

# Climate Emergency Working Group

21 March 2023

Guildhall, Totnes & via Zoom

## *Present:*

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson – Chair

Maiken Hutchings – TTC Sustainability Officer (SO, notes)

AK - resident

SM – resident

RO – Totnes Trust

IM – resident

TC – resident/Green Party

RD – resident

TT - Dartington PC (online)

## **Recommendations**

- 1) The Group recommends to TTC that they support the Hedgehogs Highway Project and liaise with Bridgetown Alive and any other groups currently working on this, including to see whether it is worth purchasing the £150 hedgehog highway box kit

## **Actions**

- 1) Cllr Hodgson to ask Town Cllrs re distribution of Gardening for Wildlife booklet
- 2) TT / Cllr Hodgson to feed info around CSI at Bidwell Brook to the South Devon Catchments Partnership

## *Actions carried forward:*

- SO to find UK data equivalent of Our World in Data chart
- Cllr Hodgson to circulate map of SHDC owned land in Bridgetown which can be added to an overall map overview
- FB to develop leaflet including Our World in Data
- Cllr H to feed discussions into DCC next week

## **1a. Brief who is here**

## **1.b Notes & Actions from the last meeting**

- Composting: Cllr H gave brief update on composting progress so far - basically no update
- SO gave brief update on progress with Gardening for Wildlife booklets. We have quotes from various printers, awaiting quote from Totnes Directory on distribution. Cllr Hodgson suggested Town Cllrs might be convinced to distribute.

## 2. Rivers discussion & update from the Rivers Assembly 18th March

- To note: our MP Anthony Mangnall is organising an open meeting with South West Water on 27 April in Totnes
  - More info here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/totnes-open-meeting-anthony-mangnall-mp-south-west-water-tickets-529322506867>
- SO gave brief overview/update from the morning sessions of the Assembly
- Cllr Hodgson gave brief update that Cllr Cummings had provided during the Planning Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> March
  - Planning Committee looking into SWW consultation → SWW has little say when a development is being proposed – key proposal from meeting is that SWW should be a stakeholder in planning decisions
  - Town Matters meeting next week (open to anyone) will be about SWW consultation in more detail, flood risk management, etc.
- General discussion around South West Water (SWW)
  - They are currently running a public consultation into their water resources management plan: <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/environment/water-resources/water-resources-management-plan/>
    - Closes 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023
  - All sewage outlets must be monitored by the end of the year, and made public info + fines for unlawful dumping will be increased significantly
  - Citizen Science Initiative project at Bidwell Brook due to concerns re pollution that they think is coming from Rattery
    - **ACTION:** Cllr H told TT to feed back this info back to Anna Seal (SD Catchments Partnership)
  - Proposals (come round time to time) to extend AONB area, to cover Totnes and area (Dartington, Staverton, etc). Cllr Hodgson mentioned the Glover Report which looked into this:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review>

## 3. Hedgehog Highway Project

- SO read out email received from founder of 'Hedgehogs R Us' (see appendix A)
- Any money spent would need to be from next year's budget
- It was noted that Bridgetown / Bridgetown Alive! Have already done some work on this and that we should link in with them to avoid duplication of work

- The group **RECOMMENDED** that TTC to support this project and liaise with Bridgetown Alive and any other groups currently working on this, including to see whether it is worth purchasing the £150 hedgehog highway box kit

#### 4. Devon Carbon Plan (DCP) discussion continued

- Cllr Hodgson gave a brief overview of what the DCP
- There was some discussion around transport and the issue of electric vehicles being pushed as a core solution
  - Wider changes in the transport system are needed
- It was suggested that the next meeting we look into Chapter 12: Making the Plan a Reality
  - <https://devonclimateemergency.org.uk/view-devon-carbon-plan/>

#### 5. AOB

**5a.** AK read out a presentation asking for an in-depth debate to be organised around the climate crisis and the evidence and scientific facts behind action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- It was agreed that this could be looked into further at the next meeting

**5b.** RO shared energy usage in Totnes graphs

**Date of next meeting:** TBC due to elections, possibly 16 May 2023

**End of meeting 20:15**

## Appendix A: Hedgehogs Highway Project



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Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read this letter!

I am writing to all Councils, Parishes, Towns and Wards in the UK to ask them to take part in this amazing project!

### Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

With Hedgehog numbers in decline and Hedgehog awareness on the rise, there has never been a better time to get involved in Hedgehog conservation.

A Hedgehog Highway is a 5 inch gap in a fence and is essential in the battle to prevent the extinction of our endangered spiky friends. This gap allows them access to forage for food and meet mates. A Highway surround raises awareness to their plight and encourages others to take part.

I am asking for each area of the UK to use a small portion of their assigned funds to purchase a box of hedgehog highway surrounds and make them available for their residents.

Each box of 50 is £150 and includes:

- \* 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds & 50 information leaflets
- \* A display box & window sticker showing you are part of the project.

Ideas of how to benefit your community include:

- \* Donate the Highways and leaflets to your local school to educate in wildlife conservation
- \* Swap the Highways for a donation of Hedgehog food which can then be given to your local Hedgehog Rescue Centre



The project will be receiving a lot of publicity in the coming months via Social Media and I really hope that you choose to take part.

My dream is to make the whole of the UK one giant Hedgehog Highway and for that dream to come true, it needs EVERYONE to take part.

Money is donated to Hedgehog Conservation for every box sold too!

If you would like to order or have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch and thank you for caring.

Linda Cook, Founder of Hedgehogs R Us