



Greener Ugborough Parish – Report for Ugborough Parish Council Annual Meeting 2024

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This year has been one mainly comprising review. In September, we held an open meeting to celebrate and review all G-UP's actions, initiatives and impact since forming. What emerged from the discussion, was a majority interest in putting effort behind a project related to carbon reduction, and Energy and Renewables in/for the Parish. There was appetite for a 'bigger' initiative with more impact, and ideally one that translated into cost saving i.e. in terms of household energy costs. Alongside this was an aspiration to continue our Wildlife and Biodiversity strand with associated walks and talks which, it was agreed, have been hugely positive in terms of drawing on local expertise, sharing knowledge and adding extra community cohesion locally.

Capacity to realise these aspirations has been limited, due to the small number of volunteers currently actively involved in G-UP. Two Steering Group members have stepped down this year and for part of this year two current members had to step back due to personal circumstance and time limitations. With a recent push to research community energy options for the Parish, it's our hope that we may engage residents interested in greener energy and cost saving at home but we do need more people to step forward or to work in partnership with other groups/parties to make these ideas reality.

On the subject of partnerships, we were delighted to recently be part of Ugborough Parish Council's 'Are you Prepared for Net Zero' event. We look forward to all who curated this community consultation coming together to debrief re feedback collated and review actions going forward. At the event children were facilitated to create a community bug hotel which, happily, is to be sited in Ugborough playpark.

In other news:

Re Energy - Our Carbon Reduction Scheme is due to complete and we are in discussion with David Roe re how to tie up this ambitious project (for households to reduce their carbon footprints by 25% in 5 years). Our community thermal imaging camera – purchased with assistance from Cllr Tom Holway and SHDC – has been successfully loaned out to Parish residents to help to identify areas for improvement re heating 'leaks' and energy efficiency at home.

Re Wildlife and Biodiversity - *Wildlink* (our community nature reserve project) continues to run, encouraging simple actions in gardens to support local wildlife - thus providing all-important wildlife corridors and larger foraging areas. Our community wildlife camera continues to be available for community members to borrow in association with this. We have been in talks with UPC re the introduction of wildflowers and a willow structure to Bittaford playpark, which we are looking forward to progressing.

We have been inspired this year by the proactive Citizen Science undertakings of David Roe and Graham Gilbert of *Ugborough Rivers Group*; by the continuing efforts of *Ugborough Steepers* (whose efforts in previous seasons are showing very real benefits now!) and by the newly planted orchard and community herb garden at Moorhaven.

We continue to engage with the local sustainability network, mainly via Sustainable South Hams.