

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party (CEE_WP)

Report to the Parish Council Meeting – March 2022

- On 16th March, Cllrs Mahaddie and Carey attended an online meeting with Cllr. Ray Bryan, who leads Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. In a very enthusiastic and engaging presentation, Cllr Bryan made a number of relevant points, including:

“The current planning policy in Dorset does not enable us to require higher [insulation] standards [on new house building projects] beyond national building regulation. However, we are in the process of developing a new local plan for Dorset and are exploring the possibility of including stronger standards within this.

In line with CVPC's C&EE Action Plan, Cllr Carey asked if he would adopt a “major Public Engagement Programme to get the electorate on side in addressing the 98% of the county's carbon emissions for which DC is not directly responsible”.

Answer

The Dorset Climate & Ecological emergency strategy also highlights the need to encourage and support the residents and organisations of Dorset to act, and commits to developing engagement and communication programmes to support that. ... we recognise there is much more to do, and the scale of this challenge is large. We have not yet worked out how best to bring all of this work together and develop a more structured and far-reaching engagement programme across Dorset. But, this is something we will be exploring in more detail over the coming year and would like to engage Town and Parish councils in.

Cllr Bryan also stressed: “the need for Town and Parish Councils to have a method of calculating their own carbon footprints and for the general public to be able to calculate this for themselves.” He mentioned the Carbon Literacy Project – an online training over three days recently attended by Cllr. Joyce (see below).

- We have included a leaflet on septic tank management in the Easter edition of *Char Chat* as well as a short article on the subject. We are also working with Ian Rees of Dorset AONB to try to identify an independent expert who could check residents' septic tanks for problems.
- In relation to the River Char Community project, Cllr Carey attended an inspiring meeting of the River Asker Community project in Loders on 23rd March. It was attended by around 60 people and highlighted the achievements of the project over the last three years. We hope to follow their lead.
- Cllrs. Joyce and Carey had a further meeting with Ian Rees on 21st March to agree future events for the River Char Community project. There will be Riverfly training on Friday 29th April, a guided river walk/talk on 15th June (early evening) and a first working party to root out Himalayan Balsam on 21st July.
- Cllr. Carey attended the opening meeting of the Lower Char Community Project (LCCP) and will be joining a forthcoming site visit by a Wessex Water representative to discuss 'engineered sewage releases' into the river. With the LCCP, he will be taking part in a River Char Monitoring Group to monitor pollution levels in the river.

- Cllrs. Joyce and Carey have been invited to speak to Charmouth Parish Council about the River Char Community project in May and we are maintaining contact with Charmouth and Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Councils wherever possible.
- On 26th March Cllr Carey had an impromptu meeting with Chris Loder MP to discuss his views on river pollution and his voting record in Parliament on the matter.
- Drawing on the Carbon Literacy project, we are starting to plan a meeting in the Parish in September to give residents more information about ways to cut their energy bills, calculate and reduce carbon emissions, and form into small, local groups to take action on climate/ecology issues that concern them. The possibility of sharing a thermal imaging camera to enable homeowners to check for heat loss from their house is relevant here.

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7th April 2022