

Langton Matravers Draft Environmental Strategy Plan Discussion Document

It should be stated at the onset that the adoption of any environmental strategy by this Council can only succeed if it is adopted by the people in the village, and that active personal participation is paramount in the success of the project. We should also be aware that making the transition towards a more environmentally based community is going to cost – in time, effort and money.

1) Actions for Parish Council:

- a) Facilitate the reduction of energy consumption throughout the Parish, and identify steps which can be taken to reduce CO2 emissions.

Examples

- i) Audit Parish Office/Toilets – Ceiling insulation, replace lighting, solar panel in compound, secondary glazing and new door to reduce draughts.
- ii) Continue to pursue replacement street lighting to LED.
- iii) Work with DC to reduce speed limits
- iv) Buy energy from renewable source provider

- b) Assist in improving the natural environment and tree planting to aid in “Carbon Capture” within the Parish, and in the Purbeck area.

Examples

- i) Work to publicise National Trust Purbeck habitat restoration plan through website/Dubber etc. (awaiting details)
- ii) Assist where appropriate in flood alleviation/management.

- iii) Identify any suitable sites within village for tree planting and hedgerow re-instatement.
- iv) Seek grant/aid/advice/support to source saplings/plants.
- v) Adopt a road verge cutting/planting policy and discuss with Highways.

c) Identify and exploit alternative energy sources.

d) Encourage Villagers/School through public meeting/website/press to suggest actions/projects which will help reduce our collective carbon footprint, and support/adopt where applicable.

## 2) Organisation Structure

### i) The Village

The amount of work represented by the above will be far more than the Parish Council is able to do on its own, so an idea would be to call upon volunteers from the village to take ownership of the various projects and report back/seek assistance where applicable. This would operate very much along the lines of our current setup with Chris Hedley (RoW), and Bridget Mayes (Love Langton Litter Pickers). A fair degree of autonomy empowers people, and achieves far more than simply "telling them what to do". Unfortunately, without knowing how many people are willing to take an active role at present, this is purely speculative - however, there are many people in the village who are vocal in calling for action, and I feel confident that offering all a chance to get involved in a practical way should reap rewards.

ii) Wider Purbeck/Dorset

There will be opportunities to link projects and discuss ideas with other Parishes/Swanage TC/DAPTC/DC. There will be a need to secure funding for projects, and the more we liaise with other bodies, the economy of scale comes into play in our favour. Plus, we can share our plus points and pitfalls. A lot depends on the forthcoming Dorset Council action plan, and identifying co-operative projects will only become apparent when it is published.

Suggest close contact with Cllr. Brooks to keep us informed.

3) Actions for Individuals.

All householders could carry out a domestic audit to identify ways to reduce emissions, save energy, and assess impact on the environment of their vehicles. The Parish Council could have an "Environmental Impact" page on the website which could give advice on how to reduce energy usage/calculate carbon footprint etc. (This information is freely available on the internet).

This philosophy is fine until one considers that there are families in the village who are financially unable to pay for double glazing/changing their lights to LED/insulating etc.

This is where identifying grants and assistance comes in.

Currently, Dorset Council give grants up to 40% on commercial properties changing their lighting to LED. This, as far as I am aware, is not available to domestic properties. Perhaps we could ask the question...??

There are Government grants up to 100% for insulation, and also for double glazing, depending on circumstances.

Information such as this could easily be added to the LMPC website.

I would suggest that it is not the duty of the Parish Council to tell people to spend money. However, it may be useful to inform Parishioners that reducing energy usage may not cost them as much as they may have thought, and will pay for themselves over time.

Save money, save energy, save the environment.