

CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

7pm on Thursday 3rd March 2022

Present: Geraldine Swan, Ted Swan, Rosemary Walker, Mike Jeffries. Steve Filer
Brian Carpenter, Lindi Rich and Gill Cameron Webb.

Copies to: Howard Hughes, Maz Dufall, Vicky Morgan and Carla Bilenkyj.

1. Nature Recovery Project

Lindi Rich gave an overview of how she's hoping to work with local groups (e.g. us, the school, the Garden Club, etc) to arrange events such as walks, talks, wildlife surveys, etc.

Lindi has access to EDDC staff (e.g. Ecology Officer), can help us negotiate with landowners (e.g. CDE), can refer us to experts to provide us with advice and she also has access to some funding.

Lindi also suggested we work with Tipton St John's Eager Beavers who are doing River Otter management, e.g. picking up litter and doing water quality measurements.

2. Initiatives

There's an overwhelming number of ways to improve Climate Change so the group proposed their top priorities and after discussion we picked three initiatives to focus on now.

Initiative 1 - Save Energy in the parish

Step 1 – Fact Finding

We need advice on what steps parishioners can take to save energy and what funding is available:

- Mike Jeffries will contact Exeter University to see if they have an Energy Advisor;
- Mike will also contact Age UK and Age Concern as they probably give this sort of advice to OAPs;
- Lindi will contact the EDDC climate officer to see if she knows someone we can talk to;
- Lindi will also ask if EDDC has a thermal camera, or knows how we can get one.

Step 2 – Publicity Campaign

Once we know what steps parishioners can take to save energy we'll plan a publicising campaign, for example:

- Open day
- Talk - Lindi will ask if the EDDC climate officer could do a talk
- Posters

- Parish magazine articles
- Facebook posts

The same principle of fact finding followed by publicity can be used for other future initiatives.

Initiative 2 - Install charging points in the parish for use by people who can't put in their own, and for summer visitors to use

Step 1 – Fact Finding

Gill thinks Exminster parish council might have already done this so will ask them how they went about it.

The group discussed the following points:

- Fast charging points only take about ½ hour to provide a full charge;
- we could put a small surcharge for their use to raise funds for climate initiatives;
- the chargers could hold summer visitors for a short time so might help local traders, or a coffee/tea van might create income towards other projects;
- a contractor might provide and maintain the charging points.

Once we have the facts we'll be able to move onto the next steps (e.g. funding, installation and publicising the facility).

Initiative 3 - Plan for planting more trees next Autumn

Ted and Gill went round the three villages and found spaces where trees 'could' be planted. In April Ted, Gill and Mike will revisit the sites and propose which type of tree could go in each space.

Then we'll find out who owns the land and get their permission to plant:

- Climate Change Group to ask parish council permission for parish land;
- Lindi might be able to help with getting permission from EDDC, Highways, Devon County and CDE to plant on their land.

Gill will also advertise to ask:

- who could give land for us to plant a coppice;
- whether OAP's want to buy a tree for us to plant in their garden;
- whether someone wants to pay for a memorial we could plant on their behalf.

3. Learning from Other Organisations

After the last meeting Carla emailed some useful links so we can learn from what other organisations are doing:

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/> (Exeter University Carbon tool)

[footprint.WWF.org.uk](https://www.footprint.wwf.org.uk) (Residents could calculate their own CO2 footprint)
[Exmouth.gov.uk](https://www.exmouth.gov.uk) (Climate and Ecological Emergency working party)

Exmouth Working party website reports:

<https://exmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ETC-GHG-Emission-Report.pdf>
<https://exmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ETC-GHG-Calculations.pdf>

Howard will also get hold of the Exeter University report which shows an average 16ton of Co2 is created per household in the parish with road transport being the top cause.

Howard will arrange for 'Dawn' to speak with Exeter University to get a breakdown of their underlying data and see if it's possible to use it as a benchmark for future climate change improvements.

4. Other Tree News

Ted has planted masses of willow to help stabilise the river banks and prevent erosion.

On 16th February the new Jubilee Copse was planted in Webber's Meadow by about 8 volunteers. There was no cost to the parish as all trees were donated.

On 23rd February some free trees were collected from Kings Garden Centre to add to the 30 trees donated by the Woodland Trust.

On 4th March three Snow Queen Birch trees will be planted to commemorate the jubilee, one in each village

The Jubilee Walk will take place on Thurs 2nd June.

It was noted that the Parish Council have authorised another tree survey

5. Grass Cutting

The Parish Council have arranged a lawn cutting regime with the maintenance contractor.

As the contractor doesn't have the right equipment to rake or bale the wildflower meadow they propose to blow it into the boundaries. In case this doesn't work Mike Jefferies will talk to the Clatworthys to see if they can do a one off cut and bale of the wildflower meadow each year.

The parish council arranged for the grass around the football pitches to be left during the autumn to allow the rare Waxcap fungus to grow.

6. Storing Climate Change documents

Jacqui Baldwin is now putting the meeting notes on the Parish Council website. They're in the Parish Council/Climate Change group.

7. Bat/Bird/Bee Boxes (not discussed)

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 14th April in the Pavilion.