

Yealmpton Environment Group
Notes of meeting Wednesday 3rd May 2023
Parish Room, Bakery Square

Present:

Sheila Barton, Linda Durman, Sheila Melot, Jane Pennington, Charles Weston-Baker

Apologies Jen Fox, Tony Hawkins, James Roberts

1. Notes of meeting March 29th approved.

2. Section 106 Funds – application process.

Recommended format for applications will be:

- description of project (what it is; why it is needed, aims)
- how community will be involved and informed of results
- costs and date payments due
- who will provide funds/proportion requested from Yealmpton PC S106
- who will report on progress
- community gain (Linda to suggest list of possible gains).

Any environment projects taking place in Yealmpton for which we are NOT requesting S106 funding, to be included in monthly environment report to councillors.

Resolved not to submit bids to May Parish Council meeting as much of it will be taken up in allocation of roles and responsibilities, including lead councillor for Environment, who will need to be briefed to speak on our behalf.

Linda, Jane and Charles to meet 31.5.23 to agree content of papers re bids to be submitted to June meeting.

3. River Yealm water quality

West Country Rivers Trust Annual Conference 25 and 26 April – summary previously circulated.

Riverfly project approved by YEM and on agenda for RYWQG (has since met and recommended that all parishes support this project). Wild About Devon has agreed to fund the cost of nets for sampling. A meeting with CSI volunteers will be held and locations for sampling agreed.

5th Dec 2022 pollution incident; no further communication received so Tony Hawkins will follow up as main contact with EA. Russell Weston of SNOWBE /Fish Legal keen to see confirmation of EA action. 22nd April 2023 a further pollution incident was reported to EA -grey muddy water smelling of diesel adjacent to lorry park/SWW sewage works.

Continuous water alerts can now be followed up with analysis of hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides and surfactants. Laboratory testing of these samples would cost £1500 each time.

Yealm E coli level tests.

		Compliance with standards for	
		Drinking water	Bathing water
a) Mill Bridge and Wisdome Mill.	31 st March	High risk/prob unsafe	not determined
	19 th April	Unsafe	Excellent
b) Stert Bridge	31 st March	Unsafe	not determined
	19 th April	Unsafe	Poor
c) Gauging station	31 st March	Unsafe	not determined
	19 th April	Unsafe	Poor

There are 31 sewage outflows into the Yealm (inc. tributaries)! There are interactive maps online showing bathing water status: Waterfit by SW Water and Safer Seas and Rivers SAS. Summary for Y Press suggested.
Action Linda

EA will be introducing Principle Salmon River monitoring on the Yealm in summers of 2023 and 2024. They will use 5 minute timed approach at 20 sites, 1.5km apart. Olivia Cresswell W Country Rivers is involved.

Ian Townsend, Evidence and Engagement Officer for WRT visited on 30 March for a tour of the catchment and to discuss a trial for passive sampling. We hope to confirm that the trial will take place on the Yealm and establish the positioning of their kit in order to take passive samples of trace organic pollutants (TOP) – hormones and heavy metals.

Sludge removal from Yealmpton sewage treatment – chase Mike Plant for response from SW Water after coronation.
Action Linda

4. Trees

Community Orchard – BeeWild is funding the cost of the fruit trees. Community consultation is under way (Facebook and Y Press) during May.

Worston Wood FWAG with Plymouth and South Devon Community Forests – providing free tree shelters. Cattle will still need access to river for water because no adequate spring. Have rejected possibility of ram pump and considering alternative ways to provide water for cattle. Russell Spry paying for fencing (will be reimbursed)

Date for blessing of 3000 new trees in Lodge Gate Field agreed: Friday 23rd June. Small gathering, photo and report in Y press.

Lodge Gate Field will have Bokashi composting facility and Biochar preparation.

5. Light pollution

Letter to Dartmoor National Park Authority re dark skies – very positive response circulated with agenda inviting us to stay in touch and possibly take part in the initiative.

6. Public footpaths

A kissing gate has been requested (County Council) for the Shirehorse footpath, improving access. Stile has been fixed Footpath 19. Fallen tree across path behind Riverside Walk – council aware.

Definitive Map Review – no date for Brixton review as yet.

7. AOB

EV charge point survey results available and will be circulated.

8. Next full YEG meeting Tuesday 4th July 7pm at Parish Room again.