

## Charmouth Parish Council

### Notes of Environment Working Group meeting, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Present:** Jane Bremner (Chair), Julie Leah, Maralyn Hinxman, Andrew Lightfoot

**Apologies:** Peter Noel

1. **A35 verges:** following the presentation and discussion at the previous meeting, Highways England had been contacted about regular communication with the Parish Council and a response was awaited. Andrew was to make further attempts to contact Dorset Wildlife Trust.
2. **River Char project:** in a personal capacity, Julie had engaged with this project and some of the agencies involved. While there was no resource to extend the project downstream, there was opportunity for training to monitor water quality. Since measurements which had been taken showed unacceptable levels of contaminants, it was agreed to **recommend to the Foreshore Committee** that suitable warnings be posted around the mouth of the river. Jane volunteered to draft an article for Shoreline and the Council's web site regarding the 3 Ps. Also it was agreed to **recommend to the Council** that there should be liaison with Dorset Council regarding storm water drainage and sewage. In addition, it was **recommended that Planning Committee** give careful consideration to drainage issues when considering each planning application.
3. **Carbon footprint auditing:** a suitable tool was still being sought. In the meantime, the Clerk was to be asked to contact the Clerk of Lyme Regis Town Council to enquire whether there was interest in sharing the purchase of a thermal imaging camera which trained volunteers could use to demonstrate to householders where heat was leaking from their homes.
4. **Tree planting:** delivery of the trees was still awaited so a date for asking volunteers to assist with the hedge planting couldn't be established. Also, the suitability of the whips for planting out immediately as a copse could only be determined once they were delivered. Julie suggested that any excess trees could be offered to residents via the school.
5. **Environmental actions suggested in staff appraisals:** research on the ideas which had emerged had been delayed by Christmas and the pandemic but was to be followed up during the coming weeks.
6. **Dorset CAN:** expression of support for Dorset CAN's work on the draft Local Plan had been agreed in principle at the last Council meeting. However, this had not been communicated due to further material being circulated which had not been available to Parish Councillors previously. It was agreed **to recommend** that this should be reviewed at the next Council meeting.
7. **Bonfire regulations:** while it was recognized that bonfires were not illegal, it was agreed that publicity should be given to reasons for avoiding bonfires and the alternatives available through articles in Shoreline and on the Council's web site in the autumn.

8. **Car parking:** it was agreed to **recommend to the Playing Fields Committee** that Dorset Council be contacted to establish:
  - How road markings for parking restrictions might be improved;
  - What might be done when bad parking was witnessed;
  - Whether seasonal parking restrictions could be reviewed;
  - Whether more parking bays could be accommodated in the village car park;
  - The terms and conditions for a residents' parking scheme;
  - Whether a 20 mph speed limit could be introduced on Lower Sea Lane around the school;
  - Whether the cheaper SIDs were available.
9. **Notes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December:** noted.
10. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 7pm