

Charmouth Parish Council

Notes of Environment Working Group, Tuesday 5th April 2022

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

Apologies: Maralyn Hinxman, Peter Noel

1. **Queen's Green Canopy:** over 100 trees had been planted in the playing field on 19th March by 45 volunteers; some were now showing signs of leaf growth. Andrew was to record the site on the Green Canopy web site. Arrangements for watering remained to be made. The Facilities Manager was to be asked for his preference of a long hose or water transporter and Julie would then liaise with the Scout leader.

Volunteers were to be invited to assist with hedge planting on West Green on Sunday 24th April. A few trees were also to be planted on the bank in the cemetery.

2. **Planters on Lower Sea Lane:** legislation required them to be 500mm from the kerb. Perennials were to be planted for summer 2022 with the possibilities of revamping them in the autumn/winter. Subject to costs and the budget available (£375), the possibility of acquiring two larger planters to accommodate small trees was to be explored and then a recommendation made to the Playing Field Committee. Andrew was to enquire about possible support from Groves nursery.
3. **River Char project:** Julie explained that she and a small group had formed the Lower Char project to complement the work being undertaken upstream. They had engaged with Westcountry Rivers Trust's citizen science project for monitoring advice and equipment. A request was to be made to the Parish Council for a Council representative to join the project.
4. **A35 verges:** since the roundabout on the western side of Charmouth looked overgrown, the Deputy Clerk was to be asked to contact Highways England about the alleged treatment of the site. It was also proposed that the Dorset Council contact on verge management be followed up to explore what might be done within the village.
5. **Staff environmental suggestions:**

- Solar panels: Andrew was finding that installers were extremely busy and it was taking a long time to get advice;
 - Recycling: Julie was to follow up on contact with Dorset Council staff regarding facilities at the foreshore, especially for waste food and spent barbecues.
 - Pesticides: Jane to investigate alternatives.
6. **Neighbourhood Plan project suggestions:** after discussion, it was felt that creation of a community garden on the playing field, beside the bowling green, was a viable project which would attract support. In the first instance, the **Parish Council was to be asked for in principle backing;** then advice from people who had developed community gardens would be sought prior to commencing the project.
 7. **Articles for Shoreline/web site:** potential articles included the community garden idea, A35 verge management and the tree planting, plus bonfire regulations in the autumn. Jane was to check the Shoreline deadlines.
 8. **South West in Bloom:** entry for the 'It's your neighbourhood' competition had to be registered by 8th April. Andrew was to liaise with the Parish Council office on this. It was felt that the crocus and tree planting, hedge planting, planter re-planting and community garden were all contributing to the core pillars of this award scheme.
 9. **Information plaque on the foreshore:** it was noted that there was a vacant plinth near the old toilets, overlooking the reed bed, which would be ideal for accommodating an information panel about the reed bed and mouth of the river. This was to be **recommended to the Foreshore Committee.**
 10. **Notes of meeting held on 8th February:** action on the recommendations made were to be followed up and Dorset Council was to be contacted regarding a carbon footprint auditing tool.
 11. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 31st May