

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party (CEE_WP)

Report to the Parish Council Meeting – September 2021

1. Following CVPC's approval of the Working Party's draft Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Action Plan at its June meeting, the new plan has been published. It can be seen online at: www.charvalley.org/climate-action-plan

2. **River Char project:** The Working Party met online on 2nd September to discuss the draft report by Ian Rees of Dorset AONB on the State of the River Char and Monkton Wyld Stream. This is the output from Stage 1 of the River Char Community Project. Cllr Joyce has put in a great deal of work on improving and revising the draft.

The CEE_WP agreed to add direct references to the public health and safety implications of pollution in the river, but otherwise agreed the draft. That draft is attached for councillors to read and consider now and to discuss at the September CVPC meeting.

The report has a temporary cover, W plan to run a competition to invite residents to submit their own photos of the River Char. This should raise awareness of the report. A small prize could be offered to the winning submission, which will be used on the final report.

Once the report has been approved and published, we intend to launch it at a local event (live or online, depending on Covid restrictions at the time). This would help spread the word about the project and, crucially, introduce the next stage of the project and set out ways in which the community can get involved.

3. **Great Big Green Week, Sept 18-26:** There are a lot of events locally, in Bridport and Lyme Regis in the run up to COP26 and in light of the latest and most alarming IPCC Report on the Climate Emergency. These will be publicised on the CVPC website shortly.

4. **Budget 2022:** The Working Party discussed budget needs for next year, including for the River Char Project and possible public engagement events. We agreed that we would like to carry forward the provision of **£1,300** for Stage 1 of the River Char Project (which is not now needed) so that it is available for Stage 2.

We also agreed that we would like to budget for two events: one to launch the Stage 1 Report (above) and another to begin public involvement with water quality testing and other actions highlighted in the report. This could be combined with a wider public event on the Climate & Ecological Emergency. We would like **£2,500** to cover potential costs of publicity, hall hire, refreshments, speakers and ongoing work groups where volunteer residents are trained in water testing and begin work on Himalayan Balsam control and other actions.

Total CEE_WP 2022 budget request for discussion by CVPC: £3,800.

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7th September 2021