





Agenda item 7 – Chair's Update Written by Councillor Alex Kay

- 1. Sustainable Food and Drink Group and FairTrade meeting 20/01/25
- 2. Healthy River project update: over one full year of sampling.
- 3. **Flood meeting** with Town Council, Dr Brian Mathew M.P., Wiltshire Council and Environment Agency in December 2024
- 4. Traffic meeting with Wiltshire Council and Town Council.
- 5. Wild River Festival first half of June 2025, around 13 Parishes and community groups are signed up; Wiltshire Music Centre have a water-themed concert on 13 June and proposal for 1 day EcoFest including Three Acres and a Cow on Sunday 8th June, and other art and music to be decided. We have St Margaret's Hall booked for a nature-based flooding solutions discussion forum and event and Westbury Gardens for a fair focused on river information and celebrations. There are ongoing meetings and discussions to engage with biodiversity groups, schools, farming community ... intent to raise awareness and celebrate our River Avon and its tributaries with a range of activities, both art and science. Update attached; next meeting 22/01/25.
- 6. Working on a strategy of resilience for a future with climate change and increased flooding, to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan update. 2024 reported to have been in excess of the predicted +1.5 degree Celsius globally. Fires a raging across California, devastating storms and floods have damaged whole communities across the world and here in Britain. World leadership is lurching further right and away from strategies to counter environmental damage despite mounting evidence. We have to seek resilience on a local level.
- 7. **Great Big Green Week:** Greatbiggreenweek.com
 7th-15th June 2025 in part to focus on River and biodiversity events combine forces with River Festival.
- 8. **Climate and Nature Bill** will come before the House of Commons on 24th January; our MP Brian Mathew has replied to my letter to say he will be there to vote for this bill.