

West Dorset Partnership Annual Report 2011/2012



Contents

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
Decent, affordable and sustainable housing	5
Improved transport and access to services	6
Economic wellbeing	7
Safer communities	8
Health and wellbeing	9
Culture and leisure	10
Supporting our communities	11
Protecting and enhancing our environment	12
Parish planning	13

West Dorset Partnership

Annual Report 2011/12

Foreword



Having worked in the business world most of my life, the pace of tangible achievements in community planning can be frustrating. However any process of real change in an organisation or community is always difficult. In the case of communities this will particularly apply, and therefore tangible outcomes will be slow to appear. With the withdrawal of funding from the Dorset Strategic Partnership this lack of easily measurable outcomes has been more evident. However despite general difficulties with funding, which particularly affected the Local Area Partnerships, community planning in most parts of West Dorset has continued to make progress.

A wide variety of projects have started, are in progress, or have been completed as shown in the body of this report. However, it is the intangible benefits of people and organisations coming together and as a result of common aims, enriching the life of the community that is such good news. As always the sum of the outcomes for everyone working in partnership is greater than the results of individuals or small groups working in isolation. This partnership working includes linking the statutory sector, business and voluntary organisations to achieve joined up thinking and action. So people working in parishes, in co-operation with various partners have saved shops and community centres. Within the Local Area Partnerships wider links and projects are established, important community assets that were at risk have been restored to new life, and health and employment improved. This coming together and sharing is encouraged at full partnership meetings.

I have enjoyed my four years as Chairman of the Partnership and had other commitments not arisen would have happily continued. I should like to thank all those with whom I have worked for their support and friendship.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Webb', written in a cursive style.

David Webb
Chairman of the West Dorset Partnership (2008 - April 2012)

Introduction

This Annual Report covers the period from April 2011 to March 2012 and highlights just a few projects that are important elements of the West Dorset Community Plan 2010-2026 and that the West Dorset Partnership has supported either directly through action or funding, or through its partner organisations delivering or supporting projects.



There are a lot of unquantifiable elements arising out of the West Dorset Partnership and community planning in general. For example through networking at Partnership meetings information and knowledge is shared and projects are taken forward which may not have occurred without the partnership; or communities have become stronger through working together to develop and implement their local action plans. These are difficult to quantify but are equally important outcomes of the partnership as the specific projects which have been supported.

The Partnership has continued to monitor the projects which received funding from both the Dorset Strategic Partnership and Communities for Health Funding (from the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and the Department of Health).

The Partnership has supported the development of parish plans and held a successful Annual Assembly in November 2011 on the theme of 'A Guide to Localism' – around 100 people attended the event, including parish and town councils and community groups, to learn about the Localism Act including aspects such as the new community rights: to build; to buy; and to challenge, as well as neighbourhood planning.

Sadly David Webb is standing down after four years chairing the partnership. We wish him well and thank him for all his hard work and support over the years. The Partnership is welcoming Paul Overall who is to take over as chairman in April 2012.

For more information on the West Dorset Partnership

Email: westdorsetpartnership@westdorset-weymouth.gov.uk

Telephone: 01305 252305

Web page: www.dorsetforyou.com/communityplan/west



Decent, affordable and sustainable housing

Bridport housing seminar

The Bridport Local Area Partnership and Bridport Area Development Trust decided to hold an affordable housing seminar to have an update on local need, opportunities and constraints relating to affordable housing provision in the area. Funding for the event was provided by the West Dorset Partnership.

The event was originally planned for October 2010 but changes in the planning system as part of the Localism Bill, now an Act, and funding for affordable housing delayed the event to autumn 2011. The event was held on 29 November with over 60 people in attendance. Presentations were given on: the Localism Bill, planning and new opportunities, funding issues; accommodating change - the local response to new national housing policies; supported housing; affordability of rented accommodation; housing associations and the new funding package; and the role of Community Land Trusts. A summary report was developed in February with some next steps for delivering affordable housing in the area including producing a report of recommendations.



Buckland Newton Community Property Trust

A Community Land Trust was formed in Buckland Newton in 2007, and the Trust's housing development, Lydden Meadow, opened in summer 2011 leaving a legacy of 10 energy efficient, lifetime homes – achieving a Code 4 Sustainable Homes Certificate. These homes will remain affordable in perpetuity for people with a proven local connection to the community.

The development is a mixture of assured tenancy (rent) and shared ownership (part-equity) properties. The cost of building these houses has been assisted by grants from the Homes and Communities Agency, the Tudor Trust, and West Dorset District Council and a 20-year loan from the district council. Once the loan is repaid it is predicted there will be a £40,000 annual income to the Trust which will be used on community projects.

The project offers a useful model which could be replicated across the district, which may be easier with neighbourhood planning and the new community right to build.



Improved transport and access to services

New Bus Service for Dorchester

Through the Transport Reserve from West Dorset District Council, the West Dorset Partnership allocated £100,000 towards a new low-floor vehicle for Dorchester. Working with Dorset County Council and the Duchy of Cornwall this funding was used to match a successful bid to the Green Bus Fund, from the Department of Transport, for the purchase of two electric buses for a new 'Dorchester town centre to Poundbury' bus route. The new bus service began operating in October 2011 with a diesel bus while the new electric buses were built. A delay in manufacturing has enabled an improved battery system to be installed in the buses, resulting in a more energy efficient service. The electric buses began operating in June.



The Duchy of Cornwall have developed an Anaerobic Digester to produce renewable energy which is hoped will provide the electricity to fuel the electric buses. This will result in the buses producing fewer carbon emissions (only those in the production of the vehicle).

Dorchester Cycle parking

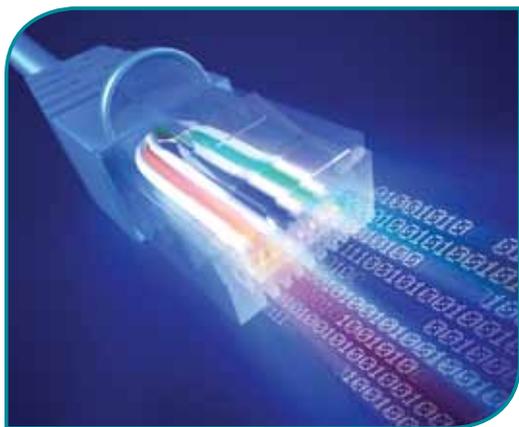
The Dorchester BID Company and Dorset County Council undertook a feasibility study into locations to site cycle racks in the town centre to encourage more people to cycle into and around the town. Following the study 16 cycle racks (allowing parking for 32 bikes) were installed around the town. In Cornhill and at the end of South Street flagpoles with a penny-farthing design have been installed to highlight the cycle rack locations. The new cycle racks were officially launched in August 2011 by the town Mayor, Tess James. Two further sites are to have racks installed in 2012 (Co-operative Shop and Market Car Park). A user survey will be undertaken in summer/autumn 2012 to assess the use of the stands. Funding for the project was granted by the West Dorset Partnership from the Communities for Health and the Local Transport Plan funding.



Economic wellbeing

Revival of Beaminster Area Chamber of Trade and Commerce

The West Dorset Partnership awarded a grant to Beaminster and Villages Local Area Partnership to develop a business directory in 2009/10. Over 200 businesses were contacted in the area and were included in the directory. The directory acted as a catalyst to revive the Beaminster Chamber of Commerce, and opened the chamber's membership to a wider area. The group has been renamed to be Beaminster and District Business Chamber and now has over 40 members helping to support the local economy. Nigel Reeves the chair of the Chamber gave a talk to the BAVLAP AGM in November 2011.



Broadband Improvements

Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) – part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport – has allocated Dorset £9.44 million to upgrade broadband connections in the county. This allocation needed match funding which has been approved by Dorset County Council and the six district and borough councils. The funding will enable 95 per cent of homes and businesses in Dorset to get access to a superfast broadband (of at least 24 megabits per second) connection and everyone in the county to have at least two megabits per second. In order to draw down the funding

a local broadband delivery plan has been produced which was approved by BDUK in March 2012.

Dorset County Council is leading the project board to take the project forward which includes negotiating with a commercial provider to match the £19.44 million in place. Superfast broadband is due to be installed in 2013/14.

Safer communities

Operation Countryside

Dorset Police have been running Operation Countryside to target rural crime and reduce incidents such as theft of lead, scrap metal, heating oil and diesel, by encouraging people to take on rural crime prevention methods such as marking assets and using tracking devices. Operation Countryside expands on the work of the Stop that Thief alarm project, supported by the West Dorset Partnership in 2009. In late summer 2011 Dorset Police were loaned a police branded tractor (with flashing lights) to use at shows and events such as the Dorset County Show in September to raise awareness of rural crime.

A rural crime presentation event took place April 2012 at Kingston Maurward College with the aim of 'kicking crime out of the countryside' – the event is being run by partners including Dorset Police, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, NFU Mutual, and Kingston Maurward College.



Health and wellbeing



Hope2Cycle Sherborne

The Hope2Cycle project began in Shaftsbury and (with funding from Communities for Health and the Local Transport Plan) a sister project has been developed in Sherborne. The project takes old bikes and renovates them to sell on, as well as offering a bike repair service. The project offers work placements and volunteer opportunities for people with mental health issues to learn new skills, and build confidence and self esteem as well as supporting active lifestyles by encouraging cycling opportunities. The Sherborne Hope2Cycle

officially opened in September and has been building a good reputation in the town with increasing sales of the refurbished bikes.

B-Active

Rethink Bridport and Dorchester Day Centres for adults who are disabled received funding from Communities for Health for a B-Active project to provide physical activities for their users who have learning, and often physical, disabilities, as well as training opportunities for the staff of the day centres. Around 70 people with learning disabilities benefited from the project which has enabled a greater involvement in sporting activities such as swimming, trampolining and walking. Other activities include using the Wii and boccia - a target ball sport belonging to the same family as bowls for athletes with disabilities that have a major impact on motor skills. A boccia match held at another centre offered a good social opportunity for meeting up with friends.



Culture and leisure

A Dance A Day



Activate Performing Arts were granted funding from Communities for Health to run the dance a day project to maintain and increase physical activity in older people. The two year project offers taster dance sessions followed by three terms of regular dance-based exercise sessions. The project hoped to have 15 people regularly attending the sessions but have

between 20-25 people attending regularly with others on a waiting list.

The project is culminated in summer 2012 with performances from the groups in Weymouth as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Activate ran the project in other Dorset districts/boroughs with funding from their communities for health allocations.

Sport and Leisure Activity Programme

Funding from Communities for Health has enabled Dorset Mental Health Forum to support its users to engage in everyday community sports and leisure activities to improve both health and confidence in a project called slap. A range of activities have been held to enable people suffering with, recovering from, or at risk of developing, mental health issues. Activities include craft activities; an allotment at Dorchester Youth Centre; badminton and football sessions; and swimming.



The aim of the sessions is to support people to improved well being, social interaction and recovery.

Supporting our communities

The Hub - Lyme Regis

The Lyme Regis Development Trust bought the old Boys Club building in Church Street in 2010 with the aim of turning it into a hub for youth activities in the town. In June the project won £60,000 from the Jubilee Peoples Millions following a big local campaign and public voting on the ITV programme. The funding was used for disabled access and a new roof together with £50,000 from the Town Council.

In October 2011 the InSPARation Youth Café moved into the Hub which was attended by almost 50 young people. The Hub was officially opened on 21 April 2012.

The Jubilee Peoples Millions

Up to £60,000 to be won
Make your vote count...
For thousands of young people living in the Lyme Regis area...

VOTE
THE
HUB
LYME
REGIS
JUNE 28TH

www.hublyme.co.uk

Phone lines open 9am till midnight, phone number available on 28th June from www.peoplesmillions.org.uk, (ITV Westcountry) www.hublyme.co.uk, Facebook group the Hub Lyme Regis, Twitter, Daily Mirror newspaper.

Calls cost 11p from a landline
Mobiles cost more...
You can make ten calls from any phone

www.jubileepeoplesmillions.org.uk
#pplsmillions

Awarding funds from
The National Lottery

BIG LOTTERY FUND

Protecting and enhancing our environment

South Dorset Ridgeway Heritage Project Dorset AONB

Following the successful South Dorset Ridgeway Heritage Project running from 2008-2011 the Dorset AONB made a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Landscape Partnership for the South Dorset Ridgeway, one of 11 projects in the UK announced in August 2011. A grant of £96,100 development funding will enable the Landscape Partnership to work with landowners, community groups and other organisations to bid for a further £1.9million earmarked for the project. The full five year project will work to improve wildlife habitats, protect the historic environment and encourage access, as well as develop educational and training opportunities.

The project focuses on three main landscape types: Ridge and Vale; Open Chalk Downland; and Chalk Escarpment. Found between Dorchester and Weymouth, it is one of the most diverse Neolithic and Bronze Age landscapes in Europe. The West Dorset Partnership backed the application with a letter of support.



Lengthsman Schemes

The Bridport Lengthsman Scheme has been operating since July 2010, with Bridport Town Council employing the lengthsman. In addition to work for the Town Council, three parish councils are in the scheme – Bothenhampton and Walditch, Symondsburry and Bradpole, and other parishes also benefit from some ad hoc work. Work ranges from gully clearing, hedge cutting, removing fly posting, repairing notice boards, repairing benches and removing weeds. Work has also included assisting in emergency gritting during bad weather. Funding for the project came from Dorset County Council, the town council and parish councils.



Through Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, seven parishes are interested in developing a lengthsman scheme around the Dorchester area – Dorchester Area Community Partnership is leading on this project.

Parish planning

Parish planning continues to be strong in West Dorset and 42 parish plans have now been published in the district (covering 65 parishes). Four of these were published in 2011/12: Bradford Peverell Bradpole, Comptons, Toller and Wynford, and Osmington. Cerne Valley, Cam Vale, Corscombe and Leigh have also published revised plans over the last year.

A further 10 plans are in progress (covering 11 parishes) in: Beaminster; Broadwindsor; Buckland Newton; Loders; Piddle Valley; Puddletown; Shipton Gorge; Toller Porcorum; Thorncombe; and Thornhackett.

Parish Plans (Alphabetical)

Allington Parish Plan 2006
Bishops Caundle Action Plan 2003
Bothenhampton Parish Plan 2003
Bradford Peverell Parish Plan 2012
Bradpole Parish Plan 2011
Broadmayne Village Appraisal 2003 / 2006
Burton Bradstock Parish Plan 2006
Cam Vale Parish Plan 2011
Cerne Valley Parish Plan 2002/2011
Charmouth Parish Plan 2010
Char Valley Action Plan 2003
Chedington and South Perrott Village Action Plan 2004
Cheselbourne Parish Plan 2007
Chesil Bank Parish Plan 2010
Chetnole and Stockwood Parish Plan 2010
Chickerell Parish Plan 2008
Chideock Parish Plan 2003
Comptons, Toller and Wynford Parish Plan 2012
Corscombe 2004 (see Halstock below)
Crossways Village Plan 2005
Dewlish Parish Plan 2008
Evershot Parish Plan 2009
Folke and Parish Plan (Inc North Wootton) 2006
Frampton Parish Plan 2007
Frome Valley Parish Plan 2008
Halstock Parish Plan 2006
Leigh Village Plan 2004/2011
Litton Cheney Parish Plan 2005
Maiden Newton Parish Plan 2009
Melbury Osmond Parish Plan 2006
Melcombe Horsey (and Hilton, North Dorset) 2005
Owermoigne Parish Plan 2006
Osmington Community Plan 2011
Puncknowle and Swyre Parish Plan 2006
Stinsford Parish Plan 2007
Stratton Parish Plan 2007
Symondsbury Parish Plan 2008
Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Plan 2010
Walditch Design Statement and Parish Plan 2004
Warmwell Parish Plan 2005
Yeohead and Castleton Parish Plan 2004
Yetminster and Ryme Intrinseca Parish Plan 2008

Parish Plans (Date order)

Bishops Caundle Action Plan 2003
Bothenhampton Parish Plan 2003
Char Valley Action Plan 2003
Chideock Parish Plan 2003
Chedington and South Perrott Village Action Plan 2004
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Chickerell Parish Plan 2008
Dewlish Parish Plan 2008
Frome Valley Parish Plan 2008
Symondsbury Parish Plan 2008
Yetminster and Ryme Intrinseca Parish Plan 2008
Evershot Parish Plan 2009
Maiden Newton Parish Plan 2009
Charmouth Parish Plan 2010
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Chetnole and Stockwood Parish Plan 2010
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Osmington Community Plan 2011
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Cerne Valley Parish Plan 2002 / 2011
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Corscombe 2004 (see Halstock below) / 2011
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Comptons, Toller and Wynford Parish Plan 2012

If you require large print, audio, Braille, translation into alternative language or an interpretation service please contact westdorsetpartnership@westdorset-weymouth.gov.uk or 01305 252305



For more information on community planning in West Dorset contact West Dorset Partnership 01305 252305 or email westdorsetpartnership@westdorset-weymouth.gov.uk