



Chairperson's Report

Chairperson's report to the Sustainable Dawlish AGM November 30th 2021

This report covers the period from 2020 to date.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic regulations we found ourselves unable to hold face to face meetings after the meeting in February 2020 and have held core group meetings via zoom and socially distanced face to face meetings since.

Sustainable Travel

It is good news that our concerns about lack of accessibility at Dawlish Station for cyclists, people with mobility issues and families with pushchairs will be solved through the work of the South West Rail resilience works at Dawlish Station.

The Dawlish Walking Festival

In 2020, sadly after much hard work had gone into planning The Dawlish Walking Festival, organised by Sue Brader, in partnership with Angie Weatherhead, Dawlish Town Council, had to be cancelled due to regulations that no more than 6 people were allowed to walk together outdoors, after its programme had gone to print, and the remaining Scott Richards' sponsorship money was returned. In Spring 2021, again due to the need to safeguard the health and safety of people taking part with Coronavirus infections high, the decision was made not to hold the Festival.

Community grant funding raised in 2019 has been ringfenced in order to reinstate the Walking Festival, when possible. However, it has been decided that the programme of walks, the greatest expense, will not be printed in such great numbers in order to advertise the event; instead a QR code on posters will be linked to our website, where a full listing of the walks will be published.

Local Food

The pandemic regulations also affected plans for a monthly Dawlish Farmer's Market, which was to be held in the Town and had to be cancelled after the one held in early Spring. We celebrate the opening of the Dawlish Farm Shop in 2021 as this allows Dawlish residents to buy local fresh produce.

Sustainable Dawlish has been gifted plans for a small Community Orchard, to be sited ideally within walking distance of Dawlish Town Centre, and contacted Teignbridge Green Spaces about possible sites. The response of Teignbridge Council portfolio holder was lukewarm, stating that Community Orchards are not well looked after over the long term and were more expensive than planting trees per se. According to Common Ground, Devon has lost over 90% of its heritage orchards since 1945, and although

we have put together an action plan for the orchard's installation; we are still waiting for a suitable site to be identified closer to Dawlish Town Centre than the orchard at Holcombe, and the small area of fruit trees planted at Dawlish Countryside park.

Renewable Energy and Saving Energy

In September 2020, we publicised the Devon Climate Emergency initiative 'Solar Together' to our members so that they could benefit from Devon's group buying of Solar panels scheme as a more cost effective option to install or upgrade a renewable energy system.

We continue to be concerned that the Government 10 Point Green Plan is insufficient in terms of vision and funding to enable domestic energy users to transition away from the use of fossil fuels and are contacting our M.P. Anne Marie Morris about this problem, asking for more Government funding support and advice so that our local Authorities: Devon, Teignbridge and Dawlish Town Council, so that they can put their carbon neutral strategies into action, having declared a 'Climate Change Emergency'.

We wish to enable Dawlish residents to have more information about the options that are available to them and plan to hold a Saving Energy Forum in 2022.

Teignbridge Local Plan Review Part 2 2020-2040

We responded to the Part 2 Teignbridge Local Plan Review 2020 - 2040 and communicated our grave concerns about the Grade 1 and Grade 2 farmland sites in Dawlish parish being put forward for potential housing development with consequent loss of the highest grades of arable land, which is scarce in the South West and which Teignbridge Council has a duty to protect. We also responded seeking to protect wildlife sites and biodiversity

Part 3 of the Local Plan Consultation is focused on sites for renewable energy installation, traveller sites, and smaller sites for housing development. Responses must be received by January 22, 2022.

The Dawlish Great Big Green Week

Our main action in 2021 was to raise funding for and facilitate a Great Big Green Week in Dawlish ahead of the COP 26 World Leader's Climate Conference. We received positive support from green community and environmental organisations, and individuals in putting together the programme of events, and sponsorship from Dawlish Town Council small grants scheme, spent on hiring of meeting rooms to enable us to plan the Great Big Green Week, and provide a contingency indoor location at The Manor House, in case of inclement weather. We also received sponsorship from Teignbridge Community Fund through the support of Cllr. Gary Taylor, Devon grant funding from Devon County Cllr. Martin Wrigley, and The Climate Coalition for vital health and safety requirements, and advertising and promotion materials.

To open the week we held a successful musical event on Dawlish Lawn at which School choirs and musicians, the South Devon Community Choir, David Bailey, acoustic guitarist, and Kim's Acapella group performed with green themed songs. Over four thousand visitors to the event were able to visit information stands provided by Dawlish Town Council, Teignbridge District Council, ACTion on Climate in Teignbridge, ACT Wildlife Wardens, Devon Contract Waste, South West Water, Dawlish Against Plastic, Shores of South Devon, Devon Wildlife Trust, Dawlish Garden Society, and Sustainable Dawlish, Transition. Our aim was to raise awareness of the lifestyle changes and climate action that can be taken to make a difference in reaching carbon neutral and raise awareness of the need to act now to seek to avert the climate crisis.

Teignbridge Cllrs. Linda Petherick and John Petherwick provided Community funding support for the provision of confidence building singing workshops for local Primary Schools prior to the event led by David Haines, Musical Director of the South Devon Community Choir as this was the first singing event that they were able to take part in since the start of the pandemic in Spring 2020.

This was followed by 19 more green themed events: Two Teignbridge Ranger led walks, at Dawlish Warren SSI, and Dawlish Countryside Park; 2 Walks for Health; a 'Before The Flood' Film showing at The Shaftesbury Theatre; The South West Rail Resilience Kiosk open to the public; Dawlish Fairtrade Afternoon tea , concert and quiz; Open Vegetable Gardens, talks and tours by Cliff Curd; Climate Change Talk and Q&A by Professor Tim Lenton of Exeter University; Fixfest Repair Café organised by Cllr. Alison Foden; Beach Clean, and a Town Litter Pick organised by Dawlish Against Plastic; a Foraging Walk; a Great Big Green Harvest Trail in Cofton and Cockwood; A public Photographic Competition 'Save the World, Saving Dawlish' and display in Dawlish Town Centre by Dawlish and Teignmouth Camera Club and apple pressing at a local farm courtesy of Ian Shields. All events were free to the public apart from one low cost Ranger led walk and the Shaftesbury Theatre Film entry so were accessible to all sections of our Dawlish Community.

I would like to thank my colleagues: Sue Brader, Ian Shields, and David Bailey for their hard work and perseverance to ensure the Great Big Green Week was a success. We spent hour upon hour of volunteer time, raising over 2K in funding in less than 4 months to be able to host and promote the Dawlish Lawn Event, and on the organisation of the Dawlish Great Big Green Week. In addition, my thanks go to Angie Weatherhead, Events, Projects and Tourism Officer, Dawlish Town Council for her sound advice, and practical support with Gazebos for the Dawlish Lawn Event, to our Mayor of Dawlish, Valeria Mawhood, who opened the Event on Dawlish Lawn and to everyone in the Dawlish community who got involved to ensure the Dawlish Great Big Green Week's aims could be realised. A full report is published on the Sustainable Dawlish Website, www.dawlishtransition.org.uk

In addition, we received very good background support and advice from The Climate Coalition, as our Dawlish events were part of their Great Big Green Week National initiative.

Community Links

Sue Brader has built links with Dawlish Against Plastic and Sustainable Dawlish has also strengthened our links with other Community organisations such as Dawlish Against Plastic, Action on Climate in Teignbridge, and Dawlish Garden Society through involvement with the Great Big Green Week, enabling a framework of support for future initiatives.

Sustainable Dawlish, Transition

We have adopted a new logo, and are commissioning a design for a new banner at present. I would like to pay tribute to Sue Brader for maintaining and updating our website, and to Ian Shields for his financial oversight.

Carolyn Ballard, Chairperson, Sustainable Dawlish, Transition 2020 -2021