

Ways to Protect the Environment



Date	Monday 23 September 2024	Time	3-4pm
Attendees	Richard Blagden (Taleblazers), Jacqui Warren (Torbay Council), Stuart Riddle (LOTE), Dan Rees-Jones (Play Torbay), Sarah O'Connor (Ellacombe Community Partnership), Sarah Reeves (ecoe), Juliet Jackson (Seadream Education)	Apologies	Jon Oliverio (Cycle Torbay), Hannah Worthington (BATS), Louise Loram (Orchard Forest School), Anna Gilroy (Tonic Creatives)

Agenda

- Where are we with our CAF bid?
- Update from partners and collaborations

Summary

Partner celebrations/updates:

The Ripple Effects Project (Davina Luther): Davina celebrated an exciting day teaching their first Key Stage 2 lesson on living things and habitats at Watcombe Primary School. Davina had a lovely time at the primary school looking at their grounds and all the different habitats and spaces they have. The Ripple Effects project, in collaboration with Torbay Council, aims to create a Miyawaki Forest at 2 local primary schools. Also building the curriculum around that and holding workshops, involving the community, to understand natural flood defenses, climate change and natural solutions to mitigate against that.

Ellacombe Community Partnership (Sarah O'Connor) : Sarah, on top of running their usual summer activities, celebrated their year long LocalMotion project that was completed over the summer at their wildlife garden, part of their community garden run by young people of Ellacombe. The project came from the Food Security strand of LM asking YP 'where does your food come from?', working to debunk the idea that many YP have, observed in LM engagement projects, that food comes from shops; the YP learnt to garden, grow, prepare and cook! As part of this project, they also ran a Survival Project. Taking place at Cockington and on the beach, the project posed the scenario 'if you were abandoned in the middle of the woods, or on a desert island, how would you survive? What skills would you need? What food could you eat?'

Additionally, they worked on an Imagine This project, taking action on the original solutions thought up by young people during the early days of Imagine This, in response to 'what would you do to help protect the local environment?'. The Ellacombe YP recognised that as a small group there were solutions

they couldn't implement but could focus on small, manageable actions. Led by their new youth environment officer, Harry, a beach clean at Beacon Cove was organised. The participants enjoyed the activity, which also included sea glass collecting and identifying edible seaweeds, making it a fun family outing.

The summer activities have now concluded, but part of the LM project was for the YP to decide how they want to sustain that project. The YP expressed interest in building a structure to continue their work through winter. The group also produced and sold homemade jam from their grown blackberries, creating their own form of currency in garden items. There was a brief discussion around how the impact group could help, in any way, to the conception of this winter-time structure.

South Devon National Landscape - Life on the Edge (Stuart Riddle): Stuart shared honestly that the summer, for him, had been about understanding, learning, and finding his footing. He mentioned that there's been lots of community conversations, and action is just beginning. They are currently focused on identifying and working with smaller community groups on various programs that involves learning, doing, and celebrating. Many of these initiatives are starting up right now. In addition, there are larger pieces of work related to public arts awareness raising, work with Doorstep Arts around touring theatre and carnival celebrations. Nikki is managing volunteering and learning efforts. Lots of little bits of work that will come together to make this bigger project, so while there aren't many examples of summer successes to report, there are plenty of ongoing discussions and developments in progress. Stuart also updated later on in the meeting that LOTE's learning offer is now up and running including; 3 cyclical apprenticeships in post soon, a community traineeship & a conservation traineeship possibly beginning in April, and they now have a comms intern in post.

Taleblazers (Rich Blagden): Rich firstly celebrated a last minute project that happened at the end of last term, where they received funding to do a four-day camp with Ukranian refugees up in Treacle Valley. Two days being out in the woods exploring, doing environmental activities, playing games, cooking over the campfire. They did an overnight camp including a night walk in the woods, looking for owls and bats, breakfast the next morning and more games. Rich said they didn't have long to pull it together but had a full group of 18 in the end, and that it was a successful and enjoyable way to wrap up the term.

Now, Taleblazers have started a new project with YP from The Foyer at Treacle Valley. They were first introduced to the woods and prompted to come back the next week for some bacon sandwiches! Four enthusiastic YP go themselves up to Treacle Valley at 9am, met and had breakfast with the team and discussed potential activities like planting trees and making bird boxes. The four participants were enthusiastic and engaged, and will be returning to do some knife and axe work. Hopefully by the end of the project, they will receive a Level 3 Qualification in Environmental Leadership, a new course Taleblazers are running which is accredited by the Leadership Skills Foundation. Going forward, the participants will manage their own budget, choose their activities and what environmental actions they want to take, over the next 6-8 weeks. Multiple people in the impact group noted how brilliant it was Taleblazers have been able to engage this group.

Liz asked whether the cost of the qualifications was coming from a small pot of funding or if there was more funding to come that others could tap into. Rich responded by saying that the main cost of delivering the course will be staff time. They have enough spots for 30 young people this year, with 8 places allocated for The Foyer and 22 additional spots available. While current funding only covers work

with The Foyer, Rich hopes this can inspire other organisations to join and explore joint funding, allowing more young people to participate. The first course will take place at Treacle Valley, their home base, but the plan is to eventually deliver it in other locations, like Parkfield, if there's demand and suitable green spaces. The course framework is portable, meaning it can be replicated elsewhere for young people to gain qualifications. Additionally, Taleblazers run leadership courses focused on practical skills like map reading and tent setup. The team has also been involved in rewriting the John Muir Award, which has been paused but is set to relaunch in March, with plans to deliver the updated program then. The John Muir Award is open to all ages, while the Level 3 training is for those 16 and older. They also offer [Tifa's Challenge](#), created in memory of a young person named Tifa, which includes outdoor activities for children of any age. The challenge is designed to build trust and encourage exploration of the outdoors.

Jo mentioned there is a strong interest from the Young Adult Carers Service in a project similar to the one with the Ukrainian community. This project, which starts at Treacle Valley and leads to Parkfield, has 13 young adult carers eager to participate.

Jo also spoke about plans to broaden outreach by creating an Impact Group youth panel. This group, which would include YP from various partnerships, such as Harry from Ellacombe, will help test and provide feedback on projects. Harry is keen to begin and the group only needs a few more YP to kick-start activities. Some participants have been identified, and the group is open to anyone up to the age of 25, focusing on interest rather than age. Sarah noted that for Harry, an extraordinary but shy 10-year-old, camping and engaging in conversation around a campfire suits him better than formal meetings. The goal is to engage Harry and other young people through active participation rather than traditional discussions.

Play Torbay (Dan Rees-Jones): Dan celebrated that Play Torbay has been collaborating closely with Nicky from *Life on the Edge* on various projects and continues to do so. They have also launched a program for 13- to 16-year-olds to work on their sites throughout the year, including summer. This program has required navigating local authority bureaucracy, particularly around work permits due to the involvement of payment.

Additionally, they have secured Lottery funding to establish a full-time Play Support Mentor role and are developing a pathway to employment for young people, helping them gain qualifications and work experience. They've also introduced a new placement at their Ecology Centre, where young people interested in the environment participate in a two-year strategy, attending monthly planning sessions to help deliver environmental education.

Currently, they work with 35 young people aged 13 to 15, many of whom transition into sessional employees, completing necessary checks and becoming part of the organisation. Over the summer, they also delivered a large program across three sites with HAF activity.

Torbay Council (Jacqui Warren): Jacqui celebrated an update on Torbay Greener Way for Our Bay, a strategic framework aimed at addressing climate change with community partners, developed over the past year and a half. After two rounds of consultations and engaging young people with the help of Tonic Creative, the Torbay Climate Partnership has approved the action plan, which will soon seek endorsement from the Place Leadership Board. If successful, could lead to similar projects across Torbay, using young people as a pilot group for future initiatives. Jacqui thanked everyone who has contributed to this effort.

Seadream Education (Juliet Jackson): Juliet had been working on an immersive tech project with young people in North Devon and are eager to bring similar initiatives to Torbay. She also has a project involving the Tamar Bridge, where she'll be filming with a 360-degree camera and create VR content featuring the young people's narratives. Exciting!

CAF Update from Jo & Liz

Jo Morrell and Liz Muir updated the group on where we are with the CAF bid, looking through presentation slides prepared for the Climate Action Partnership. The presentation covered: key background information about Imagine This and the Ways to Protect the Environment Impact Group, partners involved in the bid, the key Lottery Climate Action Fund criteria & amount/deadline details, reasons for applying and how the activity will be delivered. (*Updated presentation attached to the email containing these notes.*) **Expression of Interest Deadline: 2nd December.**

Comments from partners:

Sarah O'Connor: "What does an Imagination Station look like? What would it contain? Need to know before we can tell if we want them."

Liz couldn't give a definitive answer but a rough idea. "A place where Climate Action projects happen, where people can get involved or learn how to join. Each would have a different theme and would be run by different organisations. YP would have the opportunity to take part in different projects in different areas and they're all linked together with an umbrella organisation, and they've all got eco leaders who are representations from all of them so what they look like would be very different."

Sarah O'Connor: "I wasn't part of the initial conversation for those but it does tie in with everything that we initially discussed in the way we wanted to Imagine This to move forward and what the CAF bid should entail and how it could engage lots of different partners in lots of different ways but tie it all in together so that they're all connected. So I think that would do that."

Sarah Reeves: "In terms of what an imagination station would look like, it's not for us to say, it's for the YP to re-imagine what their futures going to be like in a changing climate which is going to effect every part of their lives. We're there to prompt them on their journey, provide resources and ask thought provoking questions. Don't be too specific to funders, it's in the minds of the YP to explore."

Action	Owner
Celebrate Ellacombe's summer activities in the October newsletter	Sarah > Lisa > Rebekah
If you would like us to include any celebrations/updates from September in the October Newsletter, please send to ImagineThisInfo@torbaycdt.org.uk	All
Anymore feedback on the current CAF bid, contact johannamorrell@torbaycdt.org.uk	All