

**Minutes of a meeting of Turn Lyme Green held on the 12th January 2010 at The Royal Lion
Hotel, Lyme Regis**

Present: Candida Blaker, Polly Benfield, Mark Jenkins, Fran Fleming, Ann Browne, Ghillean Prance, Bob Eliot, Anne Browne, Jenny Short, Terry Sweeney, Jack Loughlin (minutes), Merry Bolton, Dave Edwards, Marguerite Chapman and Kimberly Clarke

Apologies: Jeanie Tee, Giles Frampton, Ken Whetlor, Ellen Rooke, Jo Batterham, Sally Holman, Celia Gough, Claire Wilkins, Nick Blore

1. Garden share scheme

The main topic in the meeting's agenda was the launch of a TLG land share scheme in Lyme Regis. Members listed a number of benefits that such a scheme would entail. Firstly the scheme would promote unity within Dorset by means of both developing teamwork and local business without the potentially off-putting aspect of having this as its only aim. Secondly, on a larger ecological perspective, the scheme will cooperate with others around the country to endorse national self-sufficiency and awareness of our impacts upon the environment.

There would be certain stumbling blocks to be overcome, such as:

- Ensuring that correct guidelines are given to those involved; perhaps by employing experts to pass on methods and knowledge
- Legalities such as health and safety and whereabouts concerning insurance – follow the footsteps of the South West Allotment Association who charge £10 at membership to cover this
- Establishing a relationship with land owner and benefactor that initiates an agreement rather than mediate it to avoid undue involvement in any disputes that may arise
- Building and operating specific equipment necessary to the Scheme

The committee discussed hosting an event to launch the new scheme. Members proposed having a wide range of activities and features so as to attract a wide range of the public. These included:

- The showing of films/documentaries pertaining to environmental awareness and other land share schemes – Marine theatre?
- The invitation of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall (Kimberly has volunteered to investigate), Jyoti Fernandes and Ann Swithenbank - and any public speakers who have something to offer the scheme launch
- Hosting our very own Gardener's Question Time and broadcasting it on Lyme Regis radio – this could perhaps become a regular event
- Providing a gardening / farming equipment/seed/plant sale at discounted prices to encourage people to make use of this chance to begin the scheme at reduced costs
- Welcome any other organisations working in the same area to present their current projects and stimulate participation in the eco-friendly network

Focus was then placed on the date of the launch and preparing of the ground, there being pros and cons of starting either in March 2010 or 2011. The outcome of this was to decide that a small-scale, experimental launch shall take place this year. In addition it was raised that launching during the national Easter holiday would increase juvenile participation – the interests of young people being vital to TLG’s aim to take land-sharing into the future .

It was felt it should encompass flowers as well as veg. Some people in Lyme are already doing an allotment share (e.g. Merry and Candida, of those present at the meeting).

It was agreed it would be good to encourage people to sign up via <http://landshare.channel4.com/>, as long as we introduced a system for linking up people within Lyme / Uplyme and that it was not exclusively done through the website. Kimberly has confirmed with Irene Benson that participants who do not own computers can be assisted by LymeNet to register for the landshare scheme

The first action to take is to raise awareness via the local media about the proposed scheme and elicit feedback as to who has land to offer, through emails/press/posters.

Publicity and outreach – from flipchart

1. Newspaper article/press release

- Kimberly to write short article once details agreed

2. March info event

- Marine Theatre [Polly to check dates available]
- HFW/River Cottage [Kimberly to contact]
- Gardener’s Question Time on Landshare
- Film after discussion?
- 5-minute TLG film
- Is there a film about SquareFoot gardening?

3. Horizontal linking - Key groups will be contacted to be invited to the next TLG meeting (9th February) to take the scheme further.

- U3A seed exchange group – Dave Edwards to contact
- Allotments – Mark Jenkins
- Woodroffe Env Action team – Mark Jenkins
- St Michael’s School – Dave Edwards
- Miss Ethelston’s School, Uplyme- ???
- Lyme/Uplyme Horticultural Society – Candida
- Environment Group – Terry Sweeney
- Town Mill – Kimberly
- Dorchester landshare scheme - ???

Marguerite Chapman and Ann Browne have generously offered window space of *Serendipity* bookshop and *Eco-Logical-You* to publicise the land share scheme. Ghillean Prance kindly offered to assist in any way he can.

2. Collaboration with The Environment Group

The Environment Group which coordinates projects locally including ‘Dark skies’, ‘Britain in Bloom’, the reforestation of Strawberry Fields and Slopes Farm, and Woodland Trust clean-up volunteering,

has expressed a desire to cooperate more fully with TLG. Moreover there was a mutual aim to bring together like-minded groups to coordinate efforts more effectively whilst retaining group distinctions over individual directions and specialities. It was a common observation that coordination and connections to other groups are achieved chiefly through the internet, adding all the more urgency to the update of the site.

3. Signage to announce that Lyme is (trying to be) 'environmentally-friendly'

ACTION – **Candida and Polly** agreed to meet Laurence Madil and Irene Benson to follow up on the possibility of the Town Council and the tourism websites announcing the various community-driven environmental efforts. lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk and lymeregis.org to increase attention from the visiting public.

Oliver Letwin has proposed that we find a sympathetic landowner on one of the main roads into Lyme who might be prepared to have signage –m in which case he would take forward discussion with Highways at County Council. However, the meeting felt after all that we did not favour visual signage clutter, and that it would be better to pursue possibilities of 'signage' in the carparks (akin to the stone cairns). The signage could form part of the existing West Dorset displays.

ACTION – **Candida** to report back to Oliver Letwin, via Sally Holman.

4. **Tree planting and farmers' market.**

New apple trees are ready to be planted with the assistance of Woodroffe EAT, when there's a thaw. Plans for farmers market are going ahead at Town Mill with likely launch in April. Mark Jenkin is in contact with Eleanor of the Mill, who may run it as theirs. The meeting felt it was important for TLG to be supporting this but not necessarily involved in the running of it, and expressed interest in the possibility of stalls with produce from the land/ garden share scheme, in due course.

5. **Website**

The website has been deemed central to TLG's ability to reach out and communicate what it's doing, and particularly to up and coming projects, rendering it at the forefront of its improvement agenda. Members are keeping the lookout for any web designers who could give the site a makeover. Candida had submitted an application to West Dorset for possible funding for a re-design.

ACTION - **Jack Loughlin** will talk to Laurence Madil, Glen Willis and Tola Mohiki on the matter.

6. **AOB**

- Transition Towns Dorset groups meeting in Dorchester 13th March. Networking. All welcome. Details to follow.
- We need a volunteer for West Dorset Climate Action Strategy steering group – **Kimberly**.
- Monkton Wylde Court – seed swap day 20th February, all day.
- Mukti Mitchell has launched a book about his Low Carbon Lifestyle tour (which we hosted in October 2007). See www.lowcarbonlifestyle.org
- It was suggested we should encourage the Christmas lights to be turned off at some point in the night so as to save energy. This could be taken forward to next CPISC.
- Next Community Plan Sub Committee is on February 17th – a representative of TLG will attend (any volunteers welcome).

7. **Next Meeting – Tuesday 9th February 2010.** At the Royal Lion, beginning at 7pm.