



SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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9 June 2026

To: All Members of the Environment Committee:
Councillors: Ian Barlow, Bernie Davis, Paul Dodds, Mike Goodman, Chris Lockyear, Kevin Walker,
Hilary Nelson, Edward Willis Fleming

For Information:
Other Members of the Council
Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Meeting of the Environment Committee Monday 15 June at 6.30pm

You are called upon to attend the above meeting to be held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth. It is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered at the meeting and resolution or resolutions passed as the Council considers appropriate.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak at this meeting. The Chair of the Committee has the right and discretion to control questions to avoid disruption, repetition and to make best use of the meeting time. Individual contributions will be limited to a maximum period of three minutes.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher E Holland
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

		<u>Page/s</u>
	<u>PART 'A'</u>	
1	Apologies To receive any apologies for absence.	
2	Minutes To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 16 March 2026.	3 - 5

3 **Declarations of Interest**

Page/s

To receive any Members' declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

Note: You must also declare the nature of any personal or prejudicial interest in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.

4 **Matters of Urgency and Report**

To consider any items that in the opinion of the Chair should be dealt with as matters of urgency because of special circumstances. (Note: such circumstances need to be recorded in the minutes)

5 **Exclusion of the Public**

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There are no items which the Town Clerk recommends should be dealt with in this way.

6 **Items to note**

6.1 To receive Red, Amber, Green (RAG) reports from the Environment Community Groups:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a) Pothole Repair Project | 6-11 |
| b) Arboretum and the Sid Valley Biodiversity Group | 12 |
| c) CAPS | 13-16 |
| d) Friends of the Byes | 17 |
| e) River Sid Catchment Group | 18-19 |

7 **Items for Action/Funding**

7.1 To receive an update from Councillor Walker requesting a contribution of £200 towards CAPS costs from Sidmouth Town Council Environment Committee. This would cover costs until October 2026.

7.2 To receive a report from Robin Goodman and The Chair about the Batiquick water quality testing.

7.3 Councillor Davis to report on the recent screening of The People's Emergency Briefing.

Forthcoming Council and Committee meetings:

17 June: Tourism and Economy

24 June: Planning Committee

6 July: Council

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Monday 16 March 2026 at 6.30pm

Councillors: Ian Barlow (Chair)
Stephen Blakeway
Bernie Davis
Paul Dodds
Chris Lockyear
Hillary Nelson
Kevin Walker (Vice Chair)
Edward Willis Fleming

Also present: Cllr Kelvin Dent
Cllr Denise Bickley

Invited Reps: Jeremy Woodward (Vision Group Sidmouth (VGS))
Ed Dolphin (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jan Metcalf (River Sid Project)
Stefan Drew (Food Forest)
Peter Rose (SVA Trustee)
Tess Bison (Cherishing Sidmouth Cemeteries)

Apologies: Cllr Mike Goodman

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.45pm

PART 'A'

112 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 8 December 2025.

113 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Chris Lockyear	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group Trustee of Sidmouth Arboretum
Cllr Ian Barlow	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Trustee of Sidmouth Arboretum Trustee of Sidmouth School of Arts

Cllr Kevin Walker	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of the Vision Group Sidmouth
Cllr Kelvin Dent	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Knowle resident

114 Matters of Urgency and Report

The Chair gave members a leaflet to complete regarding the Marine and Green project.

115 Items for action and funding

- 115.1 Robin Goodman gave an informed power point presentation to the Committee about the progress of Batiquick water quality testing from July 2025 until March 2026. It was reported that the Bactiquick machine was not only quick but reliable with testing results coming out as the same as the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED: That the request for funding up to £2500 be approved for the following year.

- 115.2 Cllr Kelvin Dent updated the Committee on the recent work of Friends of the Knowle and requested funds to cover insurance cost for the year.

RESOLVED: That the Chair and Committee thanked the group for their dedication and success for the transformation of the Knowle. The request for insurance funds was granted.

- 115.3 Cllr Paul Dodds gave a presentation updating the Committee on the trial for road improvements in the Sid Valley. The trial had been very successful.

RESOLVED: That the request for £5000 for the pilot road repairs project for 2026/27 was approved by the Members.

- 115.4 Jeremy Woodward addressed the Committee on behalf of the VGS and Climate Awareness Project Sidmouth (CAPS) requesting funding for the following financial year.

RESOLVED: That the decision for funding be deferred until the next Environment Committee meeting held on 15 June by which time the VGS would submit KPI's and evidence of impact of last year's funding.

The Committee noted the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) reports submitted by the Environment Community Groups, along with an update on the Arboretum. The Chair and Members expressed their sincere thanks to the volunteer groups for the impressive work undertaken on behalf of the Town.

RESOLVED:

1) That the Committee approved the request from the Sid Valey Cycling Campaign group for £200 to fund a flag and associated publicity materials for the Campaign's use at Seafest.

2) That the Clerk and Chair were asked to follow up on correspondence sent in November 2025 with the Environment Agency concerning questions relating to the River Sid Catchment as they had received no reply to date.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Overview Project Summary

Project: Pothole Posses - Improve the quality of paths, roads and streetscene in Sidmouth

Contact person: Councillor Paul Dodds PMD – Road Warden

Date: 05/06/2026

Going well & Event dates	• 4th full road survey completed. Generally fewer potholes logged this time round, with just 3 failures seen of last years work. However about 10 instances of failures of road immediately adjacent to repairs failing. • This demonstrates the wisdom of not just filling potholes but of using professional contractors to cut out any adjacent areas if the road surface is poor. • 104 tubs of Instarmac has been delivered. 4 tons of hot tarmac laid since March – 6 tons this year on plus 6 tons last year. • 25 volunteers registered for pothole posse duty • Excellent press and social media coverage • 550 holes now fixed – that is 550 fewer holes in Sidmouth than there would otherwise have been. Approximately 8 repairs per mile of road in Sidmouth. • PMD has met DCC cabinet member and DCC Denise Bickley to make suggestions on how to further enhance the work. Key suggestion – if main roads have been shut by DCC, Posses should be able to fix holes on the road that is shut. DCC to go away and think about it. Test case - Woolbrook Road Zebra crossing creates a good opportunity to fix defects in adjacent areas. • The programme is almost universally popular. • DCC in general repairing potholes we report that meet criteria.
Challenges	• Weeds are wrecking roads and pathways. Current programme of weed removal is not working/damaging roads and paths. Awaiting outcome of review into use of herbicides by EDDC/DCC
Help needed	• Transporting a 50kg whacker plate + materials takes a toll on my back and car. In time STC should look at a method of transport. 3 Exmouth TC have 3 vehicles, Axminster at least 1. Why not Sidmouth? A vehicle would promote our work too. Quad bike and trailer? • Road and pavement condition keeps on deteriorating to the point where only surface dressing/resurfacing will work. It is estimated that currently roads are resurfaced once every 97 years. Average life expectancy of a residential surface 15-25 years. • Some roads really can only be taken on by DCC, eg Burscombe Lane, Buckley Lane as full repair would wipe out our budget.

Plan Ahead for 2026

Programme is mature

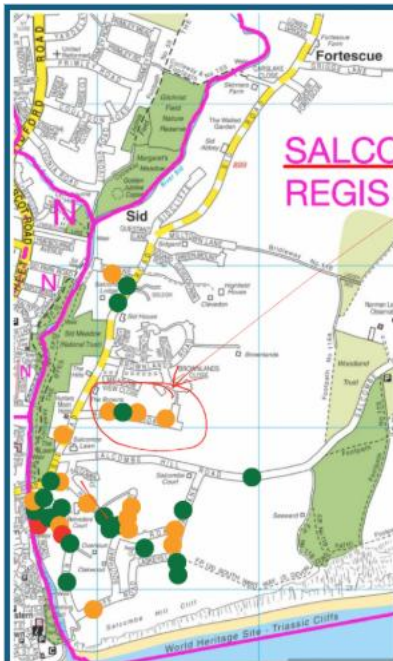
Posse numbers are sustainable and raring to go.

Suggest STC budget for 4 Professional interventions a year – may not be needed

1 more road

One possibly two more week long interventions before October prior to battening down the hatches once again.

Looking to link up with local councils – perhaps Otterton / Ottery – to tackle minor roads of mutual benefit to our residents/visitors

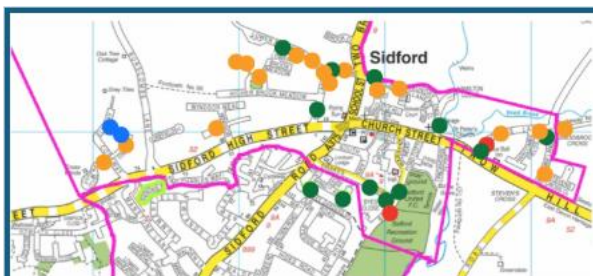


Meet here

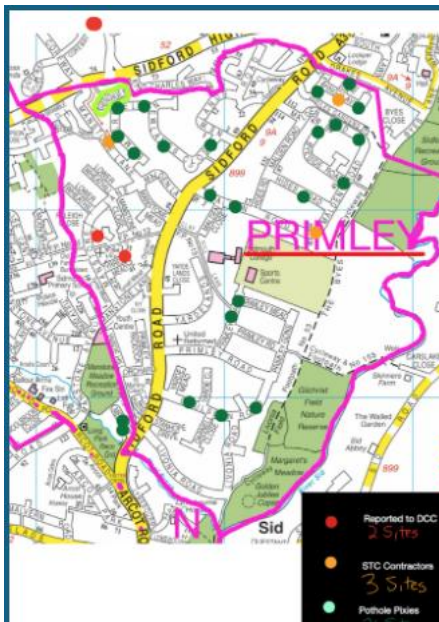
- Reported to DCC 2 Sites
- STC Contractors 15 Sites
- Pothole Pixies 18 Sites



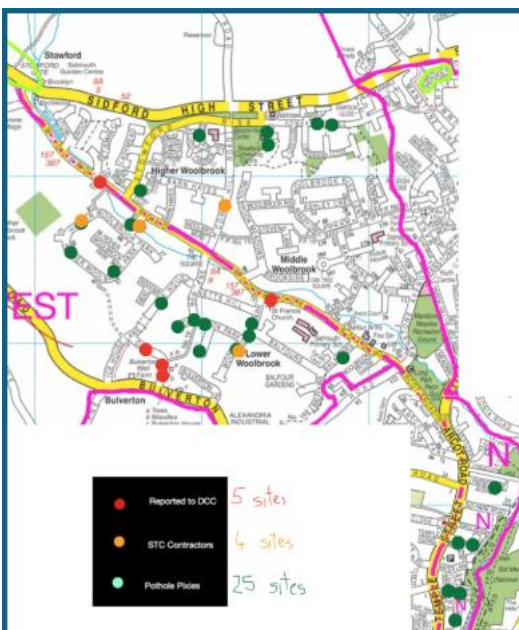
- * Reported to DCC 3 Sites
- * STC contractor 6 sites
- * Pothole Posse - Volunteers 10 Sites



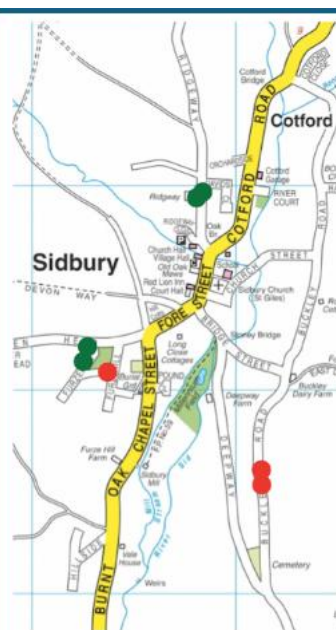
- Reported to DCC 2 sites
- STC Contractors 17 sites
- Pothole Pixies 12 Sites



- Reported to DCC 2 Sites
- STC Contractors 3 Sites
- Pothole Pixies



- Reported to DCC 5 sites
- STC Contractors 4 sites
- Pothole Pixies 25 sites



- Reported to DCC 3 sites
- STC Contractors
- Pothole Pixies + sites



Sylvia Brownlee – outside library, 500th pothole by Beacon with Cllr Barlow & Ridgeway Sidbury



Cheese Lane –(on DCC waiting list for 2 years for this to be done), Ham Car Park entrance, Coburg Road.



Footpath on Cotmaton – request from public. Pothole on way to The College. Harcombe Lane - Sidford

- 191 44 7
- Newest ▾
- 

Lynne Chichester
Come to Bristol Please our roads are appalling also we're becoming a third world country. Glad Sidmouth is being looked after I'm down there regularly through the season. Well done to all concerned xx

8w Like Reply Share
- 

Janet Puckey
Amazing Guys

8w Like Reply Share
- 

John McGregor
Could you please fill a small hole in the tarmac public footpath running along the side of 101 Cotmaton Road, Sidmouth, EX10 8XN. It is tricky when trying to guide a four wheel walker. Thankyou.

8w Like Reply Share
- 

Malcolm Turner
Brilliant community effort. Hope your council tax reflects this saving next year.

8w Like Reply Share
- 

Mike Hutchings
Once upon a time, as the fairy story goes, local councils employed a couple of guys whose job was to tend the hedgerows, gutters, ditches and small potholes. They walked the roads with their wheelbarrow, tools etc., did their best and life was good. The end.

8w Like Reply Share 1
- 

Pauline Lofkin
Our great community. Brilliant. Xx

8w Like Reply Share 1
- 

Lee Leppington
Well done guys, and a massive thank you 🏆 🍷 🍷 🍷

8w Like Reply Share
- 

Ann Worthington
Very grateful that Sidmouth has a great bunch of volunteers who give up their time to benefit the community in so many ways.



[SIDMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.sidmouth.gov.uk)
500 Pothole Repair Milestone - Sidmouth Town Council

- 68 25 6
- 

Stefan Drew
The quality of the work done by volunteers exceeds much of what we see on far too many roads.

1w Like Reply 5
- 

Rachel Perram
Fantastic work guys! We and our various vehicles are endlessly grateful for your very hard work. I managed about 30 minutes before concluding that this was not women's work

1w Like Reply 4

Paul Dodds replied · 7 replies
- 

Margaret Smith
If they fancy popping out to Newton Pop, we've got some beauties here too

1w Like Reply 1

Paul Dodds replied · 4 replies
- 

Ian Collins
Fantastic volunteering guys!
Love the Orange trousers (jealous) 😊
I'll inspect the tarmac patch tomorrow when visiting the Beacon 🙏

1w Like Reply 3
- 

Claire Willacy
There's an awful patch on Woolbrook Road (between Core Hill Road and Woolbrook Meadow), that could do with your fine services. 🙏

1w Like Reply
- 

Stephen Low
There is one in Ivy Close that the council won't fill in.

1w Like Reply

Paul Dodds replied · 2 replies
- 

Scooby Lou
Thank you all for your work! Shouldn't this be covered by our council tax or road tax though??

1w Like Reply 1

Stefan Drew replied · 1 reply
- 

Anne Nixon Field
Greenhead Sidbury has some shocking ones



Teresa Cooper



22 April · 🌐

The wonderful Pothole Posse have repaired the public footpath that runs alongside our house. Sidmouth Town councillor Paul Dodds and his volunteers have made a great job of it and we are very grateful.



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11



Sidmouth Town Council Environment Committee 15th June 2026

Sidmouth Arboretum

- The community orchard on Long Park has established well. Volunteers watered the trees during the May hot dry weather. This will be reviewed as the summer progresses.
- The urban tree project still needs individual councillors identified to liaise with residents in the identified potential sites.
- The Arboretum is working with the Sidmouth School of Art to produce the next Ham Wall Space work using art work from the Arboretum's Tree Towel.
- It is hoped that the late autumn Tree Giveaway event will be located in the Market Hall.

Sid Valley Biodiversity Group

- There is now an events calendar on the SVBG website allowing all 'green groups' to post upcoming events in one place.
- Volunteers enjoyed a damp but happy day introducing families to rock pool life at Sea Fest.
- Our series of monthly nature walks continues. A recent walk on Aylesbeare Common recorded a rare Yellow Trumpet Pitcher Plant *Sarracenia flava*, probably an escape from Lady Louisa Rolle's 19th century collection of insectivorous plants at Bicton.
- The Community Food Forest group is working on an extension project termed The Edible Valley linking public and private food production sites, a fuller account will be presented at the next meeting.
- The Sid Bashers are again active.
- The planned 'green groups' get together in the library was postponed because several people had to pull out for various reasons.
- Plans are being formulated to help re-instate a sand martin colony on a suitable stretch of the river for 2027. More details will be available later.
- Cooperation with the SVA is ongoing including recording bats, butterflies and mammals on SVA sites.

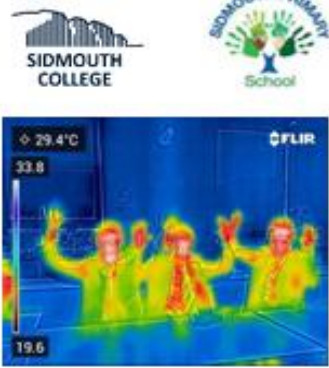
Ed Dolphin

 Key Partners include  Sidmouth Town Council  Sidmouth Eco – Hub	CAPS stands for Climate Awareness Partnership for Sidmouth. Founded in 2022 by Sidmouth Town Council. Our objectives are to raise awareness of the contribution that individuals and groups acting together locally can make to reduce the negative impact of the current climate crisis on our community, future generations and the natural world on which we all depend. We aim to do this by providing accessible information on how to:- • take practical steps reduce individual carbon footprints, • encourage & demonstrate sustainable behaviours, • provide pointers to sources of support than can enable households to live more sustainably whilst reducing their costs without damaging the wider environment. • become more aware of our impact on wider eco system and actions been taken locally to address this. • acknowledge and support psychological and emotional responses to climate change The impact of these activities can be measured through levels of engagement demonstrated by participation in activities, attendance at talks and events, requests for further information via the CAPS mailing list and other sources. CAPS itself does not aim to change behaviour directly, it may however facilitate this by working closely in partnership with other groups and organisations. Examples of how this has been achieved so for this year include:-
	In January CAPS facilitated a small grant which provided subsidised places at the first short course on the principals of Food Forestry. Which was attended by interested residents within the Sid Valley. As a result, subsequent courses can now be offered which will be self-funding.
	In March CAPS members also helped to promote and participated in a screening of the documentary Jo In the Water about a local Exmouth woman who is fighting sewage pollution but also exploring human connection to nature and environmental responsibility. The film was shown at the Radway Cinema in Sidmouth with an audience in excess of 200. Following the film a panel including Jo, the director, the producer and our MP, Richard Foord, discussed aspects of the film and its impact.

CAPS Report on for STC Environment Com meeting 15th June.

 	In partnership with Libraries Unlimited and matched lottery funding from the Devon Together for Tomorrow grant, a six-week portrait exhibition: We Are All People of Power focused on the energy transition in Devon ran from 5th March to 16th April at Sidmouth Library. It was initiated with a private viewing for invited guests which effectively relaunched CAPS after a period of inactivity. This exhibition effectively engaged at least 5,000 library users based on a recorded footfall of 14,705 for that period.
 <i>useful/precious electrical items</i>	<i>Hannah Luxton, Sidmouth's senior librarian commented "I'd estimate that anywhere from a third to a half of the customers who visited the library while Polly's exhibit was on display showed an interest in it - whether that was looking at the portraits, completing a tag with their most useful/precious electrical item, doing the scavenger hunt and/or completing a feedback form!</i> <i>As the host of the exhibition, we felt it went really well. It was a thought-provoking exhibit with Polly's beautifully created portraits at its heart, and tied in really well with Sidmouth Library's focus on the environment and our permanent Nature Zone."</i>
	The exhibition concluded with a film featuring the people portrayed in the exhibition and a talk by the artist Polly Merick at Kennaway House. As well as drawing an audience of over 50, it was a significant networking opportunity for a range of local organisations providing advice and practical experience on using renewable energy and sources of funding and installation expertise, including retrofitting which takes a more holistic approach to specific needs & opportunities.
	Two surveys were conducted using feedback forms at the library and one at the film event. With a total of 70 respondents. Of these 90% agreed or strongly agreed that they had learnt something and 92% that they felt inspired by the exhibition. Also 98% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt welcome in the space and 98% that they had enjoyed themselves. Over 80% of respondents were from postcode EX10, most of the remainder were EX8 or EX11.
 	This event brought together many local organisations who shared how they had successfully applied for grants toward their renewable energy projects including – Hospice at Home, Sidmouth Scouts, Sidmouth Rugby Club, Sidmouth Hotels. Together with organisations providing free advice such as such on retrofitting, the use of thermal imaging camera, top tips for keeping your home warm, individual solar panels.

CAPS Report on for STC Environment Com meeting 15th June.

	In partnership with Sea Dream Education CIC Dr Juliette Jackson ran interactive workshops on energy which were attended by 135 Y7 (11/12 year old) students at Sidmouth College. This was followed by a similar event adapted to the needs of 65 students at Sidmouth Primary School.
	Feedback from students and staff highlighted the value of interactive learning experiences that connect classroom science to everyday life and local issues relevant to coastal communities concluding that – <i>"These sessions had a highly positive impact on students, providing an engaging and accessible introduction to energy, climate change and renewable technologies through practical, curriculum-linked activities. Students demonstrated strong curiosity and enthusiasm, particularly when exploring tidal energy, energy transfer and light spectra through hands-on experiments and demonstrations. The workshops helped develop scientific understanding while also encouraging critical thinking about real-world environmental challenges and solutions."</i>
	Also 3 CAPS members delivered an exploratory workshop on what makes up a Carbon Footprint at Colyton Grammar School on the 24th April to a small group of mixed age young people. They have been asked to return.
	On Saturday morning, 9th May, Sidmouth's first Climate and Nature Meter was run in the Market Square. This generated a lot of positive engagement and demonstrated that there is a hunger for better public information about the climate and nature crisis.
	A further meter was run in the Market Square on Saturday, 30th May, which attracted over 60 participants. The Climate Change Meter served to gauge the public's understanding and mood on 6 questions about climate change.
	CAPS had a stall at Sea Fest on May 16th which featured the Sidmouth Cycling Campaign and offered an inviting children and young people to consider what they can do to take care of our world. Despite the weather this was well supported. Information was also provided on the role played by VGS (Vision Group Sidmouth) in setting up these and other local groups involved in looking after our valley.

CAPS Report on for STC Environment Com meeting 15th June.

	On Saturday June 6th the nationally distributed People's Emergency Briefing film hosted by Chris Packham was shown at Sidmouth Parish Church followed by facilitated community discussion. The screening forms part of a growing UK-wide programme of events designed to help ensure that both the public and decision-makers are clearly and honestly informed about the climate and nature crisis- and what it may mean for communities across the country. The film brings together leading scientists to present a clear picture of the challenges ahead, while creating space for local communities to consider what these issues may mean in their local area, and how they can support their MP to call for stronger action. Funding for this was provided by Sidmouth Churches Together.
GREEN	
	The above shows how successful CAPS has been in meeting the challenge to reach out to new audiences. All this has been achieved by creating new partnerships and tapping into new sources of funding and support. Sidmouth Town Council remains our most important partner and your continued support is greatly valued.
AMBER	
	However, this has come at a cost in terms of human resources. Jeremy has had to step down as secretary on doctors' advice and Bernie is also struggling with health issues. Kevin is trying to manage some of the secretary role and Brian Golding has come forward as chair as he was involved in the early stages of the project. The mailing list has grown by about 30% this year and the finances and web-site are still ably managed by Roger and Mary from VGS. Our challenge will be to respond to the growing interest and anxiety provoked by multiply global challenges.
RED	
	The challenge of addressing these concerns is the focus of the Climate Café incentives (https://www.climate.cafe/) and Sidmouth Library is keen to offer that in partnership with CAPS. Bernie has offered to undertake the training (cost £45) and we are looking to contribute £60 towards the costs and publicity. The cost of hosting the PEB film were meet by Sidmouth Churches Together, but we wish to contribute to the planned follow up meetings (est £70). Other costs include web hosting by VGS & sundries. We are therefore requesting a contribution of £200 from STC Environment funds toward our costs from now till Oct.
	Thank You.



Friends of the Byes - June 2026 update

	Subject	RAG Rating	Additional Information
1	What will happen to the management of the Byes if/when EDDC no longer exist after devolution		Any further updates since last meeting
2	EDDC have adopted a Tree, Hedge & Woodland Strategy for East Devon 2024-2034 (* link below) - what impact will this have for the Byes/what is the strategy?		Any further updates since last meeting
3	Relationship with senior leads at Streetscene has been a challenge - difficult to agree a strategic approach to issues in relation to the Byes		Meeting with EDDC and Cllr Ian Barlow. All correspondence to EDDC will have Ian Barlow cc'd into them
4	Improved co-ordination between eco voluntary groups - sharing of best practice, skills and 'share volunteers'		Is the Vision Group seeing its role for facilitating for co-ordination of the activities for the eco groups in Sid Valley
5	Managing dogs off leads by the badger sets adjacent to the allotments		FOTB have installed new signs warning of badgers
6	Upskilling volunteers to support the ecology of the Byes and encourage retention		We are planning to invest in training courses including hedge laying, mammal, flora and fauna surveying which we would like to open up to other groups - supported by a grant from STC
7	Climate change challenge with long, dry spells require intervention of watering for new trees/hedges		Manual process for volunteers, need to establish more sustainable methods - Cllr Ian Barlow is supported discussion with EDDC to re-instate the water trough. FOTB have contacted EDDC to request information about who Streetscene manage watering in green spaces in the district
8	Support in raising issues regarding pathway maintenance, bridge repairs, general maintenance and encroachment by surrounding property owners		We have been asked to raise the issues via emails to Streetscene general email address and encroachment issues to Legal general email. No accountability when action is not taken; lack of feedback; unclear work schedule of when tasks should be completed - Cllr Ian Barlow is now copied into all emails FOTB's send to EDDC

* [EDDC TreeWoodland&HedgerowStrategy V2.7](#)

News from the River

1. Council Grant

Many thanks to STC for a grant of £1.080 which has been spent on

[a] **Two fully attended stakeholder meetings** the first in Jan '26 at Kennaway House targeting residents living close to School Weir with a leaflet drop, the second in March 26 at The Blue Ball for landowners. We are delighted with the positivity of both the general public and landowners for river improvements. It is a very positive step to have established a rapport with numerous riparian landowners. We were pleased that council representatives attended both meetings.

Ideally we would hold another two meetings this year as plans progress – please see below under - 2. Opening the Sid Project - and would welcome funding to assist with this.

[b] **Riverfly training** – we now have seven new certificated trainees enabling us to improve our coverage of the catchment with new sites in the Byes, on the Sid N of Fortescue on the Snod and Roncombe.

Riverfly monitoring is hugely important in monitoring the health of our river and the EA will investigate if issues arise.

2. Opening the Sid Project

[a] School Weir – we await the final designs from Fishtek

[b] We've been told verbally that we have been awarded **£50,000 of WEIF funding** for:

Roly Poly Weir

Options Appraisal for Fortescue Weir

Completion of School Weir Designs

[c] **Roly Poly Weir modifications** to include a notch in the current weir and some boulder movement to aid fish passage, will begin in July. Work is anticipated to take a couple of days and will have minimal impact on the surrounding parkland.

[d] **Information Board on River Improvements** - Finally EDDC have given official approval and it will be located by School Weir.

[e] **Habitat Survey and Barrier assessment is complete**

We are using this to inform further river improvements to weirs, riverine and bankside habitats.

[f] **Next projected weir improvements** will be at

Millford, Fortescue, Sidbury Mill Weir on the Sid and at Buckley Bridge on the Roncombe.

We are looking at some low cost improvements which are easily installed e.g. eel ropes – providing rough surfaces which eels can climb simply attached to weirs, baffles attached to weir surface and floating ramps.

3 Rights of Rivers – again, thanks to the Council for allowing use of the Council Chamber for a meeting of RED [Rivers East Devon]. The purpose of the meeting was the discuss ways in which East Devon River Groups could support the Rights of Rivers Motion passed unanimously passed by EDDC in February '26.

Attendees came from the Exe, Exe Estuary tributary streams, Clyst, Otter, Axe and Lim. The follow up meeting with EDDC [Paul Arnott, Geoff Jung, Paula Fernley, Jess Bailey and Dan Mackinder] was held on 1st June in Honiton. Actions to recognize the importance of our rivers were discussed. There was general agreement that there should be a district water officer appointed whose role would include scrutinizing planning applications and a councilor nominated to act as a rivers champion supported by East Devon Rivers' Groups. The Devon water officer is writing a report on rivers in Devon and RED have asked for a meeting in order to inform her report. It was disappointing that the low cost, highly visible possibility of bank

restoration bit by bit in The Byes was rejected. One issue might be that negotiations are underway about ownership in the transition to a Unitary Authority. Banks are badly degraded, primarily by dogs. Clear river access points alongside well vegetated banks would be the ideal. The powerful erosive effect of this winter's storms on unprotected banks are clearly visible.

5 For discussion

Cotmaton Stream – thanks to the council for their persistence with the EA.

They suggest:

‘These findings strongly support a coordinated investigation which would need to involve the Environment Agency, South West Water (SWW) and Sidmouth Town Council, primarily focused on the Wheat Hill–Manor Park–Knowle Drive corridor.’

How should this be taken forward?

Jan and Charles

[On behalf of the RSCG]

