

Monthly bulletin from Dorset Council November 2019

Dear Clerks, Chairman & Members,

As well as attending the regular Parish & Town meetings in the ward I thought I would include the work of Dorset Council and the Cabinet. The content may not necessarily apply to the ward of Stalbridge & Marnhull directly, however it may have a wider interest for the Community.

Asking people about dog rules

Dorset Council is planning to ask people for their views on dogs in public places, such as beaches, before drawing up a new dog-related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). The Place Scrutiny Committee will examine plans to consult the public and consider recommending them to Dorset Council's Cabinet.

The committee will also consider whether to recommend that the dog-related Public Spaces Protection Orders are temporarily extended so the new consultation can be prepared. It is anticipated that the new consultation, which will be widely publicised, will take place in January.

Hazardous waste such as discarded needles can occasionally be found across the country.

Although it's a national issue, we would like to remind people that if you ever see one, do not touch, unless it poses an immediate danger. If you see a syringe or needle is on public land please report it immediately so a clean-up can be arranged as soon as possible. You can either report online at: dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/syringes

Or call Dorset Waste Partnership on 01305 221040.

Dorset Waste Partnership:

Councillors and officers at Dorset Council have been celebrating success recently as their efforts to care for the environment and fight climate change have been recognised by several organisations.

Waste management and vehicle emissions are two of the most important areas of work Dorset Council is focusing on when acting to help prevent climate change, especially in the wake of their Climate Emergency declaration earlier this year.

Eunomia, an independent environmental consultancy, compiles the Local Authority Recycling Carbon Index each year which measures the environmental performance of councils' recycling services.

Now in its seventh year, the index gives councils an alternative and arguably better measure of the environmental performance of their waste and recycling services. With this indicator, it shows which local authorities' recycling services deliver the greatest carbon benefits.

The latest Carbon Index for 2017/18 saw the Dorset Waste Partnership – Dorset Council's waste services – return to first place in the list of over 120 English local authorities with 108CO₂e – which works out as the equivalent of 108 kilograms of carbon dioxide saved per Dorset resident.

In addition to this fantastic achievement, Dorset Council's Recycling Team recently won Best Team of the Year at the national Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) Conference Celebration Awards 2019.

The award was in recognition of the team's contribution to raising and maintaining the council's kerbside recycling rate, which currently stands at 59.7% and is one of the highest in the country. This has generated savings of over £90,000 in the past year alone.

The Dorset Waste Partnership's Enforcement Team was also shortlisted for the Best Partnership Award, regarding its work to combat rural crime, setting up pro-active partnerships with Dorset Police, the DVLA and the community initiative Litter Free Dorset, as well as working with private landowners, the Environment Agency, Keep Britain Tidy, and various housing associations.

And finally, Dorset recently featured in the Top 20 local authorities recognised by Friends of the Earth (FoTE) for its performance in mitigating climate change through eco-friendly working and sustainable initiatives. FoTE looked at every council area in England and Wales and graded its performance by reviewing data on various factors, including but not limited to household energy efficiency, eco-heating, renewable energy, and the reuse, recycling and composting of household waste. From this data, FoTE awarded Dorset a score of 80%, placing it in the fourth highest-scoring band.

Climate Change workshop and panel update

Last week, members of Dorset Council's Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel and Technical Officers Group came together to offer new ideas and approaches in the fight against climate change.

On Thursday morning, over 40 officers and councillors from various services and electoral wards gathered at South Walks House in Dorchester to provide information on what Dorset Council is doing now to mitigate climate change, as well as discuss what else they could be doing and how they can influence others to "go green".

Broken into five groups, each with a different focus – Transport, Waste and Energy, Buildings and Assets, Leadership & Influence, Natural Environment – each group discussed and wrote their ideas down, which were gathered together and prioritised by everyone at the end of the session.

Some of the emerging themes and ideas included: –

- Smarter council officer working – using technology to encourage less staff travel
- Support for zero carbon new-build/retro-fitted properties
- Development of planning policy for green infrastructure
- Sustainable procurement (i.e. "buying green") across all DC services
- Investment in a sustainable transport network, including electric vehicle infrastructure

Initial findings from the workshop were presented to the Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel the following day, who agreed that focus groups would include members of the EAP and take forward the results of the workshop, looking at practical ways they can be implemented by the council.

Dorset Council is holding a series of Business Breakfasts to look at the Economic Growth Strategy. The first event is in Sturminster Newton on the morning of Monday 18th November, followed by others around the County.

Can you please promote this to local business groups and businesses in your area.

Eventbrite link <https://dorset-council-economic-growth-strategy-events.eventbrite.co.uk>

Meeting dates & meeting format

Sustainable economic growth is a key priority for Dorset Council and our new Economic Growth Strategy has been designed to achieve this. During November and December we're holding a series of Business Breakfast Events where we'll be sharing details about our vision, the strategy, and asking businesses for their views and input. The events will take place across Dorset and representatives from businesses of all sizes and industries are invited to attend.

18 November – The Exchange, Old Market Hill, **Sturminster Newton** DT10 1FH

27 November – Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy, Osprey Quay, **Weymouth** DT5 1SA

2 December – South Walks House, South Walks House, South Walks Rd, **Dorchester** DT1 1UZ

5 December – Springfield Country Hotel, Grange Rd, **Wareham** BH20 5AL

12 December – Queen Elizabeth's School, 600 Blandford Rd, **Wimborne** BH21 4DT

13 December – Amsafe, The Court, West St, **Bridport** DT6 3QU

Event programme

7.30 am - Registration

8.00 am - Welcome and presentations

9.30 am - Close and networking

Light refreshments will be provided and there'll be the opportunity to meet a range of business support organisations as well as time for networking with other businesses.

Cllr. Graham Carr-Jones:

Ward Member Stalbridge & Marnhull

Cabinet Member Housing & Community Safety.