

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

Present:

Sheila Barton, Linda Durman, Jane Pennington

Apologies Jen Fox, Tony Hawkins*, Sheila Melot, James Roberts, Charles Weston-Baker*

* reports received

1. Notes of meeting May 3rd approved.

Matters arising: Increase in number of lorries through Stray Park to SW Water Treatment Plant; Parish Council will delay enquiries as traffic is now back to normal.

2. Section 106 Funds

At its June meeting, Yealmpton Parish Council approved expenditure of £6,000 on YEG projects during 2022/3 and £6,000 in 2023/4. The following projects can now go ahead (costs shown will be due for payment over the next 24 months):

- Water Quality Laboratory Analysis £300
- Yealmpton Show - Schools Art Competition & Mermaid event £700
- Kitley Flagship Tree Nursery, with Moor Trees & Woodland Trust £3,175
- Ruby's Wood Flora & Fauna Baseline Survey, with ParkLife & others £3,000
- Wildflower & Hedgerow Projects in Yealmpton area, with Devon Wildlife Trust £1,800
- Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) farm visits in Yealmpton area £2,400
- 5 Parish Alliance stand at Yealmpton show £186.

Charles has set up a system for central recording for each project listing funding sources, invoices received and bank account from which each invoice will be paid.

Action Charles

3. River Yealm water quality

Thanks were expressed for funds granted by Yealmpton Parish Council for their element of the ongoing cost of water quality laboratory analysis. Data on the pollution incident on 5 Dec 22 collected by CSI volunteers has been shared with the Environment Agency who have assured us that they will feed back in writing every 6 months re progress on resulting actions. Unfortunately the continuous water monitor is still recording transient inputs of turbidity and /or dissolved solids, often during the night and often in the absence of prior rainfall, suggesting deliberate discharges. This will be kept under review.

Three local experts have been invited by Westcountry Water Guardians to participate in a workshop to develop a national standard for interpretation and reporting of CSI findings. Jane and/or Tony will report back.

Action Jane, Tony

River Yealm Water Quality Group is also working on a report for RYWQG to set standards for bathing water quality. Jane will forward information when minutes of the group have been received and agree content of an article in Yealmpton Press with Linda to include links to online interactive maps showing bathing water status: Waterfit by SW Water and Safer Seas and Rivers SAS.

Action Linda, Jane

Five sites have been selected and approved by WildFish for sampling when a suspected pollution event is reported. These will now be visited by their expert advisers. Standard sampling techniques are established but adoption of a satisfactory testing system for E. Coli and dissolved solids (hormones, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides and surfactants) require more investigation.

Application for funding (Riverfly lab analysis costs in 2024) from National Lottery has been turned down. Linda to send copy of application to Jane for information and seek alternative source of funding.

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. (? Remove this)

4. Trees

Thanks were expressed for funds granted by Yealmpton Parish Council for Kitley Flagship Tree Nursery, with Moor Trees & Woodland Trust, Ruby's Wood Flora & Fauna Baseline Survey, with ParkLife & others, Schools Art Competition & Mermaid event, Wildflower & Hedgerow Projects in Yealmpton area, with Devon Wildlife Trust and Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) farm visits in Yealmpton area.

In addition, funding from other sources has been secured to enable additional projects to proceed:

- Community Orchard with BeeWild & YEM in Stray Park Yealmpton
- Elm, Sweet Chestnut & Ash Disease Resistance & Biochar Project
- Ash Dieback Replacement Project with Veterans Outdoors
- Yealm River corridor 1,900 tree planting at Worston - eforests, PSDCF & Woodland Trust,
- Kitley Estate Wood 3,000 tree planting project - Woodland Trust & PSDCF

Progress reports will be submitted as projects progress and articles written for Yealmpton Press. At the moment the trees planted earlier this season in Lodge Gate Field seem to be growing well despite the dry weather, with few failures so far. Eforests have confirmed that they will replace up to 10% that fail at no cost. We plan to plant additional trees there next season, to create a hedge along what will be the new footpath bordering the main road.

The consultation on the community orchard (Yealmpton Press and Village Facebook page) yielded only four responses, all of which were positive and asked to be kept informed. We can therefore assume that there are no local objections to the project.

An application has been submitted to Wild About Devon Awards recommending Yealmpton Parish Council for their 'Parish & Town Council of the Year' Award.

5. Active travel

Public Footpath 20 is designated as 'accessible' but the surface is not good in places. Work has been commissioned to improve the surface so that it is safe for wheelchair users.

Extension to Silverbridge Way – Linda to forward relevant emails to Sheila

Action Linda

6. Yealmpton Show

There will be information about Yealmpton initiatives to improve our environment at two stands at Yealmpton Show.

7. Water Butts

Potential obstacles to installation are being addressed and are being documented by Sheila for discussion at next meeting.

Action Sheila

8. Next meeting

Two dates to be circulated to YEG members for comment: 5th September 7pm or 19th September at 7pm.