

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party (CEE_WP) Report to the Parish Council Meeting – April 2021

The Working Party met online on 30th March and a record of that meeting appears below. On the agenda were the River Char Community project and the updated draft of CVPC's Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Action Plan. That draft is also attached and we ask councillors to consider it at the CVPC meeting in April.

6th March 2021

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party (CEE_WP) Record of Meeting – 30th March 2021

The Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Working Party met remotely on 30th March 2021 and these are the notes taken at that meeting:

1. Leaflets and questionnaires have been printed and received in good time for inclusion in the Easter edition of *Char Chat News*, and leaflets for the *Char Valley Lifelines* project have also been received in good time.
2. The film and online questionnaire about the River Char Community Project, both prepared by Ian Rees of Dorset AONB, have been uploaded and are live on our website at www.charvalley.org/riverchar
3. We discussed the next stages of the **River Char Community Project**.
 - We agreed that it is essential that the Phase I Report (the 'Snapshot Study') being compiled by Dorset AONB should gather and present as much data – and in as much detail – as possible from the Environment Agency and other sources about water quality in our river. The Report should seek to explain the available data clearly and identify any gaps in data where further research may be required.
 - We agreed to give our full support to Dorset AONB in pinpointing the causes of any water quality and pollution problems along the length of the river and in reporting these issues.
 - We agreed to press for further testing in the event that there are gaps in the Environment Agency data or if the causes of water quality problems are unclear.
 - We agreed to review and suggest opportunities to secure future funding for future partnering and restorative implementation activities.
 - We agreed to give our strong support to Dorset AONB in facilitating any conversations it needs to have with residents about domestic septic tank emissions, agricultural run-off or any other problems identified above.

- We agreed to use our best efforts to engage neighbouring parishes in the next phase of the project.
 - We agreed to give our full support to any proposals the Report may make to press for the Char Valley to be declared a High Priority Catchment Sensitive Area – or any other designation that will support local farmers.
 - To that end, we agreed that Cllr. Joyce would ask Ian Rees for an early meeting once the questionnaire results have been received (ideally late April) to discuss those results, Environment Agency data and Dorset AONB’s preliminary findings. **Action: HJ**
4. We discussed the updated draft of CVPC’s Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Action Plan, which has been amended in the light of Dorset Council’s draft strategy and in light of our responses to that strategy and to Dorset Council’s draft Local Plan.
- We agreed to cut back on the previous 21 Proposals to list 12 Actions for CVPC. Amongst notable changes, we agreed to monitor and liaise with other Parish Councils, with DAPTC and with Dorset Climate Action Network to help in our stated intention of pressing Dorset Council to take clear action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency.
 - We also agreed to support schemes that seek to create small-scale live/work spaces and enable residents to work locally.
 - We also agreed to press Dorset Council to implement its CEE Strategy and Action Plan faster, with more ambitious carbon-neutral target dates for both the Council and the county at large and to adopt a visionary Public Engagement Programme to encourage more Dorset residents to become actively involved in our response to the climate and ecological emergency.
 - We also agreed to support the creation of a local Green Guide, to support wherever possible Zero Carbon and climate resilient housing proposals and applications, and to press DC to remove economic growth from its list of strategic goals (on the grounds that we are already depleting natural resources fast and further economic growth can only exacerbate that problem).

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

30/3/2021

Update:

Cllr Joyce has spoken to the Chairs of Upper Marshwood Vale PC and Charmouth PCs. Both were very enthusiastic and supportive of our project and asked to be informed and involved when appropriate.

6/4/2021