to be preferred supplier for all Stihl equipment moving forwards. Hedge trimmer to be purchased by 1 April 2026.</p>
Undertake tree planting schemes	5	SO	Environment	Ongoing	<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>The operations supervisor confirms that efforts to contact Woodroffe School are ongoing, but no response has yet been received. He will follow up with them directly to establish the next steps and assess feasibility.</p>
Follow up on EPC recommendations	5	MG	Environment	Ongoing	<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</p>

					<p>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 change viability.</p>
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	<p>June'25</p> <p>September '25</p> <p>April 2026</p>	<p>A project to link QR codes on signs at the flower beds in the gardens to the council's website in June 2025 and completed in September 2025. The website would feature plans of each flowerbed and a full list of the plants within.</p> <p>The guide cost for 11 Lyme Regis Town Council garden signs, comprising bespoke aluminium powder coated lectern style signs with posts and digital print panels, is £5,940.00 including VAT for supply only and excluding installation labour. A QR code supplier has been identified through Joy of Plants.</p> <p>The garden's working group has recommended that the project completion date be moved to April 2026. This timeframe is expected to be challenging due to the labour and printing required for installation, together with planting schedules that must be carried out at specific times of the year.</p> <p>A further update on this project is provided elsewhere on the agenda.</p>
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Committee: Environment

Date: 11 March 2026

Title: Bathing Water Quality Meeting Minutes

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to receive the minutes from the Bathing Water Quality meeting held on 13 January 2026

Recommendation

Members note the minutes of the Bathing Water Quality meeting held on 13 January 2026

Report

1. A Bathing Water Quality meeting was held on 13 January 2026 and the minutes are attached as **appendix 9A**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 1 April 2026.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
March 2026

Jenny Eamer, Sarah Sharpe and Alan Burrows (SWW) attended remotely.

Chris Angell - EA.

Peter Hackett - Uplyme Parish Council

Sam O'Connell, Cllr Stuart Cockerell, Cllr Philip May (chair) and Mark Green – LRTC

Cllr Belinda Bawden, Dorset Council

Vicki Elcoate and Michael McMorrow - RLA

Apologies: Adam Steele, Dorset Council

Action update: Adam Steele sent an update: Dorset Council was working on signage in Holmbush Carpark requesting that camper vans do not empty their sewage into the drains.

INVESTMENT PROGRAMME.

Clarification was sought on Turning the Tide programme implementation. AB said that they could give no further information about the SWW plans. The detailed presentation last July was an outline of their ideas at the time. The programme was now in the 'concept' and 'design' phase.

However SWW have Highways consent to dig trial holes at Jericho and Woodmead road as part of their investigation.

Works will take place at Jericho 26/1-6/2 and Woodmead Road 9-20 Feb.

MG said there had been an application for a works compound in Charmouth Rd car park.

MG asked if SWW could indicate when works such as the trial holes are a part of the Turning the Tide project. AB said it was too onerous to highlight Turning the Tide operations because of the number of works carried out over their region. There could be no bespoke service for individual communities.

Clarification was sought by RLA on the EIA screening requests for a storage tank at Uplyme and works at Horn Bridge. Uplyme 05986, and Horn Bridge 06777¹ (Dorset Council references).

JE confirmed that the proposed storage tank at the STW was to accommodate sewage from Uplyme not Lyme Regis.

Actions: RLA and LRTC monitoring needed to identify Turning the Tide progress and facilitate communications to local community.

HORN BRIDGE.

JE confirmed that the pump control at HB was updated. Any other upgrades will be a part of the Turning the Tide project. MM asked why Horn Bridge underwent a prolonged period of maintenance after it had been shown to have discharged during heavy rain. AB said it was to inspect the Event Duration Monitor because it had not been recording.

¹ Both are available on the Dorset Council planning portal and detail the work proposed to be carried out

TALBOT ROAD

VE passed on Liz Davis's thanks for dealing with a difficult sewage problem in Talbot Road.

TALBOT ARMS, LYME ROAD.

BB raised the problem adjoining the Talbot Arms where the bank was in danger of being undermined and a sewage tank falling into the river. CA said that the riparian owner is responsible for the upkeep of the bank and therefore repairing the faulty brickwork. He said he thought it was a domestic sewage tank. AB said it was not an issue for SWW. PH said that he would try to establish the details.

Action: PH to investigate and report back any action planned to remove this risk

THE POST OFFICE, LYME ROAD.

Pollution at this site has been raised at every meeting and the reply has been the same from the EA (difficulty contacting the property owner thought to be responsible).

Action: PH to use local knowledge to make progress.

BIOBEADS

RLA had raised the issue of biobeads on Charmouth Beach with SWW. These seem to emanate from the Uplyme STW. The issue had been referred to an extended EIR process.

Action: RLA to ask for an EIR review of the delay to the answer

CATTLE POLLUTION ISSUES

Three farms seem to be contributing to high levels of cattle E. coli in the river.

CA said he was making positive progress with one farm to secure funding to put in fencing. Another farm was putting in cow tracks on his farm to reduce road pollution. He said he was not aware of the other farm causing problems.

Action: RLA to keep on reporting cattle issues; RLA to send the EA previously submitted information on the other farm.

TOWN POLLUTION

High E.coli levels recorded in the RLA monitoring report and more recently at the Town Mill and Coombe St. JE said that they were looking at a possible misconnection in Jericho, a problem in Cobb Road and reports of pollution at Windsor Terrace.

MM highlighted the persistent problems around the Town Mill and Coombe Street which indicate "poor" water quality at Church Beach is likely to persist until these are addressed.

SWW were invited by LRTC councillors to contribute an article to the next Lyme Living Magazine highlighting the problems of misconnections. This was declined but AB provided a link to further information.

Action: SWW to keep pinning down what is causing the problems in the lower river; RLA and the Town Mill to keep reporting pollution; LRTC to include an article about misconnections in Lyme Living

BATHING WATER SIGNAGE

BB said that she had brought up the idea of automated signage but Dorset Council said they could not fund it. She is going to look into getting a Public Health Grant.

Action: Dorset Council to resolve this issue before the start of the bathing season

SEAFRONT DRAINS

Action: BB to ask for a written update from Dorset Council.

MILL LANE CSO

MM asked for clarification about the anomalies at Mill Lane CSO, which point to a failure in SWW monitoring and reporting on CSO discharges. Last year this same CSO's incorrect data distorted the overall results.

AB said there were over 450 CSOs in their region and it is possible that they occasionally go wrong or records are incorrect. He referred RLA to the EIR process. He clarified that the definition of a spill was based on the EA 12/24 method. He said that this means individual spills across a period (12 or 24 hours) are not counted but are recorded as one spill.

DONM: Noon Wednesday April 22

DRAFT

Committee: Environment Committee

Date: 11 March 2026

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 10A**.
2. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 1 April 2026.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
March 2026

River Lim Action update for Lyme Regis Town Council Environment Committee meeting, March 11 2026

General overview

The River Lim Action group published its annual review of pollution monitoring at the end of 2025. It has been dealing with queries about biobeads thought to arise from Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works. It has been working with others to keep track of progress on the South West Water investment programme, Turning the Tide. In addition River Lim Action is supporting a legal challenge by Surfers against Sewage about proposed changes to the bathing water designation regulations.

1. Pollution Update

The Pollution Monitoring Review is available to view on the Turn Lyme Green website here:

<https://www.turnlymegreen.co.uk/news/rla2025monitoringreportdec25>

It has a list of conclusions and recommendations – **any queries arising can be discussed at the meeting.**

The RLA's E.coli data up to the end of January (see Appendix 1 below) shows continuing high levels of bacterial pollution in the town. Levels at Springhead Road in Uplyme have improved since action was taken there to tackle sources of pollution.

2. Bathing Season

The start of the bathing season will be marked on May 16 by Surfers' against Sewage Big Paddle Out. In Lyme Regis, where there are two designated bathing beaches, there are no current plans for legally compliant signage for Church Cliff beach. This matter has been discussed on several occasions and there is still no pragmatic arrangement to post pollution risk forecasts. The current signage is also missing reference to the action plan which addresses poor water quality at Church Cliff (as required by DEFRA). **RLA has been working with the Dorset Council ward member who has been trying to resolve this on a partnership basis. LRTC support for this is requested to ensure that the public receives the statutory information when the bathing seasons begins.**

Bactiquick monitor: **LRTC may want to consider buying a Bactiquick monitor** (made by Molendotech) which would provide immediate results on bacterial pollution in the sea. This would be of considerable help for events – eg the Lyme Splash or Paddle Out and may help prevent cancellations. The Lyme Splash cancellations were based on pollution risk forecasts from the Environment Agency, not actual water quality at the time. Bactiquick was designed to address these issues. <https://bactiquick.com/> A starter kit costs £350.

3. Biobeads

There are several relatively recent reports of larger beads (used in sewage processing), which are now in use at the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works, being found on the beach in Charmouth. The RLA has raised questions with South West Water about this and have asked them to confirm if the biobeads are theirs and where they are coming from. So far there has been no helpful response from SWW despite the RLA using

the formal Environmental Information Regulations process. SWW are in receipt of 7 of these larger biobeads, sent on 2/2/26 for analysis as requested by them. Following up by email on 16/2/26, we were told we would receive the results “in due course”.

4. Turning the Tide

South West Water announced its investment programme in Lyme Regis – part of Turning the Tide – last July at an online presentation. RLA welcomed the detailed plan with firm commitments, a timescale and contractors in place to take it forward. However at the last bathing water quality meeting the progress report was vague and the talk was of “concept and design” rather than spades in the ground. This is despite actual planning applications coming forward for the work (equipment storage compounds in Charmouth Road and Holmbush car parks) and requests for EIA screenings for increased tank storage at the Uplyme Sewage Treatment Works and Horn Bridge. There was even an actual spade in the ground at Jericho digging a trial hole. A request by LRTC for clear branding for Turning the Tide works was turned down, despite a similar project in Falmouth having on street signage. Further details are in the minutes of the last bathing water meeting. The DC ward member and deputy town clerk are working closely with Dorset Council’s senior traffic co-ordinator to manage road closures with as much advance planning and public communications as possible. **Getting better communications between SWW and both councils on this is needed.**

<https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/about-us/what-we-do/engineering-projects/wastewater/lyme-regis>

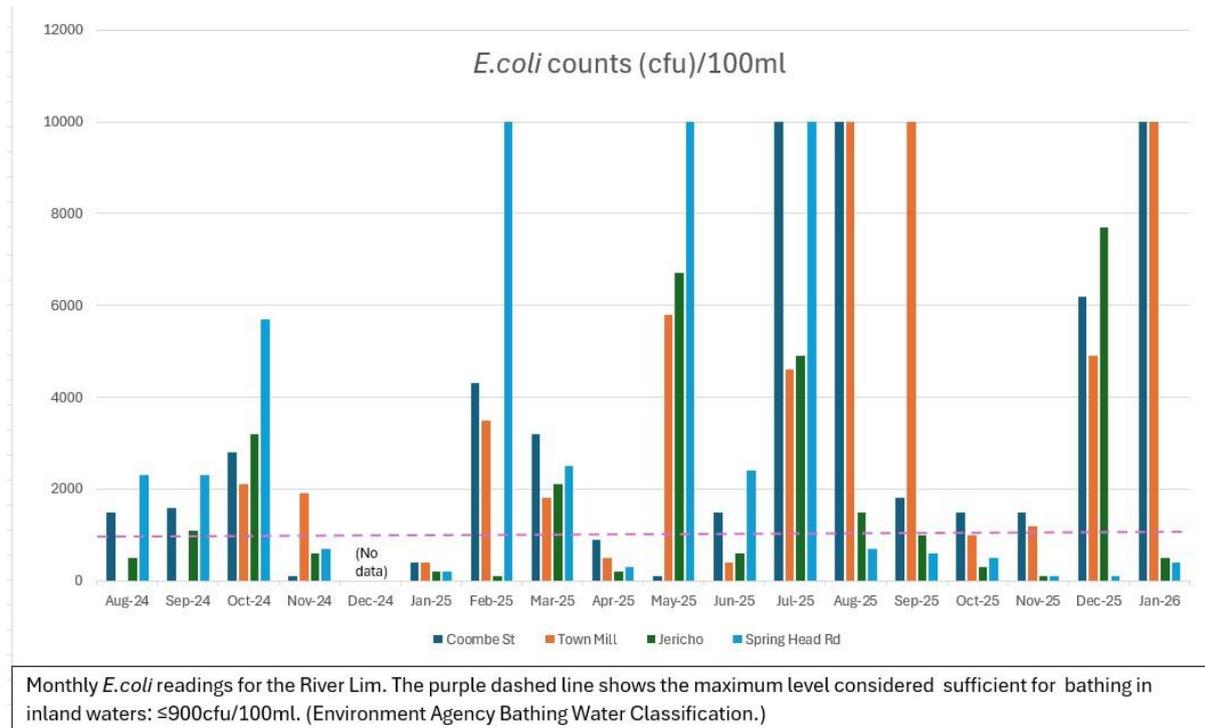
5. CSO data

Each March the Environment Agency publishes the data from all the water companies for sewage discharges in their areas. RLA has been questioning the accuracy of the data with SWW and the EA after discrepancies in the last two years. We are already aware that data for the Mill Lane CSO will be misleading – it has been listed as “under maintenance.” In response to an EIR request SWW said they “have currently found that the Event Duration Monitor (EDM) was suspected to have an issue between 1 January 2025 and 1 December 2025, and as such the data produced during this time is unrepresentative and inoperable, meaning that it cannot be accurately compared to data produced in previous years”. SWW’s own data for this year shows that Mill Lane CSO has discharged 15 times for a total of 30 hours. Given that the Turning the Tide project is based on reductions to the current number of discharges, results will be hard to track if the data is unreliable.

6. Legal Challenge

The RLA is a witness in a High Court challenge to the Government’s review of the bathing water regulations which would make it harder for a beach, like Church Cliff, with poor water quality to be designated. Designation means better information for the public and an action plan backed with resources to improve water quality. Church Cliff is a good example of why the bathing water review has got it wrong on that point, although other changes are to be welcomed.

Appendix 1



Committee: Environment Committee

Date: 11 March 2026

Title: Bee Friendly Lyme Regis

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to consider a request from Turn Lyme Green for the council to endorse and collaborate on the Bee Friendly Lyme Regis project

Recommendation

Members consider the request from Turn Lyme Green for the council to collaborate on the Bee Friendly Lyme Regis project

Report

1. Turn Lyme Green has launched a new project called Bee Friendly Lyme Regis. The project aims to support pollinating insects by raising awareness, creating habitats and encouraging community involvement. Further background information is provided in **appendix 11A**.
2. The project has been developed in response to declining biodiversity and the loss of habitats that are essential to bees and other pollinators. A significant proportion of food crops depend on insect pollination, yet the number of bees continues to fall.
3. The project proposes to work with schools, community groups, businesses, churches and residents across the town to promote simple and practical actions that support pollinators. This includes the installation of bee hotels designed for solitary bees and guidance on planting that encourages suitable flowers, trees and shrubs.
4. The project will also support other community and environmental initiatives such as Lyme in Bloom and the work of the River Lim Action Group to enhance wildlife along the river.
5. The intention for the coming year is to raise awareness and create habitats with the aim of achieving the Bee Friendly Award for Lyme Regis in 2027. This award is issued annually by the Bee Friendly Trust.
6. The project has been featured and promoted in the March 2026 edition of the Lyme Living magazine, helping to raise awareness across the wider community and encouraging early engagement with the initiative. Members are asked to consider how the council could further collaborate on this project.
7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 1 April 2026.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
March 2026

BEE FRIENDLY LYME REGIS

A new project from TURN LYME GREEN



BACKGROUND

Turn Lyme Green is launching a new project – Bee Friendly Lyme Regis. We are tackling important environmental challenges including declining biodiversity in gardens and landscapes and the rapid loss of habitat for bees and other pollinating insects. One third of our food is pollinated by bees and it is clear that their numbers and that of other insect pollinators are in decline. Bee Friendly Lyme Regis aims to help our pollinators thrive by raising awareness of their importance.

We will work with the community providing information about what can be done to help pollinators flourish - schools, local organisations, churches and businesses. This project will highlight solitary bees. There are some 240 species of these bees in the UK, and all are efficient pollinators. By comparison, there is the familiar honey bee and 24 species of bumble bee. With advice from The Dorset Bee and Bee Friendly Bridport, we will produce ‘homes’ for solitary bees – bee hotels - encouraging homeowners and the Council to put these in appropriate spaces. We will also provide information on planting to encourage growth of flowers, trees and shrubs especially attractive to bees.

TOWN COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT

We would like to receive the Council’s support to collaborate on and publicise projects promoting a Bee Friendly Lyme Regis. We want to build on the Council’s objectives outlined in its document, ‘Our Journey to Net Zero’, notably supporting its work to rewild areas, creating wildlife corridors and planting wild flower areas. We would want to encourage support for Lyme in Bloom and, of course, support for River Lim Action’s campaign for promoting wildlife along the river.

PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

By raising awareness, creating habitats and collaborating with our community over the coming year, we hope to receive the Bee Friendly Award for Lyme Regis in 2027. This award is given once a year by the Bee Friendly Trust (www.beefriendlytrust.org) and would be an award the town can be proud of.

17 February 2026

Committee: Environment Committee

Date: 11 March 2026

Title: Riparian Owners (River Lim) - Stakeholder Briefing Session

Purpose of the Report

To update members on the River Lim stakeholder briefing session held on 20 January 2026 with the Environment Agency, to provide a summary of the presentation received and to confirm receipt of the Environment Agency's formal letter regarding the withdrawal of maintenance

Recommendation

Members note the update following the River Lim stakeholder briefing session, the presentation provided as appendices, and the letter received from the Environment Agency regarding maintenance withdrawal

Report

1. A River Lim stakeholder briefing session took place on 20 January 2026, facilitated by this council and led by officers from the Environment Agency (EA).
2. The following organisations were invited to attend this initial meeting: Dorset Council, Lyme Regis Town Council, River Lim Action Group, and Magna Housing. The intention of the meeting was to focus on core parties before considering any wider public engagement.
3. The EA delivered a detailed presentation, **appendix 12A**. The presentation covered the agency's strategic role, flood risk management, maintenance powers, and the responsibilities of riparian landowners.
4. The EA clarified that responsibility for maintaining watercourses ultimately rests with riparian owners. This includes allowing water to flow naturally, ensuring structures are safe, managing vegetation, and preventing pollution. The EA also confirmed that it does not determine land ownership and advised that individuals must consult their own title documents or seek legal advice.
5. Previous annual vegetation maintenance carried out by the EA ceased in 2025 as part of a wider programme change driven by increased operational costs and low fluvial flood risk in certain areas. The EA retains permissive powers to undertake works but has no duty to do so.
6. The presentation also provided guidance on permitting requirements for works within or near watercourses, including flood risk activity permits for main rivers and land drainage consents for ordinary watercourses. Exemptions may apply where conditions are met. Details of these requirements are at **appendix 12A**.
7. Lyme Regis Town Council has also now received the Environment Agency's formal Withdrawal of Maintenance Consultation Letter, dated 23 January 2026, **appendix 12B**. This letter confirms the cessation of vegetation maintenance from January 2026 and invites riparian owners to provide evidence that may support future maintenance funding decisions.
8. The operations manager will continue to engage with the EA and Dorset Council as required and will circulate any further guidance or clarifications provided.

9. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 1 April 2026.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
March 2026

Committee: Environment Committee

Date: 11 March 2026

Title: Big Paddle Out 2026

Purpose of the Report

To allow members to receive information regarding the 2026 Big Paddle Out event

Recommendation

Members note the report

Report

1. Co-opted member Grenville Barr, together with Simon Bones who is the local Surfers Against Sewage area representative, has confirmed that Turn Lyme Green and the River Lim Action Group will again participate in the Big Paddle Out which will take place on Saturday 16 May 2026.
2. The event is part of a national programme led by Surfers Against Sewage with communities across the United Kingdom holding their own gatherings on the same day.
3. Last year's event attracted strong participation with more than 200 people attending and over 100 entering the water. While the event is weather dependent, the organisers anticipate an even greater turnout this year due to continued public concern regarding sewage pollution in rivers and seas.
4. The organisers have approached a local samba band to support the event and provide music to help create a positive and lively atmosphere. Contact has also been made with an Exeter-based community music group to further enhance the day. An 11.30am gathering is planned with entry into the sea at midday.
5. The initiative will be promoted in the April 2026 edition of the Lyme Living magazine, helping to raise awareness across the wider community and encouraging early engagement with the initiative.
6. The event poster is attached, **appendix 13A**.
7. Any recommendations from this committee will be considered by the Full Council on 1 April 2026.

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager
March 2026



PADDLE-OUT PROTESTS 16.05.26

JOIN THE NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION
DEMANDING AN END TO SEWAGE POLLUTION.
IT'S TIME TO CUT THE CRAP!



LYME REGIS SANDY BEACH
11.30am
OPPOSITE SWIM RESTAURANT

