Ways to Protect the Environment

Date	Thursday 1 October 2026	**Time**	1-2pm
Attendees	• Stuart Riddle (South Devon National Landscape) • Hollie Uzzell (Economic Development Officer, Torbay Council) • Sarah O'Connor (Ellacombe Community Partnership) • Tanny Stobart • Lisa, Jo & Rebekah		
Agenda			
• Catch-up & partner updates • AOB			
Summary			

Catch-up & partner updates

Ellacombe Community Partnership — Sarah

Sarah shared an update on Ellacombe's summer programme, Earth Explorers, which went well and attracted a younger group of children than some of their previous environmental activity, particularly children aged 5—11.

Ellacombe has also recently developed a new partnership with the Salvation Army, which is opening up access to indoor space and equipment. This creates new opportunities for Ellacombe and the Salvation Army to run activities together, with a Christmas party planned as an initial joint activity.

Looking ahead, Ellacombe is interested in developing more outdoor and nature-based activities, including forest school sessions, camping and a bat walk.

South Devon National Landscape — Stuart

Stuart shared plans for a new project with Roots Media, who will deliver a programme of in-school workshops from January 2027. The project will use creative approaches to engage young people with nature and environmental

messages, with a particular focus on young people who may be less connected to opportunities to engage with the natural environment.

There will also be a renewed focus on Brixham from January, with South Devon National Landscape looking to build stronger connections with local young people and community organisations.

Tanny

Tanny shared that Crafty Fox continues to see very high demand for its provision, with 44+ children attending each week. This level of demand demonstrates the need for the work but also highlights the importance of finding sustainable funding to enable it to continue.

The Kings Ash Pride in Place consultation has also provided useful insight into what local residents want to see in their community. Youth activities and environmental improvements were identified as two of the highest priorities, providing a strong basis for future work in the area.

Tanny will bring a more formal update on the Kings Ash action plan to a future meeting.

Parkfield Garden – Hannah

Hannah shared an update on developments at in the Parkfield Garden, including plans to introduce a compost tumbler capable of processing a wider range of food waste, including cooked food, dairy and meat.

The intention is not just to use the compost at Parkfield, but to share both the compost and the learning around the process with other community gardens. Ellacombe, Acorn and Windmill were identified as potential partners for sharing this approach.

This was highlighted as another example of how the Imagination Station model can support practical, community-led environmental action and knowledge-sharing.

Torbay Council – Hollie

Hollie Uzzell, working within Community Wealth Building at Torbay Council, joined the group and spoke about her role in being able to help connect community initiatives with council assets, teams and relevant contacts.

This provides an opportunity to strengthen links between the work being

developed by community organisations and the resources and opportunities available through the council.

Celebration & next steps

Imagine This legacy

As this was the final formal Impact Group meeting as the Imagine This Lottery funding comes to an end, the group reflected on what this group, within the partnership, has achieved and what can continue beyond the funded programme.

Two key areas of legacy were identified:

Powered by Youth

Powered by Youth has developed significant momentum as a youth voice platform, creating opportunities for young people to share their experiences and ideas and connect with organisations and people who can influence change. Continuing this work was identified as a key part of the Imagine This legacy.

Imagination Stations

The successful Parkfield Imagination Station pilot provides a model for community-led climate and environmental action. The group discussed the potential to build on this and develop Imagination Stations in other parts of Torbay.

A particular opportunity is emerging in Torquay through Ellacombe's new partnership with the Salvation Army. The availability of indoor space and equipment could provide a useful base from which to develop an Imagination Station alongside Ellacombe's existing environmental and community activity.

The group also discussed the importance of connecting existing community gardens and environmental projects so that resources, knowledge and learning can be shared. Parkfield's composting work provides one example of how this could happen.

The Imagine This network itself was recognised as an important part of the partnership's legacy.

The group reflected on the value of having brought together organisations working across different areas and the opportunities this has created to make connections, share knowledge and develop new collaborations.

Several of the opportunities discussed during the meeting, including the Brixham

connections, SWISCo conversations and young carers work, demonstrate the value of these relationships continuing.

Future funding and opportunities

Jo's role is currently funded for two days a week until March 2027, with a focus on securing legacy funding and developing opportunities to continue the work.

The group also discussed the opportunity presented by Torbay Council's successful Youth Innovation Fund bid. There may be opportunities to align future work with this funding and build on the approaches and learning developed through Imagine This.

Young carers support

Jo raised the current gap in support for young carers, particularly around ongoing wellbeing, social opportunities and activities.

While statutory services provide assessments, there is limited provision beyond this for activities that support young carers' wellbeing and create opportunities to meet others in similar situations.

A new community support group is being developed through an Awards for All funding application, in partnership with We Need Music.

Jo to bring Stuart in on this, creating potential opportunities for nature and environmental activities to be incorporated into the programme.

SWISCO and green space access

The group discussed several conversations currently taking place with SWISCo around access to green spaces and council-managed land.

The group felt it would be useful to bring these conversations together so that partners can coordinate what they are looking for and identify opportunities for collaborative use of green spaces.

AOB

Plymouth trip: Rebekah will circulate the TicketSource link for the free Plymouth trip on 29 October.

Ellacombe summer activity: Sarah will send photographs from the Earth Explorers summer programme to Rebekah to share on the website. Photos can also be found on their facebook.

Kings Ash: Tanny will bring a formal update on the Kings Ash action plan to the group.

Actions
Lisa to connect **Sarah** with **Hannah** from Parkfield regarding the bat walk.
Tanny to bring a formal update on the Kings Ash action plan to the group
Lisa to convene a joint meeting with relevant partners and SWISCO.
Jo to follow up with **Sarah** re Torquay Imagination Station
Rebekah to share TicketSource link for Plymouth Trip
Sarah to send Earth Explorers photos/**Rebekah** to feature on website
Jo to connect **Stuart** into growing young carers community group initiative