

3. Environment

3.1 - Local environmental issues

In 2019 Wiveliscombe Town Council followed The County and District Council in declaring a climate emergency. A working group was formed to look into what the Council could do around environmental issues locally.

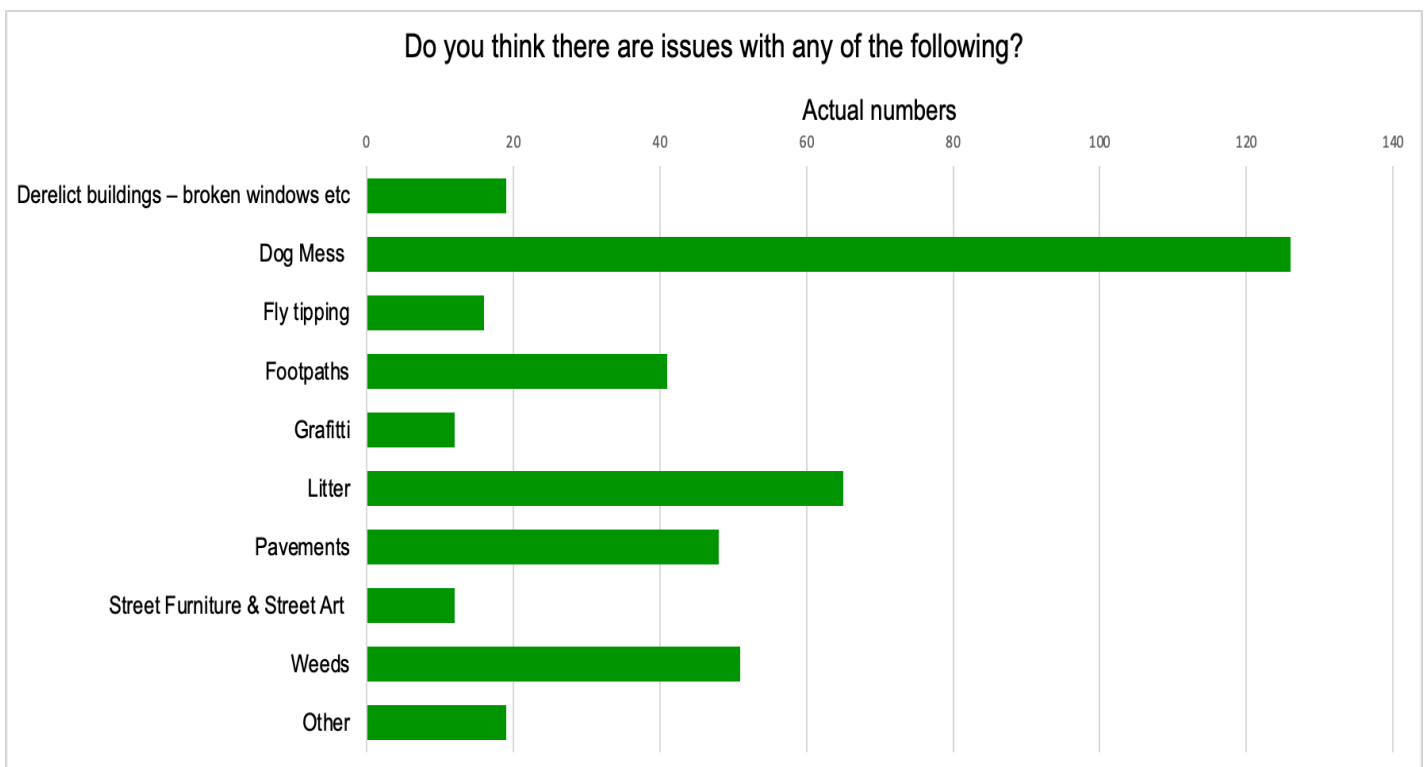
The main projects since have been:

- To work with the District Council and the Community Centre to install 2 Electric Vehicle Charging points in the upper part of Croft Way Car Park
- To reduce water and heating costs in the public toilets (owned by WTC) and install solar panels.

In order to find out what more we might be able to achieve questions were asked about the main issues and solutions. *Note - a list of options was given and respondents were asked to tick all that they agreed with. Each list also contained a box for other suggestions.*

Asked about issues the largest number expressed concern about dog mess - 126, followed by Litter - 65, Weeds - 51, Pavements - 48, Footpaths - 41.

- WTC already pay for 3 Dog mess bins in town, but clearly not all dog owners clear up after their dogs.
- An annual litter picking day is organised by Wiveliscombe Area Partnership and covers the central part of town.
- The pavements and footpaths are not owned by WTC but by County Highways. However, WTC have already replaced a series of stiles with accessible gates and made one footpath more passable.



Of the 18 additional comments 9 reiterated dog mess in specific locations, 3 referred to pavements in certain locations, 2 referred to the Square being untidy, 2 mentioned accessible gates and footpaths, 1 fallen leaves blocking drains, 1 overgrown hedges obstructing pavements. 2 comments were also positive stating that Wiveliscombe is generally tidy and residents are respectful of their environment. 1 asked what, from the list, should be covered by council tax and 1 suggested any more EV charging points will reduce space in car parks further.

Action 3.1 - Local environmental issues

3.1.1 WTC to investigate funding more dog poo bins

3.1.2 WTC to create poster about the harms to health of dog poo

3.1.3 WTC to investigate the moving of the dog poo bin at the original entrance to Cut Throat to be moved to the new entrance off Luxton Way

3.1.4 WTC to promote use of reporting tool for damage to footpaths, gates or stiles

3.1.5 WTC to investigate improving accessibility of footpaths

3.1.6 WTC to promote use of reporting fly tipping

3.1.7 WTC to promote use of reporting broken pavements

3.1.8 WTC to communicate with the owners of derelict properties to improve visual appearance

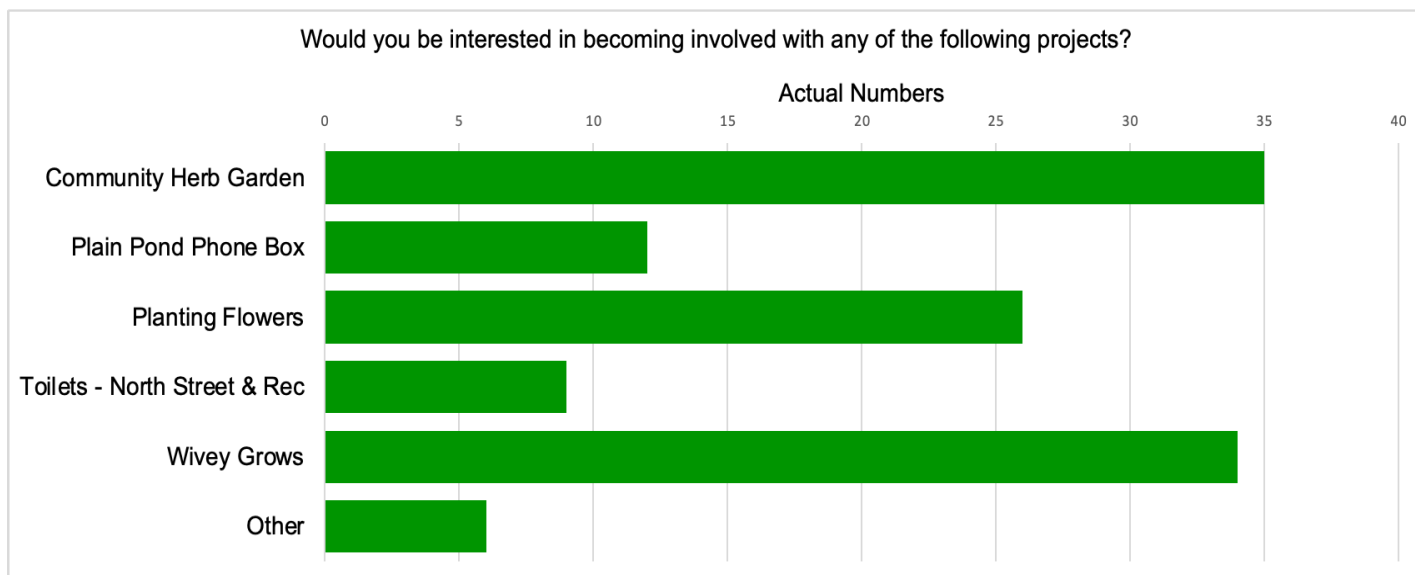
3.1.9 WTC to work with WAP to organise more Wivey Clean Up days

3.1.10 WTC to contact SWaT (SC) to arrange more frequent street cleaning to include weeding

3.1.11 WTC to work with Placemaking regarding street furniture and street art

3.2 - Supporting Existing Projects

There are a number of existing projects in Wiveliscombe that in part can address environmental matters. These include Community Herb Garden - behind the Community Centre, Plain Pond Phone Box - managed by WTC, Toilets - North Street - owned by WTC & Rec, Wivey Grows. Plus some suggestions had been made about rewinding or generally planting flowers. 65 respondents expressed a willingness to become more actively involved in local projects.



Action 3.2 - Supporting Existing Projects

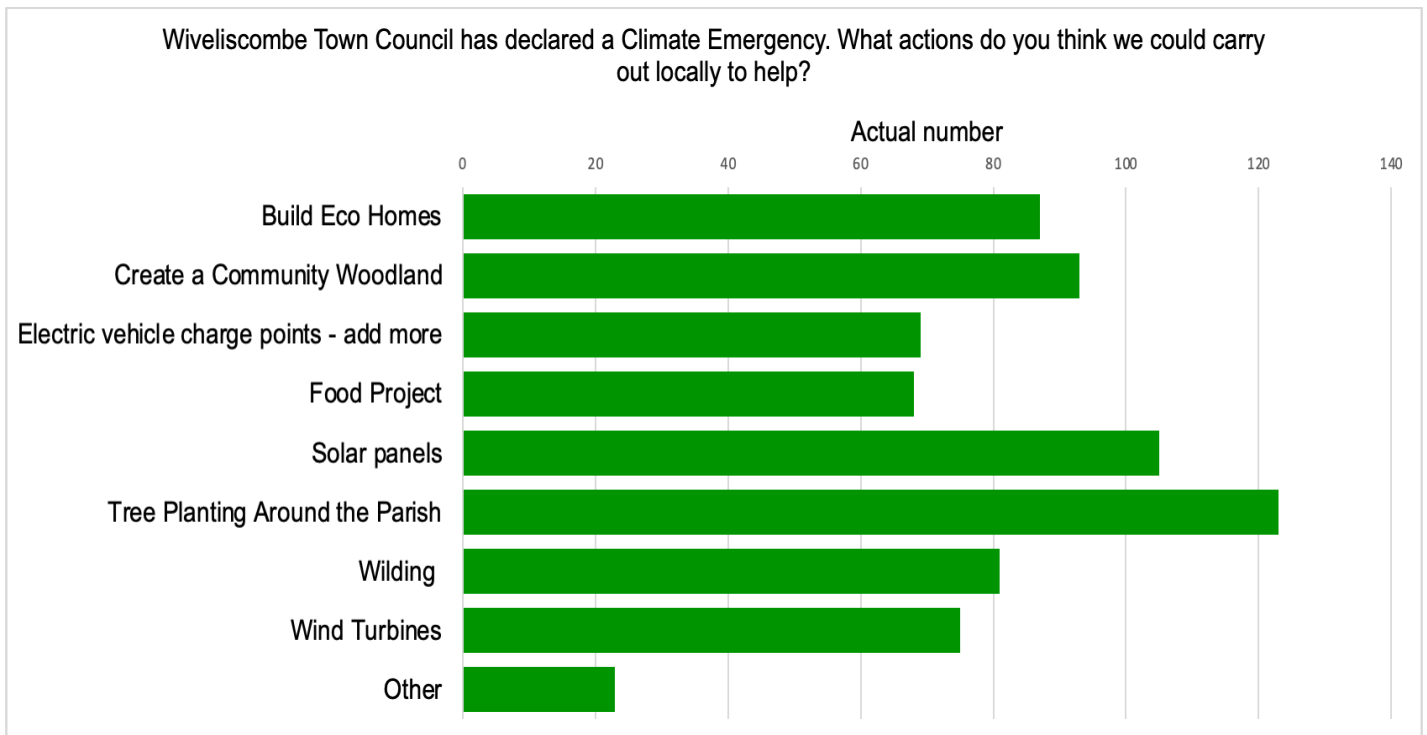
3.2.1 WTC to work with Community Centre to clarify responsibility for maintaining the Community Herb Garden

3.2.2 WTC to help facilitate redevelopment and new use of Plain Pond Phone Box

3.2.3 WTC to discuss renovating toilet block on the Recreation Ground

3.3 - New Climate Emergency & Environmental Actions

157 households responded to the question about what actions Wiveliscombe Town Council could carry out locally to help address the climate emergency. The responses receiving the highest number of ticks were Tree planting - 123, solar panels - 105 and creating a community woodland - 93. It's clear that many people are keen to see local initiatives.



A number of respondents made positive additional suggestions including:

- Facilitate community energy production - possibly collective solar panels or ground source heating under Rec
- Sustainable/public transport or car sharing
- Greater recycling facilities
- Help people insulate homes
- All new houses to have solar panels and rainwater collection
- Promote use of local shops
- Relax planning regulations to allow solar panels on buildings in conservation area
- Ensure any environmental measures are available to all and not just the wealthy
- Reducing speed limits from unrestricted to 50mph and 30 to 25mph
- Buy locally grown food
- Allow weeds to grow on verges
- Create shared surface in the Square.
- Look into anaerobic digestion from animal waste, manure and crops to generate renewable gas/electricity for Wivey.
- Local education opportunities in permaculture, transition engineering
- Encourage people to turn down thermostats
- Teach cookery
- Generate local tourism - day trips from Taunton
- Clearly mark footpaths between Wivey and surrounding Villages

A number of respondents made negative additional suggestions including:

- That there is no climate emergency
- None of the measures listed would have the slightest affect on global climate.
- The amount of solar panels going up on agricultural land is crazy

Action 3.3 - New Climate Emergency & Environmental Actions

3.3.1 WTC to communicate with other organisations and groups on wilding verges and other areas

3.3.2 WTC encourage adoption of Eco Housing

3.3.3 WTC to investigate locations for siting of wind turbines

3.3.4 WTC to work with Community Wood group to help facilitate a community wood

3.3.5 WTC to work with local community to encourage appropriate tree planting