

Yealmpton Environment Group

Notes of meeting 11th August 2022

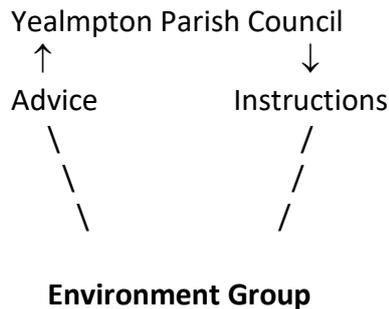
Little Bowden, Bowden Hill PL8 2JX

Present:

Sheila Barton, Linda Durman, Tony Hawkins, James Roberts, Charles Weston-Baker

Apologies Jen Fox

1. Terms of reference (attached) agreed.
2. Election of chairman deferred to next meeting (completely forgot about it while discussing issues relating to the environment – L). Please send nominations to Linda before next meeting.
3. Structure and reporting
Structure suggested at last meeting (no minutes) was agreed:



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Existing subgroups:	Action plans:	Volunteer hub:
YEM	Human health	Registered volunteers
Footpaths	Sustainability	
Yealm water quality	Biodiversity	
Etc.		

We work in collaboration with BeeWild (part of YCA) and will expand areas of environmental work as capacity grows.

There will be at least one YEG member who is a Parish Councillor and reports to their monthly meetings.

4. Minutes of 5th May meeting approved.
5. Subgroup reports.

River Yealm water quality group (RYWQG); citizen science training by West Country Rivers Trust took place in Yealmpton 13th July and we now have trained people monitoring and reporting (Cartographer) water quality on a systematic basis for all reaches of the river in the parish.

Footpaths; improved access for people with limited mobility was requested as part of the village survey and action is being taken.

Trees; 400 whips (trees and shrubs) currently heeled in at Stan's allotment and watered by Charles Weston-Baker. These need planting late autumn when the current drought resolves. Linda (with Sheila and Roger) to check species and need for spirals and canes, then select date for planting and organise community event to be advertised in October Y Press. We still need to establish a suitable location – Linda to discuss with Kitley estate re possible location along north side of Yealm near Puslinch adjacent Footpath 20. Tony's CSI volunteers will be approached to assist.

Action Linda, Sheila B

Yealmpton no longer has a **tree warden**. We agreed to recruit one; a local person with knowledge if possible, although training and support are available through the Tree Council's Tree Warden

Scheme and the South Hams Tree Warden Network. Linda to circulate information on those as YEG members may be able to recruit someone. If not we will advertise in Y Press and village Facebook page.
Action Linda

YEM

- a) Availability of whips and saplings is limited so YEM is establishing micronurseries of 500 – 1000 treelets in each parish; Yealmpton's micronursery currently in Charles W-B's garden in a 24x2 yard bed with water nearby. When they reach sapling size they will need a larger enclosure with deer proof fencing. £4million has been allocated for the Plymouth forest initiative and Yealmpton can access some of this funding. Advice and assistance with planting initiatives can be sought locally from 'Save Devon's Trees', 'Land and Heritage' (Stuart Bridge), Park Life and Hunters' Moon, Dartington.
- b) FWAG (Farming and wildlife advisory group) has begun an initiative with 10 local farmers to review their farming practice and hopefully increase riverine strips of woodland and hedgerows. The Yealm is bordered by trees in many places and land use is mostly arable so improvements seem achievable here. Surveys will be done pre and post intervention. YEM is contributing funding for the work that includes expert advice from Lyn Kenerdine. Devon Wildlife Trust and EA are involved.

Ecology

James agreed to write a short article on glow worms for Yealmpton Press, in which he will ask for reports on where people have seen them locally, as he surmises that there have been fewer in recent years.
Action James

Community composting scheme

South Hams have funding to help to start up local schemes. Sheila to have initial discussion with YAGA about possible site for small scale initiative near allotments.
Action Sheila B

Carbon neutrality

Work to date by Teresa and Sheila M to be reviewed
Action Linda
South Dartmoor Community Energy to be approached to advise on working with the community on carbon neutral domestic heating.
Action Linda

As we progress, we hope to recruit champions for new areas of work to improve the environment: air quality and domestic heating seem most urgent.

Sheila B has designed a template for recording sub group activities/projects/other groups we are working with. Linda to circulate for completion and return.
Action all.

6. Liaison with BeeWild.
Areas where BeeWild and YEG will take the initiative noted. We expect to work together on many areas to improve the local environment.
7. Funding applications for 2023/4
Outline bids for request to Parish Council to fund YEG projects to be considered at next meeting for submission to PC prior to budget setting process at the beginning of January 2023.
8. Next meetings 22nd September 7pm Little Bowden
20th October 7pm Little Bowden