

MINUTES OF DORSET CAMPAIGN AGAINST LITTER MEETING HELD AT STRATTON VILLAGE HALL, DORCHESTER, AT 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY 12th MARCH 2015.

Present: Linda Williams (LW) – CPRE DCAL Chair, Bob Kerr (BK) – Dorchester Stop the Drop, Dr John Larkin (JL) – CPRE Minerals and Waste Adviser, Marten Gregory (MG) - Dorset Waste Partnership, Simon Thompson (ST) Dorset Community Action, Alison Kaye (AK) – Dorset Wildlife Trust Volunteer, Matilda Manley (MM) – Dorset Coast Forum Policy Assistant, Richard Brown (RB) – Dorset AONB Landscape Planning Officer, and David Gargrave (DG) – CPRE Member.

ACTION

1. Chairman's Welcome

We congratulated Matilda on her recent marriage.

2. Apologies

Anthony Vosper (AV) – Sherborne Stop the Drop, Bridget Mayes (BM) - Love Langton, Brian Bean (BB) - Chickerell Litter Campaign, Jason Dobson (JD) - Dorset Waste Partnership, Alison Jay (AJ) - Eco-Schools Support Officer at DCC, David Rose (DR) – Clean Up Blandford Campaign, Sam Harding (SH) – CPRE National Office, Paul Goldman (PG) – CPRE Member, Elizabeth Williams (EW) – Environmental Enhancement Officer, Poole Borough Council.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting 2nd October 2014

The Minutes were agreed.

3.4.2 BK has received a map from Dan Carter listing locations of litter bins in the Dorchester area.

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

ST to speak with BK about cleaning up around NFU Offices and local car park. *[After Meeting note: LW provided ST with 3 litter pickers and high visibility vests. A rota for regular litter picking in the area is now in place.]*

ST and BK.

DCLG Litter Consultation

[After Meeting note: [The Communities and Local Government select committee on litter and fly-tipping published its report on 14th March 2015.](#)]

Litter picking on road verges before they are cut

The issue of litter picks being undertaken before verges are cut was discussed further. MG explained that litter picking is a separate activity to verge cutting and due to the nature of road safety additional training is required on roads with speeds over 35 mph. Recommended that we flag up litter hot spots to the Dorset Waste Partnership. BK said more bins are needed on the path alongside the River Frome in Dorchester.

ALL

MG said that bin usage in lay-bys is being reviewed as well as ways to encourage people to take home their litter. Bins in rural areas will be taken away. Litter and dog bins will be replaced with a 240 litre bin on a phased program. RB said that any potential signage would have to be sensitive to the AONB. The signage should include positive messages.

MG

LW showed examples of the Keep Britain Tidy posters 'We're watching you' linked to research conducted by Newcastle University Staff on ['Do Images of 'Watching Eyes' Induce Behaviour That Is More Pro-Social or More Normative?'](#).

[After Meeting Note: [Stevenage Borough Council displayed 40 of these signs](#) in nine hotspots areas for dog fouling, between November 2014 and March 2015. The signs were very successful, overall achieving a **29.4% reduction**, with some hotspots experiencing reductions of over 60%.]

ACTION

4. National CPRE Campaign – Sam Harding by email

England's carrier bag charge

The carrier bag regulations have been drafted and subsequently signed off following a debate in each House. Essentially the charge has cross-party support but the Government has insisted on three exemptions – paper bags, small and medium-sized businesses and biodegradable bags. The existing, successful schemes in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland are universal schemes – the charge is applied to all materials and all retailers – and therefore don't have these exemptions. The debates showed that everyone knows the exemptions are ridiculous but we are where we are. For those who are interested, please see separate attached pdf two-side briefing document which clearly details CPRE's position.

Middlewich infrastructure project

This is the project funded by JTI that was inspired by Bob and Felicity's work in Dorchester. Thirty two wall-mounted bins were installed in social locations in the town (pubs, betting shops and the Town Hall) and official monitoring was conducted by Keep Britain Tidy before, one month after and six months after the installation. **The results showed that after one month cigarette litter had reduced by about 60% and after six months it was 71%.** This is really good news and it was great to see there was a continued decrease in littering. CPRE and JTI are now in the early stages of developing a grant-giving programme that in its pilot stage would seek to support rural anti-litter reduction projects, alongside a marine litter category. If these elements were successful, we would look to scale the programme up with further funding and further categories including urban litter, research and design and innovation.

Community Clear Up Day

CPRE is supporting the Government's Community Clear Up Day on Saturday 21st March (the first day of Spring). More details of the event can be viewed here: <http://thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk/clearupday>

Legislation litter from vehicles

CPRE has lobbied consistently for over six years to get the existing legislation in the EPA 1990 updated so that councils no longer have to prove specifically who threw litter from a vehicle. With the support of Lord Marlesford (ex-Chair of CPRE), we secured an amendment to the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill (now Act) which would allow local councils to issue a fine to the keeper of the vehicle. This required new regulations to be drafted and the responsibility for this was passed to the Local Environmental Quality team within Defra. The officials there have never been convinced that this change to the law is required and now they have delayed matters by issuing a 'mini-tender for a scoping study to guide research into littering from vehicles' – i.e. to try and kick the regulations into the long grass. This is hugely frustrating. Lord Marlesford and SH are now discussing what can do about it. Post-election things may or may not get better, depending on who the new Environment Minister is. Sorry we don't have better news.

Litter Action website

We have launched a new Facebook Group for LitterAction, which you can view here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/404353146383241/>. We would encourage everyone to share their ideas and campaigns on the group to inspire action and discussion.

5. Local Campaign Updates

5.1 Dorset Community Action – Simon Thompson

SH gave a presentation on the [2015 Dorset Best Village Competition](#) and the various categories of entry, in addition to "Best Village Shop" which CPRE has kindly agreed to sponsor this year. The deadline for expression of interest is 6th April (villages with fewer than 2300 residents) and the judging will begin from end of May. Towns can enter the Britain in Bloom competition. The judges would be interested in local environmental projects such as initiatives to keep the area litter free.

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

Twelve Schools have signed up to work intensively toward achieving an Eco-Schools Green Flag. Having grounds that are litter-free is an essential part of the award. The schools have produced action plans and most involve regular litter patrols of the school, with some planning to litter-pick beyond the school grounds.

Various local resources, including CPRE's school litter campaign guide, are featured on the CLS Eco-Schools help page at www.clsdorset.org.uk/Practical_Tools_Eco_Schools.aspx#Litter for schools to refer to. This term's major activity has been a food waste prevention campaign. A travelling theatre show, devised by Waste Watch and Eco-Schools England performed at 9 schools in Bridport and Dorchester during Climate Week (2-6 March). About 1250 children saw the show and learned how by making a shopping list, avoiding excessive packaging, cooking the right amount of food and reusing leftovers they can reduce waste from food and save money, energy, time and water and reduce landfill waste and greenhouse gases.

Schools have been frustrated with the amount of food waste that the extended free school meals for Key Stage 1 are generating. Through the **Eco-Schools network they are being encouraged to audit their food waste and consider whether it can be reduced**, e.g. through smarter ordering and cancelling unwanted meals. Schools are also being encouraged to take up food waste collection contracts offered by SITA and DWP so that unavoidable food waste can be sent for anaerobic digestion, but the perceived cost is an obstacle.

5.3 Dorchester Stop the Drop – Bob Kerr

Please see Appendix A for Bob's full report.

BK has arranged for a photographer from the Echo to shoot areas of excessive litter for an article that is planned about litter in Dorchester.

[After Meeting Note: 17th March, following this meeting, the Dorset Waste Partnership and South West Trains both responded to Bob's previous letters and undertook a massive clean-up of the very "grot spots" he had in mind for the photographer. BK hopes to develop a press release with photos about litter on private property in the near future.]

5.4 Chickerell Litter Campaign – Brian Bean by email

The new bins are a success in reducing litter on the streets and countryside. Most litter now is clear plastic of all sizes which he can only assume comes from trading estates, other businesses or open lorries. Initiatives by the Chickerell Litter Team are under review.

There is still evidence of litter from vehicles. We will be highlighting the new vehicle litter law starting in May in our Parish magazine and signs 'keep litter in the vehicle'. BB would like DCAL to discuss ways of drawing the public attention to the new vehicle law and the reasons behind the legislation. Prior to this meeting LW forwarded SH's reply to Brian explaining why the introduction of the legislation has been delayed.

5.5 Love Langton spring litter pick – Bridget Mayes by email

Bridge would like to discuss ideas for a cross-Dorset litter awareness campaign at our next meeting.

After Meeting note update from BM: The Parish Council has now paid for a second 6' litter picker for the group (<http://www.helpinghand.co.uk>). These are proving invaluable particularly for removing the bits of plastic that get stuck in trees.

The litter pick figures for March (14 bags, 30 man hours) don't include a pick done by the local Beavers' troop (younger than 8) – 1 very full bag in 40 minutes, that they did recently. The Scouts group will be helping again in November (3rd time) but looking to get people aged 14-57 involved more! Some members of Swanage Walking Group responded positively to a last minute invitation to join us, so they may join us in November, and again this might spur a litter pick in Swanage. The litter pick totals for Love Langton can be found on the [Litter Action website](#).

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

AV reported on Keep Britain Tidy's litter statistics in his latest article for the local community magazine.

35 Girls from Sherborne Girls School took part in litter picking in the grounds of Sherborne Castle following a fireworks display. A further group of girls from the school produced excellent artwork using litter which AV was asked to judge. Additionally, AV is pleased to say that the partners of Waitrose (Sherborne) selected the Stop the Drop campaign as one of three organisations in Sherborne to receive community funding in January. Thanks to the generosity of our shoppers with their "green tokens", the campaign will receive funds of £337 from Waitrose.

The Group was consulted by Sherborne Town Council regarding the Recycling Household Centres and contributed a report.

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

[CUBC](#) ran a town centre clean-up in support of the Blandford Yuletide Festival in December and will be running the annual "Big Blandford Clean Up" on Sat 16 May, when they get various organisations to run clean-ups around the town and river.

6. Dorset Coast Forum - Matilda Manley

Dorset Beach Clean

Taking place on 27 beaching on 26th April. Future beach cleans can be found on the [Community beach clean calendar](#). [After Meeting Note: FISHERMEN are being urged to dispose of rubbish they find at sea in a new bin at Mudeford Quay.]

Micro Plastics event

A successful event was held in February at Bournemouth University to look at the contents of beauty products, how to dispose of wipes, with advice from three beauty bloggers.

Local Schools

MM continues to work with teachers at Thomas Hardy School to develop lessons on marine, beach litter, and bathing water quality for Key Stage 3 students that links with the Science Curriculum. Since our last meeting the students have had a lesson on how long it takes litter to degrade, micro plastics, water pollution, sewage systems and analysed the data. Once trialled and refined within the school these will be developed into a toolkit for teachers and others to use.

Dorset Devils

A beach bag scheme is being trialled at Bournemouth sea front through Dorset Devils. Peter T Ryan, Dorset Devils Co-ordinator, Helping Keep Bournemouth Litter Free, contacted Dorset CPRE via MM regarding the Tidy Stubs. LW posted 30 Tidy Stubs to Peter with additional stock from CPRE NO.

MM confirmed her work on the Litter Free Coast and Sea project is funded for three more years.

7. Dorset AONB – Richard Brown

RB mentioned that the Winchester Tranquillity project focusing on light pollution is coming to an end. Dorset CPRE was represented at the meetings. Based on respondents, fly-tipping and litter were found to detract from the enjoyment of an area. *[After Meeting Note: New research from CPRE, published 25th May 2015, shows that [better data collection and a new indicator of tranquillity](#) are needed to increase protection for England's most peaceful areas.]*

8. Dorset Waste Partnership – Marten Gregory

MG said that the new purpose-built household recycling centre and waste transfer station being built at Broomhills near Bridport will not be ready to open in July. The new collection service in Bridport will now commence in October. MG made reference to the recent press reports on DWP's budget overspends. He explained that the recycle market has dropped off, paper processing centres have closing down resulting in less income.

[After Meeting Note: Consultation on the [Dorset County Council Draft Waste Plan](#) will take place in the late spring and early summer 2015.]

The Waste Wizard project for schools is still running.

There are no results available yet following the recent consultation on Household Recycle Centres.

9. Poole Borough Council – Elizabeth Williams by email

No report.

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

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

DG mentioned an articles he read in the Echo written by Richard Biggs giving solutions on how to tackle litter. *[After Meeting Note: LW is unable to find this article online but found [a number of other articles on how residents are tackling litter in their area.](#)]*

11. AOB**Road Signage**

AK asked why councils leave signage and cones behind after completing jobs. It must cost money to replace them.

MG

Letter about litter on main roads

LW read out an email received from Mr Jones about litter on the roads in the Bournemouth and Poole area. He has concerns about the impression it gives to potential businesses thinking of establishing a business in the area. He also believes people are more inclined to throw rubbish out of the car if there's litter everywhere already. One solution maybe for councils to work in partnership with local businesses and chambers of commerce to raise awareness, and to find the extra funding to tackle this insidious problem.

Litter on the A37 and Poundbury bypass was also mentioned.

Next meeting: 4th June 2015 at Stratton Village Hall, Dorchester.

Appendix A**Bob Kerr, Dorchester Stop the Drop Report****1. Cigarette Butt Bins.**

As mentioned in our previous report, we had finally given 3 months' notice to WDDC, Dorchester TC and the Dorchester BID that we intend to cease cleaning and maintenance and replacement of these bins. This will take effect from the end of March, having done this job for 6 years. Cigarette litter remains a major problem throughout the town as does vandalism of existing bins as well as those installed by the Council.

At the meeting with Graham Duggan(GD), WDDC, mentioned in our previous report, I listed issue that were raised as follows.

- 1.1 "Keeper of the Walks". We asked who manages this person. Phil Gordon, Dorchester BID tells me he is employed by DCC's Dorset Waste Partnership.
- 1.2 List of litter bin locations in Dorchester. We asked for this as we have been asking various managers for the last two years. We have received this with a map just this week from Dan Carter, DWP.
- 1.3 Metal stub plates on plastic litter bins. While some 5/6 years ago, the then Manager (Ian Doyle) arranged for these to be applied to town centre bins, and inasmuch as new dual purpose bins were subsequently purchased and installed throughout South Street, we asked that stub plates be applied to other litter bins on surrounding streets. There has been no action to date.
- 1.4 We asked that WDDC provide strong, black plastic bags at the Reception counter to Stop the Drop members who litter pick on a regular basis. This service has since been provided.
- 1.5 A particular "grot spot" on private land, backing onto Trinity Street, which could be infested by rodents has been reported to Jane Williams of Environmental Health.

She has contacted the owner about the litter as well as the CC Highways Dept, inasmuch as they had left road signs on this same property. This has remained in an unacceptable condition for about two years and still nothing happens.

- 1.6 We have asked that Car Park “officers” be empowered to issue FPNs to litterers. GD tells us he has spoken to the WDDC manager of car parking services. We have heard nothing since. We have since learned that Dorset Waste Partnership is now responsible for the issuance of FPNs and are attempting to find out if any have been issued in West Dorset during 2014 and year to date. We believe none have been issued.
- 1.7 We have asked, and GD had told us, that he would get a member of his team to contact Allan Wood of Christchurch Borough Council (which we are told is also a District Council) for details of how they organised their “Care for Christchurch” campaign. We have heard nothing further.

2. **Stub Tidys**

As reported on 2nd October 2014, Felicity had run out of stock of these personal ash trays, including the ones that Linda Williams had subsequently provided. As she (Felicity) has been extremely busy both at work and acting as the executor of a will, she has been unable to find the time for on-the-street distribution. As the weather warms, she will apply for a stock of the new designed and manufactured “ash trays” and hopefully recommence distribution.

3. As our membership grows, we get more **complaints about litter and dog mess** which we re-direct to the appropriate authority. We have emailed, phoned and written letters of concern with regard to litter “black spots”, including property of South West Trains, Network Rail, as well as Dorchester streets and verges. The local DWP operators have positively responded. Yet we remain convinced that until FPNs are issued and publicized, Dorchester will continue to suffer unsightly streets, parking lots, market areas, and rail stations areas. It would be good to see the Town Council take a lead in tackling such anti-social behaviour.

[Meeting Note: See item 5.2 on page 2 for recent update. An article on calls for fines is also featured on page 24 of the CPRE’s spring edition of ‘The Dorset Review’]

4. **Charity Litter Bins.**

This novel initiative was featured on the [Margaret Mountford TV series “Don’t Mess With Me”](#). It featured a project in Rochford District Council, Essex with support from Keep Britain Tidy and the Wrigley (gum) Company. Litter in town centre (Rayleigh) bins was weighed to establish amount of use, then for 3 months each bin carried a poster stating that the more litter that was deposited on average over a 3 month period, money would go to local charities. This had the effect of a continuing reduction of litter on the streets involved of over 50% by the 3rd month which rose to 63% in the month following the campaign, and raised more than £1300 for the 3 charities selected. The project included much press, TV publicity as well as street interviews, social media, posters, etc. Anthony Vosper of Sherborne recommended this to Robert Gould and suggested I contact him (RG) to perhaps trial it in Dorchester. RG passed this on to GD whom I contacted, who said he would arrange a meeting. This has yet to be agreed, despite several emails, phone calls, etc. I will again remind RG and GD.

Bob Kerr
Dorchester Stop the Drop
11th March 2015