



ENVIRONMENT PLYMOUTH

FEEDBACK MARCH 2021

Do Your Views Really Count ?

It's been an exciting month so far.....starting with our regular meeting on the 9th where we looked in more detail at the aspirations for community engagement in the Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan. What emerged was a clear dissatisfaction with the level of engagement to date and a need to ask for more from now on. There's more in the feature below.

We were also able to announce the successful procurement of the contract for the community engagement element of the Interreg funded Preventing Plastic Pollution project. Between now and Feb 2023, this will give us the chance to audit the work already done on the Plastic Free Plymouth campaign, to recruit new Pioneers, Ambassadors and Champions, develop Phase 2 of the campaign with an awards scheme for more and more challenging commitments and the chance to develop a Plastic Free Charter. Again, more in the Newsletter below.

The pace of news didn't slow down. This week we've secured £3000 from the POP Collective fund to deliver parts of our Green Recovery Plan and, on the same day, we were told that SWW will, once again, be sponsoring us to the tune of £6000 in 2021/22. So...onwards and upwards as they say !

Next meeting 13th April.....Climate Change Policies...a pre election hustings with local candidates.

Funding news.....from SWW, POP
and Interreg

Climate change and community
action, the PCEAP and EP –
what you told us

Forthcoming events, dates for
your diary and more.....

FEATURED TOPIC

THE PLYMOUTH CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN AND YOU....HOW CAN YOU HAVE YOUR SAY ?



A couple of months ago the City Council adopted the second of their planned 11 Climate Emergency Action Plans with a whole ambitious section on engagement and involvement. In a list of proposals, which included the appointment of local climate ambassadors, there is now a clear written commitment to involving the local community but, given that engagement has not been a strong point so far, some of us were keen to know how much of this commitment will actually be delivered. See [CEAP 2021 - Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021 2 of 11.pdf](#)

The first thing that we noted was the desperate need for the Plymouth CEAP to link more productively with the Devon Interim Carbon Plan. There are significant cross-over issues and it was pointed out that climate change doesn't recognize local authority boundaries, budgets or political histories. One of our key recommendations will be a review of the local relationship. Environment Plymouth has made a formal commitment to the Devon Plan....it would be really good to see Plymouth City Council and Devon County Council pulling together on this.

It soon became very clear how little engagement there has been with the general public. Even allowing for the lockdown restrictions, it doesn't take much to send out emails and receive emailed answers. It is felt that 60% of the response to the climate emergency requires behaviour change and that, in turn, needs the involvement of as many people as possible. So far any chance to influence the PCEAP has been poorly promoted and there has been a huge engagement gap.

Although Environment Plymouth found out about the proposals to amend the Plymouth Plan's aspirations to reflect the climate emergency, we weren't formally asked to participate. For some time the replication of best practice (i.e the award winning plastic campaign) has been recommended and yet nothing has been done about formal support.

The timing and process used for PCEAP was also questioned as it was felt the review and re-publication of the Plan on an annual basis only allowed for the targets to be extended rather than being met.





Environment Plymouth's members would also like to know why no invitation was issued for the network, or Climate Action Plymouth, to join the local Zero Carbon Task Group. Again, being a potential funder for the Plan's action seems to outweigh the willingness to involve the community. So far no-one seems to have been approached as a Community Ambassador and the Plan itself contains very few specific dates, targets or details of the budgets available for this work.

It was also very difficult to align the PCEAP with other local and national proposals. Mention was made of the Government's 10 point Green Plan, an important base for green skills and new green jobs, and how it will be delivered in Plymouth. It was felt that, in this respect, the PCEAP needs to be far more informative.

Lastly, it was felt that the PCEAP made a huge number of assumptions about public awareness and the actions they can take be that on low carbon housing, travel or reducing personal or business carbon footprints. It lacks the vital explanations required for local people to act. We know, for example, that we will see more extreme weather events and that these, in turn, will threaten the possibility of affordable insurance policies for many local businesses. It was felt that much more information was needed about the support available for adapting to climate change and the 'threats' we will face. The Plan also avoids more complex climate issues such as the need to withdraw pension funding investments from fossil fuel producers.....the sort of issues many ordinary people are now asking about.



Whilst the Council's commitment to local action is welcomed, we were told that the PCEAP (2) is, in fact, PCC's Plan alone. We have been told that there wasn't much engagement because the list of aspiration were all PCC led and owned.....however, if you read the different sections there is now constant referral to community engagement but, to date, nothing formal has been issued and Environment Plymouth has received no further information about engagement opportunities.

In the end, the general view of the PCEAP was definitely a 2 out of 10 accompanied by a big 'must do better'.

We look forward to hearing from them soon !

Earth Hour 2021

See <https://www.earthhour.org/new-in-2021>

A new approach this year with a video to be uploaded.

Join in at 8.30pm on the
27th March !



PLASTIC FREE PLYMOUTH



Working with the Ocean Conservation Trust (the NMA) Environment Plymouth submitted a bid for the Interreg funded Preventing Plastic Pollution Project in late February. We found out we'd won the contract on the 6th March ! Our role in the contract will be to deliver the local Plastic Free Charter – a challenge issued to all the Project's international partners with a combined target of 600 signatories by 2023.

In reality our work will continue the deliver of the Plastic Free Plymouth campaign.....we will be auditing all the commitments made to date and bringing our records up to date post lock down, recruiting a further 150 businesses, 150 community groups, 60 schools (to try and cover 100% of the city's schools) and 20 marine based participants. These could be sailings clubs or marinas or businesses specifically linked with the marine environment. We will be consulting on what a Plastic Charter should look like and contain and encouraging all our participants to sign up to whatever we eventually prepare.

We will also be delivering Phase 2 of the SAS Plastic Free Communities campaign which will give all participants the opportunity to work towards increasingly challenging bronze, silver or gold awards. We will be celebrating these at an annual get together (restriction allowing) in Dec 2021 and again, in 2022. The fund also means we can complete a Plastic Free Plymouth page on our website and, of course, maintain the Plastic Free Plymouth Sound Facebook Group where we post the majority of updates You can join the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/140911630099135> . We already have 660 followers there and would like to double this by 2023.

The funding of £39,462 allows for the project management and research required, the development of the awards scheme and Charter, updates to the website and the resources needed for printing, production and communication. We have successfully run a number of workshops on line but, hopefully, there will be opportunities to meet up for further workshops in the near future (with care, of course).

One thing we have seen during lockdown is a continuing interest in taking action against single use plastic. We've welcomed at least four new Plastic Free Pioneers and answered quite a few questions about ongoing commitments. Sadly, however, some of our Pioneers have been forced to close down.

At the same time the OCT will be delivering an active programme of education and ocean awareness with events and litter picks and the City Council will be pursuing its own programme as well as keeping the Plastic Free Task Group going. Chris Suckling PPP Project Officer added " Building on the expert work of the Britain's Ocean City: Plastics Task Force and working in partnership with 18 organisations from across France and England, Plymouth City Council's Natural Infrastructure Projects and Partnerships Team is part of the Preventing Plastic Pollution Project. This project seeks to understand and reduce the impacts of plastic pollution in the marine environment, looking at hotspots for plastic, behaviour change, and implementing effective solutions and alternatives. Over the past few months, the team have undertaken multiple beach cleans across Plymouth and began work on engaging businesses, communities, schools and



tourism groups through the recruitment of external experts Environment Plymouth. Just around the corner, we are going to be pulling together a catalogue of events, beach cleans and educational lessons (with the National Marine Aquarium and Ocean Conservation Trust) to raise awareness around the problems of plastic pollution. We will also be starting phase two of the sea bin trails (passive marine litter collector), procuring external artists to create a waste sculpture, and writing a plastic free events protocol for all Council events in the City, plus much more.

To support all this we will be re-establishing the Plastic Free Working Group so if anyone would like to join in please get in touch on our new email address at plasticfreeplymouthsound@gmail.com



LOCAL CASE STUDIES

Plastic Free Pioneers Tops Day Nurseries Have Become the First Day Nurseries in the UK to Achieve Certification as a B Corporation

B Corporation (or B. Corp) are businesses that live the highest social and environmental standards for people and the planet. There are currently over 3,500 B. Corps in 150 industries and 70 countries across the globe and Tops Day Nurseries has become the first Day Nursery in the UK to become a certified B. Corp business. To become a B. Corp, Tops were assessed and audited against demanding standards of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency. Tops Day Nurseries have already contributed a lot for an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible world – They've gained attention globally with their 'Glitter ban' back in 2017, removal of single use plastic, installation of energy saving equipment and much, much more.

Cheryl Hadland, Managing Director, of Tops Day Nurseries says "I'm so delighted to have achieved B. Corp Certification. We have always been on the journey of becoming more environmentally sustainable and socially responsible, with action plans developing for more solar panels, more electric cars, less one-use plastic, and a goal of becoming carbon neutral in 2025.

Achieving certification as a B Corporation only makes us more determined to continue our mission. At the end of our financial year Tops will not only publish audited accounts but a report giving full details of progress made in every aspect of sustainability on our website, to show people what we have done to educate the children of today so that they can contribute to an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible world. B. Corp review our performance every 2 years so we won't be resting on our achievements to date".

The B. Corp Certified, Tops Day Nurseries is one of the most eco-sustainable family of day nurseries in the UK, offering childcare from children aged 3 months – school age with Hi 5's clubs across Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somerset and Devon. To find out more, visit www.topsdaynurseries.co.uk

OTHER FUNDING NEWS



It's been a good month for funding news. Many of you will know that Environment Plymouth has been supported by South West Water's Community Fund for the last three years; support we are very grateful for.

We hear last week that this support will be continued in 2021/22; adding a further £6000 to Environment Plymouth's resources.

And !

Our bid to the POP Collective had been successful. We'd like to extend our thanks to all those who rated the bid on the POP website. The £3000 we've been awarded will be applied to the first steps in the delivery of the Green Recovery Fund. Some of it will keep Environment Plymouth going but the rest will support some of the projects we outlined in the Action Plan. The first of these will be the Plymouth Pots project. Our thanks too to Sea Dream who donated an additional £20 to our Open Collective account.



Plymouth Pots !

We were trying to work out how to help Plymouth's bees until someone came up with the idea of Plymouth Pots.

This very simple idea means planting up a pot with peat free compost and a bee bomb (that we'll supply) and then placing the pot where others will enjoy the colour when the flowers bloom. If placed on patios or balconies the pots will provide a vital resting place and pollen for Plymouth's bees; enhancing the city's bee corridors and boosting local populations.



Saltram Rotary have taken up the challenge and we will be working with them to plant up their own pots and, where possible, to donate them to nursing homes where they can be placed where residents can see and enjoy them.

If you'd like to pot up your own Plymouth Pot, drop me an email at info@environmentplymouth.org and we'll get a bee bomb out to you as soon as we can. Using postcodes we'll be able to map where our pots are and where the bees will have somewhere to rest.

We will also use the fund to promote How Your Own. This is a community based initiative that encourages householders to manage the local street plants (weeds) that are also bee friendly. Instead of relying on pesticides that kill the plants, damage the insects and leave unsightly brown remains, we are asking people to spend just five minutes out in the street with a hoe or a trowel; tackling the street plants you don't want. It has been pointed out that you can do the same for your neighbours too (with their permission of course).

This will lessen the burden on Street Service's weed management role and protect the city from needless pesticides...all part of our Pesticide Free City campaign. See also Devon Wildlife Trust's Action for Insects at <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/take-action/action-insects>. Again, email me if you'd like to take part.

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 2021

28 May - 13 June 2021

Building on five years of success, we are delighted to announce the dates for our sixth annual mass-action environmental campaign, the Great British Spring Clean.

This year our outdoor spaces and places have mattered to us more than ever before. They have been a sanctuary during challenging times, and from 28 May 2021, we will be calling on hundreds of thousands of #LitterHeroes from across the UK to join us and show some love for those special places that helped us through lockdown.

We have moved the campaign dates a little later in the year than usual, as our great nation starts to recover from the pandemic.

And whether life has returned to normal, or we are still taking precautions to protect ourselves and others, we will provide all the advice and support you need to safely take part in the Great British Spring Clean 2021.

So grab your litter-pickers and get ready - 2021 is going to be our biggest year yet!

And if you haven't got litter pickers, find an old pair of barbecue tongs...they work just as well !

Wembury Environment Groups 'Winter Talks Series'

The last talk is on....

31st March, 7pm - Mya Rose-Craig

Book your ticket here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wembury-environment-group>

Cheltenham Film Festival

24th May to 5th June

Cheltenham International Film Festival will be back in online form this year with a diverse selection of award winning films from around the world for you. All sorts of themes including the environment. Tickets booking fast...that's why we've included it now !

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Please email your MP asking them to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill which gets its second reading in the Commons on the 26th March. Over 100 MPs have indicated that they support the Bill (although some still think it's unnecessary !).

Many wildlife, climate and conservation organisations are behind it It could follow in the footsteps of the 2008 Climate Change Act that started in the same way !

Extinctions are currently running at more than 1000x faster than normal background extinction rates, threatening complete collapse of whole ecosystems.

Co2 levels are the highest they've been for 23 million years.

On the Same theme....a new group for Plymouth

PLEASE SHARE

THIS ONWARDS.



Thursday 25th March at 7 pm. Will the UK Lead on Climate and Ecology? The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill and our Future

How the UK can take a leadership role on the Climate and Ecological Emergency? The Climate Act of 2008 was pioneering and like the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill it started as a private members bill. Due to an acceleration in carbon emissions and habitat destruction, the Climate Act needs updating. The Environment Bill in parliament does not do what is required. The CEE Bill is now supported by 101 cross party MP's,

Presentations followed by Q&A session.

Panel:

Prof Tim Lenton of the Global Systems Institute at Exeter University

Harry Barton, CEO of Devon Wildlife Trust

Sarah Lunnon of the CEE Bill Alliance

Register to join at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/will-uk-lead-on-climate-and-ecology-the-cee-bill-and-our-future-tickets-145843898025>

PLEASE SHARE FACEBOOK EVENT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/787803098806970/>

Taking action:

Please e-mail if you would like to be involved in Lobbying at local and national government level plymouthceebill@gmail.com We will meet after the above event. Meetings will not be frequent, the main aim is to lobby.

Monday 5th April 7pm Zoom for those who would like to take action.

Plymouth Green and Science Book Club

Join us to discuss how the Dasgupta Review, and Mark Carney's 4th Reith Lecture offer ground-breaking ways of addressing biodiversity loss and climate change.

The Dasgupta Review on the economics of biodiversity

and

Mark Carney's 4th Reith Lecture From Climate Crisis to Real Prosperity

This event is open to all.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) ID 963 2993 4965 with passcode 285212

The **Dasgupta Review** is an independent, global review on the Economics of Biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta (Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus, University of Cambridge). The Review was commissioned in 2019 by HM Treasury and has been supported by an Advisory Panel drawn from public policy, science, economics, finance and business.

The Review calls for changes in how we think, act and measure economic success to protect and enhance our prosperity and the natural world. Grounded in a deep understanding of ecosystem processes and how they are affected by economic activity, the new framework presented by the Review sets out how we should account for Nature in economics and decision-making.

[Final Report - The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review](#)

Final Report of the Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta (([full report](#) 27MB/610 pp, [abridged version](#) 8.43MB/103 pp, [headline messages](#) 1.84MB/10 pp).

From **The Reith Lectures** 2020 "How We Get What We Value" presented by Mark Carney, the former Governor of the Bank of England: [From Climate Crisis to Real Prosperity](#) (57 minutes .. [transcript](#)) "the market can be redirected to alleviating climate change".

PG&SBC thanks the University of Plymouth, the Sustainable Earth Institute and the Eden Project for their support.

Copy and paste this link if necessary:

<https://plymouth.zoom.us/j/96329934965?pwd=cExKcm9WN0xXYmIJZWlQVM0SkM3dz09>

This comes from John Summerscales whose contact is: J.Summerscales@plymouth.ac.uk

You are invited to the Inaugural Professorial Lecture of

Professor Sean Comber

How do we ensure water quality after Brexit?

Wednesday 31 March 2021, 18:30, free to access online

Metals, phosphates and pharmaceuticals entering our rivers and seas can have considerable consequences for nature and human health, requiring an assessment of their risks and regulation to reduce or mitigate their effects. But these measures can also have a cost on society and industries, so how far do we go to protect the environment? Join us as Sean Comber, Professor of Environmental Chemistry, explores how water quality holds up against the environmental standards currently in place. Drawing on more than 30 years of expertise, including as a consultant in the water industry, he questions what regulations the UK government could, or should, introduce post-Brexit to regulate the pollution.

You will also have the chance to ask Sean questions in the concluding Q&A session.

[Reserve your free place today](#)



Future Plymouth 2030 is a series of fortnightly webinars to be delivered online from now until May 2021 on a whole host of topics ranging from the practical skills and technologies required to design and build better performing new buildings, how to tackle retrofitting existing buildings, biodiversity and carbon sequestration to behaviour change required to achieve any of this. More topics are emerging as partners are engaging and the programme is really taking shape.

These online events intend to discuss collaborative journeys required to achieve reduced carbon development, presenting some of the tools necessary to realise a sustainable city and help to define a better path for a viable future for Plymouth.

Get booked up and take part in this useful series of toolkit talks and debate, to learn, share and take practical steps towards a sustainable future for Plymouth!

To find out more and book please visit www.futureplymouth2030.co.uk

For More Information Contact : Claire Bower, RIBA Architectural Communities Coordinator SW Region

Claire.bower@riba.org or Mob 07553 371364

STOP PRESS : Environment Plymouth took part in the debate on 10th March with a summary of what drives businesses to take action on climate change.



Illustration Joe Meldrum - Plymouth Design

Moths to a Flame.....

Moths to a Flame : Check out www.MothsToAFlame.art to find out more about a local project taking our whispers of climate hope to COP26. In next month's Environment Plymouth newsletter you'll find out more about the various ways to get involved... but in the meantime there are still a few **fully-funded spaces available for Plymouth primary schools to enjoy a 'Moth Watching and Crafting kit'** this summer... encourage your local school to sign up [here](#).



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Meetings for 2021 Online via zoom unless otherwise stated (hopefully we'll get to meet up at some point !). Always a Tuesday evening 6.30pm to 8.00pm unless otherwise stated.

April 13th: With the local elections coming up we thought we'd challenge each of the parties to a Climate Change Hustings. Each will have five minutes to outline their priorities for action in the city and we'll follow their presentations with a Q&A session.

May 11th: TBC (possibly the National Marine Park update)

June 8th : Our 4th Birthday Celebration...we were formally launched on 5th June 2017. We are looking at a World Oceans Day theme for this event even though it is unlikely that we'll all be able to meet up. Suggestions welcomed.

And then July 13th, a field trip in August sometime (hopefully), Sept 7th, Oct 12th, Nov 9th and Dec 14th.

Getting in Touch

Don't forget you can always get in touch by email, text, twitter (via Stuart or Ruth – thanks for your continuing help by the way !!!) or phone.

Email : info@environmentplymouth.org or **Twitter** : @EnvironmentPlym

Text to 07970 909912 or phone Jackie on 01752 672537

If anyone wants to chat or email over the next few weeks please don't worry.....I will still be at home and happy to talk or email !

Our New Website at : <https://environmentplymouth.org/>

Please stay safe.....hope to see you soon !

With thanks to : Dave Curno, Ed Donohue, Tim Purches, Penny Tarrant, Shelia Evans, Gay Jones, Paul and Nicky Hatherell and Chloe, George Wheeler, Oly Skulsky, Hugh Janes, David Starley, Richar Sroka, Jenny Ayrton, Delphine Holman, Jenny Floyd, Ria Gunton and Caroline Blackler. With apologies from Susan Moores.