

WILDER LITTLEHAM AND LANDCROSS PROJECT

Littleham and Landcross Parish Council

National Lottery reference: 20189341

Final report March 2023

Cllr. Peter Jollands

Cllr. Rosemary Gent

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1. LOTTERY APPLICATION

National Lottery Together for our Planet Fund

Wilder Littleham and Landcross

Together for our Planet application, submitted September 2021 by Littleham and Landcross Parish Council

Q1. What would you like to do? * Here are some ideas of what to tell us about your project: What would you like to do? Who will benefit from it? How will you make sure people know about it? How does your project build on what already exists in your community? What difference will your project make?

Question 1

Littleham and Landcross Parish Council, together with the Climate Action and Biodiversity Groups in the parish, have produced a draft Climate Action Plan and now need community engagement and feedback to move forward. Local action is critical and nature is an easily accessible starting point and can involve the whole community, hence the focus on biodiversity as a hook. This project is about engagement and will benefit the local community, contribute to nature recovery in the wider area and support the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Nature Recovery Plan. We aim to reach at least the critical tipping point threshold of 25% committed residents. The project will start by making available the draft Climate Action Plan to every household, either in print or on-line, followed by a community event in Spring 2022 to present and discuss the plan. To ensure a wide audience, guest speakers will be invited, including a talk on Gardening for Wildlife and there will be activities for children. Households will be invited to participate in a range of biodiversity projects which include pond restoration, having house martin nest boxes, hedgehog boxes (both in the Biosphere Nature Recovery Plan) and Pollinator Pathway plots (inspired by the Eden Project) in their gardens. Trail cameras will be available to borrow and nest boxes with cameras will be installed, with footage uploaded to community website. The project will be publicised using the local press, community website, Parish Council website, community Facebook page and posters in the Parish. Adjoining parishes will be contacted and invited to the launch and subsequent events. There is a small core of active people in the parish who have planted trees, surveyed lichens and wildflowers, planted small wildflower meadows, installed bat boxes, cleared the pond site, monitored river invertebrates and removed invasive species. The challenge is that it is the same small group of people, so now it is urgent that more residents become actively involved. Nature based solutions are critical and will provide a route to engagement in the whole Climate Action Plan across the community, as well as building social capital.

Q2. How does your project meet at least two of our funding criteria?

* All projects must be about developing a community-led climate action project. Together for Our Planet will support projects that can meet at least two of the following criteria: 1. It supports the development of longer-term climate action within communities (that is, looking beyond the COP26 event in November) 2. It encourages communities to plan for the climate emergency - to consider what climate action could mean to them and why it matters 3. It celebrates the importance of community-led climate action and encourages more people to get involved 4. It builds resilience in communities that are hardest hit by climate change 5. It provides jobs, skills or training opportunities for communities which support climate action.

Question 2 Criteria 1,2,3.

Once engaged through the natural environment, it is then vital that the Parish Council and associated community groups get the local community involved in contributing at whatever level they can, both in actions and contributions, to the parish Climate Action Plan. This is a major challenge and will involve a series of community events to ensure the plan is constantly updated to reflect changing

circumstances and the wishes of the community. We aim to build on the momentum and increasing public awareness generated by COP26 especially among younger people and pay special attention to engaging families with young children. The key message is that “no-one can do everything, but everyone can/must do something”, recognizing that the global situation feels overwhelming to many people, who struggle to relate it to what they can do in their everyday lives – particularly in an area where the general perception is that we have so far been little affected by climate change. We will emphasise that local actions to both prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change and to protect biodiversity can enhance people’s lives and bring tangible benefits – that making changes does not have to mean making sacrifices or being more expensive and that sometimes a small change in habits can make a significant positive difference. The aim is that the plan should guide all future decisions made by the Council where there is a known or potential impact on climate, environment and/or biodiversity – e.g. planning applications, local land-use, maintenance of hedgerows and verges etc.

Q3. How does your project involve your community? * We believe that people understand what's needed in their communities better than anyone. Tell us how your community came up with the idea for your project. We want to know who you have spoken to and how they'll be involved in the development and delivery of the project. As we've said, we want to ensure as many people and communities as possible can get involved. We are looking for projects which will work with a wide range of people from across your community, including those who have not been involved in climate action before.

Question 3

The Parish Council was approached in 2019 by members of the community suggesting that they take a lead in responding to the climate emergency. Covid19 intervened, but finally in 2021, the Parish Council formally declared a climate emergency and agreed to work with both the Climate Action Group and the Biodiversity Group in the parish to produce a draft action plan which could be presented to the community. The Parish Council is appointing a sub-committee to concentrate on developing the plan and organising associated community events. A wide cross section of the community has been involved in putting this project together and all are committed to engaging the wider community. In recent months, Council members and community group leaders have been attending local events and engaging with other local Councils and environmental organisations [e.g. Biosphere, DWT, 361 Energy etc] to broaden their knowledge and to develop and adapt ideas to meet the specific needs within Littleham and Landcross. We recognise the importance of working with local landowners and farmers, many of whom face severe economic challenges

Item or activity

1. Make draft Climate Action Plan available to all households in the parish and publicise

Amount 105

2. Community launch event to present Action Plan and invite participation in biodiversity projects.
Guest speaker on Gardening for Wildlife to ensure wide audience
Amount 575

3. House martin nest boxes - target is 10 installations
Amount 250

4. Hedgehog boxes and hedgehog highways - target is 10 installations in gardens
Amount 300

5. Pollinator Pathway planting - target is 25 plots in gardens designed using pollinator.art website
and linked to village Open Gardens
Amount 500

6. Village pond restoration- digger hire, clay for re-lining, drainage works and native plants
Amount 2000

7. Trail cameras - 2 trail cameras available to borrow. Target is 25 different locations through parish,
with footage uploaded to community website.
Amount 500

8. Multi-species bird nest boxes with cameras and wifi - 2 boxes and footage uploaded to community
website, with live links.
Amount 400

Requested total (£) 4630

Informed that bid was successful on 1st March 2022

2. GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE EVENT, 26TH MARCH 2022



PLANNING

Planning for the event started in advance of confirmation of the success of the Lottery bid and was done on the assumption that the event would run using the limited funds available from the Parish Council. Once Lottery funding was confirmed on 1st March, the programme was immediately expanded.

The event would not have been possible without community support from the Parish Council, Littleham and Landcross Biodiversity Group, Littleham Village Hall and all the volunteers who helped and contributed on the day

2-4pm Littleham Village Hall Village hall booked. Access from 10am
Chairs in main hall facing projector screen /Tables at front for speaker.

Tea, coffee, squash, cakes on tables in skittle alley – available at end of meeting
need helpers on the day to serve, plus volunteers to make cakes/biscuits. Volunteers needed to clear up. Table at entrance with volunteer to take names and contact details (if given). Permission was obtained for photography.

2pm (timings approximate)

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. David Pinney (Chair Parish Council)- welcome | 5mins |
| 2. Cllr Pete Jollands – brief intro on climate emergency / why concentrating on biodiversity/what's available to take away at end | 10mins |
| 3. *Emily Willoughby (North Devon Biosphere Reserve)
– Biosphere Recovery/Pledge for Nature | 20-30mins |
| 4. Mari Galvin/Rob Reed– Biodiversity group /pond restoration | 5 mins |

3pm

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 5. Alex Paines – Rosemoor – Gardening for Wildlife | 30-35 mins |
| 6. Q & A – Pete | |

DISPLAYS

1. Board with post-its for ideas – **How can we make Littleham and Landcross a better place to live?** (e.g. more trees, less rubbish, places to sit, slower traffic)
2. Devon Wildlife Trust – projects / tips printed out from website
3. How do we know it is working (i.e. getting wilder)? recording schemes/apps e.g. inaturalist, butterfly counts, Big Bird Watch, Plantlife Every Plant Counts etc.
4. Celebration of wildlife in the parish - Photos of things people have done for wildlife, any photos of wildlife in village.
5. Resources/ help available – list of useful websites on improving biodiversity
6. 361 Energy
7. Carbon foot-printing
8. Torridge District Council – Devon Climate Emergency/Recycling.....

*Emily was unable to attend due to Covid, but Pete Jollands (ex-chair of North Devon Biosphere Foundation) gave the presentation.

PUBLICITY

1. Crosslet (Parish magazine)
2. Church notice boards
3. Parish Council notice boards
4. Facebook
5. Leaflets hand-delivered to all households in the Parish
6. Details of event shared with adjoining

parishes 7. Pub poster 8. NDJournal/Gazette 9. Devon Climate Emergency newsletter 10. Other contacts e.g. Torridge Green Party

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



1. Bee hotels

Tin cans pre-screwed onto backing board, any sharp edges flattened with pliers. Bamboo of different diameters pre-cut to length (shorter than can so ends do not get wet).

Children filled cans with bamboo.



We had examples of commercial bee hotels which had been colonized by solitary bees.

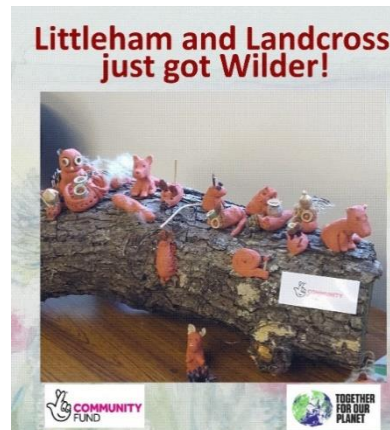
2. Clay animals

Modelling clay (2kg blocks bought from Baker Ross online)

Cut into small pieces. Shells, sticks, bamboo discs, leaves, etc. provided for decoration. All models placed on log and then children took them home at the end of the event. Provided hand washing facilities as was very messy.



Finished display;



3. Freshwater invertebrates / microscopes

Kick samples from local river including mayflies, stoneflies etc. Manned by local enthusiast.



4. Quiz

Questions printed onto A5 sheet, information cards with all the answers distributed around the venue for children to find. Need to supply pencils.

1. What do owl pellets contain?
2. Who introduced rabbits into this country?
3. What does the Large Blue Butterfly caterpillar eat?
4. What do spiders have to stop them getting trapped in their own web?
5. What do Sexton Beetles eat?
6. What do Woodlice eat?
7. What do ladybirds gobble up?
8. What bird sings "Tic, tic tic"?
9. What do bats use to navigate and find their prey?
10. What do dragonflies spend the first 2 to 3 years of their life as?

5. Tadpoles

A tank of tadpoles from a local pond was on display, with a volunteer available to answer questions.

DISPLAYS

MONITORING

1.

Android and iPhone app

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you

A simpler version is Seek https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app

2. Woodland Trust Nature's Calendar

Help track the effects of weather and climate change on wildlife

<https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

3. Butterfly Conservation

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/recording-and-monitoring>

4. Pollinator monitoring scheme

Help monitor the health of our pollinators

<https://ukpoms.org.uk/>

5. Fruit tree flowering

Climate change is impacting both the timing of fruit tree flowering and pollinator flight, which could reduce pollination and fruit production.

The project is gathering data **Apple, Pear, Plum** (including Damson and Greengage), and **Cherry** flowering dates across the UK

<https://fruitwatch.org/>

6. House martins

<https://devonhousemartins.org.uk/submit-nest-bird-sighting/>

The aim is to increase biodiversity of the Parish and encourage people to become involved and aware of what is around them. A measure of this is set up monitoring programmes and also try and persuade people to become involved in citizen science projects.

We have set up two iNaturalist projects where anyone can add observations.

Littleham and Landcross animals

Littleham and Landcross plants

TOP GARDENING TIPS

[Gardening tips.docx](#)



WILDFLOWER SEEDS

We bought 2 different seed mixes from Boston Seeds

<https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/wildflowers-seed/> and re-packaged them into small envelopes <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/162687513330> with enough seed (3-4g) for 1m². Each envelope labelled with planting instructions.



All attendees took packets for themselves, friends, family etc. Asked to post pictures on community Facebook page when flowering.

HOUSE MARTIN NEST BOXES

We bought 10 house martin nest boxes to give away (raffle tickets)



<https://www.nestbox.co.uk/products/eco-house-martin-nest>

HEDGEHOG HOUSES

We bought 10 hedgehog houses to give away (raffle tickets)

<https://homeandroost.co.uk/product/predator-proof-hedgehog-house/>



TRAIL CAMERAS

We bought 2 x Browning Spec Ops Elite HP4 cameras for anyone in the community to borrow



From <http://wildlifeservices.co.uk/trailcameras.html> with rechargeable batteries and SD cards.

Compilation of some of the results posted on Facebook – put together using OpenShot video editor (free open-source software)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LJF5Qc34_KfcxgVSQkb0x8FWMp8njsRL/view?usp=sharing

BAT BOXES



10 bat boxes were made by volunteers in the village and given away (using raffle tickets)

BIRD BOXES

8 bird boxes were made by members of the community and given away using raffle tickets.

One bird box with a camera was available (only one was bought, rather than the 2 proposed to enable review of installation, set up and video quality) and a resident of Littleham agreed to have it installed and linked to a wi-fi network to enable remote monitoring and posting of live footage.



POLLINATOR PLANTS

£500 of pollinator plants were purchased from a local nursery in peat-free compost and attendees took one away each. This was an alternative to the proposed Pollinator Art project (the cost of plants made this impossible)



information was given for each species e.g.

WILDLIFE PHOTOS

People were asked to bring photos of any wildlife in the Parish and these were added to the display.



361 Energy <https://361energy.org/> were invited to give information on energy efficiency and carbon footprinting.

LITTLEHAM AND LANDCROSS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The proposal to distribute a copy of the plan to all households before the Gardening for Wildlife event did not take place as the draft plan had not been ratified by the Parish Council at that stage. A copy of the draft plan was available at the event with a space for comments

The Parish Council is currently working on effective ways to engage the community and the poster below (to be posted on Facebook, Parish Council website and notice boards in the first instance) is in the process of being finalised by the Parish Council.

Alex Paines RHS Rosemoor talking on gardening for wildlife



Alex's notes are available to [download](#).

FEEDBACK AT EVENT
50-60 people attended

Questions asked At Wilder event 26th March, 2022

1. What would make Littleham and Landcross a better place to live?

In order of responses: from Post-it notes

- 1.Restore village pond
- 2.More trees – around village hall car park
 - allow another oak to grow at top of playing field
- 3.Hedgerows – plant one at bottom of playing field
 - plant one around village hall car park
- 4.Community orchard
- 5.Reduce and slow down traffic
- 6.Beavers in Jennets valley
- 7.Taking action against invasive species – Himalayan Balsam spreading along river bank

2. Future Village Hall events?

In order of responses:

- 1.Home energy and insulation
- 2.Food and farming
- 3.Waste and recycling

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE WILDLIFE FOR GARDENING EVENT

WILDLIFE CAMERAS

The wildlife cameras have been on loan around the parishes and continue to be used.

Some examples of wildlife:



WILDFLOWER SEEDS

The seed mixes were very successful and sown at a large number of locations and produced nectar rich flowers over a long period.

Examples:

July 2022

November 2022



BIRDBOXES/BAT BOXES

Good nesting success for the birdboxes, though the one with a camera installed, failed to attract a breeding pair. It will be moved to another location before the next nesting season.



Installation in Littleham.

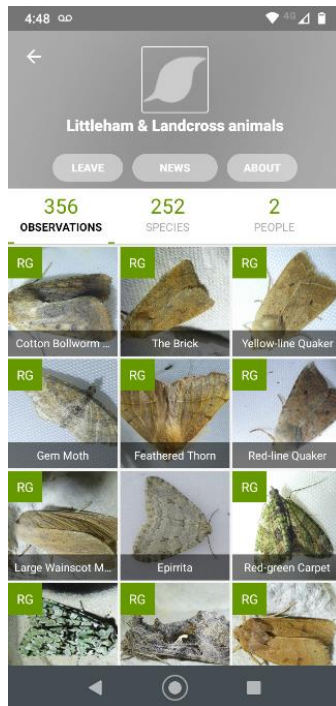
House Martin nest boxes had limited success but remain in place for next year. No data is yet available of use of the bat boxes by bats.

HEDGEHOG BOXES

All installed, no data yet available on use by hedgehogs.

I NATURALIST

252 species have been added to the iNaturalist animal project though only 14 species to the plant project to date.



NORTH DEVON BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Peter Jollands gave a presentation at an online Biosphere event on community engagement by parish councils. As a result of this, details of organization and content of the Gardening for Wildlife event was provided to Bude Town Council for possible duplication.

Organised in response to feedback at Gardening for Wildlife event

3. HOME ENERGY EVENT, 8TH JUNE 2022

Publicity posters on Facebook and noticeboards:



361 Energy <https://361energy.org/> gave a presentation on how they could assist with lowering energy bills, in particular their retrofit advice service and solar photovoltaic panels.

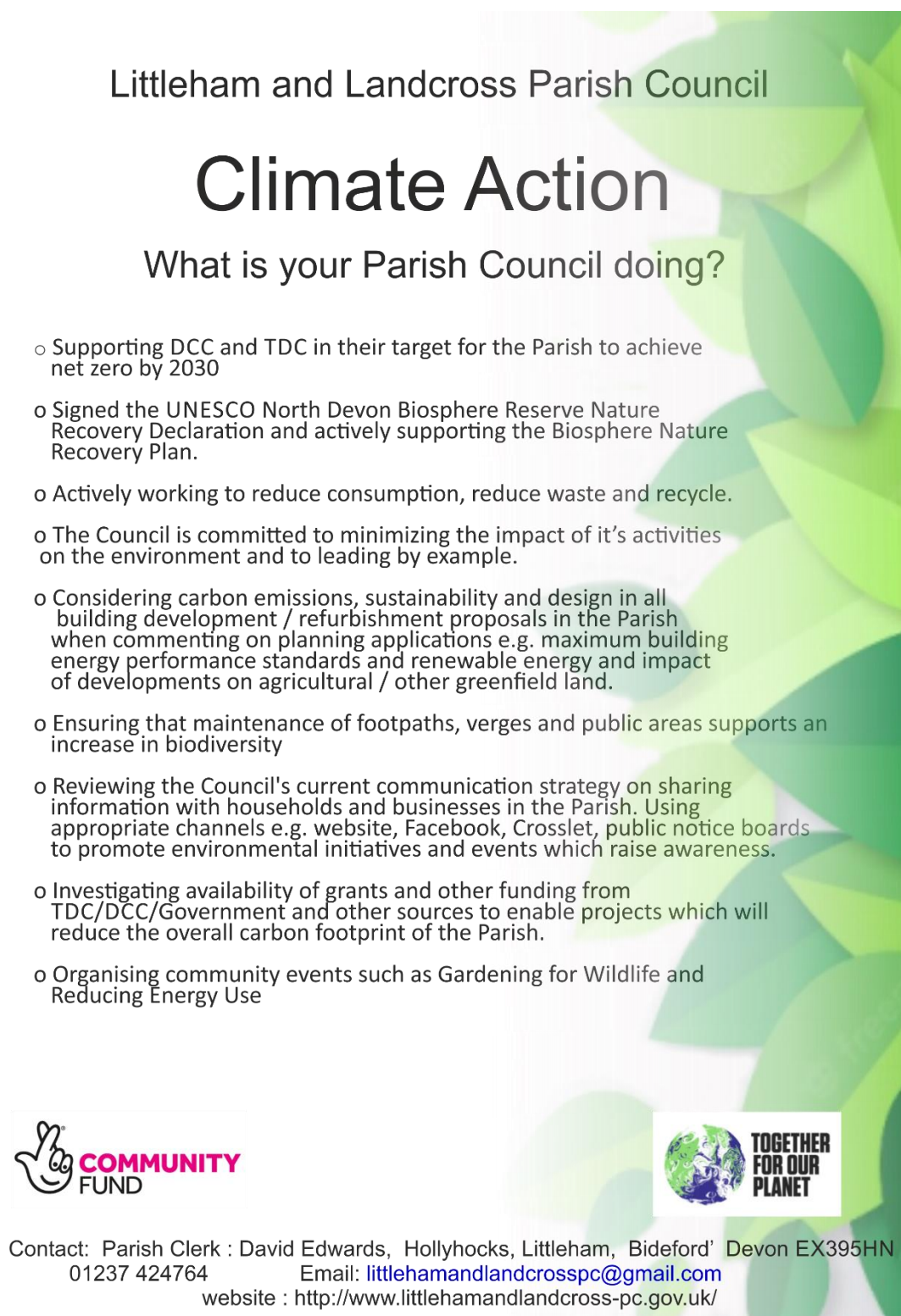
361 Community Energy is a not-for-profit social enterprise with a mission to help northern Devon's community to take climate change action and rapidly reduce the region's carbon footprint.

361 is supported by a wide range of local and regional partnerships, including North Devon Council, Torridge Council, Devon County Council, the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, local climate groups and more.

The event was not well attended (around 15 people) but resulted in 3 households booking visits from 361 Energy for a survey and advice on home improvements to reduce energy bills and carbon footprints. Information on the visits was also publicised on the community Facebook page, community website and in the Village Hall.

4. LITTLEHAM AND LANDCROSS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Parish Council is currently working on effective ways to engage the community and the poster below (to be posted on Facebook, Parish Council website and notice boards in the first instance) is in the process of being finalised by the Parish Council.





Littleham and Landcross Parish Council

Climate Action

What is your Parish Council doing?

- o Supporting DCC and TDC in their target for the Parish to achieve net zero by 2030
- o Signed the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Reserve Nature Recovery Declaration and actively supporting the Biosphere Nature Recovery Plan.
- o Actively working to reduce consumption, reduce waste and recycle.
- o The Council is committed to minimizing the impact of it's activities on the environment and to leading by example.
- o Considering carbon emissions, sustainability and design in all building development / refurbishment proposals in the Parish when commenting on planning applications e.g. maximum building energy performance standards and renewable energy and impact of developments on agricultural / other greenfield land.
- o Ensuring that maintenance of footpaths, verges and public areas supports an increase in biodiversity
- o Reviewing the Council's current communication strategy on sharing information with households and businesses in the Parish. Using appropriate channels e.g. website, Facebook, Crosslet, public notice boards to promote environmental initiatives and events which raise awareness.
- o Investigating availability of grants and other funding from TDC/DCC/Government and other sources to enable projects which will reduce the overall carbon footprint of the Parish.
- o Organising community events such as Gardening for Wildlife and Reducing Energy Use

 **COMMUNITY FUND**

 **TOGETHER FOR OUR PLANET**

Contact: Parish Clerk : David Edwards, Hollyhocks, Littleham, 'Bideford' Devon EX395HN
01237 424764 Email: littlehamandlandcrosspc@gmail.com
website : <http://www.littlehamandlandcross-pc.gov.uk/>



Littleham and Landcross Parish Council

Climate Action

What can you do?



The Parish Council is committed to supporting initiatives in the Parish to help mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change and these are examples of actions that could be taken by the community.

Reducing energy demand

Encourage people to:

- switch to green energy which shows suppliers that there is a demand for renewable energy and that you wish to avoid electricity generated from fossil fuels. The Energy Saving Trust has a guide to the greenest suppliers and recommend suppliers who clearly identify their renewable sources.
- book a free Home Energy Efficiency Review with 361 Energy
- use a carbon footprint calculator e.g. carbon independent, WWF, Carbon Savvy, to estimate carbon emissions and follow some easy steps to reduce your carbon footprint
- become a member of 361 Energy to get regular practical tips on reducing your carbon footprint
- switch all lighting to LED to save energy
- get a smart meter and monitor your energy use

Moving around

Encourage people to:

- fly less – use the train instead when possible, especially within the UK and Europe
- car share or cycle or walk
- Cycle for utility purposes rather than just as a means of exercise
- use the bus for local trips when possible and campaign for increased bus services

Biodiversity

Encourage people to:

- be part of the community helping nature thrive in North Devon and sign up to the North Devon Biosphere Pledge for Nature
- review and adapt garden maintenance– e.g. cut your grass less often, leave wild patches and pledge to “no-mow May”; planting for pollinators; never use herbicides or insecticides; don't have bonfires (TDC green bin pick up will need to be addressed); install nest-boxes for birds, log-piles for insects, access routes for hedgehogs etc; don't use peat based composts. Go to Devon Wildlife Trust for ideas.
- Sign up to the Parish Biodiversity Group

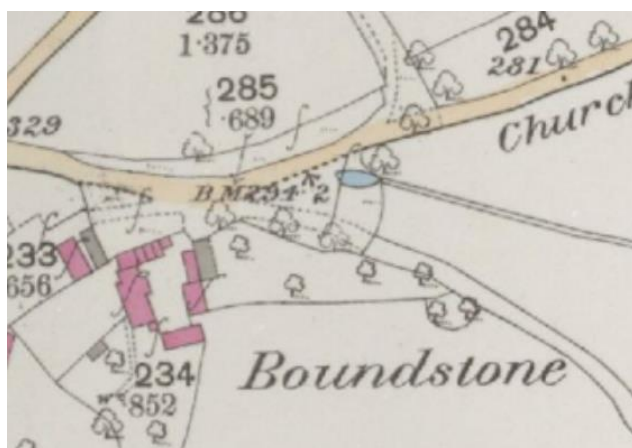
Other actions

- Repair, Re-use, Recycle. As everything we buy generates emissions, buy less and when you do buy choose second-hand or purchase from sustainable retailers. Ask yourself: do you really need it? Who made it? Where was it made? How is it transported?
- Switch to a bank that doesn't invest in fossil fuels e.g. Co-op, Nationwide or Triodos
- Food – consider what you eat and where it comes from
- Cleaning and other household products – choose recycled and eco-friendly

Contact: Parish Clerk : David Edwards, Hollyhocks, Littleham, Bideford' Devon EX395HN
01237 424764 Email: littlehamandlandcrosspc@gmail.com
website : <http://www.littlehamandlandcross-pc.gov.uk/>

5. POND RESTORATION

The village pond has been recorded on OS maps since 1887



1887 OS Map

The pond has had a history of neglect and restoration (by residents of the village) over the years and for the last 12 years the area has been managed by the village Biodiversity Group. It no longer holds water and was identified by the community, both before and at the 'Gardening for Wildlife' event as a priority for action. Ownership of the area has been discussed over the years, but it was confirmed at a Parish Council meeting in the late 1990's as unregistered 'common' land. On this basis, restoration of the pond was included in the project.

However, a local landowner has now claimed ownership and threatened legal action to anyone interfering with the site. The landowner refuses to discuss this with the Parish Council and has not provided evidence of ownership, but the threat of legal action on the Parish Council means that this part of the project cannot be completed. Alternative projects are being considered.

6. 'BIG TREE' PROJECT

Lottery submission as an alternative to pond restoration element of original project.

Together for Our Planet: Wilder Littleham and Landcross

Pond restoration

Unforeseen problems have arisen with the proposal to restore the village pond as a landowner in the village has claimed ownership of the small piece of land where the pond is located. The landowner has offered no proof of ownership, but has threatened legal action and therefore the Parish Council cannot proceed with this part of the project

Proposed Alternative project to pond restoration:

Trees for Biodiversity and Climate Adaptation

Local background information:

Littleham Village Hall and the adjacent playing field constitute the main area for public and community gatherings in the Parish. The playing field is well used for family recreation throughout the year, but especially during the summer months. The Village Hall car park has no shelter, being bordered only by grass verges and small shrubs. The playing field is bordered by medium height hedgerows plus a few mature trees, and has a small copse area recently planted with young saplings, but none of these will provide any appreciable shade in the near/medium-term future. During periods of heavy rainfall, large parts of the field frequently become water-logged.

General background information from current government advice:

Further climatic changes are inevitable in the future and the UK will need to manage the growing risks from climate change.

The latest national climate projections are that by 2061:

- Summers will likely be drier by 16-42%, and hotter by 3.6°C-5 °C
- Hot spells of over 30 °C for more than 2 days are likely to occur around 4 times a year
- Winters will likely be wetter by 16-42%
- The intensity of rainfall over the year will likely be increased by 7.5%, significantly increasing the likelihood of flash floods

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885242/moj-climate-change-adaptation.pdf

New proposal details:

The Parish Council therefore proposes to purchase and plant a selection of larger saplings (each 3.0 – 3.5m in height) to:

- Increase biodiversity (large trees will provide additional habitat and shelter for a variety of birds and invertebrates)
- Provide shade for future generations on publicly accessible land.
- Introduce tree species suitable for a warmer climate*
- Accelerate shade provision*
- Reduce waterlogging and improve natural drainage of field (larger trees absorb and retain more excess rainwater)

*Advice on appropriate tree species in terms of future climate suitability, biodiversity, shade provision, was sought.

Budget:

£2000 – previously allocated to restoration of the village pond

3-3.5m high trees are approx. £150-£200 each.

7-8 trees = £1400

Delivery, planting, protection and maintenance

= £600

Big tree locations

Potential sites have been identified for up to 10 trees and agreement has already been reached with the Village Hall, with final positioning to be discussed.

Village Hall and Playing Field



Other locations are:

- Littleham Church: to replace recently removed copper beech
- Landcross : field adjacent to public footpath

Peter Jollands, Rosemary Gent

December 2022

Confirmation e mail

RE: 20189341 - Confirmation of an extension to your Together for Our Planet grant until 31 March 2023
28/11/2022, 12:35

You are most welcome regarding the short project extension. I have updated your email address as requested below and we look forward to hearing from you after your next Parish meeting.

Michael Langmead
UK Portfolio Officer

Tree planting by volunteers from the Parish Council, Biodiversity Group and Village Hall



March 2023

7. EVEN WILDER EVENT

A final event was organized with soil biodiversity and soil health as the main theme.



Littleham and Landcross
gets
Even Wilder!
A follow up to last year's WILD event
Littleham Village Hall
Saturday, March 11th 2.00-4.30pm
Activities for all !

- Art with local pigments.
- Pond life + making clay animals + origami fish
- What lives in the soil
- Calculate your carbon footprint
- Quiz
- and more.....

Displays

- Wildlife recording - what have we found in the last year?
- Moth traps - what was flying last night?
- Littleham temperate rainforest - lichens and ferns
- Visit the 'Big Trees' newly planted in the Playing Field
- Action on climate change

Let nature do the work!
Throw away your spade and supercharge your soil
Talk by Becky Searle
on no-dig gardening
3.00 - 4.00pm

Becky Searle is a freelance gardening writer with a regular feature in Kitchen Garden Magazine and also writes for Homes and Gardens Magazine. She also has her own Podcast, The Seed Pod, and a YouTube channel. Becky is a member of the Garden Media Guild.

Free to take away : peat-free potting compost, Primroses and Snowdrops, wildflower seeds,
Free tea, coffee, soft drinks and cake

Event organised by :
Littleham and Landcross Parish Council
Littleham Biodiversity Group

Contact Peter Luffels: peteluffels@gmail.com for more details

PROGRAMME AND ORGANISATION

SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023 – LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

LITTLEHAM AND LANDCROSS GETS EVEN WILDER

TIMETABLE & ALLOCATION OF VOLUNTEER TASKS

From 10.00am	Set up chairs, tables, displays, projector, refreshments and National Lottery branding	all volunteers welcome!
1.30pm	Doors open & welcome	Pete, Rosemary + any other PC volunteers
	Raffle tickets for compost offered	Mary + Norma
2.00pm	Activities commence in main hall (continue all afternoon)	
	Painting with local pigments, Origami fish Colouring in flowers etc	Mari, Sarah + Juliet
	Clay animal modelling	Pip, Sally + Susie
	Rainforest, Lichens etc.	Rob
	Moths & crayon sketches of moths	Rob
	Displays – soil, worms & other invertebrates, Pondlife	Pip, Sally, Susie, Sue, Greg + John Hickson
	Quiz	Sue
	Carbon footprinting	Pete, David
3.00 – 4.00pm	Becky Searle talk in bar	Pete to introduce
4.00pm	Refreshments served	Judy, Mary, Rosemary + any other volunteers
	Plant, compost take-aways distributed via raffle tickets	Pip, Sarah
4.30pm	Event ends	
4.30 – 5.00pm	Dismantle displays and clear-up	all volunteers welcome!

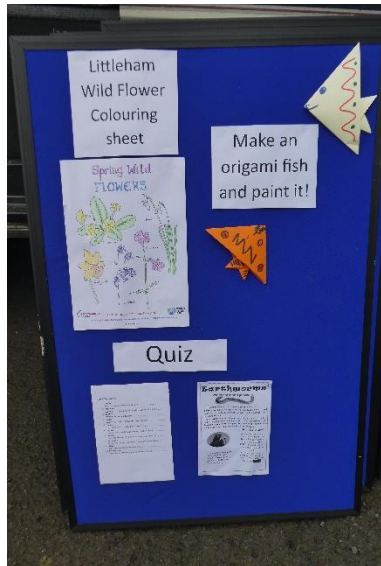
ACTIVITIES AND DISPLAYS

PAINTING WITH LOCAL PIGMENTS

Organised by Littleham Art Group



ORIGAMI FISH



Origami fish instructions:

<https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/easy-origami-fish/>

Fish could be coloured/decorated using felt-tip pens or natural pigments and were displayed on a fishing net (collected from the strandline of a local beach)

WILDFLOWER COLOURING

Colouring pencils/felt tips were available for colouring drawings.

QUIZ


Questions printed onto A5 sheet, information cards with all the answers distributed around the venue for children to find.

Quiz Questions

1. **Moths:**
How fast can some Hawk Moths fly?
2. **Woodlice:**
Which part of their body do woodlice breathe through?.....
3. **Beetles:**
What do Sexton beetles eat?.....
4. **Slugs:**
How many species of slugs are there in the UK?.....
5. **Fungi:**
How big is the largest fungus on earth?.....
6. **Lichens:**
Which animal needs lichens for food in the winter?.....
7. **Moles:**
How many metres of tunnels can a mole dig in one day?.....
8. **Centipede:**
How many pairs of legs does a Common Centipede have?.....
9. **Wasps:**
What are wasp's nests made of?.....
10. **Earthworms:**
How long was the largest earthworm ever found?

Earthworms


Worms are natural gardeners



Different types live at different depths in the soil.
Surface worms live on top of the soil and feed on dead leaves near the soil surface. Their poo, which is rich in nutrients, is added to the soil.
Topsoil worms burrow sideways, eat the soil, digest it, and again the poo contains nutrients which plants absorb as food.
Deep burrowing worms are powerful burrowers who make deep vertical burrows. They can live for up to 10 years.

Did you know?

- In one hectare of land there can be more than two million earthworms
- There are more than 2700 different kinds of earthworms around the world
- The largest ever earthworm found was in South Africa and it was more than 6m long



Worms are a major part of the diet of many animals. Foxes can catch and eat up to 10 juicy worms a minute.

CLAY ANIMAL MODELLING

Air-drying modelling clay was provided with modelling tools and decorations.

The clay was UK sourced <https://www.hope-education.co.uk/product/art-and-design/modelling-and-pottery/clay/scola-air-drying-modelling-clay-125kg-stone/he222150>



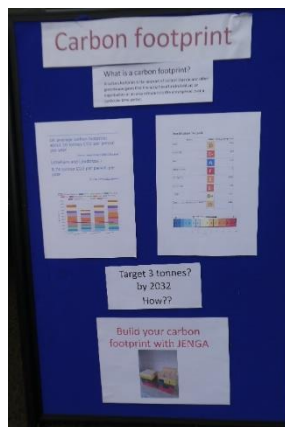
POND LIFE



Tanks with a range of invertebrates from local ponds were on display and could be caught and viewed using a visualiser and microscope.

CARBON FOOT-PRINTING

People could calculate their carbon-footprint on-line using the Carbon Savvy popular 5 minute calculator <https://calculator.carbonsavvy.uk/calculator/survey?redirectTo=/calculator/popular> and record their results on a bar chart. Alternatively the footprint could be demonstrated using giant JENGA, using questions for both adults and children from Devon Climate Emergency <https://devonclimateemergency.org.uk/resources-for-community-groups/>



SOILS

A range of different soils were on display to show the variety of soil types in the area – not all soils are the same! Accompanying posters showed the components of healthy soils and ways of improving soil biodiversity.

<https://www.wildgoose.education/rocks/discovering-soil-poster>



PLANT YOUR PANTS

Developed as a simple graphic way to demonstrate soil microbial activity. The experiment was carried out at [Kingsley School Earth Centre](https://www.countrytrust.org.uk/news/plant-your-pants), Bideford and pants were planted in different areas and dug up after 3 months.



More information:

<https://www.countrytrust.org.uk/news/plant-your-pants>

<https://www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/news/20015829.hungry-soil-feed-pants-find/>

WORMERY



A wormery showed all the elements of home composting.

e.g. <https://www.wormcity.co.uk/>

NORTH DEVON RAINFOREST



Lichens could be investigated using a microscope and could be viewed under UV light to show fluorescence.

WILDLIFE PHOTOS



Examples of wildlife recorded locally over the last year since the first event in March 2022.

WILDFLOWER SEEDS



Wildflower seeds were available to take away. Seeds were of UK origin.

<https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/wildflowers-seed/wildflower-seed-mixtures-100/bs9p-100-cornfield-annuals-wildflower-seeds.html>

Seeds were packaged into envelopes containing 3g of seed, enough for 1m²

PRIMROSES AND SNOWDROPS TO TAKE-AWAY



PEAT FREE POTTING COMPOST



To encourage use of peat-free compost. 35 bags (15kg) were given away using raffle tickets.
<https://melcourt.co.uk/products/all-purpose-peat-free-compost/>

TRAIL CAMERAS



Trail cameras were purchased in March 2022 to record wildlife in Littleham and Landcross and a video loop was on display, showing some of the footage filmed over the year. A sign-up sheet was provided to book a slot to borrow the cameras.

Trail camera video footage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE2Q67gKOfl>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rg7fBktzepM>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5Up_VLFXyE

WILDLIFE RECORDING



The community were encouraged to record observations on the iNaturalist groups set up in March 2022. Demonstrations of the app were available.

BIG TREES

A display showed the background to the project and for the event, each tree planted was labelled with details of tree species, expected size and benefit to wildlife.

We have planted:

- Oak
- Hornbeam
- Silver Lime
- Sweet Chestnut
- Field Maple

NO-DIG GARDENING TALK



Let nature do the work!

Throw away your spade and
supercharge your soil

Talk by Becky Searle
on no-dig gardening
3.00 - 4.00pm

Becky Searle is a freelance gardening writer with a regular feature in Kitchen Garden Magazine and also writes for Homes and Gardens Magazine. She also has her own Podcast, The Seed Pod, and a YouTube channel. Becky is a member of the Garden Media Guild.

Becky Searle gave a superb presentation on soil, with both detailed ecology and practical advice on increasing soil health. It was very well received by an audience of around 40 people, with many questions at the end.

Sow Much More

Sow Much More

- The Home Of Organic Gardening -



FEEDBACK ON FINAL EVENT

Approximately 100 people attended the event. This included visitors from the nearby parishes of Monkleigh, Buckland Brewer and Westleigh, and also from further afield e.g. Barnstaple and Uffculme.

Comments

‘Thank you for putting together such a lovely event yesterday. It was informative, and the children enjoyed it enormously. The variety and richness of learning was wonderful. Thank you and the team so much. ‘

‘I couldn’t sleep after Becky’s talk as I was so excited planning my new garden’

‘Wonderful event’

‘When’s the next one’

‘We need to do something like this in the village where we live’

8. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

The application to the Lottery by the Parish Council was for funding to engage the community in local action to contribute to tackling the climate and biodiversity crisis. Local action is seen as critical and nature is an easily accessible starting point.

The project starting point was an event to present the draft Climate Action Plan combined with a talk on Gardening for Wildlife and this was planned to go ahead even if we were unsuccessful in our grant application. This event would not have been possible without the help of members of the Parish Council, Littleham Biodiversity Group and other volunteers from the community.

Shortly before the planned event we received confirmation of success in obtaining the grant and the event was rapidly extended to include children's activities, a series of displays, purchase of trail cameras and giveaways of nest boxes, wildflower seeds, plants, and hedgehog boxes for installation in the parish. The Climate Action plan was presented as a display and some comments were received, though this was not a particularly successful way of engaging the community. The talks, displays, giveaways and children's activities, however, were a great success and approximately 60 people attended. Free refreshments were appreciated by attendees.

Feedback about the event was good. At the event people were asked what they would like to see happen next in relation to the climate and biodiversity crisis and an event on energy use was the top priority.

There was an underspend in the budget for the first event and we were informed that we could reclaim VAT on any purchases, which allowed the Parish Council to organize a second event on household energy use and alternative energy. This was not well attended, possibly because it was an evening event, and the speakers pitched their presentations at a fairly technical level. It did, however, succeed in 4 households planning energy surveys of their properties.

Sufficient funding remained to organize a final event and it was decided to have soil biodiversity as the theme. This followed a similar format to the first event with a speaker, activities, displays and giveaways. The speaker on No-dig Gardening was exceptional and approximately 40 people attended the talk and responded enthusiastically. All activities went extremely well and particular thanks is due to Littleham Art Group for organizing painting with local pigments. As before, this event would not have been possible without the help of members of the Parish Council, Littleham Biodiversity Group and other volunteers from the community. Approximately 100 people (including many children) attended the event and feedback was excellent.

In terms of engagement of the community, this series of events was very successful and has laid the foundations for future action in the community.

We were unable to do the Littleham pond restoration part of the project due to an unforeseen and unproven ownership claim on the land which came with the threat of legal action. The claimants did not respond to a formal letter from the Parish Council requesting a meeting to discuss the issue. As an alternative, the Lottery accepted our proposal for a 'Big Trees' project. The project contributes to an increase in biodiversity, and in future will address the lack of shade in publicly accessible areas of the villages. We were also able to assist Littleham Church who required a replacement for a recently lost Copper Beech in the churchyard. The project has been well received in the Parish with excellent feedback.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

1.Summary

		Expenditure						Remaining	
		Gardening/Energy events		Even Wilder event		Big trees project			
£ Budget		Vat incl	VAT excl	Vat incl	VAT excl	Vat incl	VAT excl	VAT incl	VAT excl
Climate action plan	105								
Event costs	575	565.82	506.90	803.43	764.32				
Pond restoration / Big trees alternative	2000					2350.1	1958.39		
Hedgehog boxes	300	322.64	258.11						
House martin nest boxes	250	201	160.80						
Trail cameras	500	530	424.00						
Bird box camera bundle + sd card	400	197.49	157.99						
Plants for Pollinators	500	500	400.00						
TOTAL	4630	2316.95	1907.80	803.43	764.32	2350.06	1958.39	-840.44	-0.51

2. Event March 2022

				expenditure		Remaining	
				VAT inclusive	VAT exclu	VAT inclusive	VAT exclusive
Event costs							
(Gardening for Wildlife/ additional Energy event)				231.6	179.22		
361 Energy speakers				150	150.00		
Village Hall hire				145	145.00		
NALC event				39.22	32.68		
				565.82	506.90	575.00	68.10
Hedgehog boxes				322.64	258.11	-22.64	41.89
House martin nest boxes				201	160.80	49	89.2
Trail cameras				530	424.00	-30	76
Bird box camera bundle + sd card				197.49	157.99	202.51	242.01
Plants for Pollinators				500	400.00	0	100
				2316.95	1907.80	773.87	617.196

3. EVENT 11th March 2023

						expenditure			Remaining	
Total available						VAT incl	VAT	Vat excl	VAT in	Vat excl
£1,049.88		Budget:		Invoice no.						
Village Hall hire		100				100		100	0	0
Speaker		250	Sow Much More	18		149.5		149.5		
						149.5		149.5	100.5	100.5
Refreshments		50		Tesco	12	11.95		11.95		
				Morrison	13	36.12		36.12		
				Co-op	14	2.85		2.85		
						50.92		50.92	-0.92	-0.92
Children's activities/ displ		300	Paper etc	Hope edu	1	39.13	6.52	32.61		
			Card	PaperCu	2	28.55	4.76	23.79		
			Velcro	Magpie&	3	6		6		
			Origami I	WHSmith	4	5.99		5.99		
			Soil Post	Wildgoos	5	13.74	2.29	11.45		
			Laminatc	Argos	6	19.49		19.49		
			2 sets Fo	Argos	7	40		40		
			Clay/ tool	Hope edu	8	29.9	4.98	24.92		
			Poster pr	Get Set F	9	10		10		
			Photo pri	Timpson	10	7.08				
			Blue tack	WHSmith	11	2.99				
						202.87	19	174.25	97.1	125.8
Seeds etc. for distribution		245	Seeds	Boston s	15	62.99	10.5	52.5		
			seed env	ebay	16	3.95		3.95		
			Peat free	Charella	17	233.2	0	233.2		
						300.14	10	289.65	-55.1	-44.65
Climate action plan, publicity, printing and distribution		105				0				
						0		0	105	105
TOTALS		1050				803.43	29	764.32	246.6	285.7

4. Big Trees

Total available £2000 - re-allocated from Pond Restoration						expenditure			Remaining	
					Invoice no	VAT inclusive	VAT	Vat exclus	VAT inclusi	Vat exclusive
Trees	2000	Pixton Woodlands	19			2394	399	1995		
			Refund			186	31	155		
						2208	368	1840		
Additional items necessary due to non-delivery by Pixton										
		Mulch for trees/ties	20			38.12	6.35	31.77		
		Tree compost	21			7.99	1.33	6.66		
		Mulch for trees/compost	22			22.97	3.83	19.14		
		Mulch for trees	23			31.96	5.32	26.64		
		Tree ties	24			14.94	2.49	12.45		
		Sign for village hall	25			26.08	4.35	21.73		
						142.06	23.67	118.39		
Totals						2350.1	391.7	1958	-350	41.61