

MINUTES OF DORSET CAMPAIGN AGAINST LITTER MEETING HELD AT STRATTON VILLAGE HALL, DORCHESTER, AT 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2015.

Present: Linda Williams (LW) – CPRE DCAL Chair, Bob Kerr (BK) – Dorchester Stop the Drop, Alison Kaye (AK) – Dorset Wildlife Trust Volunteer, Matilda Manley (MM) – Dorset Coast Forum Policy Assistant, Kirsten Juniper (KJ) - Dorset Waste Partnership, Bridget Mayes (BM) - Love Langton, Richard Brown (RB) – Dorset AONB Landscape Planning Officer and David Gargrave (DG) – CPRE Member.

ACTION

1. Welcome

LW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Simon Thompson (ST) Dorset Community Action, Alison Jay (AJ) - Eco-Schools Support Officer at DCC, Marten Gregory (MG) - Dorset Waste Partnership, Dr John Larkin (JL) – CPRE Minerals and Waste Adviser, Anthony Vosper (AV) – Sherborne Stop the Litter, James Maidment (JM) - Tourism Website Officer, Peter Ryan (PR) - Dorset Devils Founder and Co-ordinator and David Rose (DR) – Clean Up Blandford Campaign.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting 4th June 2015

The Minutes were agreed.

3.4.2 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

5.1 KJ visits schools to give talks on recycling.

5.7 KJ said that DWP use WasteDataFlow a web based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government. Members of other organisations or the public can register on <http://www.wastedataflow.org/> to access published data.

It was recommended that we invite Christine James, Mayor of the Borough of Weymouth and Portland to our next meeting.

LW

5.9 DG said there is now less rubbish in the car park to the rear of the old Dorchester library but it could be better.

6.0 The new Household Recycling Centre at Broomshills near Bridport will open today 1st October.

4. National CPRE Campaign – Sam Harding via Skype

There was a problem linking to Sam Harding (SH) – CPRE Stop the Drop Campaign Manager using Skype.

England's carrier bag charge

[After Meeting Note: Charities can apply for some of the income generated from the 5p plastic bag charge at Tesco. The funding is administered by the charity Groundwork and the money raised will be given to local charities to pay for projects to improve green spaces in communities, improve places that create havens for wildlife and inspire children through contact with the natural world. More information on the scheme found on the [Groundwork website](#).]

Department for Communities and Local Government Select Committee inquiry into litter (March 2015)

ACTION

[After Meeting Note: In December the Government published its long-awaited response to the Department for Communities and [Local Government Select Committee inquiry into litter](#) (March 2015). The Government then sought to outline a response to the concerning findings by announcing its determination to launch a national campaign against littering. SH's response can be found on the [CPRE website](#).]

5. Local Campaign Updates

5.1 Dorchester Stop the Drop – Bob Kerr

Please see Appendix A for Bob's full report.

[After Meeting Note on item 3: Following this Meeting BK received a reply from Peter Moore, Head of Environment, saying DCC Staff will be asked to be more careful when disposing of dog-ends so as not to leave bins overflowing. He will be posting a message on the staff intranet, which is available to all staff, to the above effect as part of the 'Stoptober' campaign.]

5.2 Dorset Coast Forum - Matilda Manley

Litter Free Dorset Workshop

MM gave us an update on the agenda and planning for the workshop taking place on 23rd November at the Dorford Centre, Dorchester. The aim of the event is to get communities on board, help shape what Litter Free Dorset should be and get funding. Cllr Robert Gould, Leader of Dorset County Council will open the meeting.

[After Meeting Note: Copies of the presentations and report following the workshop can be found on this webpage <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/dorset-coast-forum/event>. The first Litter Free Dorset Working Group meeting was held on Monday 22nd February 2016.]

Beach cleans

The Marine Conservation Society organise beach cleans in Dorset every third weekend in September as part of the charity's year round Beachwatch programme.

Jenny Penny has stood down from organising the Great Dorset Beach Clean. *[After Meeting Note: Litter Free Coast and Sea and the Dorset Coast Forum will be coordinating the Great Dorset Beach Clean for 2016 and it will be held **on 23/24 April 2016.**]*

Tom Oliver joined in September as Litter Free Coast and Sea Project Assistant. MM will be on maternity leave starting in January.

5.3 Love Langton spring litter pick – Bridget Mayes

Love Langton Litter Picks

The parish council have purchased extra-long litter-pickers for the group. They are looking at getting high vis vest with a logo printed on the back. The National Trust continues to offer support with their litter picking events. BM recommended that we look at the [Keep Britain Tidy facebook page](#) for updates on their campaigns.

ALL

5.4 Sherborne Stop the Litter Campaign – Anthony Vosper by email

The Sherborne Stop the Litter Campaign continues to flourish and the monthly litter picks have been attended by on average 10 people per session. We continue to recruit new members and three joined at the last litter pick. Special litter picks have also been organised last term for Year 10 students from the Gryphon school. This is part of their community studies and will continue this term.

We continue to collect half as much litter compared with three years ago. Most importantly more of our litter pickers now go out regularly in the street where they live. Something which is greatly encouraged.

5.5 Dorset Community Action – Simon Thompson by email

We have not managed to make contact with anyone responsible for litter picks in the neighbouring NFU office. If you have a recently named contact please let us know. *Simon is going to try to contact Louise Stratton, Dorset County Adviser, again.*

We can't get the waste bags from WDDC office anymore. WDDC reception said they thought that the "scheme" had stopped".

DCA organised this year's "Best Village" awards at Puddletown Village Hall. Follow this link for full details of winners. <http://www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk/>. Keeping the village litter free is a big factor when judging so please encourage villages to enter next year (January launch for 2016 competition).

[After Meeting note: Dorset CPRE is sponsoring the best village shop category for the third year running. Application forms can be found on the [DCA website](#).]

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

No new information to report.

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

CLS has launched a project for young people in Dorset. To tie in with the forthcoming Climate Talks in Paris, **the BIG Ideas Challenge** supports teams of young people to lead their own actions to address climate change in their communities. There's lots of support on offer, including free workshops, mentoring and funding, and a prize of an outdoor adventure up for grabs for the best project! The challenge is meant to be flexible and could be used by schools or out-of-school groups to help start a new environmental project or develop an existing one. The project was launched on Wednesday 9th September at Potter's Café in Dorchester.

5.8 Dorset Devils – Peter Ryan by email

PR is in Northampton attending the next [Chartered Institution of Wastes Management \(CIWM\)](#) workshop. Dorset Devils have been very active in the **Bournemouth area** and the numbers have grown organically **from 3 to 47 since the start of the year-exceeding expectations.**

Please see Appendix B for Peter's full report.

ACTION

MG

6. Dorset Waste Partnership – Kirsten Juniper

KJ is standing in for MG who is attending the opening of the Bridport HRC. She said that DWP have been working hard over the past three months in preparation for the new recycling scheme starting in the Bridport area later this month. In the new year there will be a focus on waste reduction.

No new information to report on DWP and charging structure for [disposing of materials at Household Recycling Centres](#). DG said he is not in favour of charging for disposal of waste and would like more focus to be placed on items being resold or upcycled. KJ said that the new centre at Bridport has a covered area that can be used to protect items that can be recycled.

DWP have started issuing fixed penalty notices. BK would like DWP to publicize those that do to court. Large amounts of fly tipping should also be highlighted on social media.

ACTION

MG

7. Dorset AONB – Richard Brown

RB said the Dorset AONB responded to the County on the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole [Draft Waste Plan](#) consultation. Up to five proposed Waste sites are located in the AONB.

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.

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

Discussed under item 5.

9. AOB

AK said that Tesco are not currently charging for plastic bags at their self-service checkout. The system would require an updated.

The Dorchester BID leaflet includes a note about the work of 'The Keeper of the Walks' who helps Dorchester's streets stay clean and tidy. It contains a contact telephone number 01305 225442 with Dan Carter's recorded voice message. BK wanted to know if this voice message is checked.

MG

Next Meeting: 10th March, 10 – 12 noon at Stratton Village Hall, Dorchester.

Appendix A

Dorchester Stop the Drop Report to Dorset Campaign Against Litter, 1st October 2015

1. *Progress report on items reported at previous meeting.*
 - 1.1. We've been told that the new WDDC enforcement officer will be introduced to us shortly. However, Dorchester will receive a small amount of his time, Weymouth the most, then the rest of West Dorset.
 - 1.2. Network Rail. We have received a letter from the CEO's office. They will tackle rail embankments, and we have replied that this would best be done in November, when weeds have died back, exposing the litter. They will also ask their maintenance team to look into the possibility of providing signs on their fences announcing the fact that littering on rail property is illegal and subject to a fine of £XXX. (Note: the only litter notices in Dorchester applies to dog mess) As regards Dorchester South Station, we have had a meeting with Tom Marshall, Manager of this and other Dorset stations, seeking his help to reduce station litter with the provision of more bins as well as cigarette butt bins. He has employed a station cleaner for 3 days a week to litter pick and make recommendations.
2. We have regularly reported major grot spots to the appropriate authorities (Town Council, District Council, DCC's WDP) inasmuch as we find little, but much needed monitoring, is necessary, such as Maumbury Rings, The Market Car Park, Fairfield Recycling Area, Colliton Park area butt bins (DCC), Skate Park. As Dan Carter has been moved to Weymouth/Portland, we await word and introduction to his replacement. We find that our Town Council contacts elicit prompt action where ever appropriate.
3. Emails and letters with photos of excessively littered areas around butt bins at County Hall go unanswered (CEO Debbie Ward, Environment Director Mike Harries), despite our offer of "stub tidys" for distribution to staff members who smoke.
4. Graham Colls CEO of Magna Housing Association wishes to support us and has asked us to tell them how they might best do so. A meeting was held with Magna's Ken Bodycombe last week to review ideas put forward. Joining us was Alison Jay to suggest ideas how we might get through to Magna residents with children. This initiative could have excellent possibilities.
5. We are heartened by the letter from national litter groups and businesses petitioning government ministers to establish a national anti-litter strategy. At our forthcoming meeting with Oliver Letwin we intend to enquire about developments. We also intend to raise the suggestion of a trial of in-car litter bags.
6. We wish to record our thanks to the Dorchester reporters of "The View" (Trevor Bevins) and the Echo (Harry Hogger) for their continued, valuable support in our ever-present campaign against litter.

Bob Kerr
25 September 2015

Appendix B

Dorset Devils – Peter T Ryan

We operate on an individual basis mostly, managing our own areas in our own time and this is known as **Adopt a street park or beach** etc. A few of us met up on a low key basis weekly, especially on and by the beach. All new recruits are fully kitted out when they visit me at DD HQ and then we have a mini litter pick just to see they are suitable.

DD Activities to September 2015

- DD's first market stall at Pokedown Green selling the idea of DD and managing litter. Newly married Mayor of Bournemouth sought us out to thank us.
- 25 Winton Cub Scouts joined DD on their first ever beach litter pick on Tuesday which went towards another badge. They were all very enthusiastic, happy to don DD hi-vis and eagerly picked litter and rubbish off the sand. DD were booked up for another event in 2016. I arranged for the Daily Echo to photograph the event as well.
- Yesterday, I did a 10 minute DD PowerPoint presentation at the Westbourne Community Meeting chaired by the leader of Bournemouth Borough Council (BBC), John Beesley as this is his ward. Also the launch of Bournemouth Litter Squad (BLS) was announced by Larry Austin, BBC which will act as an umbrella for all the volunteer litter groups in our region. Dorset Devils activities and presence in Bournemouth region this year played a significant part in BLS coming about and hopefully support, equipment and publicity will be readily available going forward for everyone.

Some of my devils live in Westbourne (cover 15 different regions) and attended the meeting and also present was Sarah-Jane Finch of McDonalds who has recently developed links with DD and BBC. Their involvement in litter picks and other initiatives can only but be a good thing and hopefully we can encourage other businesses and retailers to do the right thing for their community and join in as well.

- Today going along to Volunteers CVS AGM in Bournemouth and do a little networking.

DD is a non-funding litter group and apart from receiving the full kit from BBC which is invaluable, all other costs are borne by me. This could be an issue as we expand.

As you can see from the above we don't just pick up litter. My devils help the general public in different ways and also report any eyesores they might come across via MyBournemouth app or by contacting their own ward councillor. They are all needle trained and health and safety aware. Our motto is be loud and proud, be safe but always have fun and engage with anyone along the way. They are all a great bunch of people and regularly email with bag count and any updates. September black bag count is 94- brilliant.