

Natural Environment Climate and Ecology (former Climate and Environment Emergency) Report, For Thornhackett Parish Meeting

15.03.23: Ian Young, Nominated Environment and Climate Champion for the Parish 2023

Actions: Contacted 4 other areas - not always councillors, to see what others are doing. Contacts made in Hazelbury Bryan, Milborne Port, Leigh and Sherborne. Attended DorsetCAN online Solar Streets meeting. Received the reports and viewed links from Julie Booker who is the Co-Ordinator for all Parishes in Dorset on CEE issues. I have been trained to survey hedges for the Great Big Dorset Hedge project and have started with others a local group, "Sustainable Thornford". Contact made with DWT Living Churchyards project and Belinda Bawden Dorset County Councillor (Lyme Regis).

C&EE support group run by Julie Booker. Feb meeting discussed Marine Conservation and importance of Kelp both as a habitat and a resource.

Next online meeting of this group is Monday 13th March if anyone other Councillor wishes to join in let me know. Main Topic, Dorset County Refreshed policy for Natural Environment Strategy 2023 to 2025. The change of name is important it focusses on the Environment and removes "emergency", effectively saying the current situation of needing activity across the board is the new norm. I will attend and feedback to Parish. Details on this link here if you want to review the new strategy;

<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/documents/s32707/Appendix%201%20-%20CEE%20Strategy%20refresh%20Draft%20v1.0.pdf>

Climate and Environment Declaration : - Has the Parish made a Declaration ?

Natural Environment - CEE Local Action Plan: I am seeking guidance on what a draft Parish Action Plan may look like and will supply as soon as received. I need details of what the Parish is responsible for and how it can use its powers perhaps in procurement or simply guidance to address issues, which may need to be in the Action Plan. One Parish for example has set its Action as decarbonising the Village Hall, should we consider something similar?

Community Involvement: I believe the idea is that the PC takes the lead on this. A small group have formed Sustainable Thornford, we have 9 confirmed "members" although not a formally constituted group yet. We have selected a "River of Flowers" as our first project, essentially providing plants and wildflowers suitable for pollinators linked and ultimately forming a "river" through the village. Starting at the Village Hall with a work party on Friday and Saturday 10/11 March. We would like in time to include Beer Hackett and the wider area, but have no confirmed contacts there yet. We have published information in Contact, have an email address, a Facebook page on the 2020 group, and are putting up posters and distributing flyers, any help on locations for these would be great. We will need some funding to provide Wildflowers the seed alone for 50 sqm can cost between £50 and £90 incl VAT, and have hired a scarifier with help from the VHall and Cricket Club. We need a water source so water butts ideally on nearby locations, and we need to continue to promote and publicise leaflets web etc. In September there is a better planting time for perennial Wildflowers and we plan a bigger push for more linked up spaces then.

Talking with other community space owners, will need help with Dorset Highways?. Any other ideas and assistance/contacts to fully involve the Parish Council if possible are welcome. Space or a link on the Parish Council website if one has been confirmed for example?

There is also some Tree planting around Thornford, with Trevor Rogers taking the lead and extending on previous projects he has undertaken and I believe the WI may historically have some planting. We have voluntary ecological help from Adam Gale a former resident.

We have approached Wyke Farm for some spare land for tree planting but nothing is available from them at present, we have not tried other land owners yet, any ideas for other land locations for planting and for pollinator projects welcome. Need to understand if these requests should come from PC? IY
6.03.2023