

Brixham Town Council Project Initiation Document	
Name / Committee	Linda McGuirk, Deputy Town Clerk / Community Services
Date	29th March 2021
Project Name	
Which Committee / Task & Finish Group does this project come from?	
The project is called 'Crab Line Recycling Scheme' and is in-line with the Councils Climate and Environmental policy and Community Recovery Plan.	
Description of Project	
To work in partnership with the 365 Sea Swim Challenge, Torbay Harbour Authority, The Seal Project, Torbay Cleaner Coast Initiative and local businesses to initiate a crab line recycling scheme.	
To encourage businesses selling crabbing equipment to provide sustainable eco products and start the process of phasing out single use plastic crabbing equipment.	
Installation of rigid posters, educating and promoting ethical crabbing practices to improve crab welfare.	
Project Aims	
What do you want the project to achieve? How does it support the Council's Plan?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project aims are: • Collaborative multi agency working for the benefit of Brixham and its environment. • Reduce plastic pollution. • Set a target date to phase out the use of plastic crabbing equipment in Brixham. • Educate residents and visitors on the benefits of ethical crabbing. 	
The adopted Climate & Environment Plan states: Vision and Aims	
It is the intention of Brixham Town Council to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set out short, medium and long-term goals to work towards improving our town environment and minimise Brixham Town Council's impact on the environment • Work in partnership with Public Authorities, Community Partners, Local Businesses • Ensure climate and environment is a factor in all future decisions and actions of Brixham Town Council • Regularly review our progress and continue to set new goals as appropriate including task and finish groups. 	
The Climate & Environment policy further supports Community Partnerships where BTC leads and support campaigns/events such as Clean up Brixham campaigns including Brixham Town Council #2minute challenge and regular clean up events	
Project is not identified in the adopted Community Recovery Action Plan, it is suggested it is included due to the anticipated volume of visitors expected in Torbay during the 2021 season.	

The scheme would seek to support Torbay Harbour Authority's current Crabbing Code of Conduct signage.

Target

What area of the community is the target and what benefits will the project bring to them?

Project targets and benefits:

- Visitors & Residents
Wider provision of sustainable eco crabbing equipment available to visitors.
Improved awareness, education and environment.
- Local Businesses
Diversified products available for customers. Many people are environmentally conscious and look for alternatives to plastic.
- Wildlife
A safe environment with the threat of entanglement and pollution reduced.

Research already completed

Please attach all research carried out so far.

Looe, Cornwall has successfully implemented the UK's first crab line recycling scheme to reduce plastic pollution. A collaborative effort between local businesses and Looe Marine Conservation Group. Deploying recycling stations along the harbourside to provide users with a place to deposit crabbing equipment after use. The stations, made from handcrafted recycled wood, will be regularly emptied by volunteers who will sort through the contents and decide the fate of the lines. Those that can be reused will be offered to the public, and those that can't will be recycled where possible. Some will go to be recycled into ocean kayaks. Hard plastics are not easily recycled but can be utilised to build sea kayaks.

Image of Looe Crab Line Recycling Stations



Initial discussions have taken place with Chris Thomas, director of the 365 Sea Swim Challenge CIC. Chris has agreed to attend the Community Services committee meeting scheduled for the 29th March to discuss the project with Councillors.

<p>Evidence of need How do you know the project is needed?</p> <p>At low tide the evidence speaks for itself, both inner and outer harbour areas are littered with discarded crabbing equipment, particularly during the Summer season.</p> <p>Crabbing is a popular activity for many families visiting Brixham, low cost entertainment often to the detriment of the local wildlife with buckets brimming with crabs. Predicted increased visitor numbers in 2021 could exasperate the situation.</p>
<p>Cost of Project Please detail all cost areas associated with this project. Please include actual costs if known. Please include revenue, capital and include estimate of Officer hours where possible.</p> <p>This project does not aim to be full cost recovery as the investment is seen to part of the COVID recovery pathways. Facilitating the environmental ethos of the Council.</p> <p>The costs will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) QR Codes and signage at each location to allow people to access further information. b) Installation and provision of three recycling containers. c) Materials to build containers. Low cost using recycled materials. <p>Until a partnership is formed it is difficult to put a cost on the scheme. It is envisaged as a low cost high impact project. Costs will be for signage, recycling containers and staff time. It is envisaged the scheme will have a one off cost and should not exceed £1000.</p>
<p>Benefits Please detail all benefits including cost savings, efficiency savings</p> <p>There are no cost savings or efficiency savings with this project. This is an investment into the community to enhance the environment.</p>
<p>Other Organisational Support Do you think the Council needs to work with or take advice from other organisations? If so, who?</p> <p>365 Sea Swim CIC The Seal Project Torbay Harbour Authority Torbay Cleaner Coasts Initiative</p>
<p>Timeline What is the length of the project work and when will the benefits be realised? Are there any time constraints?</p> <p>Project requires immediate action to prepare for the tourist season.</p>
<p>Risks Are there any risks associated with this project e.g. reputational risks for the Council or possible local sensitivities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism, damage to recycling collection points at the point of installation.

- Possible contamination of contents in the recycle points i.e. sharp objects or dogs mess.

If BTC participates in the project a risk assessment will identify areas where control is required.

Is the project a quick win?

i.e. does it meet all the following criteria?

- a) Will cost less than £1,000
- b) All expenditure can be met from an existing budget
- c) Will take less than 5 hours of Officer time in total (including assessment, planning, working with partners, tendering / quotes) etc.
- d) Is listed within the Council's Action Plan / Strategy
- e) Does not pose any significant reputational or other risk to the Council or partners

- a) Yes
- b) Yes, Community Recovery Fund.
- c) Yes
- d) Yes, Actively support volunteer organisations and groups
- e) No

Other Information

Is there any other information which you feel would help with the project assessment?
Please include links to any best practise or similar projects.

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/uks-first-crab-line-recycling-scheme-reduce-plastic-pollution-launched-looe>

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Town Council:

1. Works collaboratively with local organisations to support the success of the Crab Line Recycling Scheme
2. Installs three crab line recycling stations, locations to be agreed with the Harbour Master.
3. Encourage Brixham shops to provide eco alternatives with a view to fade out single use plastic crabbing equipment.
4. Educate residents and visitors with ethical crabbing practices to ensure crab welfare, conservation & environmental issues.