

This Spring we are pleased to be launching our first Loders Parish Council Climate Action Newsletter. Its aim is to inform everybody in our community about the steps we have been taking to meet the objectives set out in the Loders Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan (CEEAP).

The Plan focuses on three main areas: **Transport, Renewable Energy and Natural Assets.**

Our village survey carried out in May 2021 revealed strong interest across the parish in taking actions across all three areas, more than 80% of those who responded supporting the Plan. All documents can be seen on our website at www.lodersparish.org.



TRANSPORT

Transport 'Action' is dependent on external funding so our efforts to date have been largely limited to research, lobbying and sharing information on the following priorities;

1. Investigate possible parish-based car sharing scheme - 67% agreed

Despite car-sharing being acknowledged as particularly challenging in rural areas, we encourage informal arrangements with local neighbours and friends.

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

2. Investigate possible non-road route to Bridport, if it has the support of the local community - 83% agreed

Our survey revealed a great deal of interest in this issue. We have submitted two proposals to the Dorset's Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation;

- i. To improve the current footpath from the bottom of Yellow Lane, parallel to the road and re-joining it just before Bradpole. Although steep and not traffic-free to Bridport, it is the easiest route to develop.
- ii. To seek a more level and traffic-free non-road route from Loders to Bridport. The exact route chosen will need the support of the majority of Loders residents.

Next Steps: to hold a community meeting to discuss a non-road route to Bridport in order to encourage a change from car use to active travel.

3. Investigate possible sites for EV charging points - 82% agreed

It is likely that decisions will largely be made by households. We have encouraged the Village Hall and Palmers to consider some strategic provision.

Next Steps: If you would like to be actively involved in promoting provision, please contact us.



TRANSPORT

4. Investigate and publicise any community or public transport improvements - 95% agreed

This proved to be the most popular issue in our questionnaire with mostly positive suggestions. However, it is most dependent on external funding. We have asked that a regular and reliable Askers Valley service should be included in Dorset's Bus Service Improvement Plan currently being considered by central government.



Next Steps: the government is due to announce funding any day so we must all be ready to lobby!

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Via the parish survey we asked residents how they felt about the two actions which the Parish Council planned to achieve their renewable energy objectives:

1. Explore the feasibility of village-based renewable energy and commercial renewable installations for the wider Bridport area - 80% agreed

In September we consulted Derek Moss of Low Carbon Dorset about the possibility of creating a local renewable energy facility, either village-based or as part of a local network. He recommended the latter approach as being more realistic. He has a lead role in Dorset Community Energy which facilitates community ownership of renewable energy production such as Energy Local Bridport which went live in September 2021 with 14 households supplied by a wind turbine in Salway Ash.

Next Steps: to hold a community meeting with Derek Moss and other expert speakers followed by discussion to arrive at a collective view in the parish of the best way forward.



50kW wind turbine at Salway Ash supplying 14 homes in the Bridport area

2. Investigate household strategies to improve energy efficiency and recycling - 88% agreed

With the easing of Covid restrictions we are planning to hold a public meeting later in the year with expert advice for parishioners on household strategies to improve energy efficiency and recycling.

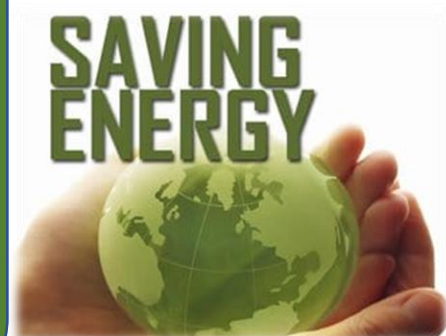
Community Meetings Coming Soon!

River Asker and Loders Wildlife Community Event with Ian Rees from Dorset AONB, Wednesday 23rd March, 7.30pm at Loders Village Hall

- Renewable Energy Community Meeting - Coming soon
- Energy Efficiency and Recycling Strategies Public Meeting - Coming soon

Full details of all meetings will be published on our website at www.lodersparish.org.uk, Facebook page and parish noticeboards.

Watch this space!



NATURAL ASSETS

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

Ian Rees, Dorset AONB Countryside Officer reports:

We first got involved in 2018, when the Environment Agency classified the river as failing because of poor fish numbers and reduced plant diversity. The causes of these issues are many and complicated, and include barriers to fish, shade from bankside trees or runoff from agricultural land. We identified opportunities to tackle some of these threats, working with farmers, statutory agencies and - most importantly - the local community. As a result of our combined efforts, we have:

- improved habitat for wildlife over 1.4km;
- undertaken 3km of natural flood management;
- worked with farmers to improve land management over 15ha;
- supported the planting of 400m of new hedges for the benefit of the water environment;
- regularly monitored river life with the help of local residents.



Asker River Fish Survey, Well Plot September

In doing all of this, over 70 people have engaged with the project, including eight skilled citizen scientists who monitor water quality over the summer months.

But there's more to do: more for wildlife; more natural flood management; more invasive species control; more monitoring, walks and talks... Early in the new year we will survey the river around Lodgers Weir to set out options for improving fish passage there. We can then better plan what we can do...

Next Steps: You can come and find out about this and other activities we have planned at a community event for the evening of **Wednesday 23rd March, 7.30pm at Lodgers Village Hall.**

Thank you to Dorset AONB Countryside Officer Ian Rees for his contribution to this first issue of our Climate Action Newsletter, providing an update on the River Asker project.

2. Tree/hedge planting to increase biodiversity in the parish - 88% agreed

In 2021 the Parish Council made an application to The Woodland Trust for free hedging plants. In June 2021 one of Dorset's tree officers visited Well Plot playing field to consider site suitability. Our application to The Woodland Trust for his recommended mix of 210 saplings was successful and a call went out to the community for volunteers to assist with planting. After a slight delay we're relieved to announce the successful planting of the saplings at Well Plot. A massive thank you to all who made this possible.

Those volunteers who turned up on the day with great enthusiasm to get the job done despite the cold, those who had volunteered but were unable to make the change of date, to Forest & Tree Care for their support in supplying and delivering bark mulch and to the resident who helped collect the turf cutter then decided to do the job himself before returning it!

Hedge Planting at Well Plot in December



NATURAL ASSETS

Also, a big thank you to Roz & Dave Newberry for the loan of their truck and the removal of the turf. Let's hope the saplings grow into a healthy hedge providing more opportunity for increasing biodiversity in the area.

Local landowners have been contacted with a request for support with our plans for tree planting and the regeneration of woodland trees in the parish. Those who replied informed us of their plans for planting in the next few years. Meanwhile, Loders Parish Council would love to hear about any tree planting in the parish no matter how small!

Next Steps: We have consulted Dorset Council Tree Officer for information about suitable trees to plant at Well Plot to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Currently we are considering the planting of Oak and Field Maple trees and looking at funding for these. More news to come about community support for tree planting to mark this special occasion.

3. Investigate wildlife habitats, formulate plan for their protection - 86% agreed

Loders Parish Council have been collaborating with Dorset AONB and consulting with other groups for advice in formulating a plan. The work on the Asker and the hedge planting has provided us with some information that may be useful when formulating this plan.

Next Steps: There should be an opportunity to gather more information at the planned talk by Ian Rees on 23rd March. Please contact us if you feel able to contribute any specialist knowledge or expertise.

4. Publicise national and local policies, facilitate community feedback - 86% agreed

Loders Parish Council are compiling a list of relevant and informative websites to add to those currently available on our website. Once an open meeting has been held, there will be an opportunity to provide more information and get community feedback. Keep looking on our website for updates on local and national policies.



Loders Wildlife images by Chuck Willmott

Please email us with local images you wish to share in Issue 2 or on our Facebook page or website.

The success of our Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan depends on bringing together the skills, experience and expertise of everyone in the parish. If you wish to become actively involved in any area, we should be very pleased to hear from you - please contact our Clerk, Joanne Hughes at loders@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

**“IF WORKING APART WE’RE A FORCE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTABILISE OUR PLANET,
SURELY, WORKING TOGETHER, WE ARE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SAVE IT.”**

Sir David Attenborough, COP26