

CCPC Environment Group Action Notes
In Person Meeting 19 January 2023 7.30pm
Mortons Manor Hotel

Present – Helen, Luke, David and 5 members of the public.

Apologies received from 3 people.

1. Future Meetings and events

We will be holding three tree giveaways:

- Fri 3rd Feb from 3.15pm at the School playground – **ACTION** Luke to confirm.
- Sat 4th Feb from 10.15am at the Village Hall Coffee Morning & from 12.30pm at the Soup'n'pud FREE lunch.
ACTION Luke to book table
- Sat 11th Feb from 10.15am at the Village Hall Double Act Coffee Morning! **ACTION** David to book table.

February Meeting – Ben Pears (Dept. of Geography & Environmental Science, University of Southampton) will be giving a talk entitled *“The Past is the Key to the Future - The Importance of Determining Historic Environment Baselines”*. Ben will give us an overview of research into past landscape character and land use using case studies with relevance to the local historic environment, including details on Corfe's very own recent 'dig'...!

March Meeting about Butterflies – We have three speaker slots of 10-15 mins each plus Q&A:

- Richard Hughes and Christine Bowman Hill, to talk specifically about the Corfe Common Transect - where they survey, how long they have been doing it, how the results are recorded and changes in the results over the years, including which butterflies are declining and which are increasing in numbers.
- Hopefully a Dorset Butterflies / Butterfly Conservation rep to give an overview of the types of butterflies might be found in people's gardens and around Corfe, say a bit about their lifecycle and diet (e.g. that the caterpillars of different species like specific plants and so if those plants decline, that species of butterfly declines too), and perhaps he could advise people on the best plants to grow to attract different butterflies and caterpillars to our gardens too. **ACTION** David to ask Martin about this. If not Helen to follow up with Dorset Butterflies.
- Sarah Spurling from Sustainable Swanage to talk about the process of setting up new survey transects on the Downs and Prospect Green, the progress made over the last two years and any interesting findings.

April event about Energy – Lucinda on PEG has advised their next meeting is on 13th Feb so agreed we could wait until after that to find out if they would like to help us host a pan-Purbeck event. Suggested speakers / stalls are Will Bond about the local Wind Farm, etc; Ridgeway Energy (who provide Dorset Council's Heathy Homes service), Dorset Community Energy, Citizen's Advice, an EV retailer, Purbeck Cider & Purbeck Ice Cream and Suttles, who have both completed energy generating / saving project for their businesses. Agreed this event could be in May if needs be.

May event about foraging - Luke advised Guiseppe from Cat's Eye Corner would be pleased to lead an event. This would need to be in spring when the plants suitable for foraging can be found, so it is proposed we hold an outdoor event in April or May, depending on when the Energy event is held.

June Meeting about Waste - Carol mentioned that she had been to a very interesting event on Waste run by Sustainable Wareham, at which an officer called Darren spoke about Dorset Council's waste services. Agreed it would be good to ask him to speak at one of our meetings, provisionally in June.

August event at St Edwards Church Fair – Agreed we will have a stall again. **ACTION** David to book stall.

Viv suggested we have a stall at the May Fair (late May BH), perhaps on the topic of waste and what to do with it. Luke agreed he could be available for such a stall, to be confirmed next month before booking.

2. Update on Jubilee Tree Planting Project

Helen has requested quotes from 3 nurseries for the 16 Jubilee trees.

Regarding sites for the hedging plants we have or are on order (total about 780 plants), Helen advised that following discussions with the Clerk, Gods Acre is not a feasible site. Helen is meeting the Clerk to discuss other possibilities. Agreed we will have planting sessions on the afternoon of 11th February (Secret Field) and on the morning / afternoon of 18th March (venue to be advised). **ACTION** David to look at the Secret Field to assess whether we can use the same planting technique as we did at the Play Area.

3. Rivers discussion with Pete Floyd

Pete had contacted the Clerk about advising members of the local environment group about the new Planet Purbeck Marine and Freshwater Group, and then offered to do an introduction to this new group at our meeting.

Pete introduced himself and advised that he is DWT (Dorset Wildlife Trust) Water Guardian for two stretches on the River Corfe and a Riverfly Surveyor. He explained that being a Water Guardian means walking along the river and recording any issues or positive sightings, and that being a Riverfly Surveyor involves stirring up the bottom of the watercourse and netting any creatures found, and then identifying species and recording what is found. The National Trust provided training for this. The Freshwater side of the new PP group wants to promote interest in rivers, their wildlife and look into improving the quality of the water, and also lead / support projects such as Slow the Flow. They are aware there are a lot of groups working on freshwater surveys and improvement projects but at present no coordination of these groups.

There was a discussion about how, as far as local knowledge goes, the Corfe River only starts at the convergence of two watercourses, the Wicken and the Byle, adjacent the A351 / Chrucl Knowle and Studland Road junctions. The Wicken is the western watercourse that flows across the common, and there is now an interesting “window” viewpoint across this from The Model Village. The Byle flows across East Common and flows through Boar Mill.

Causes of poor water quality were discussed, including road run-off, farming including livestock, and overflows from water treatment works. Pete would like to see more data gathered about the quality of the water in Purbeck watercourses.

The recent flooding was also discussed, and it was explained how Slow the Flow, which involved installing leaky dams in waterways, helps with flooding as it delays rainwater joining the main watercourse after falling.

Pete advised the next meeting of the PP Freshwater side of the group is between 7 – 8pm on Thursday 5th Feb, and that there is a Dorsetwide meeting being hosted by Dorset Climate Action Network about Cleaning up Our Rivers Together on Monday 30th January. **ACTION** Helen to forward details to the Clerk to circulate to EG members.

4. Sharing your ideas, and AOB

David advised that once again this year environmental improvements will be carried out on the church lawns. There is an initiative across all churches in St Aldhelms Benefice and David has been supporting this for us.

David advised the Library Committee are investigating getting solar PV for the roof, this will require planning permission and grant funding.

5. Quick feedback on EG Meeting Minutes – open actions

ACTION Sharon and Chris to investigate using old Brownie shed at the village hall for storing Seed Circle seeds.

ACTION Sharon to see if Chris’s coffee jars might work, and then update the request for funds for the Seed Circle and send to Luke and Helen.

The Seed Circle logo design is also still required, **ACTION** Sharon to talk to Sue L. Also we still need to engage the school / the public in a competition to design pictures of plants / veg for the envelopes.

ACTION Helen to compare Jim White’s 2022 survey of the no-mow areas of St Edwards church lawns with last year’s survey.

6. Dates of next meetings

- **16th February** - Ben Pears
- **16th March** – Butterflies topic
- **April date to be advised** – Energy event (could swap with May's event)
- **18th May** – Outdoor event - Foraging with Guiseppe
- **15th June** – provisionally Waste topic

CCPCEG Core Group members; Josey, Helen, Tom, Luke, David, Richard

Contact us via the clerk (Michelle) at: environmentgroup@corfecastleparishcouncil.gov.uk