



Working **together** for Dorset



# Shaping our communities

A toolkit to help community groups turn ideas into action

Dorset Strategic Partnership

**'Shaping our communities'** is a toolkit which aims to help and support parish planning and other community groups by providing information, ideas and examples of what other groups have done. It gives sources of help, advice, funding and further information.

**'Shaping our future'**, the revised Sustainable Community Strategy for Dorset 2007-2016 was launched by the Dorset Strategic Partnership in June 2007 and identifies the big issues of concern to Dorset people. It provides the framework for the work of partners – local authorities, other public sector organisations, business groups and the voluntary and community sector - across Dorset and guides the use of public resources.

Statutory and the larger community and voluntary sector organisations are just part of the picture, however. Much of what is achieved in our communities happens through the efforts of local people who are willing to put their energies into developing projects and making things happen in their villages and neighbourhoods.

Topics covered in the 'Shaping our Communities' toolkit are very clearly linked to Dorset's Community Strategy and are areas where action by local people can make a real difference. Our villages and neighbourhoods are all very different, however, and those of us who live in them have differing concerns and interests. We hope you will find some of the information in this toolkit useful and relevant to you and that it may give you ideas for future projects.

We acknowledge the huge amounts of time and effort you as volunteers put into your communities and thank you for your contribution to creating a better quality of life for all.

**Simon Raynes** - Chair, Dorset Strategic Partnership

We wish to thank the people from across the Dorset Strategic Partnership who contributed their ideas and knowledge to individual topics. Thanks also to the 'critical friends' from parishes, towns and districts across Dorset who took part in consultation exercises to make this publication as useful as possible.

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If you would like help with this information, for example in another language or a different format, please contact:

Chief Executive's Office, Dorset County Council, County Hall  
Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

**Bengali**

যদি আপনি এই তথ্যের বিষয়ে কোন সাহায্য চান, অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুনঃ  
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Dorset County Council  
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**Cantonese**

如欲就本資料取得援助，請聯絡：  
Chief Executive's Office (行政總監辦事處)  
Dorset County Council  
County Hall, Colliton Park  
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**Polish**

W razie pytań dotyczących niniejszej informacji prosimy o kontakt z:  
Chief Executive's Office (Biuro Dyrektora Naczelnego)  
Dorset County Council  
County Hall, Colliton Park  
Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

Please call 01305 224409 or  
e-mail [z.f.rumney@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:z.f.rumney@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
to request or to obtain further copies.

Dorset Strategic Partnership  
c/o Dorset County Council  
County Hall, Colliton Park  
Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ  
**[www.dorsetforyou.com/dsp](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/dsp)**

Dorset has a much lower proportion of young people than elsewhere in the UK. The proportion of Dorset people in their 20s has been falling for the last twenty years, partly due to young people leaving the county.

Recent surveys show many young people do not feel engaged or represented in our communities. A key aim of Dorset's Children and Young People's Partnership is to support the participation of children and young people in their communities and in decision making that affects them.

The quality and variety of constructive and challenging leisure time opportunities available for young people has been shown to impact on issues of social cohesion, safety and educational attainment.



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# Improving opportunities for young people

## A few facts

Dorset's predominantly rural nature, poor transport infrastructure and limited access to services makes it important for young people to be able to have access to facilities locally.

18% of Dorset residents want more facilities for teenagers, the second highest priority chosen (MORI 2005).

Dorset has the lowest number of under 5s in England and Wales (2005).

Just 7.6% of Dorset's population is aged 20-29 compared to the national average of 12.7%.

In many parts of the UK the views of young people are playing an increasing role in determining what facilities are made available for them.

Young people are like everyone else; they have a valid point of view on many things, not just those issues that directly impact upon them.

## Ideas for action

- Think about starting a village youth club with the involvement of local parents and support from agencies that work with young people.
- Consider installing a youth shelter or other facility to give young people "their" space within your community.
- Set up a local youth forum to keep young people informed about local issues and to find out their views on important topics.
- Identify a young people's champion on your group or on the Parish Council to represent the interests of young people.
- Your young people's champion could help you find out the views of local young people by conducting a survey.
- Look for new ways to publicise any facilities for young people that are currently available in your community or nearby town.



## **Fontmell Magna Youth Club**

A small group of people in Fontmell Magna contacted Dorset Youth Association to seek help in establishing a youth club. The village now has a thriving youth club with around thirty members attending on a weekly basis. The club is run by a dedicated team of volunteer leaders and committee members. Activities range from table tennis, pool and table football to music and arts and crafts. Play Stations and other modern techno games are also available and a disco takes place about once a month. During the summer months the young members are able to enjoy trips out to various attractions as well as enjoying activities such as archery and canoeing. The club committee is led by the needs of local young people and this approach has seen the club receive a grant from the Youth Opportunities Fund to provide facilities within the village.

**Contact Peter Mole, Leader in Charge,  
Fontmell Magna Youth Club  
01747 811669**

**Dorset Youth and Community Service  
Dorset Youth Association**

**Funding sources:  
Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth  
Capital Fund  
Dorset Youth Partnership  
Lottery programmes**

## **Bridport Youth Assembly**

The development of the Youth Assembly in Bridport, facilitated by the Youth and Community Service and supported by the local Town Council, complimented and shadowed the development of the Town Assembly. Meetings, with an average of more than forty young people attending, are held at the Town Hall often with invited guests such as the Mayor, Police Inspector or Town Co-ordinator. Notable projects to emerge from Youth Assembly meetings included the Bridport Skate Park, the ZEST! Music Project and the Youth Page in the Bridport News. All were successful, all are still thriving, and all actively involve young people.

The support of Bridport Town Council was a great help in getting young people to realise that they not only had a voice but that adults in positions of authority wanted to hear what they had to say. More than this they were willing to work with them to achieve their aims.

**Contact Arthur Woodgate  
01305 422500**

## **The Alex Field Youth Group, Hazelbury Bryan**

A sub group of the Parish Council of Hazelbury Bryan in North Dorset, the Alex Field Committee, wanted to provide something for the 'older' young people of the village as the younger members of the community had already been provided with a playground. The Alex Field Youth Group was formed with young people coming from other established groups such as the football and cricket teams. The Group was linked to the Committee and contributes the views and opinions of the young people in the village.

The Committee learned that young people wanted somewhere to go, meet their friends and sit and socialise that was safe and not adult dominated. It was agreed to install a youth shelter on the local recreation ground. Young people were involved in the design and the Committee was able to advise on location and local planning regulations and to assist in the identification and application of potential funding sources. The bid for funds from Dorset County Council's Youth Opportunity Fund was drawn up by the young people themselves.

**Contact Lt. Colonel Jeremy Moger 07966 966631**

## **Young People's Action in Lytchett Minster & Upton**

Working with young people can often be challenging. However PULM - Plan for Upton & Lytchett Minster Steering Group have managed to do it. Rachel Hewitt at the age of 15 helped set up a young people's working group which produced a survey and circulated it around the schools, youth groups and organisations. This gave young people a chance to voice their concerns and put forward their ideas on how to improve their town. An outstanding 700 young people completed a survey form. The results were then presented through a newsletter, school assemblies and at an open event day at a local community centre. This gave residents of Upton & Lytchett Minster a chance to get together and share further opinions and comments about the survey results. A list of actions is being produced to feed into the overall Town Plan. They are now working to set up a group of young people together with adults to turn young people's aspirations into reality.

**Contact Gwyneth Brooks 01929 554667**

**[gwyneth.brooks@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:gwyneth.brooks@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk)**

# Things to be aware of

- For projects such as youth shelters, keep plans realistic in terms of space available, design and future maintenance. Youth shelters are usually well supported by the Police who can help monitor them and ensure they are not used inappropriately.
- Some people may feel threatened by groups of young people meeting so ensure everyone has an opportunity to put across their views and be heard in a constructive way.
- You'll need to ensure the safety of both young people and adults so check out your plans with the Youth and Community Service or the Dorset Youth Association.
- Approach existing youth groups in your community such as sports teams, local schools and other groups. This can eliminate much of the initial leg work in getting young people involved. Remember young people have busy lives too.
- Publicise what is already available locally and make it clear that you would welcome ideas to develop further facilities. Enlist the help and assistance of agencies that already work with young people.
- Keep young people interested by ensuring that their involvement is real and means something.
- Sometimes it is good to give them a small budget to manage or a specific project to develop. Young people are a part of your community and usually bring an interesting perspective to any debate. Be brave and let them in.
- Keep going! It isn't easy to involve young people and it certainly doesn't happen overnight.
- Make it fun. It doesn't all have to be in an office or in meetings. Try events, social outings and picnics.

# Who can help

**Further ideas, information and advice can be obtained from:**

**Dorset County Council**

Youth and Community Service:

01305 254003 [www.dorsetyouth.org.uk](http://www.dorsetyouth.org.uk)

**Key Youth and Community Service contacts:**

Arthur Woodgate for the Bridport,  
Beaminster and Lyme Regis Area  
01308 422500

Rachel Fraiz Brown for the Sherborne Area:  
01935 814202

Mick Hogan for the Dorchester Area:  
01305 262114

Tom Lane for the Weymouth Area:  
01305 771861

Steve Rose for the Portland Area:  
01305 823663

Gary Evans for the Littlemoor Area:  
01305 833560

Andrew Price for the Blandford Area:  
01258 455106

Steve Cox O'Rourke for the Christchurch Area  
01202 588041

Cherie Murray for the Corfe Mullen  
and Wimborne Area  
01202 697236

Alan Ball for the Ferndown and  
Tricketts Cross Area  
01202 874448

Phil Cox for the Verwood Area  
01202 825351

Tony Baverstock for the Shaftesbury,  
Gillingham and Sturminster Newton Area  
01747 822267

Steve Lacey for the Bovington,  
Wool and Upton Area  
01929 463503

Kevin Vasey for the Wareham and Lulworth Area  
01929 552934

Jeff Andrews for the Swanage Area  
01929 423421

Simon Fraiz Brown for youth involvement/  
engagement issues  
01305 850161

Shani Bancroft for information on the  
Youth Opportunity/Youth Capital Funds  
01305 851062

**Dorset Youth Association**

Terry Vine  
01305 262440

**Connexions:** A County wide service for teenagers that  
offers advice, information and support on all types of  
issues affecting young people

Kirsty Main  
01305 260600  
[www.connexions-bdp.co.uk](http://www.connexions-bdp.co.uk)

**National Youth Agency**

[www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk)

**Dorset County Council**

Dave Franks, Sports Development Officer  
01305 224855

**Dorset Community Action**

Supporting community and voluntary groups to plan,  
fundraise and deliver projects.

Contact Simon Thompson  
01305 216412  
[simon.thompson@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:simon.thompson@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk)  
Caroline Richards, Play Strategy Worker  
01305 216402

**Foundation for Sports and The Arts**

[www.thefsa.net/aboutus.htm](http://www.thefsa.net/aboutus.htm)

The Foundation looks to support a wide range of  
activities where there is clear beneficial impact across  
the community.

**Awards for All**

<http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/>

Award grants of between £300 and £10,000 for  
people to take part in art, sport, heritage and  
community activities, and projects that promote  
education, the environment and health in the  
local community.

Big Lottery Fund  
<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk>

Moving between A and B in Dorset is not always easy. For most people living in rural areas having a car is not a lifestyle choice, it is a necessity. But what about those who cannot drive or afford to run a car or those who would use public transport but can't as there is no service where they live or work?

Traditionally, we look at how we can travel to services but an alternative approach is to look at how to bring services to local communities. Solutions are likely to differ from one community to another and from one year to the next so it is important to remain flexible and ready to adapt to the changing needs of people in the local area.



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# Transport and accessibility

## A few facts

Dorset is a rural county with a population of 401,000. The population is widely dispersed with an average of 158 persons per square kilometre compared with 379 for England as a whole.

20% of rural settlements in Dorset have no bus service and a further 17% have services on certain days only.

75% of villages do not have a general store and 92% do not have a Doctor's surgery.

Dorset County Council is developing a programme of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services across Dorset. Passengers book a place and the vehicle is able to travel outside of a set route introducing far more flexibility to an otherwise constrained service.

## Ideas for action

- Ensure the local community is involved in consultation events by service providers such as the introduction of new DRT services.
- Encourage your community to use the services that are provided. Consider a campaign using the slogan "Use it or Lose it".
- Get involved with local transport groups such as Transport Action Groups and Local Area Partnerships.
- Set up your own Community Transport scheme. It takes time but there's lots of advice available.
- Set up a befriending scheme or collective shopping deliveries.
- Join a car share scheme or set up a voluntary car scheme or car club.
- Tell young people about Dorset Scooter Schemes.
- Encourage mobile services to visit your community eg shops or health services.
- Share facilities in multi-use community buildings to reduce the need to travel.



## The 73 Bus Service User Group

Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) is a service which combines the flexibility of community transport schemes such as Dial-a-Ride with a public transport service. User groups have been set up to assist in the development of these DRT schemes.

The 73 User Group was formed to help with the development of service 73 between Maiden Newton and Bridport and the Wednesday service in the Bride Valley. Additional links to services in Bridport and additional services in the mid-afternoon have been introduced on the recommendations of the 73 User Group. In addition, local involvement has now ensured Cattistock is included within the 'roam zone'. Community involvement is seen as integral to the roll out programme of DRT schemes across the county.



## Scooter Schemes

These have been operating in various areas across the county for a number of years. The merger of the Bridport and North Dorset schemes enabled them to be extended across the whole of West and North Dorset. There are separate schemes in East Dorset and Purbeck.

The success of the scooter schemes and the recognition that they can provide what is sometimes the only solution to transport difficulties persuaded Colleges of Further Education in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole to become involved with the scheme. A marketing campaign was funded through the Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset Transport to Learning Partnership and a single telephone contact point set up.



### **The Wareham Home Hopper**

This is a traditional community transport Dial-a-Ride scheme. A Dial-a-Ride service responds to a call and picks up a client from home taking them to a pre-determined destination. At a specified time the driver picks up the client and returns them home helping to carry any shopping bags. The service has expanded with more buses and operates on Tuesday and Thursdays from as far afield as Church Knowle and Holton Heath into Wareham. Local fund-raising events and grants have funded the scheme.



### **The Mid-Dorset Voluntary Car Scheme**

This scheme covers Milton Abbas, Cerne Abbas and Puddletown surgeries with approximately 62 volunteer drivers. Ian Walker, a voluntary driver at Cerne Abbas is seen here bringing four patients from Piddletrenthide to a clinic at the surgery in Cerne Abbas. A part-time co-ordinator matches patients to drivers, sometimes grouping appointments to ensure best use of a valuable resource and ensuring that as many people as possible are able to access the service. Users of the service are charged a small fee and volunteers reimbursed in accordance with Inland Revenue recommendations.

During 2005/06, 1379 requests for journeys were made to the Voluntary Car Co-ordinator and trips included appointments with a doctor, nurse, physiotherapist, counsellor, chiropractor, chiropodist, dentist, optician and other health-related professionals.



## The Friends of Milton Abbas Practice

This group offers a variety of support services to patients from medical practices in Dorchester, Crossways and the rural villages of Milton Abbas, Cerne Abbas and Puddletown.

These include:

- Shopping for or with patients who are unable to do this on their own
- Carrying out general errands
- Befriending by visiting people in their own homes
- Supporting families
- Transporting patients to clinical appointments or on other essential journeys
- Delivering medicines to homes.

By giving their time and friendship, these Dorset Primary Care Trust volunteers have enriched the lives of many and particularly the older people in these communities.



## The Bopper Bus

The Bopper Bus is a community transport service which picks up children between 8-16 years from various points around West Dorset on Friday evenings and takes them to Bridport Leisure Centre. There they can take part in a wide range of activities including swimming, circuit training, trampolining, gymnastics, 5-a-side football amongst others. The service was established in September 2003 following a need identified by children and young people in Chideock and developed by a group of volunteers supported by Dorset Community Action and the Parish Council. The service was expanded later to additional parishes. The children are accompanied by escorts (many parents and grandparents) who are all Criminal Records Bureau checked and have undergone child protection and First Aid training. The success of the service is demonstrated by its continuation over four years and the numbers of children who regularly attend.

# Who can help

**Further ideas, information and advice can be obtained from:**

## **Jane Colvin**

DART Partnership Manager  
Dorset Community Action  
The Barracks, Bridport Road  
Dorchester DT1 1YG  
01305 216414  
jane.colvin@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk  
www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

## **Andy Matthews**

Dorset County Council  
Passenger Transport Team  
County Hall, Colliton Park  
Dorchester DT1 1XJ  
01305 221736  
a.c.matthews@dorsetcc.gov.uk

## **Catherine Phillips**

Heart of Wessex Community  
Rail Partnership Officer  
South Somerset District Council  
Council Offices  
Brympton Way, Yeovil  
Somerset BA20 2HT  
01963 435058  
catherine.phillips@southsomerset.gov.uk

## **Community Transport Association**

Highbank  
Halton Street, Hyde  
Cheshire SK14 2NY  
0870 774 3586  
CTAUK@ctauk.org  
www.ctauk.org

## **Local Transport Action Group**

(for more information on your particular area please contact Jane Colvin, DART Partnership Manager as above or Nici Hill, DART Partnership Officer on 01305 216413)

## **Helen Reed**

General Manager  
NORDCAT  
Unit 4A  
Butts Pond Industrial Estate  
Sturminster Newton DT10 1AZ  
Helen.reed@nordcat.org.uk

## **Alan Legg**

SLIPSTREAM Scooter Scheme  
Unit 4A  
Butts Pond Industrial Estate  
Sturminster Newton DT10 1AZ  
0845 260 1414  
alan@slipstreamss.org.uk

## **Funding Advice**

### **Modernising Rural Delivery**

Contact: Rural Renaissance Partnership Officer  
Dorset County Council  
County Hall, Colliton Park  
Dorchester DT1 1XJ

### **Local Transport Plan (capital funding)**

Contact: Steve Williams  
LTP Manager  
Dorset County Council  
County Hall, Colliton Park  
Dorchester DT1 1XJ

### **Grant funding**

Contact: Liz Hole  
External Funding Adviser  
Dorset Community Action  
The Barracks, Bridport Road  
Dorchester DT1 1YG

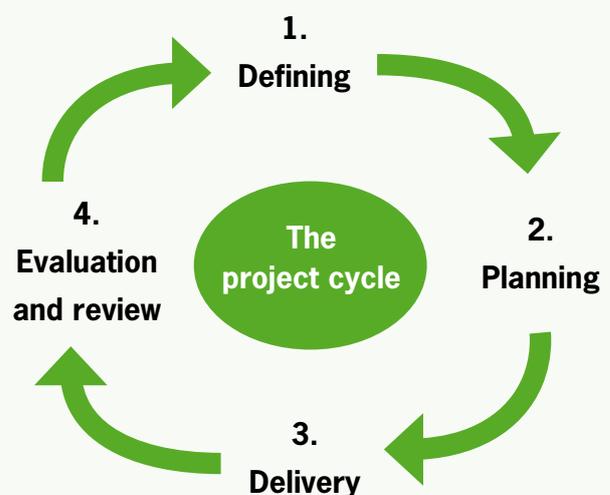
Planning a community project is vital but quite often groups don't spend much time or effort on it. There is an old maxim that a project needs 90% planning and 10% doing. It may seem like too much time talking but if a group does focus on planning and sees it through, then a project is more likely to succeed.

It's up to you to decide how much time to spend on planning and this will depend on how complex the project is. Plans have to be good enough, not perfect!

### The stages of planning

Four key stages are usually identified as being part of the 'Planning Cycle'

1. **Defining:** What need will the project meet, what will it do?
2. **Planning:** How will it be done?
3. **Delivery:** Doing it
4. **Evaluation and review:** How well did it meet the need?



When you reach stage 4 you can use what you've learnt from doing the project and what it has achieved to perhaps adapt the project for the future or to make new plans for a different project. Whilst doing the project, you can already be reviewing how it's going and perhaps alter your plans. Plans should not be carved in stone!

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# A brief guide to project planning

# 1. Defining: what and why?

It may be obvious what needs to be done (e.g. getting a new bus shelter, clearing a pathway) but in some cases it may be less clear (eg improving community spirit).

**Getting people together:** It's best to start by getting people together to share views and ideas. Word of mouth is much more effective in finding people than posters. Try to speak to people about the problem or project idea and see if they want to do something.

**What do you want to achieve?** Once you have found some like-minded people, meet and try to get a clear picture of the benefit the project will have (e.g. protecting people from bad weather waiting for a bus or people feeling the street is more friendly).

You can then get ideas of what will best achieve that aim. It may not be the first thing which comes to mind but a more imaginative solution. If the need is to provide shelter for those waiting for a bus, someone may suggest moving the bus stop to where there may already be some shelter instead providing a shelter at the existing bus stop.

**Define your objectives:** Start to firm up what you want to do by defining clear objectives. These break down the steps of how you will get from where you are now to where you want to be.

# 2.Planning: how?

**What needs to be done:** Share ideas within your group and agree what needs to be done. Also try to speak to others who have done something similar before. They may help you avoid the mistakes they made!

**Split your project into actions:** For each action you should be clear:

**What** is to be done

**Who** will do it

**By when and**

**What resources are needed.**

Look at what you will need including help from others eg volunteers or experts or professionals (architects, builders etc), cash, meeting place, etc. Some of these may come free and others may cost so a budget can be developed. It's better to cost the separate actions than to try to cost the whole project. This way the final budget is likely to be more realistic. A common mistake is to under-estimate costs, so try to get quotes from those who know. Also VAT is often missed off budgets, as are on costs (employers national insurance) for staff.

**Share the workload :** Does it seem there's a lot to do? Try to spread tasks around the group as one person can't do everything. See what skills there are in the existing group or who knows someone with a digger or who is a solicitor. This way you can involve more people and perhaps save money.

**Extra tasks:** As part of your planning you may find you need to do things you had not originally thought of. These may include more research on need and solutions, the need for evidence of support from local people, finding out what organisations could help with the project or researching funding sources as the project is more expensive than first thought. These will then be additional actions to be carried out.



## 3. Delivery: doing it

**Managing your project:** If there are a number of people working on actions you will need to work out a way of keeping in touch particularly if some actions will depend on others. You might decide to designate a single person as overall co-ordinator or manager or have a steering group that meets regularly.

**Working as a team:** In general it is a good idea to keep everyone up to date with progress so there is a sense of moving forward, particularly if some actions are proving difficult to do. Knowing that others' actions are being done can be a morale booster.

**Staying flexible:** As you carry out your agreed actions you may have to change your plans. This is quite alright as long as you've learnt from the experience and keep your sights on the big picture. As you deliver the project try to remember to record what you've done by taking photos or videos and keeping copies of any press coverage, attendance forms and feedback from users. It will help you enormously with the next stage.

## 4. Evaluation and review: did it work?

When you've finished your project spend some time looking back at what was done. Talk amongst yourselves and use any feedback from others. Ask yourselves did it all go to plan. If not, why not? Would we have done something differently and, most importantly, did we achieve the end result we wanted.

Answering these questions will help you learn how to continue the project in the future for the better and how to do other projects. Also don't forget to celebrate what you have achieved and learned. It may be a bash for yourselves or for those who benefited or a press release to share your good news.

## Some practicalities

**Insurance:** If your project involves anything with volunteers and/or the public make sure you have some Public Liability insurance cover. You could consider whether an existing group's insurance will cover you. If not, you will have to take out some. Think about this early on and cost it in your budget.

**Funding:** If you have real proof of the need your project will meet, evidence that people want your project, clear plans and costs you have the key elements of a funding application. There are organisations and people in the county who can advise you on where you could find funds. But don't underestimate the need to think ahead. Many funders will have set dates when decisions are made, most will not give immediate decisions and the success rate for applications to funders is usually low. You may have to apply to several funders before getting the money you need.

**Constitution:** If your group is likely to have a longer life or the project is complex and will involve money then you should become a formal group with a set of rules or constitution. There are lots of simple constitutions you can use. Dorset Community Action and local community workers can help you chose the right one.

**Volunteers:** You may need volunteer help for your project beyond what you have within your own group. Or you may want more guidance on looking after your own volunteers. Dorchester Volunteer Centre can advise on 01305 269214 [dorchester.vb@btopenworld.com](mailto:dorchester.vb@btopenworld.com)

# Who can help

## Community workers who may be able to offer further advice and support include:

Brian Evans Johnson  
County-play  
01305 216418  
brian.evansjohnson@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Caroline Harris/Rory Cunningham  
East Dorset  
01202 639074  
Caroline.Harris@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Gwyneth Brooks  
Purbeck  
01929 554667  
gwyneth.brooks@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Hugh de longh  
Sturminster Newton/Stalbridge areas  
01258 471456  
hugh@sturquest.org.uk

Jo Rose  
Shaftesbury and Blandford area  
01747 855448  
jo.rose@taskforc shaftesbury.org.uk

Kris Hallett  
Dorchester area  
01305 216409  
kris.hallett@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Pauline Trimming  
Dorchester area  
01305 266861  
p.trimming@dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Rachelle Smith  
East Gryphon Area Sherborne  
01305 216411  
rachelle.smith@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

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East Dorset  
01202 639075  
rtomlin@eastdorset.gov.uk

Natalie Murray  
Christchurch/community planning  
01202 495000 n.murray@christchurch.gov.uk

**Christchurch**

Christchurch Community Partnership  
Natalie Murray  
01202 495111  
n.murray@christchurch.gov.uk

**Dorset**

Dorset Strategic Partnership  
Matthew Beaumont (Kate Hindson)  
01305 224814  
m.beaumont@dorsetcc.gov.uk

**East Dorset**

East Dorset Community Partnership  
Simon Woodcock  
01202 886201  
swoodcock@eastdorset.gov.uk

Alderholt Local Action Group  
Ferndown Local Action Group  
Verwood Local Action Group  
Wimborne and District Local Action Group  
Ron Tomlin  
01202 639075  
rtomlin@eastdorset.gov.uk

**Purbeck**

Purbeck Community Partnership  
Sue Bellamy  
01929 557303  
suebellamy@purbeck-dc.gov.uk

Swanage Town and Community Partnership  
Ann Faulkner  
01929 424252  
annfaulkner@tiscali.co.uk

Upton and Lytchett Community Partnership  
Richard Tazewell  
candr@surfaid.org

**West Dorset**

West Dorset Partnership  
Maria Clarke  
01305 252305  
m.clarke@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

Dorchester Area Partnership  
Pauline Trimming  
01305 266861  
p.trimming@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Bridport Area Partnership  
Tessa Greenaway  
01308 456722  
blap@bridport\_tc.gov.uk

Lyme Regis Area Partnership  
Marcus Dixon  
01297 445021  
marcus@lrtd.co.uk

Sherborne Area Partnership  
Caroline Rowland  
01935 816961  
c.rowland@sherborne-tc.gov.uk

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turn ideas into action

# Community planning contacts in Dorset

Dorset Strategic Partnership

### **Weymouth & Portland**

Weymouth and Portland Partnership

Louise Stewart

01305 838364

[louisestewart@weymouth.gov.uk](mailto:louisestewart@weymouth.gov.uk)

Portland Community Partnership

Rachel Barton

01305 826100

[rachelbarton@weymouth.gov.uk](mailto:rachelbarton@weymouth.gov.uk)

### **North Dorset**

Three Rivers (Gillingham & surrounding area)

Susi Calder

01747 821278

[susi@gillinghamcdw.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:susi@gillinghamcdw.fsnet.co.uk)

Sturquest (Sturminster & surrounding area)

Hugh de-longh

01258 471456

[hugh@sturquest.org.uk](mailto:hugh@sturquest.org.uk)

Shaftesbury District Task Force

Jo Rose

01747 855448

[jo.rose@taskforc shaftesbury.org.uk](mailto:jo.rose@taskforc shaftesbury.org.uk)

DT11 (Blandford Area)

Jo Rose

07919 167914

[jo\\_dt11@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jo_dt11@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC)**

David Webb

01305 225157

[daptc@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:daptc@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

### **Dorset Community Action**

Simon Thompson

01305 216412

[simon.thompson@DorsetCommunityAction.org.uk](mailto:simon.thompson@DorsetCommunityAction.org.uk)

There is a serious shortage of affordable housing in Dorset. Provision of more affordable housing is consistently the top priority for improving quality of life for our communities (MORI 2005).

A lack of affordable housing can mean local people are forced to move away from family and friends to cheaper areas of the country to find accommodation. This can have a negative impact on local schools, businesses and community facilities.



**Shaping our communities** - a toolkit to help community groups turn ideas into action

# Housing for local communities

## A few facts

House prices rose by 97% over the period 1999-2005.

Dorset has 4 times the national average of second homes.

The average house price in Dorset is eleven times the average wage (2005 figures).

The ratio of house prices to household income is higher in Dorset than anywhere else apart from London.

There is a particular need for housing for young people, for older people and for those who need support.

Housing Associations specialise in providing and managing affordable housing to rent or for shared ownership.

The Housing Advice Centre, District Council Housing Enablers and Rural Housing Enablers offer advice and information on services for people with housing problems.

## Ideas for action

- Commission a housing needs survey free of charge through your Housing Enabling Officer.
- Suggest sites for affordable housing in the Local Development Framework and Community Planning processes in your area.
- Work with councillors and local MPs to try to increase allocations of land for affordable housing through the planning system.
- Explore the development of a Community Land Trust or a self build scheme.
- Encourage local people to add their names to the Housing Register – this helps the District/Borough Council to identify need.
- Identify properties that have been standing empty for more than six months and inform the District/Borough Council.
- Gather information on where people can go locally to access advice and information services.
- Encourage people in housing need to make their problem known by speaking up at Town/Parish Council meetings, contacting their councillor and MP or writing to the media.



## Maiden Newton Affordable Housing Development

Maiden Newton is one of the larger, more sustainable communities in West Dorset. A site for affordable housing development was identified and Signpost Housing Association contacted the Parish Council who were very keen and supportive. The Parish Council were aware of flooding problems with the proposed site and suggested another that would be more viable. It then commissioned a needs survey from the Dorset Community Action (DCA) Rural Housing Enabler and offered practical help in conducting the survey. 22 local households were identified as meeting the District Council's criteria for housing need.

The Housing Association with support from the Rural Enabler worked through a range of planning issues to finally submit a planning application for 12 homes. Patience and persistence has paid dividends as the planning application has been agreed subject to a 106 planning agreement that will control occupation of the housing. The homes will be delivered via 'rural exception sites' planning policy which gives priority to local need over and above the usual district need for settlements under 3,000 population. Housing delivered on a rural exception site must be for 100% affordable housing and is exempt from the right to buy.



## Whitchurch Canonicorum

Whitchurch Canonicorum is a rural parish with a vibrant community. It has much local employment yet without a large built-up village centre and has a significant housing need of around 16 young households. The parish had a number of social rented homes in the recent past but all of these had gradually been sold off through the right to buy. The parish council has vision and is determined to pursue the housing case for its young people and its future as a community. First, a Parish Plan was produced by the community showing the extent of community life and local sustainability. This highlighted concern about the need for affordable homes and led to a housing survey request to the DCA Enabler. This showed considerable need for 16 affordable homes and drew 6 offers of land. The survey was followed by a parish consultation organised by the DCA Enabler and Hastoe Housing Association. This confirmed strong community support and led to the need being revised to 19. Planners are now working with the Rural Enabler and Hastoe Housing Association to agree the best site and the housing association is preparing to apply for Social Housing Grant from the Housing Corporation.

## **Buckland Newton Community Land Trust**

The Dorset Land Trusts are piloting ways of providing local affordable homes without dependency on Social Housing Grant. The aim is to combine the low land values required by 'exception sites' policy with innovative lower cost construction methods. Dorset Community Action Rural Housing Enabler provided the needs survey and introduction to the design and build company. The concept has been championed by District Councillor Nickie Barker and community support built up through a series of presentations and consultations by the Rural Enabler, architect and Community Finance Solutions adviser.

The Buckland Newton Community Land Trust has submitted a planning application for 10 homes which will be split between low cost shared ownership and rented and the community will own and control the finished scheme. West Dorset District Council has provided a £5,000 grant and £19,000 pre-development loan as well as enabling support and may provide a further loan of up to £170,000 towards construction costs. Magna Housing Association has provided scheme oversight and project management for the construction phase.

## **Sturminster Marshall**

The Sturminster Marshall Parish Council and the local community through their Parish Plan work in 2004 and early 2005 identified affordable housing as a key issue for their parish. The Parish Council agreed to commission a Housing Needs Survey by DCA to provide evidence of housing need which may influence future planning policy. This was a joint venture between the Parish Council and District Council, with the District Council paying for the printing, posting and time of the DCA Rural Housing Enabler. The Parish Council did the envelope stuffing. The Rural Enablers report identified 18 households in supportable need and identified restrictive local planning policies that were at odds with National Planning Guidance regards delivery of local affordable housing.

Note: Local needs affordable housing provides homes for people already living in the community and therefore already making journeys. This does not create extra burden on infrastructure in contrast to new 'open market value' housing, 93% of which is bought by in-migrant households (due to cost) and therefore does result in additional load on existing transport infrastructure

# Housing advice and support

## To register for rented housing or for housing advice contact:

### North Dorset District Council

Nordon, Salisbury Road,  
Blandford Forum DT1 7LL  
01258 454111

### West Dorset District Council

The Housing Advice Centre  
22 High East St, Dorchester DT1 1EZ.  
01305 251010.

### Purbeck District Council

Westport House, Wareham BH20 4PP  
01929 556561

### East Dorset District Council

Furzehill Wimborne BH21 4HN  
01202 886201

### Christchurch Borough Council

Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Christchurch BH23 1AZ  
01202 495000

### Weymouth and Portland Borough Council

Ferry Terminal, Weymouth DT4 8DX  
01305 838350

## To register for Shared Ownership housing:

Now called New build Home Buy and managed  
by Knightstone Housing Association at:

My Place

Box 6707, Poole BH14 4AY  
0800 707 6707

Website: [www.search4myplace.co.uk](http://www.search4myplace.co.uk)

## Further information and contacts

### Rural Housing Enablers

Andy Lloyd (Purbeck & West Dorset)  
Dorset Community Action  
01305 252447 / 01929 557285  
[Andy.lloyd@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:Andy.lloyd@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk)

Jo Rickman (North Dorset)  
North Dorset District Council  
01258 484377  
[JRickman@north-dorset.gov.uk](mailto:JRickman@north-dorset.gov.uk)

Keith Mallett (East Dorset)  
East Dorset Dorset District Council  
01202 886201

### Housing Enabling Officers

Chris Branch (Weymouth & Portland)  
0130583846

Tim Davis (West Dorset)  
01305 252453

Fiona Brown (Purbeck)  
01929 557310

Steve Beveridge (Christchurch)  
01202 495018

Keith Mallett (East Dorset)  
01202 886201

Derek Hardy (North Dorset)  
01258 484041

## **Housing Associations**

### **Hastoe Housing Association**

Fleur de Lis, Middlemarsh Street,  
Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 3GX  
01305 250103

### **The Rural Housing Trust**

8 Graphite Square, Vauxhall Walk  
London SE11 5EE  
020 7793 8114

### **Weymouth & Portland Housing**

Egdon Hall, Lynch Lane  
Weymouth DT4 9EU  
01305 206800

### **Magna Housing Association**

Hollands House, Poundbury Road,  
Dorchester DT1 1SW  
01305 216000

### **Purbeck Housing Trust**

Prospect House, 8 Westminster Road  
Wareham, BH20 4SW  
01929 558400

### **Twynham Housing**

2nd Floor, Dolphin House,  
Wick Lane Christchurch BH23 1HX  
01202 460460

### **East Dorset Housing Association**

Enterprise House, Old School Close,  
Ferndown, BH22 9UW  
01202 864200

### **Signpost Housing Association**

Sunrise Business Park,  
Blandford Forum DT11 8SA  
01258 484800

### **Knightstone Housing Association**

129A Commercial Road  
Parkstone, Poole BH14 0JD  
01202 505480

### **Raglan Housing Association**

Wright House,  
12-14 Castle Street,  
Poole BH15 1BQ  
01202 678731

### **Dorset Community Action (DCA)**

Steve Place 01305 216415

### **Dorset County Council**

Gill Smith 01305 224602

### **Dorset Design and Heritage Forum**

The Forum aims to promote good design  
in the built landscape of rural Dorset.  
Pat Pryor [p.a.pryor@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:p.a.pryor@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

Today views on what is meant by health and healthy living are much broader than in the past. Greater importance is put now on preventative measures and actions that improve our general well-being, as well as our physical and mental health.

There is a wide range of services available run by health services, local authorities and other organisations, which contribute to good health in our communities. There is lots too which can be done by local people themselves, often with the help of statutory bodies, which can further improve the overall well-being of communities.



**Shaping our communities** - a toolkit to help community groups turn ideas into action

# Your health, everybody's health

Dorset Strategic Partnership

## A few facts

Life expectancy and quality is generally better in Dorset than many parts of the country, but could be improved further by.....

A healthy diet and regular moderate exercise which can go a long way to keeping healthy for life.

Thirty minutes moderate exercise five times a week will help towards keeping fit and healthy and can be built into everyday activity (eg walk not car and run upstairs!)

Five portions of fruit and vegetables a day as part of a healthy diet.

Smoke-free Regulations become law in England on 1st July 2007.

A Dorset Local Involvement Network will replace Patient & Public Involvement Forums by April 2008 - both are excellent opportunities for the public to have a say in how their health services are run.

A thriving community life is a major contributor to people's mental health and well-being.

## Ideas for action

- Find out what the particular health concerns of the local community are and draw up a plan to address them.
- Work with others to draw up a 'Local Walks' and 'Cycle Rides' pack. If enough support, start a club!
- Local events can be used to put health messages over in a fun way – health stalls, Big Picnics.
- Support or even set up local support groups to address issues eg stopping smoking, parenting skills, healthy eating for a particular age group or set up exercise and dance classes.
- Investigate community transport options for a regular community trip to the local leisure centre – or elsewhere.
- Think about particular groups – young people may need locally available relationship advice, older people advice on staying warm and eating well, home safety and crime prevention issues.
- Look at setting up volunteer groups to visit older people for social contact and, with training, armchair exercise etc.



### **Shaftesbury & Gillingham Friends and Neighbours – be a fan of FAN!**

A scheme to encourage neighbourliness in Shaftesbury and Gillingham, encouraging contact across age groups, combating rural isolation for older people and improving mental and physical health for all. Preventative measures include nominated neighbours for visits, shopping and dog walking.

**Contact: Jo Rose, Shaftesbury Task Force 01747 855448**  
[jo.rose@taskforceshaftesbury.org.uk](mailto:jo.rose@taskforceshaftesbury.org.uk)

### **Stur Healthy – try a bit of everything**

In Sturminster Newton local events are used to put health messages over in a fun way by running health stalls in partnership with the Dorset Primary Care Trust and organising family picnics. Local support groups address issues such as stopping smoking, parenting skills, healthy eating and exercise. A volunteer group has been trained to visit older people for social contact, armchair exercise and toenail cutting (a major cause of being housebound!) There are plans to link with the local community transport service to bus older people to a 'holistic health' day at the local medical centre.

**Contact: Jackie Upton, SturQuest**  
**01258 472677** [jackieupton@yahoo.co](mailto:jackieupton@yahoo.co)



### **Dorchester Strollers take a walk**

A group of local volunteers organise and manage regular weekly walks for local people. Those who have been regular strollers report a changed lifestyle and a marked improvement in their health and well-being. The group is funded by the Primary Care Trust and the area partnership.

**Contact: Mary Foskett 01305 264955**



### **Enjoy eating yourself well in Weymouth!**

In Weymouth, healthy eating workshops have been set up by the local partnership with the help of the Dorset Food & Health Trust. Families have fun together finding out more about food labels, growing food, cooking and eating it. The target is an initial outreach of 40 families in areas where practical advice is needed most.

**Contact: Sam Mitchell, Dorset Food & Health Trust**  
**01202 851286** [office@dorsetfoodandhealth.co.uk](mailto:office@dorsetfoodandhealth.co.uk)



### **Health events lead to help groups in East Dorset**

East Dorset Partnership's Health Action Group organised a series of health forums in areas where practical help was needed most which led to the formation of residents' groups such as a parenting group in Leigh Park, Wimborne. Find out what your local community's health needs and interests are first.

**Contact: Caroline Harris 01202 886201**  
[charris@eastdorsetdc.gov.uk](mailto:charris@eastdorsetdc.gov.uk)



### **Get out – feel better in Christchurch!**

The Christchurch Partnership has launched a Dial-A-Bus scheme offering a weekly service to those who might not otherwise find it easy to leave their homes. The service runs on sponsorship and has recently been extended to offer additional stops and greater flexibility.

**Contact: Natalie Murray 01202 495111**  
[n.murray@christchurch.gov.uk](mailto:n.murray@christchurch.gov.uk)

# Things to be aware of

First you'll want to know what the local community's health needs are and one way to find out is to set up a focus group or workshop or include local health issues in any planned questionnaire. Questions you could ask yourselves are:

- What health issues are of most concern for our community?
- What health care services would we like to see available locally to meet those needs?
- What problems do we have accessing the services that are available?
  - Are services provided at the right time and in the right place?
  - Are any kind of waiting times a problem?
  - Do we get the health information we need when, where and how we want it?
- What other issues do we have concerning health services generally?
- How do we think local health services could be improved?
- What do we think we can do to provide any help locally?
- What can we do to prevent the need in the first place?

Also

- Attempt to work closely with local professional health and other organisations and encourage partnership working.
- Try the informal approach - use local events and publicity as much as possible.
- Don't expect too much too soon.
- Nurture volunteers - they are too valuable to lose.

Alternatively, to get your community's views fed in to a wider process, contact the Patient & Public Involvement Forum network (to be replaced in 2008 by a Dorset-wide Local Health Involvement Network - LINK).  
Contact P&PIF Co-ordinator Annie Bray 01305 814907.

# Who can help

## **Active Dorset**

A non-profit making organisation that aims to promote enjoyable exercise  
Fiachra O'Mathuna 01202 965927  
mobile 07921 093010  
fomathuna@activedorset.org

## **Dorset Primary Care Trust**

The main health body for Dorset  
Public health team 01305 361394  
jan.stevenson@dorset-pct.nhs.uk

## **Dorset Food & Health Trust**

A charitable organisation that aims to promote health through healthy eating initiatives  
Sam Mitchell 01202 851286

## **Patient & Public Health Involvement Forums**

Public forums with powers to inspect and advise on health services from the public's point of view  
Annie Bray 01305 814907  
Anne.Bray@helpandcare.org.uk

## **Dorset County Council**

### **Trading Standards Service**

Advice and information on food labelling and composition, mis-described food, product safety and home safety. Promotion of security in the home by giving consumers the confidence and knowledge to deal with rogue traders and scams  
Elaine Mumford or Mike Webber 01305 224012  
tradingstandards@dorsetcc.gov.uk  
www.dorsetforyou.com/tradingstandards

## **Culture and Community Planning**

There is evidence that participation in cultural activities – dance, sport, community music, drama groups, reading groups etc – has a beneficial impact on physical and mental health.  
Pat Pryor 01305 224078  
p.a.pryor@dorsetcc.gov.uk  
www.dorsetforyou.com/artsandculture

## **Dorset Age Partnership**

Jackie Allen 01305 266151  
jallen6285@aol.com

## **Other sources of information:**

### **The Food Vision**

www.foodvision.gov.uk  
Promoting safe, sustainable and nutritious food to improve local community health and well-being

### **The Food Standards Agency Eatwell**

www.eatwell.gov.uk

### **The Food Standards Agency**

www.food.gov.uk

**Consumer Direct** for consumer advice and pre-shopping advice 0845 4040506

www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

## **Funding organisations**

As well as general funding programmes that may fund a wide range of community projects, the following are aimed specifically at health, sport and active lifestyle projects.

### **Department for Health**

Communities for Health funding programme  
Matthew Coleman 020 7972 5333  
Matthew.Coleman@dh.gsi.gov.uk

### **Sport England, Community Investment Fund**

<http://www.sportengland.org/>  
The Community Investment Fund is predominantly for improving existing or developing new sporting facilities. All decisions about Sport England Funding, for grants over £5000, are made locally by regional sports boards. Eligible projects are assessed against regional priorities detailed in each region's Sports Plan and the National Framework.

### **Foundation for Sports and The Arts**

<http://www.thefsa.net/aboutus.htm>  
Support a wide range of activities where there is clear beneficial impact across the community.

### **Sports Aid - <http://www.sportsaid.org.uk/>**

SportsAid is the charity for sports people. We help the next generation of young British sportsmen and women to succeed. SportsAid helps young sports people all over the country when it matters most, which is when they're starting out.

Culture has amazing potential to bring communities together and plays an essential role in improving places and lives. Taking children to the local pantomime, playing for the village football team, finding out about your family history – these are some of the things that make life richer.

### **What do we mean by culture?**

Cultural opportunities include the visual and performing arts, museums and galleries, archives, libraries, sport and physical leisure activity, the built environment, architecture and design, public spaces and places of heritage, tourism, media, film making and television.



**Shaping our communities** - a toolkit to help community groups turn ideas into action

# Building communities through culture

### Good design is not a luxury

Artwork enhances the quality of our built environment from playground designs, signage, street furniture and lighting schemes to the internal detailing of a building, its furniture, flooring and even its crockery.

### Cultural opportunity is essential for everyone

The arts play an important role in getting messages about safety and health to all members of the community. Arts and sports projects build social skills and self confidence and research shows a strong correlation between arts involvement and academic achievement.

### Culture makes us healthy and happy

Research in hospitals shows that arts opportunities have clinical outcomes such as reduced blood pressure, reduced pain intensity and the need for medication. Over two hundred reading groups use the library to borrow sets of books.

### Culture brings us together

There are 12,850 listed buildings and 190 conservation areas in Dorset, over 1,500 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and over 30 listed parks and gardens. Dorset's 30 museums are focal points inspiring local people and giving opportunities for volunteers. Over 15,000 people enjoy Artsreach events in community venues every year.

## Ideas for action

- Propose that a public art project or artist contribution be considered within any building plans (e.g. community hall refurbishment) to pay attention to the details right at the start of the design brief, not as an afterthought.**
- Arrange for live theatre shows to offer entertainment with a message to prevent distraction burglaries, fraudulent traders, to combat binge drinking or anti-social behaviour.**
- A Youth Arts Club and spaces for young people to use for rehearsal, performance, graffiti wall.**
- Plan creative projects across the generations.**
- Arrange active creative clubs for older people such as dance, percussion and singing.**
- Include questions about cultural opportunities in your parish surveys, publicise existing clubs and start new ones when appropriate.**
- Publicise opportunities for cultural volunteering in your area.**
- Research your historic environment and appoint an ancient monument liaison officer.**
- Celebrate local culture, customs and creativity by maintaining local traditions, holding village fetes and festivals, celebrating contemporary arts through poetry societies, reading groups, art groups and exhibitions, performances, community plays and special events.**

# Good design is not a luxury

Everyone deserves to live, work and play in well designed attractive environments.



## **Kubla Khan comes to Christchurch**

The Poetry in Design Award was launched by the Christchurch Community Partnership to encourage the participation of poets in the design of the future of Christchurch. This year's topic was 'Druitt Gardens' - the area of woodland behind Christchurch High Street which has just come under the ownership of Christchurch Council.

One of the hopes for the competition is for it to provide a focus to encourage more creative thinking about Druitt Gardens and other projects in the future.



## **Community venues fit for all types of play**

Portesham's new hall looks stunning but they found that a space that's fantastic for badminton is not necessarily so good for theatre performances. A huge space can mean very resonant acoustics which make it difficult to hear clearly, especially speech. To resolve this in Portesham they put in acoustic boards, wall hangings, curtains – and now enjoy fabulous performances there.

# Cultural opportunity is essential for everyone

As well as being valuable in itself, culture can often provide the means to reach groups that other local services and activities find hard to include.



## Your Call

Led by rural arts agency, Artsreach, twenty young people from Charlton Down attended a consultation evening to sample a range of creative activities that could be made available to them, and to decide for themselves what they wanted to do. The clear favourites were film making and music production, and twenty-five young people took part in workshops over two weekends. The films and the CD were shared with family and friends at a final celebratory event at the village hall.



## Opportunities and Choices

Providing movement, music and dance activities for older people at residential and day centres in Ferndown and Bridport. The activities are designed according to the needs of those attending the centre, and offer a chance to enjoy high quality live music performance. The young professional musicians (under the age of thirty) come from Live Music Now, a national organisation founded by Yehudi Menuhin. They are specifically trained to engage with these audiences and provide a welcome experience of participation across the generations.

Dorset County Council Disability Arts Coordinator 01305 224234

Partnership for Older People Project: [www.dorsetforyou.com/popp](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/popp)

Solomon Theatre Company: learning through the arts [www.solomon-theatre.co.uk](http://www.solomon-theatre.co.uk)

West Dorset Cultural Development: [leisure@westdorset-dc.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@westdorset-dc.gov.uk) 01305 252261

Young people's arts awards: [www.departure.org.uk](http://www.departure.org.uk)

# Culture makes us healthy and happy

As well as the physical benefits, participation in volunteering and creative activity – dance, sport, art, music, theatre, writing or reading groups – contributes greatly to increased mental well being.



## Motivate and Activate

Healthy lifestyles was the focus for a community based project in East Dorset. Led by Walford Mill Crafts Centre, five artists worked with five varied groups to create a mural to fill a blank space in the Queen Elizabeth leisure centre foyer. Some of the groups were introduced to a new healthy lifestyle activity prior to starting the arts workshops. Instructors in pilates and aerobics worked with two of the groups and the young adults at Ferndown tried ice-skating. These taster sessions also provided photo opportunities as source material for the murals



## Reading Groups

A reading group is quite simply a group of people who meet to talk about what they've been reading. It's relaxed and informal and doesn't need an expert to guide it. It's a thoughtful, sociable, way to get so much more from a book.

Dorset Library Service offers a special membership for reading groups allowing you to borrow sets of books with an Information Pack with advice for starting a group, suggested topics for discussion, and lots of ideas of books to read.

Active Dorset: [info@activedorset.org](mailto:info@activedorset.org) 01202 965927

East Dorset District Council Arts Development 01202 639012

Reading Groups Service Information Pack available from your library

Walford Mill Crafts: [info@walfordmillcrafts.co.uk](mailto:info@walfordmillcrafts.co.uk) 01202 841400

# Culture brings us together

Culture is how we enjoy ourselves and how we spend our leisure time.

Participation in culture means connecting with the people and places around us.

## Land Marks in a West Dorset village

When extensive house building began at the heart of Drimpton the villagers produced a series of creative and positive responses with everyone invited to participate - all ages, present, former and new villagers, as well as the builders. Villagers recorded the process of change through photography; painting; film; music; singing and reminiscence.

**For other projects in Drimpton [www.drimpton.org.uk](http://www.drimpton.org.uk)**

## Ancient heritage

Abbotsbury heritage research project was set up by villagers with Local Heritage Initiative funding to explore the history and environment of this Chesil-side village. The project includes: updating the Ancient Monument records; recording field names and boundaries, linked to early maps; landscape mythology; updating the village building survey; researching school records and collections.

# Who can help

Activate Theatre and Dance Development Agency  
info@activateperformingarts.org.uk  
01202 884340

Artsreach: info@artsreach.co.uk  
01305 269512

Creative Dorset: info@createdorset.co.uk  
01305 755613

Culture and Community Planning  
01305 224078 p.a.pryor@dorsetcc.gov.uk

DCC Historic Environment Team  
01305 224921

Dorset History Centre: archives@dorsetcc.gov.uk  
01305 250550

depARTure Arts and Education  
01305 224525

Dorset Art Weeks: admin@dorsetvisualarts.org  
01305 853100

For information about other creative activities see  
[www.dorsetforyou.com/artsandculture](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/artsandculture)

## Tackling climate change locally

There is now strong scientific consensus that human activities are changing the world's climate. Over the 20th century, the earth has warmed up by about 0.6°C and temperatures continue to rise.

## What causes climate change?

Climate change or global warming is caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other polluting gases in our atmosphere.

The gases trap heat by forming a blanket around the earth – like the glass of a greenhouse. Once released the greenhouse gases stay in the atmosphere for many years. As they build up the planet's temperature rises. Greenhouse gases are mainly released by the burning of fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas for energy.



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# Climate Change

## A few facts

### Transport

In 2000 the transport sector was responsible for 30% of total UK CO2 emissions.

The traffic on Dorset's roads currently increases annually by 3%.

In Dorset half of all 4 – 9 year olds are driven to and from school as are more than a quarter of 11 – 16 year olds.

### Energy use in our homes

In 2000 the domestic sector was responsible for 28% of total UK CO2 emissions.

53% of domestic CO2 emissions comes from heating, 20% from hot water and the remainder from cooking, lighting and appliances. 8% of domestic electricity consumption is from equipment left on stand by.

### Renewable energy

The Government has set a national target to meet 10% of the UK's electricity needs from renewables by 2010.

Dorset has a set a draft target to meet 8.4 – 9.9% of its electricity demand from renewable energy by 2010.

Dorset currently produces 1.6% of its electricity demand from renewable energy.

## Ideas for action

- Why not set up a car club in your local community.**
- Encourage your local school to develop a travel plan.**
- Encourage people to support local shops, post offices and other rural services.**
- Carry out an energy audit to find out how to make savings and improvements in your village or church hall.**
- Why not become an energy champion for your community.**
- Organise an energy quiz or energy bingo night.**
- Encourage the use of renewable energy systems in community buildings or in new developments.**
- If there is an old mill in your area, why not encourage the owner to install a micro hydro scheme.**
- Encourage the installation of domestic renewable energy such as solar, wind or biomass by holding a special information evening or day.**

## A few facts

### Waste

Biodegradable waste rots down in landfill sites to produce methane which is a greenhouse gas 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Recycling an aluminium can saves 90% of the energy required to make it from scratch. Reducing and reusing rubbish is better than recycling in terms of reducing CO2 emissions.

### Local Food

Air freight of food has doubled between UK & Europe over last 10 years.

Road freight of food has increased by 90% between UK & Europe over last 10 years.

The distance food is transported in the UK increased by 50% in last 20 years.

Food now accounts for almost half of UK road freight.

## Ideas for action

- Why not become a community composting champion and support your local community to learn more about how to compost their green waste.**
- Why not organise a 'Give and Take' day in your local area where people get rid of household goods they don't want any more and pick up something they do.**
- Run an awareness event on what people can do to reduce the waste they produce.**
- Local organic producers have vegetable box schemes to sell their produce direct to the consumer. Why not consider having a drop-off point in your local community?**
- Invite local producers to a food festival to celebrate and make people aware of what is available.**
- If you have unused allotments in your area encourage allotment sharing or your local school may be interested in a plot.**
- If there are no allotments near you why not organise a group to start new ones or make a productive community garden on an underused patch of land.**



### **Lytchett Matravers Primary School Sustainable Travel Initiative**

Lytchett Matravers Primary School has a scheme to provide children with incentives for walking or cycling to or from school. Each child is issued with a card or passport and every time they walk or cycle to school they collect points towards a reward from the school shop.

School shop profits help fund the scheme with some funding from the Parish Council. The scheme has resulted in an 8% increase in the number of children walking and a 6% in the number cycling.

**Who can help:** Dorset County Council School Travel Plan Co-ordinator.



### **Urchfont Energy Efficiency Initiative**

Urchfont village in Wiltshire is taking part in the Wiltshire Climate Friendly Community's project which aims to reduce a community's CO2 emissions by 20%.

The initial focus is on improving energy efficiency with home energy surveys and distribution of low energy light bulbs via the village shop. Volunteers are taking part in a special energy trial. Participating householders receive a free energy visit to identify how to improve the energy performance of their home.

Energy bills are monitored before and after the trial to see how much energy, money and CO2 has been saved.

Contact Liz Nimmo Scott, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust 01380 725670 ext 357.

**Who can help:** Dorset Energy Advice Centre, Dorset Agenda 21



## Community Shop - Renewable Energy Initiative Wye Valley

The loss of the local village shop and post office led the community to set up a group to reinstate facilities including a shop, café and IT suite.

The new building uses renewable energy technologies to provide power and heat including a solar photovoltaic array and ground source heat pump. This saves around 4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year and surplus electricity is also sold back to the national grid.

**Contact:** Graham Ayling, Severn Wye Energy Agency 01594 545364



## Fruit Swap Project

The Fruit Swap Project was established by local people in Symondsburry to celebrate and preserve the heritage of local fruit trees and orchards. The project has encouraged the care of trees and has developed opportunities for sharing produce and processing the harvest resulting in a revival of the tradition of communal fruit pressing.

**For further information about this project contact:** Kim Squirrel, Centre for Local Food, Bridport 01308 420269

## Community Champions

The district authorities in Dorset are supporting a special Community Composting Champions scheme. Volunteers are trained to become composting champions who promote composting in their local neighbourhood and help residents who are experiencing problems with their compost bins. Activities include distributing leaflets, attending promotional events, re-housing compost bins and helping to start composting in local schools.

**Who can help:** Waste Reduction Officer, Dorset County Council

# Who can help

**Further ideas, information and advice can be obtained from:**

## **Centre for Local Food, Bridport**

Centre supports local people in West Dorset source and use local food 01308 420269.

## **Direct from Dorset**

Dorset County Council initiative promoting a brand for Dorset food and drink, craft and wood products Directories also available. 01305 224213  
[www.directfromdorset.org.uk](http://www.directfromdorset.org.uk)

## **Dorset Accessible & Responsive Transport (DART)**

Helps the people of Dorset to access employment, education, training and essential services. It is looking at the feasibility of a setting up a car share club in Dorset (See also toolkit on Transport and Accessibility). Nicola Hill, DART Partnership Officer 01305 216413  
[nici.hill@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:nici.hill@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk).

## **Dorset Agenda 21**

Voluntary organisation that promotes and encourages a sustainable living in Dorset including a new project – Community Choices for Sustainable Living 01305 213721 [info@dorsetagenda21.org.uk](mailto:info@dorsetagenda21.org.uk)

## **Car Share Dorset**

Free countywide car share scheme for that links drivers and passengers to share car journeys.  
[www.carsharedorset.com](http://www.carsharedorset.com)  
[travelwise@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:travelwise@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

## **Dorset Centre for Rural Skills**

Trains people to build and renovate ecologically sound, affordable buildings and keep rural skills alive  
[www.dorsetruralskills.co.uk](http://www.dorsetruralskills.co.uk)

**Dorset Energy Advice Centre** – Free advice and support on energy efficiency and renewables in the domestic sector. Also provide advice on renewable energy technologies 0800 512 012.

## **Renewable energy technologies**

Kevin Lindegaard, Renewable Energy Development Officer, Dorset County Council  
01305 228530 [k.lindegaard@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:k.lindegaard@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

## **School travel**

For support on school travel initiatives contact Paul Cooper, School travel plan co-ordinator, Dorset County Council on 01305 228650  
[p.c.cooper@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:p.c.cooper@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

## **Use Your Loaf Project, Chalk & Cheese**

Support is available to local communities to develop local food projects  
01258 474276 [www.chalkandcheese.org](http://www.chalkandcheese.org)

## **Waste reduction**

For support on community waste reduction initiatives contact Waste Reduction Officer at Dorset County Council 01305 225002  
[m.k.gregory@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:m.k.gregory@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

## **Wessex Organic Movement (WORM)**

Can provide support on organic growing and details of organic local producers [sec@wessexorganic.org.uk](mailto:sec@wessexorganic.org.uk)  
[www.wessexorganic.org.uk](http://www.wessexorganic.org.uk)

## **Funding**

### **AONB Sustainable Development Fund**

Dorset AONB 01305 756780  
[k.wright@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:k.wright@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Cranbourne Chase AONB 01725 517417  
[davidblake@cranbournechase.org.uk](mailto:davidblake@cranbournechase.org.uk)

## **Chalk and Cheese**

£100,000 of funding is available for small projects which add value to the products, people and landscapes in rural Dorset. Anyone living or working within the Chalk and Cheese area (rural Dorset from Bridport to Cranborne) can apply for a grant of up to £5,000. Contact Ben or Sophia 01258 474286/4  
[www.chalkandcheese.org](http://www.chalkandcheese.org)

**Energy efficiency** – grants are available for householders and some community groups in Dorset. Contact Dorset Energy Efficiency Advice centre 0800512012

## What do we mean by 'sustainability'?

There are many definitions but the one used in 'Shaping our future', The Community Strategy for Dorset, 2007-2016 is the Government's which states: 'to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations'.

This checklist aims to help you identify the most sustainable way forward for your project. The purpose of your project may primarily be social, economic or environmental but it might have other impacts or benefits that you haven't yet considered.

The checklist questions are grouped under key headings\* designed to help you consider a range of sustainability issues at the start of your project planning. These are intended only as a guide and may not all apply to your project or there may be other issues you think are important.

The checklist will help to identify how your project positively or negatively contributes to sustainability. You can then identify what further action you might take to make your project more sustainable.

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# Sustainability checklist

## Will/could your project ?

Yes  
/ No

Further action

<p><b>Develop sustainability learning and skills ?</b> Support the community to develop learning and skills for sustainability Support local people to develop skills to enable them to participate in society as a whole</p>		
<p><b>Improve physical and mental well being ?</b> Encourage healthy balanced lifestyles Provide clean and safe environments Encourage supportive &amp; inclusive communities</p>		
<p><b>Improve equality in meeting basic needs ?</b> Help people ( particularly disadvantaged) to access: Essential goods and services Safe and satisfying employment Learning opportunities Leisure opportunities Affordable &amp; sustainable housing</p>		
<p><b>Be resource wise ?</b> Use natural raw materials , water and energy efficiently Use local renewable energy Reduce, reuse and recycle waste Reduce pollution</p>		
<p><b>Support low carbon economies ?</b> Support low carbon approaches &amp; technologies e.g. local renewable energy, sustainable construction, local supply chains Generate local employment opportunities</p>		
<p><b>Reduce high carbon travel ?</b> Encourage walking, cycling or public transport Encourage fuel efficiency and the use of alternative fuels e.g. biodiesel</p>		
<p><b>Use local and ethical goods and services ?</b> Maximise use of local goods and services Support ethical sourcing</p>		
<p><b>Enhance regional and local distinctiveness ?</b> Protect and enhance local wildlife Protect and enhance local culture and heritage Use local skills and materials</p>		
<p><b>Help everyone to join in public decision making ?</b> Support public and community decision making</p>		
<p><b>Take a long term approach ?</b> Take account of climate change</p>		

\* **Note:** Headings are based on the 10 sustainability operating principles from the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (see the Community Strategy for Dorset, 2007 – 2016 for further details)