

This is the second issue of our parish Climate Action Newsletter. Its aim is to report progress across the three areas of our climate and ecological emergency plan (CEEAP): **Transport, Renewable Energy and Natural Assets.**

There is clearly a great deal of interest and enthusiasm in our parish for the various aspects of our plan. This has been shown by the high level of attendance at the community events and activities we have organised over the past few months.

**The success of our plan depends on our community working together. If there is any aspect of our plan in which you would like to become involved, please contact us. We would be very pleased to hear from you.**



## TRANSPORT

### 1. Investigate possible parish-based car sharing scheme

[Co-Cars](#) hopes to provide electric car and bike hire in the Bridport area and details of their [media release](#) and survey were published in the June edition of the [Eggardon & Colmers View](#). We have asked Co-Cars to keep us updated with progress.

**Next Steps:** if you would like to be actively involved in promoting provision, please contact our Clerk (contact details below).



### 2. Investigate possible non-road route to Bridport, if it has the support of the local community

We have asked Dorset Council for an update on developing two possible routes to encourage Active Travel;

- To improve the existing footpath (FP37) from the bottom of Yellow Lane, parallel to the road and re-joining it just before Bradpole. Although not completely traffic-free or level from Loders to Bridport, it is the easiest route to develop. The landowner has recently significantly improved the footpath.
- To seek a more level and traffic-free route from Loders to Bridport. The exact route will need the backing of the majority of parish residents to receive Parish Council support.



**Next Steps:** to hold a community meeting to discuss a non-road route to Bridport.

### 3. Investigate possible sites for EV charging points

It is likely that decisions will largely be made by households, the village hall and local pubs. Nearest EVCPs: [Bridport Leisure Centre](#), [East Street Car Park](#) and [West Bay Road Car Park](#). Coming soon: [South Street Car Park](#) and [Rope Walks Car Park](#).



**Next Steps:** if you would like to be actively involved in promoting provision, please contact our Clerk.

# TRANSPORT

## 4. Investigate and publicise any community or public transport improvements

- Dorset Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan, submitted to central government, unfortunately was unsuccessful in securing funding. Dorset Council are continuing to work with local bus operators to make improvements to the network within budgetary constraints.
- We continue to liaise with the [Western Area Transport Action Group \(WATAG\)](#).
- The [Axe Valley Ring & Ride](#) service provides a door-to-door return service for Lodres residents for £5 on two Wednesdays a month. Email: [axevalleyringride@outlook.com](mailto:axevalleyringride@outlook.com) or ring 07510 255965 for more details and to book. Also see [Dorset Council](#) for public transport information.
- We have asked Bridport Community Railway (BCR) for an update of their plans for a shuttle service between Bridport and Maiden Newton, largely along the route of the disused railway. This will need the backing of the majority of parish residents to receive Parish Council support.

**Next steps:** to continue to monitor public transport provision.

# RENEWABLE ENERGY

## 1. Explore the feasibility of village-based renewable energy and commercial renewable installations for the wider Bridport area

We continue to monitor what's happening at [Dorset Community Energy](#) which facilitates community ownership of renewable energy production. [Energy Local Bridport](#), which went live in September 2021 with energy supplied by a wind turbine in Salway Ash, is seeking to increase membership from 26 to a maximum target of 55 households.



Phase 2 for Energy Local Bridport involves a proposal to invest in building a 250kW ground-mounted solar PV array in the Bridport area. The array would be financed by a Dorset Community Energy share offer, and the electricity generated sold to local households or

businesses through an Energy Local Club. A planning application has now been submitted ([ref. P/FUL/2022/05708](#)) for a 1.2-acre solar array near the crossing of Pymore Lane and Dottery Road.

## 2. Investigate household strategies to improve energy efficiency and recycling

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Sam Wilberforce and Malcolm Drew, members of Dorset Greener Homes, led a session in the Village Hall on cutting our energy use. They focused on simple ways of reducing our energy consumption and provided pointers to how each household can reduce its reliance on fossil fuels for electricity and home heating. In particular they pointed us in the direction of the annual [Dorset Greener Homes programme](#), running from 1 - 9 October, organised and run by Dorset Climate Action Network. It provided the opportunity to visit more than 50 homes across Dorset and engage with home owners who have installed solar panels, heat pumps and other technical changes; or, in older buildings where these may not be feasible, the installation of insulation and other cost-saving measures using low energy materials. It was an informative and engaging evening which was well attended. Those in the audience who are now beginning to consider ways of reducing energy bills found it useful. Others further along the road to energy efficiency having already installed solar panels, heat pumps and effective insulation, less so.

**Next steps:** an event offering more detailed, and specific information for those wanting more, including current grants available, costs involved and the technical aspects of alternative energy sources householders need to consider.



*Dorset  
Greener  
Homes  
event  
October  
2022*

# NATURAL ASSETS

## 1. Support health of the River Asker in collaboration with the AONB

- 23<sup>rd</sup> March The River Asker Community Project event at Loders Village Hall. We heard about progress on the project, including an excellent update from Anthony Butler about the changes being made on the Mappercombe Estate. Also discussed was the idea of looking for further opportunities to improve wildlife in the wider catchment and not just in the river corridor. This concept was met with broad approval.
- 17<sup>th</sup> June, Mappercombe Estate hosted a walk to show off their environmental enhancements with over 20 members of the community attending. We were shown nectar and pollen mixes recently sown, quizzed on the different species that will use this and shown woodlands planted 20 years ago that are thriving, with abundant orchids too. Many thanks to Victor Crutchley & Anthony Butler, and Alex Butler from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, for putting on such a great event. The beer, cheese and bread were especially welcome.

### ***Other activities have also been going on in the background:***

- Dorset Wildlife Trust with the help of some local Volunteers have been undertaking the annual Himalayan Balsam bashing. The levels of infestation are significantly down compared to when we started three years ago, but if you are aware of any hotspots, please do get in touch.
- Westcountry Rivers Trust have started the survey on the Loders Weir. The first stage was to look at the current impact on fish populations. Unsurprisingly, it is impassable to all fish species, except eel, at all flow levels, going upstream. It is passable downstream, but at high risk of injury. In short, it is not very fish friendly! The next step is to undertake a topographical survey of the area to help inform the options available to us.



**Next steps:** We will continue to undertake natural flood management works where possible and support landowners with any environmental ambitions they may have.

## 2. Tree/hedge planting to increase biodiversity in the parish

- A meeting was recently held with Dorset AONB officer Ian Rees and Gill Hearing to establish what more could be done within the Parish and how they could support us with our tree planting ambitions. More to follow....
- Loders Parish Council own a small amount of land already well planted with trees and with plans for a further Oak to be planted later this year at Well Plot to commemorate the Queens Jubilee Year. Hedging donated by the Woodland Trust was also recently successfully planted there by community volunteers. The extended dry, hot sunny period has required the saplings to have a bit of care and attention and if anyone is available for a bit of weeding, please let us know.
- We hope that members of our community will continue to respond to our climate and ecological emergency by planting more trees on their own land. Bridport Trees offer 3 free trees for private households so keep an eye open for further information this Autumn. We managed to get a few for planting in late spring and they all found good homes. Bridport Trees do not ask for payment but they do appreciate a small donation as they are a voluntary group. Contact Joe Hackett via email at: [joe@thehacketts.uk](mailto:joe@thehacketts.uk) or find them on Facebook @bridporttreeplanting.



***We will soon have a section on our website for your local nature photos e.g., trees or wildlife. Email these to us at to: [loders@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:loders@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)***

# NATURAL ASSETS

## Next Steps:

- Lodgers Parish Council hope to map land use in the area using Dorset Explorer to show hedgerows, grassland and cultivated fields. This will help indicate gaps showing where suitable trees may best be planted. We would appreciate hearing from community members who may have photographic evidence for comparing then and now in terms of tree cover in the parish.
- The Shelter Group's plan for a shelter at Well Plot has highlighted the poor condition of the hedging along the western edge of Well Plot Playing Field. We are looking for members of the community who would like to help with hedge laying. No previous experience is necessary as someone will be on hand to advise us. Please contact us.
- Dorset Climate Action Network are launching a campaign for The Great Big Dorset Hedge. They hope "to map, plant, expand, extend and join up sections of hedgerow across Dorset into multiple corridors that promote biodiversity and help wildlife flourish across the county." For more information or to volunteer help, follow this link: [www.dorsetcan.org/hedge.html](http://www.dorsetcan.org/hedge.html)

### 3. Investigate wildlife habitats, formulate plan for their protection

Loders Parish Council have been collaborating with Dorset AONB and consulting with other groups for advice in formulating a plan.

Meanwhile, together with Ian Rees, Dorset AONB, we have arranged a series of events since our last newsletter:

- **23 March** Ian Rees from Dorset AONB gave a presentation to a very well attended talk on the ongoing work on the River Asker at Lodgers Village Hall.
- **9 August** The Dorset AONB and Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) led a Lodgers butterfly walk. Butterflies were few, but those attending, (approx. 30), enjoyed discovering other plentiful insects, including wasp spiders which are recent arrivals to our country. They stalk and net grasshoppers and crickets. We learned that crickets are the ones with longer antennae.
- **8 September** Bat and Moth talk and walk. Unfortunately, this was cancelled due to the weather and has been rescheduled for next year.
- **1 November** Tom Brereton, ecologist and founder of Bridport Bird Club will be giving a talk on birds in the Village Hall on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7.15pm. This is a free event and everyone is welcome.



## Next Steps:

### 4. Publicise national and local policies, facilitate community feedback

We are compiling a list of relevant and informative websites to add to those currently available on our website. Keep looking on our website for updates on local and national policies.

**"EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US CAN MAKE CHANGES  
IN THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AND BECOME PART  
OF THE SOLUTION (TO CLIMATE CHANGE) - Al Gore**



*If you wish to become actively involved in any area of our Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan, please contact us via our Clerk, Joanne Hughes at [loders@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:loders@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)*