

## **Sustainability Report for Parish Council December 2023**

It has not been possible to hold a full Sustainability Committee meeting as two members of the Committee have been unable to attend due to work commitments and, therefore, the meeting would not be quorate.

Recent focus of work has been on water quality in Modbury and adjoining parishes.

### **Water testing kits**

The Parish Council has funded 12 water quality testing kits for use by members of the community who have volunteered to work as citizen scientists. Information from testing is sent to the West Country Rivers Trust who use this to help construct a map of the health of the River Erme and its tributaries.

### **Cooperative working with other Councils**

The River Erme Parish and Town Councils, of which Modbury is one, continue to meet to develop ways of working co operatively on monitoring and managing water pollution. We are in the process of producing a template of water related matters for use as an aide memoir in considering planning applications.

We are developing links with local community groups to harness their technical expertise to effectively and routinely present information about pollution to our communities and in discussions with statutory and non statutory organisations.

### **Legislation and Nutrient Neutrality**

The issue of proposed changes to legislation to allow developers more freedom from restrictions which would impact water quality has been derailed by the House of Lords but may well return. We will be meeting with representatives of SHDC, including Cllr Taylor, our own District Councillor, to draft a proposal opposing any return of this measure.

This matter has also been raised with Anthony Magnall, MP, who will be the prospective parliamentary candidate at the next election under the constituency boundary changes.

Invasive species

### **Invasive plants.**

Species such as Himalayan Balsam pose a threat to the biodiversity of native plants. This is already a common problem in neighbouring parishes and likely to travel downstream. With advice from experts, an information campaign is being developed to help with identification and management of this plant.

### **Cooperative working**

The model of cooperative working between neighbouring councils on issues of common interest such as pollution and biodiversity is being explored by other councils. A presentation on this was given at a recent event and an associated article has been produced.

### **Voices of the Erme project**

Local artist, Laura Denning is collecting memories and experiences of anyone who lives within the Erme catchment. She has had a good response so far and is hoping to extend this project. Details have been posted in The Messenger and on social media.

### **Churchyard and verge planting**

Mod WAG have recently planted wild daffodil bulbs and sown native wildflower seeds in selected areas of the church yard.

Wildflower seeds will be sown on the Church Lane verges in the Spring.

### **Future Plans**

Sustainability must address other issues such as energy resilience.

The Parish Council needs to harness expertise and involvement from the community. Once the Sustainability Committee is quorate in the New Year, we will look at addressing these issues.

Cllr Ann Turner

Sustainability Committee Chair