

CLERKS REPORT: SUMMER 2023

1. TELEMETRY

1.1. The telemetry unit at the Fords was serviced in June 2023. The maintenance report notes:

"There was a difference of 0.027m between the true water level and the logged water level. The logger casing is badly cracked and therefore the technician closed the casing with duct tape. The battery was changed during this visit as it was due to be changed.

The gauge board was cleaned as much as possible, but Hydro-Logic Services (HLSI) recommends that it is replaced due to it being stained.

Following the visit, the logger has struggled to check into Timeview due to an unrepairable fault that has developed in the logger (due to the loggers age). HLSI has recommended a replacement logger and sim card to the Client."

The cost of the replacement logger is £913 exc VAT and it comes with a two-year warranty. Installation would be free if it can be tied in with an engineer being in the area.



1.2. **Recommendation:** that the council approves the purchase of a replacement logger at £913.

2. SUMMER PICNIC IN THE PARK EVENTS

2.1. Following the success of Fun Day, we would like to run a couple of smaller events at Westclyst and Tithebarn. Format has not been finalised but is likely to be fairly relaxed and low key, with an entertainer, perhaps a family dog show, etc. The idea is to bring the community together so the kids can play / be entertained and everyone brings a picnic. It is very much along the lines of what Fun Day used to be.

2.2. Financial implications: Such events are covered, on acceptance of a risk assessment, under council's insurance; council has the necessary event equipment; each event will take approx. 8 man hours for 2 members of staff. Community volunteers have been recruited to help. A budget will be needed for the entertainer

- 2.3. Community benefit: pre-covid, we ran a couple of such events in the new communities and it's a habit that would be good to re-start.
- 2.4. **Recommendation:** that the council allocates a budget of £1200 (£600 per event) for overheads to deliver a community event and Westclyst and Tithebarn this summer.

3. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORK

- 3.1. Climate emergency work was delayed due to Covid and re-prioritised resources, however it has been great to finally start work by looking at where we are now, how far we have come since council made its Climate Emergency pledge in 2019, and to begin to pave a way forward for this term of office.
- 3.2. Following a pre-launch event at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2023, Fun Day saw the launch of a survey to gather information about what the community thinks should be the main sustainability priorities for Broadclyst parish in the next 6-12 months. The survey runs until the end of July 2023, after which results will be analysed and used to inform actions.
- 3.3. This element of the project has four phases:
 - a kick-off session and information gathering to best understand the needs of the community and where you are at with sustainability.
 - a whole day workshop to develop and implement an action plan for sustainable success.
 - ongoing support over a six-month or year-long implementation period.
 - an impact and evaluation session to celebrate your sustainable progress and establish next steps.
- 3.4. Additional / further elements of the project include:
 - 3.4.1. 'Train the Trainer' session to upskill and engage local communities in sustainable action,
 - 3.4.2. Carbon footprint and green audit,
 - 3.4.3. A Sustainability communications strategy and associated content.
- 3.5. **Recommendation:**
 - 3.5.1. that the council recognises this work that is being done by the Planning/Environment Committee and officers as part of its strategy following the declaration in 2019.
 - 3.5.2. That the council notes that the above programme fits the budget and has been designed to fit sustainability themes in the Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan.
 - 3.5.3. that the council notes that the 23/24 budget contains allocation for this work and that it was confirmed in the Annual Meeting that the committee had delegation to spend on improving sustainable living work.

4. DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS

- 4.1. The aim of Doughnut Economics is that humanity should live in the safe and just space inside the outer ring of the doughnut, respecting ecological boundaries and protecting natural resources; nobody should live in the 'hole' in the middle of the doughnut, without basic life essentials. (Raworth, 2012).
- 4.2. Raworth's theory aims to create a safe and just space for humankind, one in which inequities are addressed. Income inequality results from inequity in society¹; the difference in incomes spread among a population is the result of social conditions that leave some groups with lower socioeconomic status than others (Borgen, 2017).
- 4.3. We have seen evidence of inequities in our communities, many of which were exacerbated by the Covid pandemic. As we move through the post-pandemic recovery phase, there is an opportunity to consider if the application of Doughnut Economics (DE) at a micro level can be effective, and hopefully begin to

¹ The term 'inequity' refers to the state of being unfair and unjust, while 'inequality' simply refers to an imbalance, such as the uneven distribution of resources.

establish some small but significant steps to reduce inequities and reduce harm to our environment. It sits alongside sustainability policies in the Planning system, including those in our Neighbourhood Plan, and complements the work being done by the Planning and Environment Committee to reach a point where “development [that] meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Bruntland Report, 1987).

- 4.4. Doughnut Economics is rapidly gaining momentum across the world, with governments, businesses, communities and more exploring how to apply the principles in practice. The work of the Doughnut Economics Action Lab has created a wealth of resources and support for operationalising the model and encouraging practitioners to learn from each other; Broadclyst Parish Council has fed into this through the Devon Doughnut in 2021 and 2022. A Community of Practice has been established at Exeter University and its first meeting next week will give us the opportunity to continue this work.
- 4.5. Cornwall County Council has done some DE-inspired work and uses a decision-making wheel to inform its decision-making. As with all things, the theory may be brilliant, but unless it’s written into policy somehow, delivery is going to be problematic. With the new administration at East Devon, along with the Broadclyst NP and the model of the Cornish wheel, there is potential to not only begin to make small improvements at local level, but to influence policy and put sustainability at the heart of decisions across the south west.

5. COLLABORATIVE WORKING

- 5.1. I will be presenting a case study of the benefits of collaborative working at the Devon Association of Local Councils Annual conference in September. We were approached as a parish with many successful stakeholder working relationships, most notably the National Trust, GreenSquare Management Company, and the principal authorities.
- 5.2. Councillors can attend the conference by booking via www.dalc.org.uk

6. GRASS CUTTING /HEDGE TRIMMING

- 6.1. There was evidence to suggest that the grass visibility splay / safety cutting schedule was not observed in the first half of the season, especially along the shared path between Broadclyst and the motorway bridge. This led to complaints being made and negative comments on social media.
- 6.2. The responsibility for cutting ultimately lies with the landowner/occupier, and the stretch has complex ownership. The length is identified on the parish cutting schedule, and we are contracted to cut 7 times a year. The parish council has a contract in place with idverde to do this work.
- 6.3. As a result of the complaints and non-delivery of service, we have had a meeting with idverde who have gone in and done an urgent cut.
- 6.4. **Recommendation:** that the council reviews its cutting schedule for 24/25 when setting the budget.

7. ELECTRICITY CONTRACT AT PAVILIONS

- 7.1. The electricity contract is due for renewal in September. Renewal quotes show little difference between a 1, 2, or 3 year contract.
- 7.2. **Action:** for council to determine the period it wants to renew for.

8. O2 SIM CONTRACT RENEWAL

For information: the contract for two iPad SIM cards (data only) have been combined and renewed at a cheaper price.

9. DEVELOPER MEETING

- 9.1. Cllr Gent and I attended a meeting with the developer for the battery storage site. We discussed council's concerns over access and whether further mitigations could be applied to make the access less impactful on the village.
- 9.2. Vehicle movements:
 - 9.2.1. There will be 1,500 8-wheeler trips over 6 months (to lay haul road),
 - 9.2.2. There will be 488 artic movements over 8 weeks (to bring in the container-size batteries),
 - 9.2.3. There will be 2 AILs² to bring in the two transformers.
- 9.3. The mitigations considered were:
 - 9.3.1. Banksman and radio contact to ensure trucks don't meet in the narrow lanes,
 - 9.3.2. Restricted delivery times to avoid school runs / rush hour traffic,
 - 9.3.3. Road survey every 3 months, with rectification within 3 months (period reduced from 6 months),
 - 9.3.4. No overlap period between lorry movements for haul road and delivery of units to site,
 - 9.3.5. A longer construction period to accommodate fewer truck movements per day,
 - 9.3.6. A financial provision for a link to footpath 24 was also mooted, but not agreed.
- 9.4. **Action:** for council to consider if it wishes to review its objection to the application considering this new information.

10. SANGS

We are working, in conjunction with EDDC and Cranbrook Town Council, on a model for local management of SANGS.

This concludes my report.

Angie Hurren

Broadclyst Parish Clerk & RFO.

14.07.2023

² Abnormal Indivisible Loads, moved under STGO (Special Types General Orders) movement orders.