

Councillors appointed to outside bodies

Clyst Valley Regional Park Delivery Board - Cllr Ray Bloxham

There has been one meeting of the Board since the previous report to Council in October 2024. This was on 17th January 2025 at Poltimore House.

Update from Poltimore House

The Board received an update from The Poltimore House Trust and the development of proposals for the house, gardens and café. The importance (and popularity) of the house as a community facility in relation to West Clyst and the wider area was highlighted, as was the potential for Clyst Valley Regional Park and Clyst Valley Trail to support the Trust.

The Board agreed to invite a representative of the Trust to attend future Board meetings.

Station Road SANG

Planning approval granted in December 2024.

SWW Sewer works are now complete with reinstatement works to be undertaken in spring 2025.

Ditch re-profiling is also complete – with some new species (Sandpipers) already visiting the site.

Owl/bird/bat/dormice boxes are being installed over coming weeks.

Detailed design and tenders are progressing with a target of commencing work on site in April/May 2025.

Ben Morgan-Brown is the East Devon Countryside Team Ranger and has organised volunteer days to help with site clearance and creation of leaky dams. Further volunteer activities including hedgerow planting to be arranged.

Crystal Clear Clyst project

Ongoing conversations with Westcountry Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency to explore funding options, next steps and required match funding. Still awaiting SWW Sewer report.

National Heritage Lottery Fund Bid

As previously reported the Town Council hosted a Board workshop at the Younghayes Centre in Cranbrook on 30th May to develop a National Heritage Lottery Fund bid focussing on engagement with nature in the Tithebarn / Mosshayne / Cranbrook area and connections to the wider Clyst Valley.

NLHF have responded positively to an Expression of Interest. Subject to EDDC Cabinet approval, submission of a full bid is targeted for April 2025.

Clyst Valley Regional Park - Boundary and Local Plan

The updated CVRP boundary and policy has been published in the Reg 19 Local Plan consultation which is currently live.

Clyst Valley Trail

Clyst Valley LCWIP is due to be published in early 2025. Discussions re the Clyst Valley Trail have been progressing on a number of fronts (Clyst St Mary Neighbourhood Plan, Broadclyst PC, National Trust Killerton/Active Travel England) and several planning applications.

National Trust Killerton have submitted a bid to SW Railways for funding to support a feasibility study for a potential bridge over the railway (providing access to Cranbrook).

Initial Officer Working Group meetings have been held with DCC to progress CVT and input into Killerton Access Strategy. Officers will be meeting to review the previous consultation route, and then arrange meetings with Parish Councils and Partners to review these in detail.

Funding for initial projects (signing the current CVT route and Elbury Lane) is being investigated, alongside delivery of sections of the route through planning applications.

Three Rivers Landscape Recovery project

As previously reported to Council this project is ongoing to positively create and manage wetland areas within the Killerton Estate. Recent work includes planting 250,000 trees since 2020. The aim is to plant 1 million trees on the estate by 2030.

The National Trust's recently published 10 year strategy is available at:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/who-we-are/our-strategy>

Other matters

Potential funding bid to Peninsula Transport for a pool of Cargo and Accessibility Bikes being investigated with National Trust Sustainable Travel Officer Zsolt Schuller.

Tree Planting in Broadclyst and Poltimore Parishes - £25,000 s106 funding proposed to be transferred to Saving Devon's Treescapes for tree planting in these parishes. Funding will support planting of approx. 1 Ha of woodland or 600m of hedgerow. Some initial planting to be undertaken at Clyst Meadows – but more sites required. Suggestions welcomed.

Community Orchards – general discussion re Community Orchards in the Clyst Valley.

Information from Great Trees project to be reviewed and shared with Ben Morgan-Brown.

<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s25201/East+Devon+Trees+Hedgerow+and+Woodlands+Strategy.pdf>

Noted that Saving Devon's Treescapes has Orchard Trees available for planting. To share details with Poltimore House Trust.

Final consultation on East Devon's Tree, Woodlands and Hedgerows Strategy is now live.

<https://democracy.eastdevon.gov.uk/documents/s25201/East+Devon+Trees+Hedgerow+and+Woodlands+Strategy.pdf>

Potential bid to GWR Improvement Fund re Clyst Valley mentioned. Officers have not had capacity to consider this in detail – but will review for future funding rounds (with potential to link to NLHF or other projects).

9 Next meeting

10am Thursday 19th June 2005 - Blackdown House, Honiton