



ENVIRONMENT PLYMOUTH

FEEDBACK APRIL 2019

ENVIRONMENT PLYMOUTH is gearing up for a busy Summer ! April's meeting began a new challenge – looking at how we can support the Council's recently adopted resolution on the climate change emergency. It's a topic we will be re-visiting in July (when, hopefully, the city's carbon footprint figure will be available). Look out for further opportunities to contribute to a new Action Plan on Climate Change Emergency and, of course, the Plan for Plastics as well as a few celebrations and our very first AGM in June....as well as a birthday celebration !

“ Plastic is poisoning the planet. We created it. Now we must get rid of it. I wish you every success in doing that and in showing everyone else how it is done” ‘ Sir David Attenborough to the School's Plymouth, Plastic and the Planet conference, 28th March 2019

IN THIS EDITIONThe Tesco's Bags of Help vote....you have until 30th April to help !

Plastics, tackling climate change, sustainable cities, forthcoming events and more....

Our AGM, meetings and events, a reminder about our new email address and a twitter handle (thanks Stuart !)

Please note that Environment Plymouth does not produce formal minutes. The proceedings of meetings are reported in the Feedback Newsletter which is ratified at the following meeting. Environment Plymouth is the city's independent, strategic network for those interested in all things environmental and sustainable. Membership details available from Co-ordinator, Jackie, at info@environmentplymouth.org or by calling 01752 672537

Keeping in touch

- Our new email address
- Our new Twitter handle
- A website !
- Forthcoming meetings

As part of the development of a dedicated website, we have now adopted a new email address for Environment Plymouth. So you now contact the Network on : info@environmentplymouth.org

Thanks to Stuart Spicer (as Jackie is rubbish with Twitter !) we now have a Twitter account and I believe many of you have already been invited to join the chat. This can be found at : @EnvironmentPlym

We have commissioned a website (thanks Mike) and will soon have a resource that will keep tabs on all our activities, events and background information as well as providing pages for the Plastics Campaign and our working groups. Watch this space !

Meetings for 2019

Environment Plymouth's regular meetings take place on the second Monday of every month with an evening meeting on a quarterly basis. I am waiting for confirmation but I am hoping that, with one or two exceptions, we will have a new home at the Sustainable Earth Institute's new hub on the University Campus. We'll send a map out with future Agendas. You need to look for Kirkby Lodge.

Monday 13th May, 10am venue tba : Fashion Faux Pas.....the impact of the industry on the environment and sustainability. Can anyone recommend a speaker on this unusual topic?

Wednesday 5th June Early Evening : We will be organizing a Birthday celebration so watch this space.

Monday 10th June, 5.30pm at the new Sustainable Earth Institute Hub, University Campus: Our AGM and Annual Review – A tiny bit of formality, a keynote speaker and a look back at an amazing year.

Monday 8th July, 10am at the SEI : Our Vulnerability to Climate Change...What do the national footprint figures say about progress in reducing Plymouth's carbon footprint? Have recent reductions been continued?

Monday 12th August, 12.00pm at the Wembury Marine Centre – a rockpool ramble, beach clean and nurdle hunt followed by a picnic on the beach (a small fee of £3 per person) : Please come and join us

Monday 9th Sept, 5.30pm at the SEI : Water Resilience and the big city – Rob Scarrott from South West Water will take us through the implications, what can be done to conserve supplies and change behaviour.

Monday 14th October, 10am at the SEI : Plymouth's built environment – the grey between the blue and green. Latest updates.

Monday 11th November, 10am at the SEI : Progress on the Plan for Trees.

Monday 9th December, 10am provisionally at the NMA : Another Year of Action on Plastics and annual review.

From March

‘The Little Things’ - Effectively using a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund

One of the options for the new NLHF fund outlined by Laurel at our meeting in March could be a ‘community fund – a pot of money awarded to Environment Plymouth for further distribution to natural heritage linked projects around the city. We will be discussing this with Laurel in the coming weeks but would encourage you to consider how such a fund might help your project. Suggestions so far seem to favour the ‘little things’ that make a difference....and the costs that often come from individual’s

Possible projects could include simple maintenance (Penny suggested this might be suitable for the Hoe’s SSSIs) or the small improvements suggested by local research (for example, to the city’s freshwater habitats). If successful, we will try to base the local application process on an established system that takes account of what the fund can, and cannot, be used for AND we will be calling together a Funding Steering Group to oversee the programme. If you are interested in taking part in this please let Jackie know at info@environmentplymouth.org

EVENTS

Plymouth Civic Society : Next Meeting is May 23rd, Room 114, Rolle Building at the University, 7pm to 9pm. All welcome – will be looking at conservation areas and the city centre on the theme of ‘Built Environment and Better Places.

Green Book Club : Also 23rd May but in Room 115 of the Rolle Building between 6.30pm and 8.00pm : Will be reviewing ‘Our Place – Can we save Britain’s Wildlife before it’s too late ?’ by Mark Cocker. Recently published in paperback, this book has been hailed as a ‘damning indictment of Britain’s ecological complacency’. The guest host will be Harry Barton of the Devon Wildlife Trust.

Wilder Futures : Please have a look at this lovely 2 min film ! Please find in this link: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wilder-future> , the details of the Wilder Future Campaign, currently being run nationally by The Wildlife Trusts. The Wilder Future campaign is about building support for new laws that not only protect wildlife but help to put it into recovery. It is also about people taking individual action where they live. It centres around a 2 minute ‘Wind in the Willows’ film which The Wildlife Trusts commissioned to demonstrate the changes which have taken place in our wild spaces since Ratty, Moley, Badger, and Toad first came into the public eye, over 100 years ago.

There are many actions which people can take and they become clear upon clicking the ‘Join our campaign’ button and following through the links.

Extinction Rebellion : For those interested, there are regular meetings at Union Corner on Union Street (opposite the Palace Theatre) but a mass lobby on the environment and climate change is planned in Parliament Square on 26th June. A bus is planned for transport between Plymouth and the capital.

Earth Day 22nd April : Keep an eye out for local events.

Unravelling the City – With Urban Dialogues and the Sustainable Earth Institute – 27 years after the Rio Summit, what would an up to date sustainable city look like ? This initial scoping workshop will pave the way for further development during the Autumn Term and a bigger event during the University's Research Week in January 2020. The topic has links with every issue Environment Plymouth follows as well as many, many others. How could a citywide 'charter for communities' be developed and what would it contain ? How far should it go? **Please note...we have postponed this until October so that interested students can also be involved. Apologies for any disappointment.**



Coffee Evening

Radford Park Arboretum, Plymstock, Tuesday 7th May 2019 from 6.30pm

**The Beckly Centre, Mayers Way, Hooe Road,
Plymstock, PL9 9DF**

suggested entrance donation: 50p

The Friends of Radford Woods next meeting is on Wednesday 24th April at 7.p.m. in the Bird Hide, next to the Community Orchard in White Lady Road, PL9 9GA. All welcome to find out more about the Woods and their management.

Aims of the Friends of Radford Woods

Identify, conserve and enhance the natural beauty of Radford Woods for the benefit of local residents, visitors and wildlife.

Improve biodiversity and wildlife habitat in the local area.

Raise public awareness of the opportunities this woodland offers and encourage participation and enjoyment of the natural environment through a culture of appreciation and education.

Promote the sympathetic use of the Radford Bird Hide.

To work in partnership with the City Council, the local community and other interested parties to develop sustainable projects which reflect local need.

Ongoing ! The UK's Biggest Ever Clean-Up

Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean

22 March - 23 April 2019 Keep Britain Tidy will be counting on us/you until the end of April to help make the Great British Spring Clean 2019 the country's biggest ever mass-action environmental campaign.

You can now find out more about this great event and the location of local events on

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>



Do You Shop at Tesco's ?

Could you if it would help us secure some funding ? You still have time to vote for us !

If you shop at any of the following Tesco's outlets in Plymouth between 1st March and 30th April 2019 you could help us to win between £1000 and £4000 from the Tesco's 'Bags of Help' fund that is being administered by Groundwork. The fund comes from all the 5ps charged for their carrier bags ! We applied in the Autumn and have been told we are one of three local finalists. So do you, or could you, shop at :

COMPTON PLYMOUTH EXPRESS PL3 5JU, MUTLEY PL PLYMOUTH EXPRESS PL4 6JJ, PLYMOUTH ALEXANDRA RD EXPRESS PL4 7EG, PLYMOUTH BEAUMONT RD EXPRESS, PL4 9AZ, PLYMOUTH DISCOVERY HEIGHTS EXPRESS PL1 1UH, PLYMOUTH METRO, CITY CENTRE PL1 1RA, PLYMOUTH NOTTE ST EXPRESS PL1 2AR, PLYMOUTH ROBOROUGH EXTRA PL6 7RF. Or PLYMOUTH TRANSIT WAY SUPERSTORE PL5 3TW

When you make your purchases you'll be given a voting token and we'll be one of the options for your vote.

PLEASE VOTE FOR US...YOU HAVE UNTIL 30TH

World Oceans Day 2019

08.06.19
12pm - 5pm /01

National Marine Aquarium Plaza /02

PLYMOUTH

WORLD OCEAN DAY FESTIVAL

A celebration of the world's ocean and our impacts. To connect us all to our blue planet. /03

Refreshments
Beach clean
Live music
Games

World Ocean Day | ROCKFISH | Environment Agency | NMA NATIONAL MARINE AQUARIUM | designed by harrysayers.com

Laura Park and her colleague Summer Snell are organizing a World Ocean's Day event for 2019.

This year World Oceans Day will focus on plastic pollution in the oceans and it conveniently falls on a Saturday.

She says "due to this, Summer and I are organising a festival like event outside of the National Marine Aquarium in the Plaza, with a personal Plog option for the journey to the event, games, refreshments available for purchase kindly provided by Rockfish and we're hoping to organise some live music and a beach clean also to raise awareness to the City of Plymouth.

Volunteers sought – we'd like to have a stand at this event but we'll need help to do it ! Please let me know if you can spare an hour or two.

Feature Item

Climate change emergency plan

The recent Council resolution on a climate emergency has given Environment Plymouth the opportunity to develop existing concerns and the role of the yet-to-meet Climate Change Working Group.

The Council's existing commitments were outlined in a response to a Council question in November 2018 but, in a recent discussion with Cllr Dann, it was agreed that future responses might have to be broader and more persuasive; a community-based challenge that Environment Plymouth is well placed to meet. The aim of the April meeting was therefore to kick start the thought process and to establish the potential for a framework that can be shared.



At the meeting Jemma Sharman (of PEC) explained that the PEC team, that shares offices with the Council's Low Carbon Team, has been tasked to scope out what a Climate Emergency Plan might look like and that views would be welcomed. The need for immediate action has been recognized so the proposed plan will need to be radical. It may also be very different from the longer term plan for Carbon Neutrality – a target that has now been brought forward from 2050 to 2030.

The recent resolution was very much influenced by the Youth Climate strikes and the intensity of the views expressed by Plymouth's young people. They are to be involved in the planning and James Ellwood, of Fotonow, is working with PEC to record their views.

We asked :

- Who should be involved in the discussion ?
- Do we need to change the city's emissions targets ?
- Which climate change impacts need to be considered in the emergency plan ?
- What action needs to be taken ?

Do we need to change the targets ?

Plymouth's original emission reduction targets (2008) were a 20% reduction by 2013 (met), a 60% reduction by 2020 (on track) and 80% by 2050. The UK Govt target (80% by 2050) later mirrored this. These targets were informed by research with the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter and the Met Office.

The Plymouth Plan refresh in March 2019 suggests carbon neutrality by 2050 and a 50% reduction by 2034 (not sure who suggested these targets). Bear in mind that if we meet the original 60% by 2020 target we will have achieved this with 14 years to spare.

The recent Council resolution now suggests carbon neutrality by 2030.

So.....how are we going to get there ? There were very few suggestions from the meeting but there was a clear call for baselines and targets that can set the scene and a call to ensure that developments have appropriate facilities in place before anyone moves in to new homes etc.

Who ?

The group discussion gave us a long list of potential consultees, all with a different interest in the impact of climate change.



IMPACTS and ACTIONS ?

Existing themes (Home energy/renewables/sustainable transport) :

- Should allow for more charging points for electric cars/larger outlay for electric cars.
- Promoting the options more widely – extending Plympton.
- Use of various different fuels/emission monitoring/flexible ticketing/more reliable, cheaper buses.
- Waste management options/food waste collections.
- Incentives for domestic solar power installations.
- More assertive planning policies for solar installations/zero carbon homes.
- More ground source heating.
- Better cycle paths and safer cycling lanes.

New themes to consider :

- Poverty and inequality – the impact of new pressures.
- Health and resilience – water scarcity/food health/food supplies and food miles/air quality.
- Threats to the environment and biodiversity.
- Sea level rise – mapping areas prone to flooding now and in the future subject to predicted sea level rise....particularly areas of Plymouth on reclaimed land (Victoria park etc)
- Extreme weather conditions – increased insurance premiums and frequent repair bills/impact on historic buildings.
- Access – the train link via Dawlish.
- Sustainable drainage/grey water solutions/
- More trees/natural recovery corridors.
- A better understanding of the psychology of behaviour change and the incentives that bring about lasting change/improved and meaningful consultation and engagement.
- Neighbourhood plans/make options tangible for families/education options.
- A campaign similar to the Plastic Free Plymouth campaign.
- The impact of the marine environment and NMP proposals.
- Greening businesses – a win win situation on energy billing.
- Analysing the Plymouth Plan and JLP to ensure the content is better understood and more applicable to local need/adapting the targets/explaining why and how they were agreed.
- Environment Plymouth as a statutory consultee for planning applications (possibly not possible but a great idea).

Background Reading and Advice : The Bristol Climate Change and Energy Security Framework : See

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/33423/Our+Resilient+Future+A+Framework+for+Climate+and+Energy+Security/2ee3fe3d-efa5-425a-b271-14dca33517e6>

And Finally !



**Climate Change :
The Facts**

Thursday 18th April

9.00pm, BBC 1

On Thursday 18th April Sir David Attenborough will be presenting a long awaited summary of the emergency we face.

If his message on climate change is as strong as his message on plastics we will have a great deal of public good will to work with. This is a real opportunity that shouldn't be overlooked.

If you'd like access to any of the city's previous strategies for climate change please contact Jackie on info@environmentplymouth.org Details are available from 2004 onwards.

Community Litter Picks

Want to know more about local litter picks and how you can help ?

Check out the Clean Our Patch Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/CleanOurPatch/>

This amazing band of local volunteers, led by El and Ash, have 28 planned litter picks during the Great British Spring Clean !

The logo for 'Clean Our Patch' is set against a dark green rectangular background. The words 'Clean Our Patch' are written in a large, bold, yellow-green font. Below this, the tagline 'Catch the Community Spirit' is written in a smaller, white, cursive-style font.

Catch up on Beach Cleans



Surfers Against Sewage's Big Beach Clean is taking place at Bovisands Beach on Saturday 13th April between 2pm and 4pm. For more information search

<https://www.sas.org.uk/region/south-west/>

Or check out their Facebook link at

https://www.facebook.com/sasplymouth/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

Sustainability Blogging

The most recent sustainability blog from John Maskell of the SEI reviews the presentation by Mike Barry who is Director of Sustainable Business at Marks and Spencer. Mike's presentation gives us a unique insight into how a commercial business can raise its operation to a more sustainable level within the constraints of a competitive retail environment. The blog can be found at <http://blogs.plymouth.ac.uk/sustainableearth/translating-science-into-meaningful-action/>

Talks and events at the Plymouth Electron Microscopy Centre

Here is a link to the PEMC series of Industrial Solutions events – intended to show electron microscopy in the context of different industrial sectors : <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/whats-on/pemc-industrial-solutions-event-series>

Each event is designed to be informative, relevant and useful in terms of practical use of the instruments we have, but also future funding opportunities – they are brief, but packed with useful information to inspire!

For more information, please contact Claire Pearce (01752 588908, 07713 082079 or Claire.pearce@plymouth.ac.uk) or visit our website: www.plymouth.ac.uk/emc



**PLASTIC
FREE DAY
8TH MAY!**

#doitfordavid



Plastics !

Essentially a Cornish event, there may well be events happening this side of the Tamar too so please keep an eye out.

For details of the event in Cornwall see :

<http://finalstrawcornwall.co.uk/>

We're still recruiting !

If anyone wants to become a Community Ambassador or Business Pioneer then please get in touch (on info@environmentplymouth.org) as we still need to spread our coverage of plastic action across the city !

Success !

After last year's fireworks championships many of our beaches were littered with burnt out plastic pods...the waste plastic from 'silver whistlers'; a firework popular in big shows. Even though plastics were not encouraged, one of the participants saw fit to use over 950 of these in their display and only approx. 300 were found on Mountbatten Pier.

Complaints were made to the Council, the event's management contractors (who, initially weren't that helpful) and the British Pyrotechnics Association. The situation was taken very seriously and action was taken immediately to limit future plastic waste. Nothing was detected after the fireworks on Nov 5th for example. Unlike standard, domestic fireworks, display fireworks are generally made in China, Spain and France and they frequently include plastic pods. However, as China is cracking down on plastic waste and both France and Spain will need to comply with the new EU Directive on plastics, the problem is diminishing. With the exception of existing stocks, the use of plastics is gradually being phased out in favour of cornstarch 'paper' and other containment options.

Plymouth's concern means that this year's display will be significantly plastic free – the only remaining use of plastics will be to secure the fuses between the fireworks and the timers for the display (something that is proving difficult to change). With the support of the British Pyrotechnic Association and the event judges, Plymouth's events team is changing the rules to ban plastic and to make it clear that action will be taken if the rules are broken – an approach that could lead the world in big organized displays. So, first Plymouth in August and eventually Sydney, Hong Kong, Singapore and anywhere else that celebrates new Year with fireworks – quite an achievement !





Want to know more about PEC ?

PEC has an increasingly varied role in local community energy choice.

As well as providing advice on energy efficiency, PEC manages 33 community owned solar energy installations as a shared initiative and provides educational support to schools on both solar and biodiversity issues; with site visits and teaching materials available. PEC Pals provide free training to additional advisors.

One of PEC's key aims is to reduce emissions and there are plans to move in to community housing; ensuring that both homes and energy are affordable, There is also an art and energy group.

For more information contact Jemma Sharman at Jemma.sharman@plymouth.gov.uk

LASTLY....

Join the Steering Group

At the AGM in June we will be looking to recruit at least two new members of the Environment Plymouth Steering Group. With regular meetings (a week before the regular meetings), the Steering Group guides Environment Plymouth's progress; making the executive decisions that determine our direction. We would particularly welcome a student representative (given the size of Plymouth's student population) but there are no real rules for this. Have a think about it and watch out for the nomination forms later in May.

If you have any issues you feel we should be addressing at the AGM please get in touch.

Under consideration for the future.....

Luke Pollard's concerns for the obsolete nuclear subs being stored at Devonport, sustainable fisheries, changes to environmental and biodiversity matters in the Join Local Plan and the review of the Plymouth Plan, ethical finance and Brexit (whenever it actually happens !) and the future of environmental regulation.

With thanks to : Paul Warwick, Sara Palmer, Jemma Sharman, Richard Sroka, Jenny Floyd, Delphine Holman, Tim Purches, Penny Tarrant, Sheila Evans, Nicky Hatherell, James Ellwood, Steve Bignell, Frazer Howes, Alan Ramage and Jackie Young. With apologies from Paul Hatherell, John Bull, Hugh Janes, Jason Lowther, Andi Higginson, George Wheeler, Kirsty Wavish and Andrew Young.