

## Charmouth Parish Council

### Notes of Environment Group meeting, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Present:** Jane Bremner (Chair), Julie Leah, Ivor Clist, Andrew Lightfoot

**Apologies:** Katy Tunstall, Peter Noel, John Smith

#### 1. Charmouth in Bloom:

Plans for the judges' tour on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July were discussed and the following agreed.

The tour will commence with lunch at The Elms with the catering provided by Jane. The following partners were to be invited to meet the judges:

1.30 at The Elms: History Society and Gardening Club;

1.45 Library

2pm Anchor Housing

2.15 Morgans

Via playing field and Lower Sea Lane to...

3pm Primary school

3.30 Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

Jane was to complete drafting of the portfolio with input from Julie (River Char Dragon Festival) and Andrew (photographs).

Andrew was to arrange weeding parties in the weeks leading up to judging.

Watering of the trees in the playing field was being undertaken by Katy, Julie, Ivor and Andrew.

The Council's grass cutting regime was debated and it was agreed to ask initially the Foreshore Committee (and later the Playing Field Committee) to draft practical management plans designed to maximise biodiversity; on site meetings with the Facilities Manager and his team were recommended.

Ivor felt that the Jubilee Garden needed more colour. While noting that the revamp was based on using perennials to minimize the need for watering, a few annuals might be added to create a more instant impact.

The draft plan summarizing the aims and priorities for the Charmouth in Bloom activities was agreed as a basic framework to be elaborated as further resources became available.

## **2. Information and awareness:**

Jane and Judith Shepherd had met with Sally King, Visitor Tourism and Access Manager for Dorset AoNB to consider signage and information plaques at the foreshore. A more co-ordinated approach was to be drafted. Updating the plaques on Lower Sea Lane and creation of a new one for the playing field were to be pursued by the Parish Council, based on ideas from this Group.

Andrew was to draft an article for the August issue of Shoreline.

The idea of staging informal get togethers at the Bank House café on Saturday mornings was discussed. It was agreed to propose to the Parish Council that this be trialled on a monthly basis from September in order to engage with more people regarding environmental issues in the village.

An article on the birds most commonly seen in Charmouth had been drafted by Alan Smith and was to be added to the Council's web site. Appeals were to be made for experts on other aspects of the flora and fauna to draft similar articles.

## **3. River Char:**

Julie described the response to the Dragon Festival at the end of May which had been well attended and established good links, especially with the school. The campaigning work was continuing.

## **4. Notes of meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April:**

Progress on the action points was as follows:

- Hedging in the playing field: agreed to proceed in the autumn;
- Text for information plaque in the playing field: being drafted by Jane;
- Poster for Charmouth in Bloom: done;
- Equipment for differential mowing: had been agreed to defer;
- Foreshore planting: under consideration;
- Imaging of heat retention in homes: more volunteers being recruited to operate the system;
- Council's carbon footprint: to be actioned;
- Jubilee Garden and planters: done;
- Plan for Charmouth in Bloom: done;

- RHS grant application: submitted, result expected by end of June;
- Solar panels on Heritage Coast Centre building: to be researched.

5. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm.

### **ACTION POINTS**

Charmouth in Bloom judging:

- Lunch: Jane
- Invitations to partners: Andrew
- Portfolio: Jane, Julie, Andrew
- Weeding parties: Andrew
- Watering: Katy, Julie, Ivor, Andrew

Information:

- Playing field plaque text: Jane
- Shoreline article: Andrew

Carbon footprint: Julie

Solar panels: Andrew

#### **Recommendations:**

To Foreshore Committee: to draw up practical management plans designed to maximize biodiversity in conjunction with the Facilities Manager and his team.

To F&GP Committee: to approve promotion of informal gatherings on Saturday mornings once a month aimed at engaging with more residents about environmental issues in the village.