

## TURN LYME GREEN

NOTE of a meeting held on Tuesday 20 July 2021, Pine Hall, Baptist Church, Lyme Regis commencing at 7.00pm

### PRESENT

Caroline Aldridge, Belinda Bawden, Grenville Barr, Kevin Benfield, Polly Benfield, Janet Breeze, Heather Britton, Paul Butter, Susie Butter, Chris Cooper, Laura Condell, Stephen Condell, Karen Durham-Diggins, Suzy Gallina, Joy McClellan, Laura Noel (in the chair), Sarah Rutter, Rob Smith, Chris Tipping

APOLOGIES received from Sarah Abel, Liz & Hilton Davis, Vicki Elcoate, Alison Johnson, David and Julia Lawrance, Rachael Pope, Cynny Sharpe, Jo Smith Oliver, Vicky Whitworth, Paul Spearing

1 WELCOME Laura welcomed everyone to the first face-to-face meeting in over a year.

2 UPDATES

(a) Plastic Free Lyme Regis. Grenville reported that there had been two meetings during Covid and was recruiting more people to join the Strategy Group. On 7th August was the Environment Day at Carnival with an art project organised by Jo, Polly and Sarah and on the 14th the Carnival procession for which more volunteers were needed to carry the jelly fish umbrellas and PFLR banner.

(b) East Beach and Allotments. Polly updated with a report from Rachael Pope who had continued liaising with both the Town Council and Dorset Council about metals and dangerous objects on the beach. A skip had been provided in April and would be provided as needed. Also in the allotments, contamination tests of soil had proved negative except for an edge away from growing areas. This was being followed up with the Town Council. Thanks were given to Rachael for keeping a watching brief.

(c) Trees in Colway Lane. Laura updated with a report from Liz Davis who had written again in May to the County. The protection orders had been ignored but the Council who would not take further action. Thanks to Liz for her perseverance. The situation would be kept under review and new developments should be monitored carefully. Chris suggested that the Woodland Trust and CPRE be informed of our experiences.

(d) Bloomin' Greenwash. Thanks to Vicki Elcoate for arranging the welcome at the Cobb in June for the Bloomin' Greenwash cyclists riding from Sussex to St Ives to raise awareness of climate emergency leading up to the G7 meeting.

(e) HOP Talks (Help our Planet) at the Marine Theatre. TLG had been invited to have an information display at these monthly talks. Volunteers were invited to help and let Polly know if anyone was going to one of the talks. Help offered for the next talk.

(f) Uplyme Horticulture Summer Fayre. 10th July. Paul and Susie Butter and Janet Breeze had volunteered to set up and run a stand together with the Rotarians. Ideas to engage with children were discussed.

(g) Greener Homes Event. 25 September – 3 October. A county-wide event led by Dorset CAN, Vicki was recruiting locally and had 3 homes taking part. TLG to help publicise in newsletter and with press. Open homes locally to be on the first weekend.

(h) Great Big Green Week 18-26 September. A national campaign led by Climate Coalition, SAS a member, to raise awareness of the importance of COP26 in November. Events were being planned in Bridport and Beaminster. In Lyme, these would include Greener Homes, TLG/PFLR taking part in the Festival of the Sea and a litter pick organised by Janet. (NOTE. The litter pick rescheduled for later in autumn)

(i) Festival of the Sea. Belinda described the event being organised through University of Exeter. Polly to explore participating. 25th September at the Marine Theatre

### 3 LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

Rob emphasised the importance of TLG voicing its concerns and support for Council initiatives – using the 3 minute slot to speak at meetings was very effective.

New Environment Committee had held its first meeting; Belinda was elected chair. She summarised topics discussed included The Queen's Canopy initiative to plant trees, the installation of the Beach Recycling Toy Box, Happy to Chat benches which were sponsored by Rotary, car charging points, siting of cycle racks, tackling Japanese knot weed. The next meeting would be in October. TLG supporters urged to attend. The committee was able to co-opt up to 6 non-voting members to help with projects.

Totally Locally. Belinda reported the next campaign would be in October. The Council had earmarked some free parking days to encourage support from the public.

Food Waste Recycling Belinda outlined the proposed pilot project to recycle food waste from local businesses, involving the local company, Dorset Biosolutions. The trial for a year would be located in the Council gardens. This could be linked to known interest from local businesses identified in TLG's Going Green is Good for Business project. Sarah described the model of a composting scheme in San Francisco run as a business. Sarah to liaise with Rob and Belinda.

### 4 UPDATES FROM SUB GROUPS

(a) Water Pollution Grenville described the Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) initiative for South West Water shareholders to put pressure on the company to deal with water pollution. As a shareholder his question about investment in pollution prevention had been accepted for the AGM which he had attended via zoom. Soon after that meeting, the report from the Environment Agenda had been published – SW Water had a dismal record and had been fined for dumping raw sewage into the sea. Continued campaigning was necessary. George Monbiot's film, 'Riverside' on uTube was recommended.

(b) Business Polly reported that the pilot – Going Green is Good for business had been completed over the last year with 5 local business taking part – Lewesdon B&B, Persuasion, Red Panda, Tom's and Lyme Regis Development Trust. Copies of the report are available. The project was set up to explore how TLG could encourage and support businesses to choose more sustainable actions and reduce their carbon footprint, for example by looking at decisions made on energy use, water, waste, IT, travel etc. Positive feedback had been received. The 3 recommendations made in the report were accepted: A meeting for businesses to be held in October; following the meeting a review of how they project could be best developed and the role that TLG can play, and further research into similar projects.

(c) Transport Belinda reported that the co-cars pilot was progressing; recharging points would be installed soon in the Woodmead carpark. Bicycle hubs were also being explored with other nearby communities. The RSA project (Royal Society of Arts) was entering a new stage and she would welcome volunteers to help with its development.

(d) Communications Karen reported that good communications with LymeOnline meant that blogs (3-400 words) and other pieces on eco issues were being included regularly on the newspaper's Green Page. She thanked Alison and Rob for their contributions and would welcome more blogs and offered help with press releases for upcoming events. Vicki Elcoate was thanked for taking over as co-ordinator for the newsletter.

(e) Nature and Trees Polly updated with a report from Jo Smith Oliver. Her tree walks had been a success. The next one on 31st July in Holmbush carpark. Nothing further to report on Lyme Garden Growers or the Woodland Trust.

## 5 LIASION WITH OTHER GROUPS

### (a) Lyme Regis Development Trust

(i) Community Energy Project. Sarah and Chris were able to update. Discussions were at an early stage to explore the potential for both funding and locations for a local project. They were discussing issues with Dorset Community Energy and local business with suitable buildings for solar installations. It was hoped a project could develop.

(ii) Chris outlined the current work of the Trust and vision for the coming 20 years to ensure support for local community groups to include advising on projects and funding sources. They are exploring major changes to create more community space in the HUB, and possible recruitment of a sustainability ambassador. All encouraged to complete the online survey on the HUB.

(b) Dorset Climate Action Network It was agreed that TLG should become an organisation member. TLG had already supported Dorset CAN's representation to the County Council on climate strategy and planning. Vicky Whitworth and Paul Spearing attend meetings for TLG and together with Vicki would alert us on issues needing consideration and action. All encouraged to get involved and consider membership.

(c) West Dorset Environment Alliance (WDEA) Rob updated on the meetings and briefings prepared for Chris Loder by members of the group – TLG, Transition Town Bridport, FoE and eco groups in Beaminster. Meetings were held several times a year. The Environment Bill, water pollution, plastics and community energy are currently in the agenda. Rob encouraged letters being sent to the MP.

## 6 FINANCE REPORT

Grenville reported that there was a balance of £1204.00 in the TLG account. Donations and subscriptions of £5 were welcome through the year; these help with general expenses and support funding applications.

7 FILM SERIES: Sustainable food, seeds and local farming. Suzy believed it was now possible to schedule the series of 3 films which had been postponed due to covid restrictions. The initiative was welcomed and the following dates were suggested for booking at the Baptist Church: Thursdays - October 14th, November 11th and December 9th. She would also like to plan a future film series about fast fashion.

8 DIRECTORY OF GREEN INITIATIVES A suggestion for a TLG project to focus on local venues and opportunities, recycling etc.

9 FUTURE MEETING DATES The meeting schedule to change to the 3rd Tuesday of the month with meetings held every other month. Dates for meetings for specific events, films, speakers etc would be arranged separately. Next meetings to be held on Tuesday 21 September, Tuesday 16 November, Tuesday 18th January (2022)