

**MINUTES OF DORSET CAMPAIGN AGAINST LITTER HELD AT STRATTON VILLAGE HALL,
DORCHESTER, AT 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2014.**

Present: Linda Williams (LW) – CPRE DCAL Chair, Bob Kerr (BK) – Dorchester Stop the Drop, Brian Bean (BB) - Chickerell Litter Campaign, Dr John Larkin (JL) – CPRE Minerals and Waste Adviser, Bridget Mayes (BM) - Love Langton, Alison Kaye (AK) – Dorset Wildlife Trust Volunteer, John Holiday (JH) – CPRE Chair of Countryside Forum, Matilda Manley (MM) – Dorset Coast Forum Policy Assistant, Richard Brown (RB) – Dorset AONB Landscape Planning Officer and Sam Harding (SH) – CPRE National Office (using Skype conference call).

ACTION

1. Chairman’s Welcome

Everyone introduced themselves. We congratulated Matilda who married recently.

2. Apologies

Anthony Vosper (AV) – Sherborne Stop the Drop, Marten Gregory (MG) - Dorset Waste Partnership, Jason Dobson (JD) - Dorset Waste Partnership, Alison Jay (AJ) - Eco-Schools Support Officer at DCC, Simon Thompson (ST) Dorset Community Action, David Rose (DR) – Clean Up Blandford Campaign, Paul Goldman (PG) – CPRE Member, Elizabeth Williams (EW) – Environmental Enhancement Officer, Poole Borough Council, Philippa Forrest (PF) – CPRE North Dorset, and David Gargrave (DG) – CPRE Member.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting 5th June 2014

The Minutes were agreed.

4.1 LW brought laminated copies of spare ‘Litter Monster’ posters and they were taken away by attendees for local distribution in their area. We still have space stock if anyone needs additional copies.

ALL

4.2 BK is awaiting a map from Dan Carter listing location of bins in the Dorchester area.

JD

Dorset CPRE still has three amounts of £100 each available to be given to other town groups within West Dorset who are dedicated to the task of litter prevention in all its aspects. A request can be sent to the West Dorset CPRE Group, briefly describing how the money would be spent.

ALL

4. National CPRE Campaign – Sam Harding

Carrier bags

A mandatory carrier bag charge will be introduced in Scotland for the first time on 20th October. A 5p levy on single-use carrier bags applies whether the bag is plastic, paper or made from plant-based material. Charges will be introduced in England in October 2015. However, the Government will exempt paper bags and businesses with less than 250 employees from the scheme - both exemptions were strongly challenged by CPRE as part of the Break the Bag Habit coalition.

DCLG Litter Consultation

SH made reference to the DCLG (Communities and Local Government) Committee conducting an inquiry into litter. The DCLG is looking for input to the consultation by 16th October. What do you think might make a difference? *After meeting note, LW circulated the link to the [DCLG website](#) on 9th October.*

LW

JTI and Stub Tidies

JTI has rebranded the tidies to include a countryside scene. *After Meeting note: SH passed BM's request for the Stub Tidies to JTI and they were posted directly to her. Please let LW know if you would like a batch for a local event.*

ALL

Litteraction website

Please continue to use the <http://www.litteraction.org.uk/> website to record number of bags you collect following a litter pick or create a group account if you currently don't use the website. The CPRE website supports the growing number of individuals and community groups tackling litter problems across the UK.

ALL

Binrastructure project in Middlewich, Cheshire

CPRE conducted pre- and post-installation monitoring and found that the scheme greatly contributed to a 56% reduction in cigarette litter after just four weeks. This reduction seems to have held 5 months later.

5. Local Campaign Updates**5.1 CLS (Communities Living Sustainably) – Alison Jay (by email)**

AJ sent a very brief update on [Bridport's anti-litter campaign](#). Other than giving them the idea she wasn't very much involved and unfortunately the Head teacher who spearheaded it has moved to Suffolk so was unable to offer a more comprehensive update.

However, she knows that several schools from Bridport got involved and there were over 100 entries to the poster competition. Two posters were chosen and thanks to the Dorset CPRE donation they were printed and have been distributed around Bridport and West Bay. An awards ceremony was held at Bridport Town Hall on 10th July.

From September 2014, CLS Eco-Schools will be working collaboratively with 12 local schools to help them achieve [Eco-Schools Green Flag status](#) and create a culture of learning for sustainability among schools in West Dorset.

5.2 Dorchester Stop the Drop – Bob Kerr

Please see Appendix A for Bob's full report. After visiting Christchurch Borough Council BK is impressed by their zero tolerance approach to littering and brought examples of their posters to this meeting. As a result Christchurch is a clean and attractive town. BK would like to see this model replicated in Dorchester Town. We watched a DVD on anti-graffiti later in the meeting.

5.3 Chickerell Litter Campaign – Brian Bean

BB said two articles appeared in the local community magazine to promote the new DWP recycling scheme with another article focusing on how to deal with unwanted goods. The DWP scheme commences in Weymouth and Portland from next week.

After meeting note: The Dorset CPRE autumn edition of The Dorset Review featured the introduction of the new recycle scheme in Dorchester, Weymouth and surrounding areas, and Dorchester Stop the Drop.

5.4 Love Langton spring litter pick – Bridget Mayes

The group collects litter with the help of the Scouts over three days during the months of March and November.

To encourage walkers to re-use plastic bottles local shops offer a service to fill up bottle with water at no cost.

Extra-long pickers (6' and 8')

Bridget sourced her picker from

<http://www.litterpickersdirect.com/catalogue/range.aspx?gid=41509&pg=H7XzeMtVSOA%3d>

It helps to collect litter at Dancing Ledge.

BM would like to see litter picks being undertaken before verges are cut/ strimmed as shredded litter is very difficult to collect. BK will take suggestion up with Graham Duggan. RB mentioned there are resource implications associated with verge management. Should the Councils focus on the hot spots typically busy roads?

BK

5.5 Sherborne Stop the Drop Campaign – Anthony Vosper (by email)

AV is pleased to report that the campaign continues apace and since the last newsletter, attendance at the monthly litter picks, all held in good weather, has averaged about 8 people and the good thing is that the quantity of litter collected in most areas is about half of the amount recovered last year - although discarded cigarette ends continue to be a problem.

He continues to receive many comments from visitors to the town about how clean Sherborne is. He was particularly delighted to read in Tony Rudall, a resident of Milborne Port and ex RN Instructor, column in the Western Gazette 14 Aug 2014 to quote "Sherborne has no litter". Earlier in the year, he submitted an application for some funding for their campaign to the Community Fund of Sherborne Castles Rotary. They were successful and AV received a generous award of £250 on behalf of the campaign at a small presentation in the Coombe on 12 August.

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

CUBC continues its annual programme of litter picks. CUBC is sponsoring a series of anti-dog fouling signs to be put up by the Dorset Rangers on the Blandford end of the Trailway, which is being increasingly used by dog walkers and families.

The Town Survey results (briefed at the last meeting) has resulted in North Dorset District Council being directed to produce a map of who owns the alleyways around the town. The Town Council has agreed to publish it. In this way those responsible for the litter cleanliness can be held to account - which is not possible currently.

CUBC completed the Dorset Waste Partnership survey. CUBC is happy to engage but not if this means additional work. They like the new large bins and removal of small dog fouling bins, but wish to see a bin replaced with a bin - and no reduction in the distribution.

6. Dorset Coast Forum - Matilda Manley**Dog Fouling**

Litter Free Coast and Sea are trialling and measuring approaches to reduce [dog fouling incidents](#) at rural location (Codgen Beach and Hive Beach). An advice sheet with "Tips on how to keep dog poo out and people in at your favourite open space" has been created to help others who want to help reduce dog fouling at a specific location. This can be found online at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/410169>.

Commercial fishing

Litter Free Coast and Sea carried out an audit with local commercial fishermen to find out whether they had the resources they needed for safe disposal of marine litter. It was discovered that an extra bin was required at Mudeford Quay in Christchurch and this has been acquired through the project with support from Christchurch Borough Council.

Local Schools

MM has been working with teachers at Thomas Hardy School to develop lessons on marine and beach litter and bathing water quality for Key Stage 3 that link with the Science Curriculum. MM has run a science café at Kingston Maurward school. Children like visiting stands with activities and take away stickers.

Food Outlet Accreditation

A [free food outlet accreditation](#) developed for coastal food outlets and coastal food outlets with rooms can be downloaded from the DCF website.

There is one year left on the current Litter Free Coast and Sea project and it is hoped it will be extended into 2018.

7. Dorset AONB – Richard Brown

RB gave an overview of his work. 40% of the Dorset County is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Waste Management is linked to his Landscape Planning Officer role. A copy of the [five year Dorset AONB Plan \(2014-2019\)](#) can be downloaded from their website.

8. Dorset Waste Partnership – Marten Gregory & Jason Dobson (by email)

Flytip Investigations Weymouth and West Dorset

Mar-14 58
Apr-14 49
May-14 31
Jun-14 21
Jul-14 28
Aug-14 35
Sep-14 23 as of 24/9/14

No fixed penalties have been issued.

There is no longer street cleansing stats as inspections were stopped back in March 2014, as instructed by the DWP.

Dan will be forwarding a location map for bins in the Dorchester area for Bob Kerr.

9. Poole Borough Council – Elizabeth Williams (by email)

Schools' Environment Award – 2013/14

[Four schools took part in the above.](#) We are hoping to continue with this Award in 2014/15 and are currently recruiting. We had some positive publicity on the front page of the Poole Advertiser.

Great British Beach Clean

The Borough of Poole took part in this event with a litter pick taking place along Holes Bay on Sunday 21 September. Over 40 volunteers took part, collecting about 60 bags of waste and some bulky items. Eleven canoeists from Poole Harbour Canoe Club took part, and collected litter from the Bay as well as Pergins Island - they retrieved a dilapidated boat. Another "odd find" was an inflatable pirate.

Another two litter picks took place as part of the above event – both at Hamworthy organised by a member of the public.

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

Discussed under item 4. Trevor Bevins is available to help with press releases.

11. AOB**David Gargrave (by email)**

One area that did cause concern recently was the bus stop at Dorchester South station. It was full of takeaway rubbish mainly from the Costa Coffee Shop. He feel they have an obligation to clear it up given that most of it is their merchandise.

The owner of MacDonalds at Monkey's Jump to his credit collects rubbish from his vicinity on a daily basis.

Simon Thompson – Dorset Community Action (by email)

ST would like to promote the Dorset Best Village Competition to DCAL attendees. *After meeting note: application forms can be found on the [DCA website and closing date is 6th April 2015](#). Dorset CPRE is sponsoring for the second year the 'Best Village Shop' category.*

Watching eyes in poster

MM mentioned the recent use of eyes in a five metre sign to encourage people to take home litter. *After meeting note here is a link to research conducted by Newcastle University Staff on ['Do Images of 'Watching Eyes' Induce Behaviour That Is More Pro-Social or More Normative?'](#).*

[Wombles and Waitrose](#) have teamed up to launch the Big Tidy Up.

JH mentioned [The Behaviour Insight Team](#) also known as The Nudge Group, a government institution dedicated to the application of behavioural sciences.

We watched a hard-hitting DVD which contains interviews with victims of graffiti, the Police, the Local Council and is shown by Christchurch Borough Council to local schools children. Graffiti has greatly reduced in the Town Centre.

Next meeting: 12th March 2015 at Stratton Village Hall, Dorchester.

Appendix A

Bob Kerr, Dorchester Stop the Drop Report

1. Cigarette butt bins

Our maintenance check in May/June revealed a further 13 inner bin liners had been stolen, making a total of 20 in 6 months. We reported this to the police as we had done previously as well as having our press release published in both the Echo and the Dorchester View. The cost of replacement has been £200 plus the time taken to order and install them. Additionally, 2 complete bins had been stolen and were replaced at a cost of £50.

Whereas we were told that the “Keeper of the Walks” would empty and report damage, theft, etc., no such reports have been received. We believe this person is on the DWP payroll, but this has not been verified and we are still trying to check with the job specification and description to understand this role.

Bins originally bought and installed by DCC on their property have also been a problem due to negligence and assumed theft. This has been taken up with Debbie Ward, CEO with a definitive reply received.

We have raised this wider issue with Graham Duggan, WDDC Community Protection Manager at a meeting of 29th July, in an effort to have DWP take full responsibility from us for maintenance of all bins, inasmuch as we have now done this for five and half years. Other issues we raised at this meeting were:

- 1.1. GD to confirm who manages “Keeper of the Walks” along with job specification which should include reporting of damage, etc.
- 1.2. GD will try to obtain list of litter bin locations throughout Dorchester.
- 1.3. GD to look into the matter of providing metal stub plates on plastic litter bins so as to prevent smokers burning the tops of bins.
- 1.4. GD to try to arrange provision of litter bags from South Walks House for local Stop the Drop residents who voluntarily litter pick.
- 1.5. GD to ask Jane Williams of Environmental Health to again contact agents re rubbish reappearing in plots adjacent to George P.H., Trinity Street, Dorchester.
- 1.6. GD has spoken to WDDC manager of car parking services who is keen to expand the role of car parking officers – hopefully to issue FPNs?
- 1.7. GD was to get a member of his team to contact Allan Wood of Christchurch BC for details of how they organized their “Care for Christchurch” campaign. (DWP is a participant as well as the local police)

We now await word from GD for a meeting date when progress on these issues are to be reported.

2. Stub Tidys

Felicity McLaren had run out of stock as JTI were having new ones printed with the words “Stop the Drop” imprinted. However, Linda Williams then provided a stock of the original design which Felicity quickly distributed, and she now awaits delivery of the new design tidys.

3. Meeting of 13th May 2014 with Police & Crime Commissioner

We have still to receive a report following this meeting, and have phoned/sent reminders and been told that one will be forthcoming.

4. Christchurch Borough Council

Following the recent article about Christchurch’s zero tolerance approach to a smoker dropping his cigarette butt, we visited with Mr. Allan Wood, Communications Officer, Christchurch and East Dorset Councils on 9th September to learn how this borough approached litter, graffiti, dog mess, fly tipping. I will explain at our meeting, but emphasize this should be a model for all

towns. We will also be explaining their approach at town and district council level.

5. Local Resident Litter Pickers

We are in the course of arranging Muntzy's Community Care Activities Group, who have recently moved their meeting place to the Borough Gardens, to regularly litter pick in that area including the adjacent car park, where retired local resident Harry Grenville picks litter up to 3 times a week. We shall prepare a new press release about their move as well as an appeal to all Dorchester resident litter pickers to contact us to receive special equipment.

Bob Kerr
26 September 2014