

**MINUTES OF DORSET CAMPAIGN AGAINST LITTER MEETING HELD AT STRATTON VILLAGE HALL, DORCHESTER, AT 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

**Present:** Linda Williams (LW) – CPRE DCAL Chair, Bob Kerr (BK) – Dorchester Stop the Drop, Alison Kaye (AK) – Dorset Wildlife Trust Volunteer, Natalie Poulter (NP) – Litter Free Coast & Sea Project Co-ordinator, Marten Gregory (MG) - Recycling Team Leader at Dorset Waste Partnership, Dr John Larkin (JL) – CPRE Minerals and Waste Adviser, Richard Brown (RB) – Dorset AONB Landscape Planning Officer and Myra Pennington (MP) – Dorchester Stop the Drop Volunteer.

**ACTION**

**1. Welcome**

LW welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sam Harding (SH) joined us using a Skype link.

**2. Apologies**

Alison Jay (AJ) - Eco-Schools Support Officer at DCC, Bridget Mayes (BM) - Love Langton, Anthony Vosper (AV) – Sherborne Stop the Litter Campaign, David Gargrave (DG) – CPRE Member, David Rose (DR) – Clean Up Blandford Campaign and Christine James (CJ), Mayor of the Borough of Weymouth and Portland.

**3. Minutes of the last Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015**

The Minutes were agreed.

Dorset CPRE still have one amount of £100 available to be given to another town group within West Dorset who are dedicated to the task of litter prevention in all its aspects. A request can be sent to Dorset CPRE briefly describing how the money would be spent.

**ALL**

CJ was unable to make this meeting but hopes to attend the next as rubbish is high on her agenda at the moment.

MG to check if WDDC's Office still stock waste bags that the public can use for collecting rubbish.

**MG**

MG said there has not been enough evidence to prosecute litter offenders. BK would still like DWP to issue press releases on how many Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued and for what.

**MG**

RB said the Dorset AONB is awaiting a decision on proposed waste sites located in the AONB as part of the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Waste Plan consultation.

The new Household Recycling Centre at Broomshills near Bridport has been entered for awards.

**4. National CPRE Campaign – Sam Harding, Litter Programme Director, via Skype**

SH spoke about the Clean for the Queen Campaign, about carrier bag reductions and exemptions, and about the possibility of increased fines and better enforcement of the penalties for dropping litter. The Stop the Drop Campaign was highly successful but has now come to an end. SH has led CPRE's anti-litter campaign since 2008 and her role is funded for an additional 3 years.

CPRE National Office have been invited to be on the Government's National Litter Strategy. The measure was announced as part of the [government's response](#) to a select committee report on littering. SH to update us as more information becomes available.

## **Stub Tidies**

SH has received new stock from JTI. [After Meeting Notes 2,000 Stub Tidies where sent to DWP to use at their upcoming Recycle for Dorset roadshows.]

## **Facebook Group for LitterAction**

SH encouraged everyone to share their ideas and campaigns on the group to inspire action and discussion <https://www.facebook.com/groups/404353146383241/>.

**ACTION**

**ALL**

## **5. Local Campaign Updates**

### **5.1 Dorchester Stop the Drop – Bob Kerr**

Please see Appendix A for Bob's full report.

Item 6, NP mentioned that Nigel Matthews, Head of Recreation Management and Learning, at New Forest National Park is trialling in-car litter bags.

Item 7, MG believes the idea for Charity Litter bins would sit well under the 'Litter Free Dorset' campaign. Funding could be sourced from businesses.

### **5.2 Litter Free Coast & Sea - Natalie Poulter**

Matilda Manley is currently on maternity leave.

#### **Litter Free Dorset (LFD) Meeting 22nd February**

Following the November workshop with 43 people it was felt there is an appetite to have a countywide group to help tackle the problem of litter in Dorset. With many people/groups doing litter picks across the county it was felt a discussion on how we could add value to this work in terms of preventative behaviour change, and work more closely together on common issues could be taken forward. With the success of Litter Free Coast and Sea (now in its 4th year) it was felt the whole of Dorset could benefit from this collaborative and community focussed way of working.

A draft Strategy for Litter Free Dorset was created to outline what project partners would like to achieve in its first three years and the guiding principles and themes that will help achieve this vision.

MG explained that Dorset Waste Partnership does not have available staff to lead the LDF campaign but would be willing to part fund a role over 3 years. MG will meet with Bridget Betts from Dorset Coast Forum to discuss funding and where should post sit.

**MG**

#### **Clean for the Queen**

NP reporting that 500 bags were collected during the weekend for Clean for The Queen. The Portman Hunt in North Dorset collected the most bags. NP will be on local radio Abbey 104 at 5.15pm today to talk about the event.

#### **Beach cleans**

Litter Free Coast and Sea and the Dorset Coast Forum will be coordinating the Great Dorset Beach Clean, 26 beach cleans from Lyme Regis to Christchurch, to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

### **5.3 Love Langton spring litter pick – Bridget Mayes by email**

The group will be running the litter pick a bit later than Clean for the Queen, on 17th, 19th and 21st March.

BM is writing a feature for Dorset Life about local litter campaigns. Please visit the [Love Langton Litter Campaign Facebook page](#) to read about recent work. She would be grateful if we would 'Like' the page.

**ACTION**

**ALL**

### **5.4 Sherborne Stop the Litter Campaign – Anthony Vosper by email**

Sherborne Stop the Litter Campaign is thriving and continues to meet monthly on a Tuesday in one of four areas of the town. They average 10 litter pickers per session. The provision of additional litter bins by the Town Council and sited in certain "black spots" (identified by Anthony) is having a good effect.

Sherborne town annually enters the South West in Bloom competition and the judges suggested last year that the litter campaign should be entered separately for judging in July.

### **5.5 Dorset Community Action – Simon Thompson by email**

No new information to report.

### **5.6 Clean up Blandford Campaign (CUBC) – David Rose by email**

CUBC will be doing a Clean for the queen event on 5 March. Now fully engaged with the Blandford Forum Town Team – litter in the town centre is a key issue and are trying to do everything to improve the "environment". CUBC are doing their annual litter events, giving out free litter pickers to those who have said they will litter pick, and lending out equipment to various groups who want to run their own litter pick.

### **5.7 Communities Living Sustainably (CLS) – Alison Jay by email**

The Communities Living Sustainably in Dorset project is drawing to an end. After 18 months of working intensively with 12 schools in Bridport and Dorchester the Eco-Schools component programme is showing results. So far this term 9 schools have applied for their Eco-Schools Green Flag awards.

Eco-Schools is run by Keep Britain Tidy and so litter control is a compulsory part of the award (a school will not pass if there is litter in the grounds on the day of the assessment). All of the schools in the programme have reported doing regular litter checks and litter picks in the school grounds. Some have also ventured into the wider community to litter pick by joining in Big Tidy Up and Clean for the Queen activities.

LW read out quotes from the two schools' Green Flag applications. Last year children created animations about litter and how harmful it can be. You can view them at [www.fromevalley.dorset.sch.uk/website/eco\\_schools\\_2014\\_-\\_2015/6310](http://www.fromevalley.dorset.sch.uk/website/eco_schools_2014_-_2015/6310)

### **5.8 Dorset Devils – Peter Ryan by email**

Dorset Devils continue to be a presence on Bournemouth beaches and elsewhere throughout the year. Although they don't hold group beach litter picks open to the public (no insurance/spare equipment) they fully support GDDB as well as SAS, Barefoot Wine Project etc. They have linked up with McDonalds and are taking part in Clean for the Queen on Friday, 4th March.

Details on their future litter picks can be found on <http://www.litteraction.org.uk/dorset-devils>.

## 6. Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) – Marten Gregory

**ACTION**

MG told us that the last 20,000 properties in Dorset were included in the new Kerbside Recycling Scheme in October. A box and bag version of the Scheme helps those who do not have room for the usual DWP bins and a Communal Service version is provided for blocks of flats. MG show us a new leaflet 'Right Stuff, right bin' with clear pictures to explain what goes into each recycling bin. There has also been a decrease in the amount of food being recycled, some people give up after initially giving it a try or may have become more aware of the amount of food being wasted. There have been recent reports in the press about the need for better date labelling to reduce food waste.

DWP now provide advice on 'How to organise a community litter pick in Dorset' on their website <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/street-care/community-litter-picks> including risk assessments and name of manager for each depot.

On the subject of removing litter from road side verges MG mentioned that following a fatality, health and safety legislation on working on the highway has been tightened up considerably, making it much more difficult for councils to clean up rubbish that people throw onto roadside verges, particularly on fast/busy roads. DWP have approached a number of contractors, but they are inundated with requests. They are training staff to a standard that will enable them to resume work on slower roads, and are amassing the traffic control equipment that they will need. They have sought out best practice from other councils only to find that they are in the same predicament. The Highways authority are responsible for trunk road.

## 7. Dorset AONB – Richard Brown

RB is awaiting the final report on the [Winchester Tranquillity project](#) focusing on light pollution. Based on respondents, fly-tipping and litter were found to detract from the enjoyment of an area. *[After Meeting note: New maps of England's light pollution and dark skies. CPRE are planning to launch these new maps on Monday 13 June.]*

## 8. Social media & update on press releases promoting litter awareness

Last week [@wildlifewatch](#) read Dorset CPRE's tweet about 'How to run a Whole School Litter Campaign' and will add a link to the PDF document to their educational resources webpage. Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of The Wildlife Trusts, they are on a mission to put wildness into families, teenagers & children!

DWP will be holding roadshows over the coming months and promoting the message that they are seeing big savings with much less waste going to landfill.

## 9. AOB

MP mentioned litter next to tennis courts beside Tesco's store on Weymouth Avenue. MP and BK to speak with the Tesco Community Liaison Manager about patrolling the area.

**MP & BK**

**Future Meetings:** 9<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> October 10 – 12 noon at Stratton Village Hall, Dorchester.

## Appendix A: Dorchester stop the Drop report

Not as much activity during the winter months, but a few things to report as follows:

1. We did meet the new **WDDC enforcement officer** and promised our support. It would be useful if we were to receive a report from him occasionally and will ask Graham Duggan for this.
2. **Network Rail.** We have asked Tom Marshall about the heavily littered area at the junction of Weymouth Avenue and Copper Street (formerly Station Approach, but have not received a reply – several months have passed and we have since learned it is part of the Brewery Square development.) We shall now address Anthony Wadsworth.
3. **Clean for the Queen.** Having been told by Graham Duggan that Dorset Waste Partnership was involved to the extent of issuing equipment as needed and removing bags of litter, we then approached Adrian Stuart, Town Clerk, who told us that he was directing 6 – 8 Council employees to litter pick “!grot spots” that we would designate on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Several Stop the Drop members also participated, including Myra Pennington, Felicity McLaren, Alistair Chisholm. As there remain some areas they were unable to cover due to insufficient time, we are hoping to plan a litter pick on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, a week before the Queen’s birthday, and have asked Mayor Robin Potter if he would be willing to lead the event, along with Ward Councillors, school children, scouts, and residents. We await hearing from him.
4. **Magna.** Some several months ago we were contacted by Ken Bodycombe of Magna telling us that his CEO Graham Colls wished to help us in our stop the drop campaign, requesting suggestions from us as to how. After a meeting, including Alison Jay (re schools) we learned after several attempts of offering alternative forms of help, this offer came to nothing as we were told they were unable to take anything on-board.
5. **County Hall/Colliton Park area.** Eventually, after more photos, the butt bins have been emptied. However the areas where these are sited remain highly littered.
6. Re our suggestion of having oil/petrol companies fund and help in offering motorists **free in-car litter bags**, Oliver Letwin will be meeting with Tesco representatives this month. We are hopeful this will be fruitful for a trial in Dorset, if not more widely, to combat the ever-rising increase in roadside litter.
7. **Charity Litter bins.** This initiative was proposed and trialled by an Essex District Council. It was measured and found to be highly successful in reducing litter on the ground. Full details were passed to Marten Gregory. We would still wish to see this idea trialled in Dorchester.
8. **Government Advisory Committee on Litter.** I had asked Oliver Letwin to ask Rory Stewart when their report would be published as CPRE had asked to submit a further report. He replied (4.12.15) that they were considering all of the recommendation made by the Local Government Select Committee Inquiry and will respond to the Committee in due course. He also stated that “we share your constituent’s frustration on this subject. The Government fully supports action to tackle littering, reflected in our manifesto commitment to review the case for increasing the fines for littering: we will consult on this later this year.”!!
9. **Litter Free Dorset workshop.** Attended the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Await further report from Natalie & Linda Williams.

**Bob Kerr**