

Climate & Ecological Emergency

This is the face of climate change, say scientists 28th July 2018

Global climate crisis: inevitable, unprecedented and irreversible
10th August 2021

'A wake-up call': UK hits highest ever temperature
20th July 2023

Red alert: 'ferocious' heatwave set to send temperatures beyond 40C 22nd July 2022

Public Meeting at Uploders Chapel at 7pm on Wednesday 18th October

We know that Loders' residents have a wealth of expertise and, in order to be more effective, the Loders Parish Council Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan (CEEAP) Working Group are now appealing for **YOUR** active contribution. We would like to see interested individuals come together and create community groups that run themselves to get involved with CEEAP in three priority areas:

TRANSPORT, ENERGY, and the NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

**Please continue on to read our latest Climate Action Newsletter
and come with YOUR ideas of how you think you can help!!!**

This is the third 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.**

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 join us at our public meeting on: **Wednesday 18th October at Uploders Chapel.** If you are unable to make the meeting but would like to get involved, please contact us via our Clerk, Joanne Hughes at loders@dorset-aptc.gov.uk



TRANSPORT

1. Investigate possible parish-based car sharing scheme

Rural communities may benefit from having a shared Community Car and Helen Sumbler (Planet Purbeck) can help with information: helens@planetpurbeck.org

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

Active Travel (walk, cycle and horse) would be encouraged by development of traffic-free routes into Bridport. There has been no progress on long-standing Dorset Council plans to develop a Trailway from Maiden Newton to Bridport along the disused railway line. Chideock residents are campaigning for an off-road link as the first step in a proposed Bridport- Lyme way (BLLINK). There have been improvements to three access points to the Right of Way from the bottom of Yellow Lane to Hole House Farm parallel with the road to Bradpole. Finally, in May Dorset Council was awarded £1,978,000 to facilitate Active Travel which will see improvements to walking and cycling routes.



Loders improved access

3. Investigate possible sites for Electric Vehicle charging points

Loders Village Hall has registered interest in an EV charging point for Loders as part of the Dorset Council 'Charging Ahead' programme which aims to get 80% of Dorset households within a 10-minute walk of a public chargepoint by 2030. Palmers Brewery is making their own plans for their pubs.

4. Investigate and publicise any community or public transport improvements

- **Dorset Community Transport 'PlusBus'** route D covers Loders & Uploders to Bridport and offers a weekday mid-morning trip allowing about 2 hours for shopping and appointments. Where possible, a 'door-to-door' service is offered and, by prior arrangement, passengers travelling in wheelchairs can often also be accommodated. **Bridport and District Good Neighbour Scheme** provides help for simple tasks and transport for hospital visiting & appointments, doctors, dentists, opticians, chiropodists, prescription collection, shopping and other essential tasks. For details of both schemes, please Google Dorset Council Dorset Community Transport Directory.
- **Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride** service provides rides every Wednesday from your home to Bridport, Dorchester or Axminster costing £5 - phone 07510255965.
- **Dorset Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan** has been allocated £884,221 money for the current financial year. Bridport Investment Plan quoted Enrique Penalosa; "A developed country is not a place where the poor have cars. It's where the rich use public transportation."
- **Bridport Renewal Corridor** proposes to restore the Maiden Newton to West Bay rail link with a greener form of transport rather than a heritage railway with
- **The Government funded £2 bus fare cap** has been extended to 31st October 2023 then continue for another year at £2.50.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

Energy Local Bridport went live in September 2021 with energy supplied by a wind turbine in Salway Ash and now has 50 active members. Their Phase 2 involves building a 250kW ground-mounted 1.2-acre solar array near the crossing of Pymore Lane and Dottery Road. Planning permission for the array was granted in February 2023. **Dorset Community Energy** facilitates community ownership of renewable energy production and are currently reviewing the financial viability of the scheme before launching a share offer. The electricity generated will be sold to local households or businesses through an energy local club.

2. Investigate household strategies to improve energy efficiency and recycling



In September 2022 members of **Dorset Greener Homes** led a session in Loders Village Hall on cutting our energy use, concentrating on simple ways of reducing our energy consumption and providing pointers to how each household can reduce its reliance on fossil fuels for electricity and home heating. It received mixed reviews with some feeling it lacked sufficient information on current grants available, costs involved and the technical aspects of alternative energy sources householders need to consider. We want to involve interested parish residents especially those with specific expertise and practical knowledge in a renewable energy community group to provide advice and guidance.

NATURAL ASSETS

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

Over the past six months, work has continued to improve the condition of the River Asker:

- **Riverfly:** the river monitoring group continues to go from strength to strength. As well as the regular aquatic insect and water quality testing they do, they have also started looking for North American mink, and invasive species that prey on our native water vole. Training was provided by Andy Jeffries, a local mammal expert. Sadly, a combination of camera traps and mink rafts discovered that mink are present and work has started to control them.
- **CROWD:** the Asker is represented on the newly formed Clean Rivers of West Dorset Group. Set up by concerned citizens, they are working with Chris Loder MP to ensure that investment is forthcoming from Wessex Water and the Environment Agency to improve the water quality of the Char, Brit, Asker, Mangerton, Bride, Winnford and Simene.
- **Sediment:** Dorset AONB, Dorset Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and Peter Stone, an independent geomorphologist, worked together with landowners in the wider Brit catchment (including the Asker) to identify sources of sediment that are blocking up the flood defences in Bridport, requiring expensive removal. The work continues, including looking for opportunities to re-wiggle rivers that have historically been straightened. This slows the flow of water through the system, so that it does not overwhelm flood defences.
- **Habitat enhancement:** the creation of bank-side habitat and protection of eroding banks has been completed over 50m in Uploders.
- **West Dorset Wildling:** a landowner-led organisation, is working to develop a Landscape Recovery bid focussed on the wider Brit system (including the Asker). Landscape Recovery is the top tier of support available to farmers for delivering wildlife recovery. The focus is on joining the designated grassland and woodland sites in the catchment along the river corridors.



The River Asker, Loders

NATURAL ASSETS

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



Hedge laying, Well Plot, Loders

Last year was a tough time for our tender new young hedges, planted at Well Plot playing fields with your help a few years ago. They had to deal with a hot dry summer followed by a cold winter. Many of us lost valued plants from our gardens but thankfully our young hedging plants had a helping hand with some much-needed watering and were hardy enough to survive the cold winter. The Oak planted to commemorate the Queens Jubilee Year is also growing well. Busy volunteers also helped the EuCAN team with hedge

laying at Well Plot's western boundary in February, not an easy task that took longer than expected with some committing extra time to complete the job.

- Loders Parish Council continue to invite you to send in photos of favourite trees round the parish or any new trees that you may have planted in your own garden. You will find where Veteran Trees are in Loders Parish by exploring the Dorset Explorer website: <https://gi.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/explorer/> Once on the site type in Loders Parish and search through the options available until you find Veteran Trees. It is an interesting tool for showing what is in your village. Should you know of any other older trees that you consider to be special please email us with location, details, and photos.



Lime Tree, Loders Cemetery

- LPC are in the process of adding relevant links to our websites for your information. Also try looking on the following website for an informative map showing existing and potential eco networks in the area: <https://derc.org.uk/dorsets-eco-networks/>

3. Investigate wildlife habitats, formulate plan for their protection

- Parish councillors have continued to respond to the Dorset Climate and Ecological Emergency consultations and attend meetings either in person or by zoom to keep up to date with current developments, to express their opinions and to share ideas with other groups.
- The Bat and Moth walk that was cancelled in September 2022 will be rescheduled but will depend on availability of Ian Rees of Dorset AONB. Meanwhile, LPC continues to liaise with Ian to keep us informed of the diversity of wildlife in the Parish.



Loders wildlife images by Chuck Willmott

“WE ARE THE FIRST GENERATION TO FEEL THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LAST GENERATION THAT CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.”

Barack Obama