

# The Dorset Review

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Autumn 2015 Branch News Issue 105

## STANDING UP FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE

In Dorset we are now facing an increasingly challenging situation and alarming prospect as regards Local Plans and development control. We do not suggest that Dorset is alone in facing serious threats to landscape but we are clearly at a fork in the road. One of Britain's most beautiful counties is threatened as never before.

In recent years, Dorset CPRE Groups have achieved some successes in influencing Local Plans, and in securing the withdrawal or rejection of damaging development proposals – for example, the hard work and achievements of our Sherborne representatives are well-known. Now, however, an alarming situation is emerging with serious implications for the future. This is the case in our several Dorset Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), including that covering Sherborne.

In some areas, the environment is at risk due to protracted delays in agreeing Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. This was always anticipated, and CPRE groups do what they can to play a constructive part in the preparation of and consultation on such Local Plans.

Where Local Plans have been agreed, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) leads people to

expect that parameters have been set for development, such as development boundaries, and the numbers of new houses considered appropriate over a period, which will help people to safeguard the environment. However, interventions of the Planning Inspectorate in the adoption of Local Plans and a weakening of the planning process overall, common to all Dorset LPAs, herald uncertainty and the likelihood of significant and unnecessary landscape loss and damage.

Key issues include the following:

- The staffing of planning departments has been seriously depleted following repeated expenditure cuts, while the number of planning applications has risen and continues to rise. Planning staff are unable to deal effectively with the volume of applications.
- The imbalance of resources between depleted and cash-strapped planning departments and apparently well-resourced developers [who attend planning meetings and appeal hearings supported by specialists and advisers], has reached the point where planning staff are unable or unwilling to challenge or refuse planning proposals or to take cases to appeal, fearful of the costs which would be incurred in any challenge, and costs which could be awarded against a LPA if a developer successfully appeals.
- LPA Enforcement staff have been cut to vanishing point in Dorset LPAs. Dorset CPRE has been involved in assisting householders whose properties and lives are blighted by illegal development against which LPAs are completely unable or unwilling to take enforcement action.

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### BRANCH AGM – 21<sup>st</sup> November

Cerne Abbas Village Hall will be the venue for this year's Branch Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will start at 11 am and have finger buffet at 12.30 pm. Cllr Robert Gould Leader of Dorset County Council will be the guest speaker.

Please return the enclosed A4 booking form.



**Protecting Dorset**  
Campaign to Protect Rural England

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT *Continued from cover page*

- In West and North Dorset, we see growing numbers of planning proposals which are outside the carefully considered development boundaries of towns and villages, and which are nonetheless approved.
- The designation of significant parts of Dorset as AONB seems to offer the countryside, including that on the edges of towns and villages, little protection from development. LPAs, which are supposed to have regard to AONB status in considering development proposals, can disregard the views of the AONB staff and of conservation groups and communities concerned about damage to the AONB and even statutory bodies, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
- The actions of the Planning Inspectorate are undermining and overturning Local Plans, sometimes at the Local Plan approval stage, but sometimes subsequently in the context of specific planning decisions and appeals.

We do not imagine that the experience of Dorset CPRE is untypical. We are in touch with our National Office, to register our profound concern about how the planning system is working – or,

rather, too often not working to help us protect the environment of Dorset

We have been busy in other areas. The highlights have been:

### Countryside Forum

The Meetings are held five times a year with contributions from our countryside experts who help to prioritise our work. Invited experts included Mike Harries, Director for Environment and Economy at DCC, Graeme Willis, Senior Rural Policy Campaigner at CPRE National Office, and Louise Stratton, NFU County Adviser.

### Mapperton Solar Farm

Lawyers have lodged an application for Judicial Review to quash the decision to grant planning permission on five grounds of procedural error. They are acting for Katharine Butler, who is supported by the Mapperton Preservation Group and Dorset CPRE. We believe we have a strong case, and are optimistic about the outcome, but it will take months for this to be resolved.

### Research on renewable energy generation

Dr David Peacock's latest report on projections for renewable energy generation in Dorset is now on the

Branch web site. It can be used as an evidence-base for informing and updating renewable energy policy and for assisting the determination of planning applications for renewable energy installations.

### The Dorset Campaign Against Litter (DCAL)

The meeting first held in 2003 and chaired by Dorset CPRE, continues to be well supported with litter campaign groups reporting a reduction in litter collected in their areas. A Dorset wide workshop organised by the Dorset Coast Forum and sponsored by Dorset Waste Partnership takes place on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at The Dorford Centre, Dorchester, and will look at working together to achieve a Litter Free Dorset.

*We hope you can join us for our branch AGM taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> November and hear from our guest speaker, Cllr Robert Gould, Leader of Dorset County Council. Please come and meet your fellow members.*

*Together we can save the countryside we all love.*

*Stephen Howard*  
Chair of Trustees

## RECRUITMENT

Despite recruiting over fifty new members in the first seven months of 2015 it has been difficult to increase our overall membership figures because of the ageing profile. We continue to have stands at some of Dorset's summer country shows, and we were seen recently at the Milton Abbas Street Fair in July. We have also had some success in recruiting in areas threatened by inappropriate developments, such as the Blandford Hill Wind Farm. We hope to host some more parties to explain what we do and how people might benefit from joining. We would of course be grateful for any recruitment of friends by current members, and we do emphasise the many tangible benefits that membership confers, such as the heavily discounted entry to over 200 of England's most splendid Houses and Gardens, including Forde Abbey and Athelhampton in Dorset. Other benefits include access to a planning hotline and our resident Dorset experts, our publications and newsletters.

*Rupert Hardy*



Richard Nicholls and Georgie Tichy at the Milton Abbas Street Fair



## COMBINED OR UNIFIED AUTHORITY FOR DORSET?

Group reports, including that for West Dorset, give some indication of the problems increasingly faced by Dorset CPRE in dealing with local planning applications.

However, this situation could become more challenging in future, given that the major Dorset Councils are looking at options to reorganise and restructure how planning matters and infrastructure will be dealt with on a day to day basis through the creation of a Combined or Unitary Authority for Dorset. For Dorset, the Combined or Unitary Authority would seem likely to be an amalgamation of the Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Councils, along with Dorset County Council and existing Dorset District Councils, all of which would need a representative. The purpose of the Combined or Unitary Authority would be to facilitate county-wide strategic planning, and to reduce administrative costs by the councils operating a unified, "shared services" arrangement for activities such as planning.

It is now increasingly clear that there will be pressures for Dorset authorities in future to form a Unitary Authority. Options under consideration include one Unitary Authority (UA) for all current Dorset authorities including the conurbation, and two UAs, one UA for

Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch plus East Dorset [which have already declared their interest in this approach] and one UA for the rest of Dorset.

CPRE understands the pressures and incentives for the authorities to move to a CA or UA model of local government. CPRE nationally and locally is concerned that such moves could make services like planning more remote and difficult for local people to contact. We are keeping in touch with developments and are alert to the opportunities as well as the risks for the environment and rural areas which local government change could present.

### Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

CPRE is concerned that, in local authorities' consideration of options for new Combined or Unitary Authority structures, and in possible future arrangements, a relatively new organisation called the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) seems likely to take an increasingly prominent role. LEPs exist in most areas of England and have been given responsibility, by the Government, for the allocation of millions of pounds of public and EC funding to housing, economic development and infrastructure projects. CPRE believes that LEPs lack

democratic accountability for their decisions, and – a very serious concern for organisations like CPRE – lack accountability for the environmental implications and impact of the developments and projects to which they allocate large sums.

At national level, CPRE has raised concerns regarding potential Local Government re-organisation, that questions such as affordable housing, local infrastructure and the provision of community facilities, at present dealt with by County and District Councils, could be dealt with increasingly by remote and unaccountable bodies. Such is the concern of CPRE that a special meeting in London has been organised to discuss CPRE's position regarding proposed Combined Authorities, especially in regard to accountability.

CPRE's colleagues in the Royal Town Planning Institution [RTPi] South West Region have raised a number of questions about LEPs, and have commissioned researchers from Plymouth University to look at all of the SW Region's several LEPs. We look forward to seeing the outcome of this research in the New Year.

*Richard Nicholl*

### Prof James Lovelock and National Park

We are delighted to welcome Prof James Lovelock as a new and influential supporter and "Friend" of the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park.

Prof Lovelock is a scientist and inventor, and the author of the "Gaia Theory," that the earth and living things are a single ecosystem which has evolved and continues to evolve as one – though man tends to forget that we are part of this ecosystem and absolutely dependant on it.

Prof Lovelock, now 95, lives in West Dorset, where he is busy working on future publications. He has recently become patron of the Dorset Wildlife Trust. In an interview in the summer



*Dorset CPRE Trustees Meeting*

DWT magazine, Prof Lovelock says the protection of Dorset is very important to him and **he would like to see Dorset declared a National Park**. In a message to the National Park Team, Prof Lovelock says he is pleased to support the proposed National Park.

The Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset CPRE have worked effectively together on many environmental issues,

including the proposed solar farm development at Rampisham Down, and the county-wide review of the protection of Dorset's internationally important lowland heaths. DWT is a valued partner and supporter of the National Park campaign.

*Sandra Brown*

## OUR GREEN BELT CAMPAIGN

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015 CPRE launched a campaign calling on Government to turn rhetoric into action and protect the Green Belt.

On the 60th anniversary of Green Belt becoming government policy, a poll commissioned by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) finds that nearly two-thirds of people surveyed believe that Green Belt land should not be built on.

The Ipsos MORI poll, published in August, shows that 64% of people agree the Green Belt should be protected, while just 17% disagree. Such strong support for Green Belt is demonstrated across a range of different groups, including people with children aged 5 and under, those renting from a local authority, and those on low incomes. And more than six out of ten people (62%) who live in towns and cities support the protection of the Green Belt – a finding that casts doubt on the claims of critics that Green Belts do not benefit people who live in urban areas.

The anniversary poll comes just weeks after the Government re-emphasised its support for Green Belt protection at the launch of its Productivity Plan. But despite this support and existing protections, local communities have repeatedly found themselves fighting proposals to build on Green Belt land. CPRE research shows that 226,000 houses are currently planned for Green Belt land.

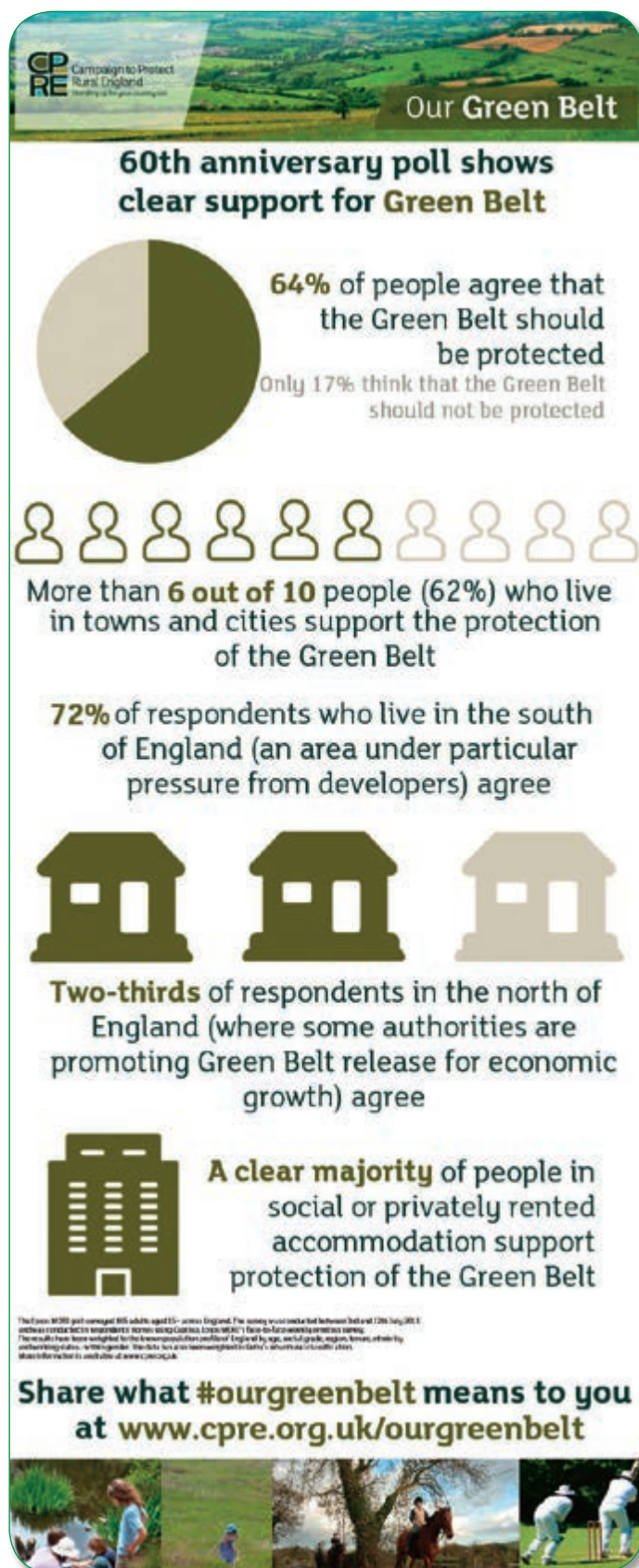
Please contact Dorset CPRE for additional notes on this survey. In response to this threat, CPRE launched a new campaign, *Our Green Belt*, which calls on the Government to:

- be more specific on the limited circumstances in which Green Belt boundaries can be changed through local plans;
- call in or direct local authorities to refuse damaging developments in the Green Belt that are not identified in existing local or neighbourhood plans; and
- target public funding, through organisations such as Natural England and Local Enterprise Partnerships, to increase the quality of and access to Green Belt.

CPRE's campaign aims to show why people value the Green Belt by inviting the public to submit photos and stories to a digital wall showing how they use and experience it. CPRE also published a Green Belt 'myth-busting' document to demonstrate why arguments to build on the Green Belt are misguided. This document can be found on the CPRE website.

### Shaun Spiers, chief executive of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), said:

"We know that the Green Belt is loved by the general public and supported by politicians of all parties. Yet despite this, it is under greater threat than it has been in its 60 year history. Over 200,000 new houses are already planned for Green Belt land, and a growing number of think-tanks, developers and business groups are gunning for the Green Belt, arguing with very little evidence that we need to build on it in order to tackle the country's housing crisis.



"The Green Belt is a fantastic British success story of which we should all be proud. It has both protected countryside and aided the regeneration of towns and cities across England. It is good for people's well-being and quality of life; good for nature and wildlife; and it provides us with much of the food that we eat. Of course the country needs more homes, but we can get them without trashing the Green Belt.

"CPRE's anniversary campaign is intended to rally all who care about our Green Belt. We want both national and local politicians to make clear that they recognise the importance of the Green Belt, and to commit to ensuring that planning authorities secure its protection."

## Green Belt in Dorset

Paul Miner, CPRE *Planning* Campaign Manager, participated in a discussion on the Green Belt with BBC Radio Solent on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

The district in Dorset most under threat from house building in the Green Belt is Christchurch and East Dorset. The Christchurch and East Dorset Core Strategy was formally adopted by East Dorset District Council on 28th April 2014. The Core Strategy identified the following housing capacity to be built in urban areas in the next 13 years:

Christchurch = 3245 (995)

East Dorset = 5385 (2645)

The numbers in brackets represent the total number of houses that will be built on land previously designated as Green Belt.

## Christchurch and East Dorset District Council Local Plan

There is yet another Consultation. Christchurch and East Dorset District Council are to begin work on Part 2 of their joint Local Plan. Part 1, the Core Strategy, was adopted in April 2014. Part 2 of the Local Plan will build upon the general development strategy and major Green Belt allocations set out in the Core Strategy. It will contain detailed Development Management policies for certain forms of development, as well as smaller allocations and designations in existing urban areas, or in some cases rural areas. This document will add the detail to the policies in Part 1. It could generate some Supplementary Planning Documents.

Although it may allocate sites for housing, employment, green spaces and mixed development sites, they should all be small scale, sites have been allocated for those listed in Part 1. Some new sites may be submitted as part of the scoping for the Local Plan Part 2, but others will come forward from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Topics to develop further include the Green Belt, the Natural Environment, the Built Environment and Housing. All of these topics have been dealt with in the Core Strategy but they need some 'meat on the bones'.

## Tell us your Green Belt stories

You can share your memories, photos and why Green Belt is important to you on the CPRE Our Green Belt website <http://ourgreenbelt.cpre.org.uk/> and on Twitter using the hashtag #ourgreenbelt.



*Janet Healy*

Green Belt Focus Group

## Twentieth Anniversary Meeting of The Dorset Coast Forum

On 18 June I attended The Dorset Coast Forum twentieth anniversary meeting at Pennsylvania Castle on the Isle of Portland. David Boyle, author of "Human Element" gave the Keynote Address about reciprocal ties and obligations and co-production between the public and private sectors.

The other speakers described the work of the DCF over two decades, their most important job had been to achieve the nomination by UNESCO of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site. Tributes were paid to Professor Denys Brunsden, Malcolm Turnbull, Andy Price and many others involved in this work. A lapel badge with the new DCF Logo was distributed to all present.'

## Jurassic Coast Annual Seminar – Stories from our Coast

I attended this seminar at the Marine Theatre in Lyme Regis on 24 June. We had detailed presentations on the Jurassic Coast learning and participation programme and on visitor management and tourism. The Dorset County Museum has received a large grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Building work has started on the new fossil museum at Kimmeridge, and Seaton Jurassic Museum will open later this year.

*Dr John Larkin*





### 650 new homes in Wimborne

The proposed outline planning application for the urban extension to the East and West of Cranborne Road, north of Wimborne, was approved in **June 2015**. There are plans to build up to 650 new homes in Wimborne on what was until very recently protected green belt. It was never going to be turned down as the Green Belt boundary had been redrawn, and the principle of this development was approved with the adoption of the Core strategy in 2014. The most Dorset CPRE could have hoped for was a modification to reduce its size. Unfortunately it was approved with up to 650 houses despite the flood risk to old Wimborne town, and all the other implications for old Wimborne.

Out of 12 members of the Planning Committee only 6 were present. The Consultants and District/county planners outnumbered them about 3 to 1. Only one member, Cllr David Packer, voted against the application on the grounds of only 32% affordable housing. The other 5 voted it through.

### Dorset Waste Plan

A new Waste Plan is being prepared to provide for Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole's waste management needs. The Dorset Waste Plan, open for consultation between 15 July – 23 September, details a massive waste depot covering all aspects of waste recovery on a site adjacent to a local recreation area covering Colehill, Stapehill, Longham and Ferndown. The current site is used by thousands of people and they intend using an incinerator on the site. A draft response is being prepared and we are in touch with our local MP. We will also send our comments to John Larkin who will make a submission on behalf of the Dorset Branch of CPRE before the closing date.

### Planning applications

In July we objected to application for a warehouse 3/15/0540/REM Land East of Cobham Road on grounds of noise pollution, during the night time period there is potential for the noise levels to impact on local residents of Wimborne Road East. We also expressed concern about traffic on the already busy local road system, impact on the right of way and a potential problem with drainage.

### 3/15/0789/COU: Hybrid Planning Application for Leight Road (WMC8)

Dorset CPRE did not object to this land being removed from the Green Belt because of the benefits of a Sports Village to the residents of this area. The original Broadway Malyan Master Plan was generally approved. We sent comments in August to East Dorset District Council in response to the outline planning application submitted by Gleeson Development Ltd for a part of the Leigh Road site as we were disappointed that it deviated from the original Master Plan.

Summary of reasons for objecting to the new plans:

1. The Developer wanted to move the agreed access to a different part of the site, this would lead to two highway junctions with Leigh Road within a short distance of each other. Two junctions could cause a build up of traffic on a road that currently flows well at this point.

2. The additional cost to Gleeson Development Ltd would likely reduce the benefits available to the community and this would make the development less sustainable. To quote from the NPPF, para 6, 'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development'.
3. The developer has given no idea of the numbers of affordable homes they will supply, but the cost of an additional junction could reduce the number.
4. The developer has spread the housing further south restricting the size of the Rugby Club.
5. Gleeson are seeking outline planning permission for 305 dwellings.

This may reduce the viability of the Wyatt Development by reducing their proposed housing numbers down from 80 to a number which will not be sufficient to support the development of the Football Club

The Environment Agency maps show flooding of the proposed rugby pitches. We recommended there must be a SuDS (sustainable drainage system) designed to accommodate the increase in surface water flows for a 1 in a 100 year storm event plus 30% climate change to mitigate the risks within this development. Ideally, all the Rugby and Football pitches should be drained to Sport England specifications.

The other developer, Lewis Wyatt (Construction) LTD, has now submitted a planning application for the other part of the site. They propose abandoning the Core Strategy approved access (which already has planning permission) in favour of using an existing access which would disrupt existing residents and had been dismissed as access. There are also issues regarding groundwater/surface water and flood on the proposed football pitches. There is also an issue with odour from the adjacent Sewage farm. We had hoped that this part of the development would be straight forward, matching that agreed in the Core Strategy but alas, it is not.

### Local Plan

Please see article on Green Belt on page 5 for details on the Christchurch and East Dorset District Council Local Plan part 2.

*Janet Healy*

Green Belt Focus Group

### Purbeck Heritage Network

John Larkin attended a meeting of the Network at Upton House 19 May where we heard about the final stages of the Wild Purbeck Project and about the Great Heath Living Landscape Project. We also had a guided tour of the recently completed Upton Country Park Sustainable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) which is an extensive recreational area adjacent to the new housing estate.

He also had a guided tour of the Lytchett Bay Nature Reserve adjacent to Poole Harbour which is part of the Great Heath Project.

# JURASSICA

## A prehistoric visitor attraction under a translucent dome is planned for a worked-out quarry on the Isle of Portland.

Wolfgang Grulke and Michael Hanlon described this rather ambitious plan on 13 May at The Grange Hotel, Osborne. Jurassica will tell the story of geological time and the life which has evolved on our planet and they are planning to open it to the public in 2021. Sir David Attenborough is the project patron and Sir Tim Smit, founder of the Eden Project, is one of the Trustees. Lord Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, and Dr Sam Rose, leader of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Team, are among the members of the Advisory Board.

Jurassica will be a new museum right in the middle of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site of the Jurassic Coast. It will work with the Jurassic Coast Team at the County Council, and will cooperate with the smaller museums and other bodies in the area. The museum will have some similarity with the Eden Project in Cornwall although it will not be a theme park but a compact academic and scientific resource as well as a visitor attraction for those who have a general interest in things scientific.

The main part of the quarry will house a display which will interpret and bring to life the geology, scenery and wildlife which abounded during the 200 million years of the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous geological eras. The display will show an accurate and realistic representation of the plants and animals that were alive during those times. There will be a beach with ammonites, large Jurassic oysters and other fossils that lived in the tropical seas together with a salt-water lagoon, rock stacks

and sea caves, with corals, pterosaurs and other Jurassic animals. There will be an extensive display of internationally important fossils from the Mesozoic era showing dinosaurs, molluscs, huge ammonites, plesiosaurs, and other marine and flying reptiles. There will be three galleries featuring fossils from private collections and from the Natural History Museum.

In those days the Jurassic Coast was a strange and alien place close to the equator.



*A fossilised mammoth tooth*

Modern geology generally began here in Dorset in Victorian times and the fossils from the Jurassic Coast provided the world's first geologists with the material to rewrite the history of our planet. Jurassica's main purpose will be to establish an educational resource of global significance but the project will also explain this important science to the wider public and describe the men, and women, who brought it about. There will be numerous opportunities for volunteers to help with all parts of the project and to develop their skills and obtain formal qualifications.

Visitor numbers are expected to be up to 750,000 per annum. It is acknowledged that the road access to Weymouth and Portland is not ideal but Portland is now a dormitory town for workplaces on the mainland and even in the worst case the number of people visiting Jurassica will be well below the numbers travelling in the morning and evening rush hours.



*A fossilised ammonite*

Jurassica will be sited, mostly below ground level, in Yeolands Pit at Broadcroft Quarry, an old aggregate and Portland Stone quarry adjacent to the Eastern Wears at Easton. It is 160 metres above sea level and is 100 metres in diameter and 35 metres deep and will have a specially-designed translucent latticed roof sitting on a circular steel frame. A three-dimensional model was on display at the Osborne presentation. Yeolands Pit is still a working quarry but it is accessible from Grove Road and can be nicely viewed from the South West Coast Path which is immediately adjacent. Above ground there will be a restaurant, a vehicle parking site and approaching 80 acres of sensitively managed open land with public access.

Portland Stone from Broadcroft Quarry was used for many important buildings including Saint Paul's Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, the United Nations building in New York and the Commonwealth War Graves. Much interesting industrial archaeology from the past 300 years remains close to the site.

The total cost of the facility is expected to be in the region of £80 million with about equal sums coming from private donors and from various grant awards.

Wolfgang Grulke is an author and businessman who has a renowned fossil collection which is featured in his new book *Heteromorph: Nature at its most bizarre*. He lives at Osborne, near Sherborne.

Michael Hanlon is a science writer and journalist who grew up in Dorset. He has written six popular scientific books and is the Jurassica Project's Chief Executive and Founder.

*Dr John Larkin*

Minerals and Waste Adviser to Dorset CPRE



*Yeolands Pit on the Isle of Portland where Jurassica will be built*



## THE SHERBORNE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY



*The Street Art Project Mural Gifting 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015 © Terry Fisher*

### Bradford Road

The past few months have seen some significant set-backs on the planning front. The appeal against the decision to reject the 35 housing application at Bradford Road, Sherborne, was supported by the Planning Inspector and permission granted. This site is outside the development boundary and as the Local Plan Inspector has subsequently reported that the new Local Plan is basically sound would probably not have been available for development, hence my extreme frustration that this has occurred. Your Committee did consider our position and whether any further legal action could be taken, such as asking for a Judicial Review, which after taking soundings decided it wasn't worth taking the financial risk of such an approach.

### Local Plan

I have to say that that my frustration can also be put down to how long it has taken for the Inspector to rule on the local plan and it is my intention to write to the Inspectorate with our concerns. You will recall the public examination was in December last year and that was nearly a year after the preliminary hearing on housing numbers in January 2014. We had expected the ruling by May 2015 and it was published on 14<sup>th</sup> August. Such delays are in my view unacceptable. It leaves councils without a 5 year land supply, prior to the plan's acceptance, vulnerable to speculators using this loop hole to push through development which wouldn't be

allowed when the local plan is approved. I despair at what we are coming to when land speculators (actually not greedy builders but businesses taking a gamble on increasing the value of their assets many times over!!) who are just in it to make money can win over local democracy. Other appeals have also been lodged in Yetminster and Thornford against council decisions. It seems that currently no one accepts a rejected planning application and takes it to appeal. One can only hope that the Local Plan will help to rectify this situation.

As I indicated The Inspector's Report on the Local Plan was recently published and overall with some modifications found the plan sound. However, there is a sting in the tail, in that there will be a further review of our housing needs by 2021 and there are indications in the report that Sherborne will be expected to provide more housing development opportunities. Pressure therefore remains on the Town and its environs and we will need to be very active in ensuring we do not just accept the extra houses at Barton Farm which I am sure will be proposed. More of this in the near future.

Permission has been granted for 9 houses and a nursing home on the Sherborne Girl's School site on the corner of Bradford Road and Horsecastles Lane, which we unsuccessfully argued was overdevelopment. When schemes which we are against are never the less approved we contact the developers and make every effort to influence its design

and the nature of buildings on it. This will be the case with all the Bradford Road sites. In addition we will be continuing to work with the new owners of the Sherborne Hotel site on their ideas for its development and we had a meeting with them on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to continue this process. It is to be hoped Quantum will then have a planning application presented which we can support.

### Barton Farm

No doubt many of you will now have seen what a disaster 'Barton Farm' is becoming. What is abundantly evident is the poor design of the houses and their layout. This is exactly what we feared and despite efforts to get the builder to alter the designs to be in keeping with the Town we achieved little success. The National Planning Policy Framework places stress on good design but it looks as if major developers can just ignore such provision and continue to produce crammed in 'box' type houses, which could be anywhere in the country and bear no relationship to the local vernacular.

### Sherborne Positive Street Art Project

Up until now all seems to have been doom and gloom, so let's end on a more positive note. The Sherborne Positive Street Art Project is now completed. The Sherborne Mural © was presented to the Town on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, which was the 110th anniversary of the Sherborne Pageant. It now sits in pride of place on the fencing at the market car park and I



do hope that if you haven't already done so you will view it. I am very pleased to have played an active part in its development as I believe all the dozens of people involved have delivered a good legacy for the Town. I have been asked to remain involved as a published work is to be produced based on the Project.



*The Street Art Project Burning Bells Henry VIII © Sherborne Mural*

## Garden Party

In late June many of you enjoyed a wonderful evening in the sun at Corton Denham House. I have had excellent feedback about the garden party. I have expressed our thanks to Robin and Jannie Odgers for their superb hospitality and for enabling us to enjoy their super garden. I have no doubt we will ask to return at some time in the future.

## Award for Geography

I attended the Gryphon School Prize Giving Ceremony for year 13 on Saturday 12th September in Sherborne Abbey. The Sherborne and District Society Award for Geography went to Emily Parish. Emily is now going on to the University of East Anglia where she will read for a degree in Environmental Geography and International Development.

## Committee Vacancies

We are currently looking to add some new members to the Committee at the AGM in March 2016, namely: the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Membership Secretary and a further Committee Member. If you are interesting in any of these positions please contact Peter Neal (Chairman) on 01935 814801 or e-mail: peter.neal2@hotmail.co.uk.

## Annual Lecture

Finally, a date for the diary. We are holding our Annual Lecture on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Heather Gordon – Assistant Designations Advisor (West), Historic England, will give a talk on 'The Designation Process – How things are listed'.

Historic England (formerly known as English Heritage) is the public body that



*Peter Neal presenting The Sherborne and District Society Award for Geography to Emily Parish*

looks after England's historic environment. It champions historic places, helping people understand, value and care for them.

This year's Society Conservation Awards will also be presented during the evening. The event will take place at Rayleigh Hall, Digby Road, Sherborne, Drinks and nibbles from 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start. Please join us for what should be a very interesting evening – guests are welcome.

*Peter Neal*  
Group Chairman

## Dorset CPRE/Bournemouth University Research Collaboration – Update

Dorset CPRE met academics from BU's Science & Technology Faculty and its Tourism Department before the Summer vacation.

BU [which originally envisaged a Masters student working on CPRE interests] now thinks a PhD is the best way to pursue this research opportunity. The proposed wider study focus reflects CPRE's county-wide interest in the multiple "value," including economic value, of Dorset's healthy environment and natural capital. The study would build on earlier work including the national Natural Capital Committee and Dorset Local Nature Partnership's "Natural Value" report. It would examine how, in practical case studies, the challenges of coherent, partnership working to protect and enhance the environment are being approached. BU is also keen to examine how a Dorset National Park could use its powers and resources to achieve improved policies and practice for the environment and local communities.

BU sees the project as an exciting opportunity for partnership working with CPRE, and for cross-faculty research.

*Sandra Brown*



*Naomi Mihara visited the proposed site for Mapperton Solar Farm*

Dorset CPRE assisted Naomi with a project on Renewable Energy. She is an MA student at Bournemouth University doing Media Studies. David Peacock and Rupert Hardy met her at the proposed site for the Mapperton Solar Farm to explain our reasons for objecting to one of the biggest solar farms in the country covering 106 acres with 90,000 solar PV panels, but the development site remains 175 acres or 110 soccer pitches.

# DORSET & EAST DEVON NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL

## The Environment – our Natural Health Service!



*View west from Swyre Head overlooking Kimmeridge*

**“We need the tonic of wildness. We can never have enough of nature,” wrote Henry David Thoreau in 1854.**

**“Beautiful landscapes and a strong economy go together. Government at all levels needs to do more to ensure our diverse landscapes survive and thrive, and to support local communities in safeguarding them.” CPRE Chief executive Shaun Spiers.**

So often, Nature is presented as an obstacle or a luxury, in particular to economic development, when it is, in reality, essential to our health, wealth and well-being. Campaigning to keep our countryside attractive and pleasant is one of the most compelling and forward-thinking things we can do. Isn't this a good platform on which to invite our friends to join Dorset CPRE?

Mankind has always known that the natural environment is more than “good for us.” It is the basis on which we survive and thrive, individually and as a species.

### Ancient wisdom

Modern man has sometimes tended to forget this ancient wisdom. We are frequently reminded of the medical evidence of the health benefits of the natural environment – from the joys of a walk in the countryside, to the benefits of hospital patients being able to see trees and the natural world from the window. It's reported that 96% of Britain's 42m adult population say it's important, for physical and mental health, to have green space near where they live, and more than a third visit the outdoors as a way to keep fit and healthy.

### Tourism

Some people feel uncomfortable about others seeing the countryside as a playground. In Dorset, where tourism is important to the local economy, we are well-placed to welcome visitors to come here to enjoy the health and recreational benefits of our beautiful countryside, and our excellent Dorset foods! CPRE supports the proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park above all because a National Park would better conserve and enhance the environment as well as fostering the social and economic well-being of local communities.

A National Park would also promote recreation and tourism, and our economy would benefit from the National Park brand. But recreation would be promoted within a management framework. The evidence from the South Downs National Park suggests that NPs promote higher value tourism, increase people's understanding of and respect for the countryside – and encourage people to value the countryside we love.

### Landscapes for Everyone

In the run up to the General Election, the “Landscapes for Everyone” campaign, led by CPRE and kindred organisations, called for new measures to protect and enhance England's landscapes, and highlighted the health, economic and social benefits of the natural environment.

CPRE also supported the Wildlife Trusts in calling for Nature to be central to how we do business, educate our children and think about healthcare. The Wildlife Trusts argue that our actions, as a society, over the past century, have undermined Nature's ability to support us, when we need that support more than ever. Our neglect of Nature reduces the environment's ability to soak up extreme rainfall, absorb carbon and provide clean water, reduces the health of soils and key species including pollinators, and reduces the productivity of our countryside and seas.

### Valuing nature

New research pushes the boundaries of how we understand the vast and complex “value” of the natural environment.

This Summer, a report called ‘Naturally Speaking’ looked at public views on valuing nature and what are called ecosystem services. Ecosystem services are all those things, vital to life, which we enjoy courtesy of the natural environment but too easily take for granted – good food, fresh air, clean water, to name just three! It's no surprise that our fundamental health and well-being depend on a healthy natural environment.

One of the key messages in the ‘Naturally Speaking’ report, commissioned in partnership by Defra and the Natural Environment Research Council, was that there is widespread understanding of the connection between the natural environment and human well-being. A Dorset County Council



*Walking on South West Coast Path*



public survey in 2014 found that respondents ranked the Environment and Landscape as 4<sup>th</sup> most important of the 26 services provided by DCC. The Environment is, of course, one of the least expensive or well-funded of DCC's services. But people sense the importance of experiencing a beautiful and healthy environment, and of valuing and protecting it for the future.

Another finding of the "Naturally Speaking" report, was that people understand that the valuation of ecosystem services is a complex issue, requiring multiple approaches. Nationally, the 2010-15 Government's Natural Capital Committee produced a series of reports which emphasised the economic importance of the natural environment – though we may be forgiven for thinking that this has so far had limited effect on policy makers.



*Compton Abbas Wood*

## Dorset – Natural Value

The "Naturally Speaking" study echoes key messages in the "Dorset – Natural Value" report published in late 2014 by the Dorset Local Nature Partnership [LNP]. CPRE gave a warm welcome to the LNP Report when we spoke at its launch. This report made a good start towards examining the value, in various forms, of Dorset's natural environment. Dorset CPRE's planned research collaboration with Bournemouth University has the potential to make a significant further contribution to this work, by examining the multi-faceted value to Dorset of a healthy environment and our county's natural capital, and the potential value to Dorset of a National Park, leading coherent, joined-up conservation and planning for Dorset compared with the present weaker, fragmented designations.

So there is growing evidence – economic, medical and wider scientific evidence – of the links between the natural environment and human health and well-being. Natural England, the Government's agency for landscape, recreation, and designations, says the evidence is clear for the benefits of the natural environment for health and wellbeing, and for a healthy economy.

All of this is obvious, you might think – but our national and local policy makers, sitting at their desks, frequently have to be reminded of such powerful arguments for protecting and valuing our precious environment!



*View of Fontmell Down, North Dorset*

## Benefits of the natural environment

The value and the benefits of the natural environment should be central to policy-making by Government and all agencies, including economic agencies like the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership [LEP]. CPRE, with partner organisations, is pressing for the environment, and environmental impacts, to become a key consideration of LEPs, whenever infrastructure developments and other investment projects are being evaluated.

Our splendid environment is "priceless." CPRE understands that Dorset's healthy natural environment is also Dorset's major economic asset. Our members work hard to protect and enhance our environment, and to help people to appreciate, respect and value it. To persuade policy-makers and economic stakeholders to value our environment, it's helpful to be able to illustrate its value in economic terms. Research studies and reports like those mentioned can help us to make the case for the countryside, the environment and communities.

*Sandra Brown*

Dorset & E Devon National Park Team

## Stepping into Nature

Stepping into Nature is a pilot project being taken forward by the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) team.

The project explores how older people and those living with dementia enjoy the natural and cultural landscape around them. Evidence supports the theory that using the natural outdoor environment improves mental and physical health and wellbeing, contributing to quality of life.

Find out more about the project on the Dorset AONB website <http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work/health-and-wellbeing>.

## POOLE AND PURBECK GROUP



### Refining local campaign strategies and tactics



Group AGM at Wareham Parish Hall held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### Group AGM

It was a pity if you missed our recent open-discussion about the only constant (namely “change”) and how Natural England is trying to deal with consequential pressures being exerted upon our countryside. Ideas were exchanged and tested in a friendly and courteous manner and no doubt, as a member of our campaigning organisation your thoughts would have been appreciated. In this connection, it would be helpful if you let me or the Branch Office know when is a good time for you to attend another similar meeting with members based in Purbeck and Poole. This information would be helpful as your group committee would like to meet with you face to face, if possible, to talk about plans and campaigns at least once a year.

### Change in our countryside

The post AGM discussion revolved around what is meant by change and is it appropriate to have a relevant base from which to measure changes irrespective of whether they are benign or malignant. Much food for thought was tabled and which will be reviewed at our next committee meeting. Perhaps you might like to send me your comments on this subject to aid the committee review.

A major contributor to and leader of our discussion was Mr Ian Alexander (Team Leader at Natural England for Dorset Heaths, Harbours and Coast) who reiterated something of the history of our local countryside and reflecting the content of the booklet entitled “Dorset’s Purple Patch”, produced by the Borough of Poole and widely available across our area and elsewhere in Dorset. It was noted that our countryside has a resilience that should not be under-estimated and that adequate and early consultations with experts and campaigners could not only save time and money but also enhance any associated development to suit the needs of all concerned (or affected) including the natural world that is so dependent upon green link corridors and respect.



Ian Alexander, Team Leader at Natural England, opening discussion at Purbeck and Poole AGM

### Navitus Bay proposals

It has been announced that the Navitus proposals for wind turbines in our coastal waters have been rejected by government.

Ministers and their advisers in the Department for Energy and Climate Change took note of the views of local politicians, local authorities and other objectors including CPRE, that the suggested benefits of the proposed offshore wind farm were outweighed by the potential adverse social and environmental impacts. These were:

- harm to the AONB landscape
- harm to the significance and setting of the heritage assets of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site and Durlston Castle and Park; and
- adverse impact on the tourist economy.

The Secretary of State refused both the initial application for up to 194 turbines and a subsequent, smaller application for up to 105 turbines off the Dorset coast.

### Housing

The provision of necessary housing remains a considerable campaigning issue and whilst ‘brownfield’ housing sites remain undeveloped, it seems essential to resist attempts to use greener sites and sites in the zones around towns (described as ‘green belts’, even though they may not be entirely green). This rather means that your assistance may be required to adjust the views of our politicians.

Our local politicians helped achieve the Government’s carefully considered and reasoned decision against the Navitus proposal. Policies are overdue for affordable homes for local communities and hoarded land banks of ‘brown field sites’ and CPRE, with your help, will be seeking to ensure our politicians address the need for such policies.

Incidentally, it was good to use our open-discussion meeting to relay the message provided by one of our local Members of Parliament who clearly wishes to help in any effort to protect our countryside.

As mentioned above, I would appreciate your views (as a Member or as a prospective Member) concerning the matters raised by this article and/or any other views that you care to share with me.

### Recruitment

Please see page 27 for details on how to join.

*Gerald Rigler*

Group Chairman



## WEST DORSET GROUP



It has been a busy but somewhat fruitless few months for the Committee given the consequences of not having an agreed Local Plan for West Dorset. This has led to many planning applications being submitted for development outside previously agreed Development Boundaries, as well as in one instance, two fields looking to being sold off in 70 lots, presumably to put in place a travellers' site. This particular application, was, as expected, opposed vigorously by local residents, and the West Dorset Group were invited to speak at the meeting which over 100 local residents attended.

### Meetings with WDDC Planning Officers

Despite an increase in local resident meetings to attend, the West Dorset Group has met with WDDC Planning Officers on two occasions. Firstly, to discuss the 'allocation system' for affordable housing, and secondly, to discuss increasing concerns relating to the number of Enforcement Notices placed on applications that had not been complied with. Both meetings were helpful, but we left on both occasions with the impression, especially regarding Enforcement Notices, that the Planning Department are under severe strain and that not enough staff are available for what is, for the West Dorset Planning Department, an ever increasing workload.

### Draft Local Plan for West Dorset

In terms of planning applications that look to develop outside the Development Boundaries, one has already been sanctioned at Owermoigne, and two sites in Bridport still await a decision, as well as one at Maiden Newton. Weymouth and Portland have not been forgotten, and an application for extra housing in Nottingham, on the outskirts of Weymouth still awaits a decision. In all cases, these applications have been opposed by local residents, and the Owermoigne decision puts in doubt and undermines the whole concept of 'localism' in terms of local resident involvement, a policy that CPRE fully supports. Unfortunately these applications have appeared simply because the Draft Local Plan has not as yet been agreed. This is crucial in that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that, in relation to planning applications, 'where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out of date, permission can be granted.' However, this provision contradicts the spirit of the introduction to the NPPF, which states that the NPPF 'provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.' But with no agreed Local Plan to refer to, little can be done by local residents except protest as vigorously as possible.

*“But with no agreed Local Plan to refer to, little can be done by local residents except protest as vigorously as possible.”*



View of St Catherine's Chapel and Chesil Beach

In referring back to the Draft Local Plan for West Dorset, the Inspector has been minded to accept a huge development at Vearse Farm in Bridport. As a Group we opposed this development on the basis that the local infrastructure is inadequate given that it cannot cope with present local traffic needs, and especially so in the summer months.

### Public Transport

With the publication of the new bus timetable for the X31 Axminster/Dorchester bus route, it would seem that, in the coming winter months, there will be no buses on a Sunday between two of Dorset's largest Market Towns. The new timetable also offers only a very limited service on other days. In considering the proposed large housing development in Bridport, the Inspector would seem to have ignored Section 4 of the NPPF which specifically states that, in promoting sustainable development, people are given a real choice 'about how they travel'. In paragraph 30 of Section 4, the NPPF states 'Encouragement should be given to solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.' It continues in paragraph 35, Section 4 which says that 'Plans should protect and exploit opportunities' that 'give priority to pedestrians and cycle movements' and importantly that local residents 'have access to high quality public transport facilities.'

### Rampisham Down

Finally, I would mention the debate surrounding the approval of a solar farm at Rampisham Down, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This matter has now been called in by the Secretary of State, and the hearing is due sometime in May 2016.

*Richard Nicholls*  
Group Chairman

## RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION IN DORSET

The latest report on projections for renewable energy generation in Dorset is now on the Branch web site. It can be used as an evidence-base for informing and updating renewable energy policy and for assisting the determination of planning applications for renewable energy installations. For the first time, this report includes projections for the unitary authorities Bournemouth and Poole and a comparison of projections with estimates of resources.

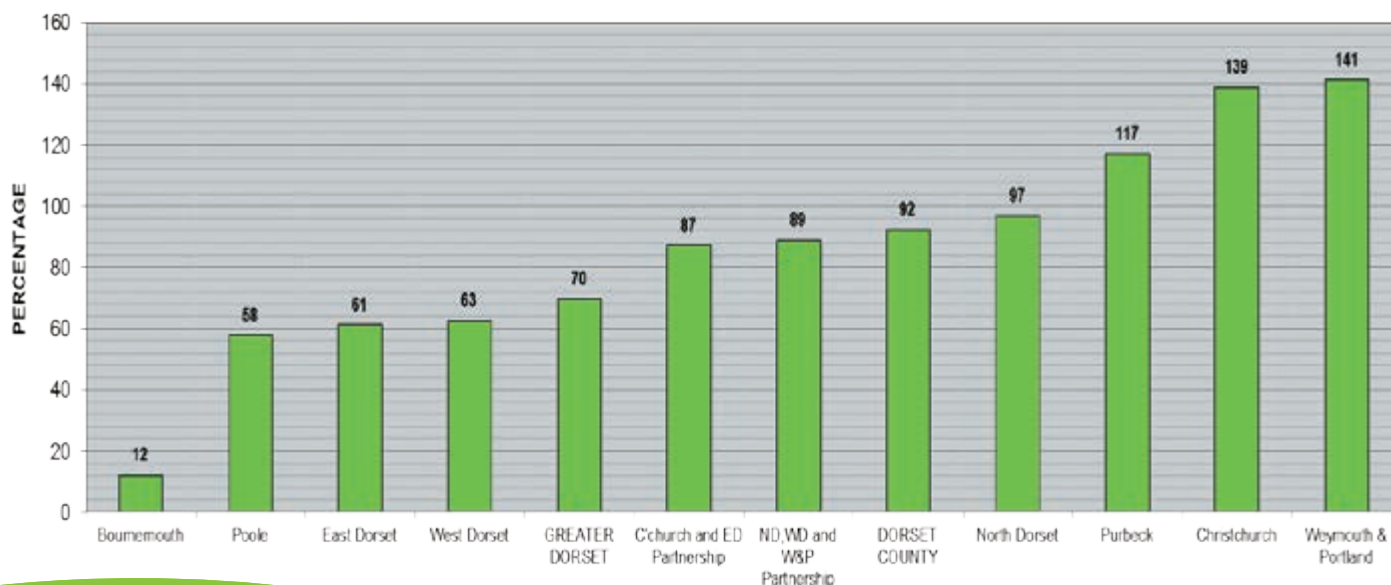
Dorset's record of renewable energy generation and progress towards targets continues to be impressive. This provides further evidence that local planning authorities should review and adjust, if necessary, their renewable energy policies to ensure that no more than minimal damage is caused to

Dorset's exceptional and highly valued landscape, agricultural, heritage and amenity assets. This admonition to limit damage resulting from deployment of renewable energy installations is consistent with the Branch's policy of continuing support for renewable energy – but not at any price.

Following Government methodology, the projections take into account renewable energy installations that are either operational, under construction or awaiting construction. This approach is also used in the Dorset Energy Partnership Strategy to 2020 but without local authority disaggregation. For Greater Dorset (the area covered by the County, Bournemouth and Poole), installations that are either operational (14,334) or under construction (2) are generating or expected to generate

Local Authority	2020 Energy Consumption GWh	2020 RE Target GWh	CURRENT ANNUAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTION			
			Heat GWh	Electricity GWh	Total GWh	% of 2020 Target
Christchurch	1,008.7	75.7	4.3	100.7	105.1	138.9
East Dorset	2,007.6	150.6	10.9	81.4	92.3	61.3
<b>Christchurch and East Dorset Partnership</b>	<b>3,016.4</b>	<b>226.2</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>182.1</b>	<b>197.3</b>	<b>87.2</b>
North Dorset	1,377.0	103.3	32.3	67.5	99.8	96.7
West Dorset	2,479.8	186.0	45.4	71.1	116.5	62.6
Weymouth & Portland	1,042.6	78.2	5.7	104.8	110.5	141.3
<b>North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth &amp; Portland Partnership</b>	<b>4,899.4</b>	<b>367.5</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>243.4</b>	<b>326.8</b>	<b>88.9</b>
Purbeck	1,294.2	97.1	7.0	106.6	113.6	117.1
<b>Dorset County</b>	<b>9,210.0</b>	<b>690.7</b>	<b>105.6</b>	<b>532.1</b>	<b>637.8</b>	<b>92.3</b>
Bournemouth	2,999.4	225.0	21.5	5.9	27.4	12.2
Poole	3,111.1	233.3	13.9	121.2	135.0	57.9
<b>Greater Dorset</b>	<b>15,320.5</b>	<b>1,149.0</b>	<b>141.0</b>	<b>659.2</b>	<b>800.2</b>	<b>69.6</b>

ANNUAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTION  
AS A PERCENTAGE OF A 7.5% 2020 RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET





an estimated annual 549.6 gigawatt hours (GWh) of renewable energy. Installations awaiting construction (15) are projected to generate 250.6 GWh. The combined output of 800.2 GWh is equivalent to 69.5% of a nominal 2020 renewable energy target of 1,149.0 GWh. This is 7.5% of estimated 2020 total energy consumption of 15,320.5 GWh for the Greater Dorset area.

Renewable electricity technologies constitute the majority of the projection, 659.2 GWh (82.4%), with renewable heat technologies providing the balance, 141.0 GWh (17.6%). Of the electricity technologies, the largest contribution to the projection is from solar photovoltaic, 315.9 GWh (39.5%), the majority from 37 ground-mounted installations which contribute 270.9 GWh (33.9%). The second largest contribution is from biomass (including a small amount of Micro CHP) which amounts to 192.0 GWh (24.0%).

The main findings for individual local authorities are shown in the table and chart.

They reveal a wide variation in progress towards a 7.5%

2020 target. The projections for Weymouth & Portland, Christchurch and Purbeck have already exceeded their targets by large margins. North Dorset and the County as a whole are past 90%. Greater Dorset, as reported above, is close to 70%. West Dorset, East Dorset and Poole are more than half way. The two newly constituted Dorset County District and Borough Council Partnerships are performing well, with progress for each Partnership approaching 90%. Only Bournemouth is not performing well.

It should be emphasised that projections provide only a current snap-shot. They will change every time a decision is made to either approve a proposal awaiting a decision or withdraw an approved proposal awaiting construction (for lack of funding, for example).

*David Peacock*

BSc(Eng) DIC PhD  
for Dorset CPRE

## News from DART (WW) on Blandford Hill Wind Farm

As reported in the North Dorset Group report DART (WW) can now state that NO Appeal was submitted by REG **so the Blandford Hill Project may therefore be regarded as “concluded”**.

Dorset Against Rural Turbines DART (WW) will continue for some time yet to monitor any future developments – in order to advise residents or take campaigning action if required. Additionally, DART (WW) will continue to act as a focus for continuing support to the other two local Action Groups – TAIN (at Tolpuddle) and NSLT (at Stinsford/Charminster) notably to help them achieve a large

attendance at their own Planning Board Hearings by West Dorset District Council, probably later this year.

The DART (WW) Committee takes this milestone opportunity to thank warmly all those who have been involved in this successful outcome – (first) the large numerical Database Membership especially those of you who wrote the important letters to North Dorset District Council – (second) those who provided the necessary money to fund the Action Group work (all achieved just within budget from local donations) – (third) CPRE (Dorset) – and, finally, those in the Statutory chain (to whom we have written separately).

*Proposed turbines from Lower Street*



# NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN PART 1:

## Main Modifications

The Local Plan process continues slowly. The NDDC senior Planning Policy officer, Trevor Warwick, has moved on to Bournemouth which is a shame since he was quite receptive to CPRE's representations.

We have recently been sent an invitation to comment on proposed changes to North Dorset's Local Plan which have been made following the Inspector's Examination in Public. We are on the whole pretty pleased that many or even most of our suggestions have been adopted. We will be making some comments on flooding, of which one of us has specific and painful experience.

The Plan timescale has been extended: it will now set the Council's planning policy until 2031.

### Changes of note to CPRE are:

A major change is that the original Plan removed settlement boundaries in villages entirely, with the objective that development would only be permitted in the four towns, Shaftesbury, Gillingham, Sturminster Newton and Blandford. Now 18 larger villages have been added and will have settlement boundaries confirmed to allow 850 houses to be built over the, now, 20 year period of the plan.

These larger villages are: Bourton, Charlton Marshall, Child Okeford, East Stour, Fontmell Magna, Hazelbury Bryan, Iwerne Minster, Marnhull, Milborne St Andrew, Milton Abbas, Motcombe, Okeford Fitzpaine, Pimperne,

Shillingstone, Stourpaine, Winterborne Kingston, Winterborne Stickland and Winterborne Whitechurch.

Smaller villages could allocate land for housing etc. in Neighbourhood Plans provided they would be 'sustainable', and are in line with the Local Plan policies.

We are objecting to this large number of houses in such rural settings – almost 50 per village. 50 houses equals 200 people in villages of 1000-1500, which is a large increase; there is insufficient land within settlement boundaries and too many houses to accommodate by infilling; amenities are inadequate for families (as compared with towns); minimal public transport services would mean a large increase in motor traffic. Hence, we consider that 850 houses comprises over development that will significantly alter the character of villages and put strain on local facilities.

The Blandford Crown Meadows is still ruled out for development (The Blandford Crown Estate including the Meadows has recently been sold to Lord Rothermere.)



*view of Okeford Fitzpaine Village*

### Some alterations we particularly welcome are:

#### Renewable energy, climate change

Strengthened policy on development proposals to encourage sustainable transport; highest standards of sustainable construction; renewable energy generation e.g. solar panels on large commercial and agricultural buildings (Para. 4.8).

#### Flooding

Paras 7.55, 7.56 on flooding: we would still like to see these measures improved but they have at least been somewhat strengthened. We will be proposing a further addition to this policy.

#### Landscape

Strengthened North Dorset's commitment to protecting the AONBs, including their setting, and the presumption against major development in them (Para 4.59). Strengthened commitment to protect the best agricultural land and also ancient woodland – often threatened by solar installations and by housing and other developments (Para 4.65). Strengthened commitment to protect the setting of a 'heritage asset' – an ancient or listed building etc. (Para 4.134). Para 10.233 and Policy 32, Equine-related developments, now includes a stronger cautionary note about the possible cumulative impact of these. Important Open or Wooded Areas (within settlements – IOWAs) – these were discussed at some length in the hearing. We are pleased to see that the Plan explicitly proposes they continue to be protected under the previous



*House building in Shillingstone*



## CPRE AT PARTY CONFERENCE

(‘saved’) policy but should be reviewed. Neighbourhood Plans may alter them (Para 7.135).

### Transport and roads

A cautious view is expressed on highway improvements that may be necessitated due to developments (Para 7.28). However, policy on this is largely down to the Highways Agency. Para 7.39 is a little more enthusiastic about working to improve rail travel, especially from Gillingham.

### Impact of low carbon or renewable energy schemes

Low carbon energy schemes to include assessment of the landscape impact in accordance with the Council’s Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (Para. 4.21)\*; possible impact of renewable energy developments on flooding and on high quality agricultural land acknowledged (Paras 10.25 and 10.26). Para 10.4 acknowledges the ministerial commitment to give local people the final say on determining wind farm developments.

The latest consultation documents are here: [MHD050 Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications](#)

On the website page, <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/northdorsetlocalplanmainmod>

### NDDC Evidence Base

The NDDC Evidence Base is a list of extremely useful documents albeit in an inconvenient format. For example The Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for renewable energy developments is linked from here:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/evidence/north>

(There is also a Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for East Dorset and Christchurch:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/article/416989/Landscape-Sensitivity-to-Wind-and-Solar-Energy-Development-in-Christchurch-and-East-Dorset>

*Suzanne Keene*  
Planning Focus Group



*Fringe event at Lib Dem conference, Bournemouth, September 2015*

Autumn sees the Party Conference season of the Westminster political parties. The Lib Dem Party Conference took place in Bournemouth in late September. CPRE National Office usually attends these and took part in a fringe event, jointly with the National Trust and the John Muir Trust, to raise issues on the subject of landscape. Dorset CPRE briefed CPRE National Office on local issues. These included:

- The challenges for Dorset arising from pressures for development, especially for increased house-building, some of this threatening areas of green belt, and solar renewable energy “farms.” The Conference is an opportunity to promote CPRE’s clear policy of “brownfield first,” and our opposition to building on the green belt. CPRE will emphasise that Dorset’s healthy natural environment is its major economic asset and a basis for thriving, sustainable communities.
- The County constituencies of Dorset have made huge strides towards meeting their share of the much discussed national Renewable Energy Target of generating 7.5% of their projected energy needs in 2020 from renewable sources and can thus be much more selective in choosing any further sites. Please refer to article ‘A Report on Renewable

Energy Generation in Dorset County’ on page 14 for more details.

- On September 11<sup>th</sup> the Secretary of State rejected the Navitus Bay offshore wind turbine proposed development. This contentious development, which would industrialise the World Heritage Jurassic Coast, has been opposed by many organisations including CPRE’s Purbeck & Poole Group
- The proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park. The John Muir Trust have, from the start, been enthusiastic supporters of the proposal, alongside Dorset CPRE, the Dorset Wildlife Trust, RSPB, the Ramblers, CTC and many others. The National Park Team and Dorset CPRE work closely with the NT, DWT and other partners to defend Dorset’s environment [e.g. promoting the continued protection of Dorset’s internationally important heaths in a policy consultation by all Dorset authorities in Spring 2015.] The NP proposal represents real opportunities for the environment, communities, and the economy. Research for DEFRA and others has evaluated and confirmed the benefits of NP designation elsewhere.

*Sandra Brown*

## The Geodiversity Charter for England

The Geodiversity Charter for England was launched at a Westminster MP briefing where the Jurassic Coast Team gave a presentation in October 2014. Several Dorset geological sites are used as examples in the Charter. Geodiversity is the variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, soils, landforms and natural processes which shapes the landscape. It is

recognised as an integral part of our environment, economy and heritage. England is one of the most geodiverse places in the world and the English Geodiversity Forum coordinates national and local geological organisations throughout the Country.

*Dr John Larkin*

## NORTH DORSET GROUP



### Local Plan

The Local Plan was subject to Examination in Public (EiP) in recent months and currently North Dorset District Council is consulting on modifications to the plan, arising from the examination and views expressed there, prior to formal adoption. That apart, renewable energy continues to demand our attention. Meantime the C13 road near Shaftesbury has reopened but will close again for remedial works when they are agreed. Our AGM in April was very well attended and successful.

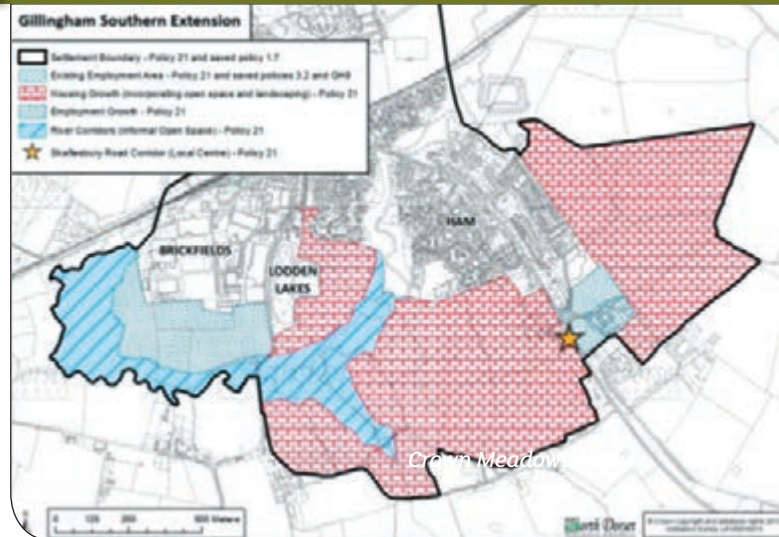
Changes proposed to the Local Plan include extension of the plan period to 2031, with an increase in proposed houses from 4200 to 5700. Of most concern for us is the proposal to increase the number of houses planned for Stalbridge and the larger villages from 230 to 825, amounting to almost 50 in each of the 18 designated villages, over the plan period. These larger villages will retain settlement boundaries that it had been planned to remove. The Crown Meadows site in Blandford appears now to be safe from development but the implications of a recent sale to a company owned by the Rothermere family are unclear. There is an acknowledgement, in the revised plan, that replacement proposals, following agreement not to develop the Crown Meadows, for houses in Blandford St Mary will require mitigation measure agreed by Natural England. The substantial southern extension at Gillingham is highlighted and recommended and has been subject of much local consultation.

### Blandford Hill Wind Turbines

The Blandford Hill application from REG Windpower Ltd for four x 125m wind turbines at East Farm, Lower Street, Winterborne Whitechurch was, I am delighted to tell you, refused by the Council at a meeting of the planning committee in March. A well organised local group, DART, led by Julien Turner had fought a strong campaign against the proposal. After a wretched 21 months of uncertainty for the Community, DART (WW) can now state that NO Appeal was submitted by REG before the statutory deadline date of 17<sup>th</sup> September – **and so the Blandford Hill Project may therefore be regarded as “concluded”**. There remains, as always, the outside possibility that some entirely new Application for (reduced) Wind Turbines, or perhaps a Solar venture, could be submitted in the future. However, a re-application for a slightly smaller solar farm at Mapperton was approved by East Dorset District Council in July; councillors, in approving the application, ignored strong local opposition and arguments over the significant landscape damage that would result. It was a very depressing example of the failure of local democracy to reflect local views and understand well-reasoned argument, councillors appearing to be more influenced by vague generalisations and unfounded prejudice.

### C13 through Dinah's Hollow

The C13 through Dinah's Hollow, Melbury Abbas re-opened in July after being closed for more than a year. Traffic through the hollow is restricted to a single carriageway controlled by temporary traffic lights, which is working reasonably well.



*Gillingham: proposed southern extension*

Lorries are being encouraged to use the C13 in one direction only. This follows Dorset County Council (DCC) concerns over the stability of the banks in the hollow and beyond by the church. The council have finally tabled proposals for remedial works in the hollow and these are being considered by interested parties. We are working with AONB management, and others, to secure a solution in keeping with the sensitive landscape of the area. The hollow is of considerable aesthetic and historic significance.

### Group AGM

Our AGM at Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster in April was particularly well attended. Members much enjoyed a talk by Richard Burden of Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB on landscape value, protection and threats. Simon Hoare, then parliamentary candidate for North Dorset, and now MP, attended.



*Stephen Howard with Louise Cort  
Bursar's Assistant at Clayesmore  
at North Dorset Spring event*

### Spring and Summer Party

Our spring party in March was also well attended and enjoyable despite bad weather; we are most grateful to Christopher and Clare McCann for hosting it at the Old Rectory, Ibberton. We enjoyed a warm summers evening at our summer party at the Old Rectory, Langton Long, Blandford. We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Egerton Skipwith for their generosity in having us again.

*Stephen Howard*  
Group Chairman



## PLEA TO GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A FIRM LEAD ON LITTER



*Overflowing cigarette butts bin on the inside of the wall next to Glyde Path Road close to Colliton Park, Dorchester.*

Major national litter groups and business organisations have today made a joint plea to Government to take a firm lead on litter.

In a letter to the Secretaries of State and Ministers at Defra and the DCLG the 25 signatories ask the Government to form an Advisory Committee on Litter in order to deliver a National Litter Action Plan to eliminate all litter. The signatories listed below already have a draft paper that could inform the development of the National Litter Action Plan.

The Advisory Committee will create a single channel to focus resources and will provide advice and expertise to Government Departments and Local Authorities. It will enable all parties to work together, encourage a more consistent message on littering and will also demonstrate Government commitment to reducing all litter.

As stated in the letter, "The formation of an Advisory Committee is an unparalleled opportunity to take a major step to reduce the societal impact of all litter. Without such Government leadership, efforts to deal with littering will continue to be fragmented and so less effective in delivering significant reductions in littering and in the costs of dealing with it".



### Signatories

British Beer & Pub Association  
British Soft Drinks Association  
British Plastics Federation  
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)  
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)  
Clean Up Britain (CLUB)  
CleanupUK  
Coca Cola Enterprises  
Costa Coffee  
Foodservice Packaging Association  
Hubbub  
INCPEN (The Industry Council for research on Packaging & the Environment)  
Keep Britain Tidy  
Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful  
Keep Scotland Beautiful  
Lucozade Ribena Suntory  
Marine Conservation Society  
McDonald's Restaurants  
Packaging Federation  
PAFA (Packaging and Films Association)  
PlasticsEurope  
Pret A Manger  
Tobacco Manufacturers Association  
Vacherin  
Veolia

## NEED FUNDS FOR A PROJECT? Campaigns funded by Dorset CPRE

In the spring edition of The Dorset Review we explained how groups can apply for funding from Dorset CPRE. Over the past twelve months we have funded the following projects:

- Tolpuddle Against Industrial Turbines (TAINT) £6,000
- Slyer's Lane Wind Farm Campaign two donations of £5,000 totalling £10,000
- Buckland Newton residents £500 for legal fees to challenge WDDC lack of Enforcement
- Dorset Best Village Shop category £150
- Rural retailing – 2015 and beyond – a Seminar for Village Shops £150
- Sherborne Stop the Litter Campaign £100
- The Chickereil Community Litter Team £100
- ADVERSE website objecting to housing at Vearse Farm in Bridport £100

The branch also paid for the campaign mailers for Blandford Hill Wind Farm, Slyer's Lane Wind Farm and Mapperton Solar Farm.

We also hold our Trustees and Countryside Forum Meetings in village halls throughout Dorset. The Dorset Campaign Against Litter Meeting is held three times a year in Stratton Village Hall, Dorchester. Many of our district groups support local activities.

Dorset CPRE will also consider giving money to causes other than campaigns that oppose something. Suggestions include arts/crafts and replacing fingerpost signage. An important criterion is that the funding requests must meet our charitable objectives which are to improve, protect and preserve for the benefit of the public, the countryside and the towns and rural villages of the County of Dorset.

The request may be emailed to [info@dorset-cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@dorset-cpre.org.uk) or contact your local group representative listed on the back page.

### Dorchester Stop the Drop

Dorchester Stop the Drop campaigners continue to make their mark at county, district and town council level as they bring litter issues to their attention on a regular basis.

The campaign group are seeing litter problems getting worse in and around the Fairfield Car Park, Charles Street, the skate park and on the approach to both train stations. The campaigners continue to ask the authorities to tackle the litter problems by issuing fines notices to litterers.

## MINERALS AND WASTE IN DORSET



This is a summary of our recent work with minerals and waste in Dorset

### Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Minerals Sites Plan

Twenty-seven minerals sites have been nominated to the Mineral Planning Authority at Dorset C C. Consultation is presently underway for site allocations in the final adopted plan. These will identify the locations of future mineral development required to deliver the 2014 Minerals Strategy.

At the time of writing I am collating comments and reports from Members throughout the County and will make a submission on behalf of the Dorset Branch of CPRE before the closing date on 23 September.

### Imerys Ball Clay Operations Dorset – Community Liaison Group

At meeting of the Group on 18 May the Minerals Planning Manager, John Vine, said that the Furzeyground stockpiles would have to be relocated to facilitate the construction of the new off-highway route to Furzebrook. The Hawk Post lagoons will be extended to reduce the likelihood of a pollution incident. Discussions are underway with Dorset C C about development at Povington which is partly a RAMSAR site.

### Doreys South open-cast ball clay pit

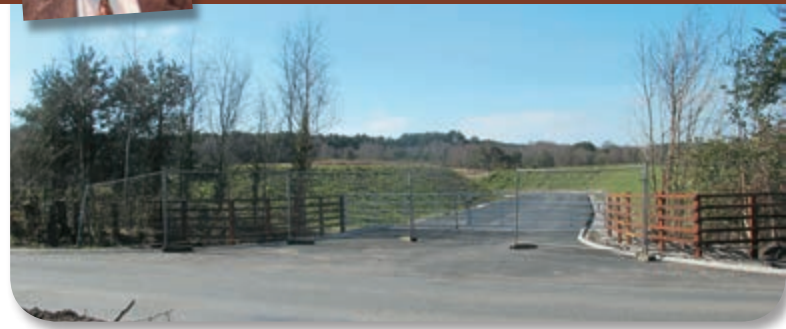
A new gated entrance road flanked by screening bunds to help reduce the noise of the heavy articulated lorries now opens on to Grange Road and leads to the southern extension to the present open-cast ball clay pit. The necessary road signs are being discussed with the Highways Department at Dorset C C. The topsoil in the Phase 1 area has been stripped and stored onsite, and excavations of the overburden will soon allow access to the sand and gravel deposits and the ball clays.

### Arne lagoon

This worked-out ball clay pit has been transformed into a splendid lagoon for wading birds and other wildlife. Ownership of the site was formally transferred to the RSPB in December 2014 and we now eagerly await the proposed new bird hide and a footpath to provide access to the lagoon.



*The new Portland stone mine on the Isle of Portland*



*The new Doreys South open-cast ball clay pit*

### Wytech Farm Oilfield Consultative committee

The production of oil and natural gas remains at high levels but will soon begin to decline slowly as the wells become depleted. These mature oil wells do not require large amounts of capital investment, and so the Company is less affected than most others by the recent fall in the price of oil. No staff have been declared redundant but they are not taking on any more apprentices.

### The Furzebrook Restoration Project

The heathers and gorses are beginning to grow, the new pond is full of water and this mixed wet and dry heathland will again soon look as though it has always been there.

### Upwey Quarries

On 25 April I went on a guided tour of several disused Victorian quarries where fairly large quantities of Purbeck stone and Portland stone, for use in local house building, were excavated without the use of modern equipment.

### Jurassica

On 13 May I attended a presentation at Osborne on this prehistoric visitor attraction planned for a worked-out quarry on the Isle of Portland. It will tell the story of geological time and the life which has evolved on our planet and they are planning to open it to the public in 2021. Another article in this issue gives more details.

### Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Waste Plan

The Draft Waste Plan, once adopted, will cover the management of all wastes including household, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition, hazardous wastes, and waste water. It will set out where new facilities are needed and will provide the policy framework for determining planning applications for all waste management facilities.

At the time of writing I am collating comments and reports from Members throughout the County and will make a submission on behalf of the Dorset Branch of CPRE before the closing date on 23 September.

### Consultation on possible changes to Dorset's Household Recycling Centres

The Dorset Waste Partnership, like all other Local Government bodies, is required to reduce its costs in these difficult times and is looking at all areas they provide to find the savings they need.



The HRCs operate under a contract due for renewal in autumn 2015 and all possible savings need to be identified well before then.

The new kerbside recycling service has substantially increased total recycling of domestic waste and reduced the amount of material being taken to the eleven Household Recycling Centres throughout Dorset.

The options available include closing one or more of the eleven HRCs, charging for entry at the HRCs, closing all HRCs for up to three weekdays, charging for disposal of non-house materials such as DIY waste and tyres, and removal of the subsidy DWP pays neighbouring Councils for Dorset residents to use their HRCs.

I have asked but there is no news about which of these proposed economies will actually be implemented.

### **Dorset Campaign Against Litter**

I attended a meeting of the Campaign at Stratton village hall on 4 June. Sam Harding from CPRE National Office joined the meeting via Skype and brought us up to date on carrier bags which will soon, with some exemptions, cost five pence each and some of the proceeds may go to a new campaign to improve public behaviour; the proposed bottle refund system works well in Germany and elsewhere but it is being vigorously opposed by drinks manufacturers in this Country.

Dorset Waste Partnership have taken over the butt bins in Dorchester and are providing seagull-proof waste bags made of hessian in Weymouth; Sherborne Campaign collect litter in the town every three months; the successful Litter Free Coast Campaign will be extended across Dorset. There was much discussion of fly-tipping, roadside verge cutting and litter bins in lay-bys but some improvements are being made.

### **Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group**

I attended a meeting of this Group on 2 June where we heard about the new management structure. The Winfrith site is now known as Magnox Winfrith and is part of the Magnox Group of twelve sites throughout the Country. The decommissioning work on the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor and the Dragon Reactor will continue as planned. The Active Liquid Effluent System which takes active and non-active liquid wastes out to sea at Arish Mell will also be dismantled. The long-established Inutec company, now called Tradebe, will have to be re-licensed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority when it eventually transfers to the Dorset Green site.



Negotiations continue and it is hoped that it will soon be possible for all traffic to access the Magnox site through Dorset Green to the roundabout on the main A352 road rather than through Gatemoor Road as at present.

### **Dorset Green Technology Park**

This site is now in administration and when all the legal matters have been sorted out the Home Communities Agency will run the site. Central Government has granted £600,000 through the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and Dorset C C and Purbeck D C will each put £927,000 in to Dorset Green in a bid to kick-start new businesses and boost confidence in the site.

### **Open Evening at Magnox Winfrith**

I attended the Open Evening on 16 July where Michael Dunnett, Magnox Winfrith Closure Director, welcomed the visitors to see the progress which had been made with decommissioning during the past year.

We had a presentation about the encapsulation of radioactive sludge from the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor which supplied electricity to the National Grid from 1967 until 1990. The sludge, mainly from the ion exchange resins, is mixed with cement and pulverised slag to form a solid matrix in a series of 500 litre stainless steel drums. We were then shown round the Treated Radioactive Waste Store where over 1000 drums are stored until they can be sent to Cumbria or to a Geological Disposal Facility for radioactive materials...

We also had a tour of the Site and saw how the land was returning to its natural state after several buildings had been demolished. Most of the mature fir trees which presently provide screening will be removed and chipped for biofuel before the Site is restored to heathland.

### **Purbeck Heritage Network**

I attended a meeting of the Network at Upton House 19 May where we heard about the final stages of the Wild Purbeck Project and about the Great Heath Living Landscape Project. We also had a guided tour of the recently completed Upton Country Park Sustainable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) which is an extensive recreational area adjacent to the new housing estate.

We also had a guided tour of the Lytchett Bay Nature Reserve adjacent to Poole Harbour which is part of the Great Heath Project.

### **Jurassic Coast Annual Seminar – Stories from our Coast**

I attended this seminar at the Marine Theatre in Lyme Regis on 24 June. We had detailed presentations on the Jurassic Coast learning and participation programme and on visitor management and tourism. The Dorset County Museum has received a large grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Building work has started on the new fossil museum at Kimmeridge, and Seaton Jurassic Museum will open later this year.

*Dr John Larkin*

Minerals and Waste Adviser to Dorset CPRE

## FLOODING

Following the devastating floods in the winter of 2013/4 when many houses throughout the UK were flooded, Britain has enjoyed a period of below average levels of rainfall. It is easy to become complacent about the threat that flooding still poses but true to form, a sharp reminder of how our weather can change was presented over the August Bank holiday. Nearly two weeks worth of rain lashed the country putting the UK on course to experience one of the wettest Augusts since records began. Across the county, the chalk aquifer has just started to re-charge; a month earlier than usual.

### Flood warning system

Examples of initiatives which will help those at risk of being flooded include improvements to the Environment Agency's (EA's) flood warning system and the introduction of an insurance service which will enable all properties at risk of being flooded to be insured. Further details are as follows:

In order to help those at risk of being flooded, the EA has been examining ways that it can improve its flood warnings service. A contract for the replacement of its existing flood warning system is out for tender with a decision on which company will be awarded the contract being due in October 2015. The updated system is due to be delivered in 2016 but it will take some time after that to bed the system down where it will be able to deliver a wide range of improvements. Examples of what the system will be capable of, when fully operational, include the following:

- Local Authorities will be able to issue flood warnings for surface water flooding. This is particularly important for those areas where flooding may not be recognised as a problem but where flash flooding can occur with very little warning
- Customers will be able to set their own thresholds for receiving flood warnings and to create a more personalised service. One of the drawbacks of the existing system is that flood warnings can often be seen as "crying wolf" because they are unable to give sufficiently accurate assessments of the likelihood that certain properties will be flooded. The system will allow for more targeted warnings, so reducing the number of false alarms



*view across the Stour from Durweston looking at Stourpaine*

- The system will allow people "on the move" to receive flood warnings using location services on mobile devices, so your 'phone will alert you when you enter an area where an active flood warning is in place
- Customers will be able to leave feedback / upload images which will help to improve the EA's understanding of how flooding occurs and the extent to which areas become flooded
- The system will allow automation in rapidly responding catchments. This is particularly important where there may be insufficient time for manual methods to be employed where water levels rise rapidly or where surface water flooding resulting from heavy rainfall poses a serious risk.

### Flood Warden

Despite these improvements, many communities rely heavily on help from their Flood Warden. A key way for communities to help prepare themselves to cope with flooding is to appoint a flood warden and to develop a flood plan. Flood wardens are community volunteers, endorsed by the parish or town council, who help promote flood awareness, develop the flood plan and act as a liaison point with the EA, local councils and the emergency services.

In Dorset, there is a well developed warden network, with nearly 100 wardens serving communities right across the county. The strongest network is in West Dorset but the EA could always do with more wardens, particularly in the north and east of the county and in the conurbations. Wardens cover all types of flooding, not just that from rivers. The EA has wardens where the main risk is from the sea, surface water and groundwater.

Wardens are about keeping the community safe and quite a few of our wardens are also Homewatch volunteers or have some other parish role. There are great similarities between the two schemes and they can easily be combined. If you feel that you would be interested in getting involved in the Flood warden scheme please get in touch with the EA's Flood Resilience team in Blandford (email [floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk) or ring 01258 483 326 for more details).



*Flooding on River Stour, Shillingstone, October 2012*



The EA is investigating opportunities to deliver flood protection schemes at several locations in Dorset including Charminster, Bridport and Dorchester in partnership with Dorset County Council. Further works are also anticipated along the coast. Several communities across the county have received Property Level Protection scheme grants. These grants have enabled small groups of houses that would not otherwise qualify for traditional flood protection schemes to improve their flood defences. Communities which have experienced flooding can contact the EA or Dorset County Council to see if they are eligible for these grants.

### “Flood Re” insurance scheme

The Government has confirmed that the state-backed “Flood Re” insurance scheme, which guarantees affordable insurance for households in flood-prone areas, will “go live” next April [2016]. It will provide a fund to offer people at high flood risk who might otherwise struggle to get affordable flood insurance, with cover at a set price. Insurers will put into the fund those high flood risk homes they feel unable to insure themselves, with the premium to cover the flood risk part of the household premium capped. While it was initially presumed that the initiative would be launched this summer, Flood Re stressed that a date for its launch was never set and the summer time frame related to the scheme’s establishment.



*The mill at Durweston looking across the Stour from Stourpaine*

Brendan McCafferty, chief executive of Flood Re, said: “We are planning to go live with [Flood Re] in April 2016.....Flood Re is a complex scheme which needs to be tested thoroughly if we are to get it right first time for UK home insurance customers. Building Flood Re’s systems and infrastructure is on track and will be established in the summer as previously indicated. However, being ready to launch for consumers requires extensive testing that needs to be done with 300 to 400 insurers. That is a complex and lengthy process which requires a realistic timeframe.”

Defra confirmed that the scheme was on track to be established this summer. A spokesman said: “Flood Re is on track to be established by July 2015 to begin its operational testing phase.”

### Planning applications

Dorset CPRE continues to provide help and advice wherever it can when planning applications are being contested. A recent example of this was where an application to build eight houses in an area in Upwey was submitted. Dorset CPRE was contacted by the “Save Upwey” group who was battling against the development because of concerns about the threat to an existing conservation area and additional pressure on the existing sewage system. The application was rejected. Sewage was an issue but in the end it came down to some impassioned arguments and Councillors’ concerns about building in a conservation area. Also, as a result of giving help at very short notice we now have two new members of CPRE!

*Derek Gardiner*

Dorset CPRE Topic Leader – Flooding

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## DORSET BEST VILLAGE SHOP 2015

Dorset CPRE was very pleased to be sponsoring again a class in this year's Best Village Competition organised by Dorset Community Action. Village shops face relentless competition from the supermarket chains. Besides in and out-of-town major outlets, the chains now offer convenience stores and deliveries to every corner of the countryside while this year there has been severe price cutting thanks to extra competition from Aldi and Lidl. It is not surprising the number of Dorset village shops has fallen over 20% from 224 in 2006 to now. Surprisingly none have closed in the last year but more are likely to close unless we help them, especially as in the next few years the cost of staff will rise sharply thanks to July's budget.

### Local foods

Village stores can of course showcase our marvellous local foods, whose production we wish to promote here in Dorset. Most local post offices are integrated into stores now, but paid opening hours are woefully few so many stores keep them open much longer voluntarily. Overall we are hoping this competition will highlight the better retailers and show others what can be done. The criteria used for this award were evidence of good customer service, the shop acting as a community hub, innovation in terms of product range and services, and how much local food they are selling and promoting.

A broad range of products at both ends of the price spectrum which are attractively presented, lots of local fresh and other Dorset foods, friendly attentive staff, newspaper and food deliveries, extensive opening hours, a dry cleaning and prescriptions service, facilitating charity and village events, post office opening hours beyond the usual paid two or three hours a day, food hampers for holiday-makers, attractive window displays, a good website and product innovation. The better retailers mostly all offer these and it is amazing what some shops provide from very small premises.

### Help Needed

Last year we launched a campaign to

help Dorset village shops. If only each household spends a few more pounds each week in their local store, if only parish councils were encouraged to help these shops resolve local parking issues etc., if only all district councils were urged to give 100% business rates relief automatically then the situation would be so much brighter. Therefore please spend more and make your voice heard! This year we are also sponsoring a training seminar for village retailers to help too.

This year our two main contenders were the Motcombe Community Shop in North Dorset and the Thorncombe Village Shop in West Dorset. They are similar in that the original shops were faced with closure forcing villagers to rally round and purchase them. They are both now supported by village shareholders, teams of willing volunteers and a few friendly local staff. They try very hard to serve the community and offer Post Offices and a café to encourage footfall and village meetings there. Both understand the importance of social media, offer good websites and as comprehensive a range of products and services as possible from limited floorspace. They are also good showcases for local foods and drinks.



### Motcombe Community Shop

Motcombe serves a large village of 1500 residents very successfully with a wonderful selection of fresh food, local products and friendly volunteers. They have recently revamped the interior and now offer a new section, selling cards and gifts, many from local artists. They are always coming up with new ideas or ways to help the community.



Julie Endean, Thorncombe Village Shop with Rupert Hardy © Dorset Echo



### Thorncombe Village Shop

Thorncombe is a charming village of 700 but it is difficult to find down narrow twisting lanes so the shop has to try extra hard as there are fewer passers-by. The shop has an attractively painted frontage with a regularly changing seasonal window display. The website is very appealing. Everything seems to happen at the shop with even church goers regularly drinking coffee there after communion and on Thursdays there is a pop-up restaurant too. A lot of the fresh food is made by ladies in the village, and everyone seems to get involved. Even the local MP can be seen on certain days behind the counter!

The judges declared Thorncombe the winner, but Motcombe came in as a worthy runner-up. Please do visit these stores, but remember all Dorset village shops deserve your support.

*Rupert Hardy*  
(One of the Judges)



Rupert Hardy with runners-up Motcombe Village Shop © Dorset Echo



# HARVEST SERMON 2015

Explore with the children and then the adults what food is produced locally, what do we see as we drive past the fields? What is growing in our gardens?

We are very fortunate, we have a huge variety of produce available to us BUT we are not paying enough for our food! It is NOT just to pay people less for things than it cost them to produce. In fact the Old Testament prophet Amos thundered against unjust practices in the market place for they are repugnant to God. Coventry Diocese's Rural Officer, Barbara Clutton, wrote recently in the Church Times (28/8/15) that "British Lamb is one of the most naturally reared forms of meat and yet the price currently paid to farmers is about 25% lower than last year. Despite this the price in most supermarkets has only dropped by 6%, and many retailers are still selling imported lamb from New Zealand."

## Dairy farmers

Then there's the milk issue: we've seen the protests on local TV and in the press with the dire warnings that many dairy farmers are going out of business. One was featured on the Spotlight TV programme in the week ending 19/9 when they showed his final sale of machinery, the cattle having gone previously. Yes, I know about the laws of supply and demand and that Russia has banned imports of European milk, and the demand from China has dropped due to their economic slowdown. But we shouldn't be importing dairy products from the Continent when our own farms have an abundant supply. There are lessons from the past to be learned here – lots of orchards were grubbed up in the South East, where I come from, and we then imported tons of "Golden Delicious" from France; which in my view are both green and ghastly with no taste at all.



Getting ready to make blackberry and apple jam

## Local produce

There is a knock-on effect from farmers going bust that concerns not only *their* personal circumstances but also our landscapes and nature generally. Land has to be managed properly. We need to treat both farmers and the land with respect for according to the book of Genesis we are not owners



Rosemary B Clary's hay field in West Dorset'



Cows in Field in West Dorset

of the land but *stewards* of it. We need to educate people into the ways of the countryside and how it's managed. Far too many people think all farmers are

rich and that the land more or less looks after itself. We can all do our part to help support farmers by being less greedy for low priced food. We can also support our excellent local Farmers Markets which are held very regularly and there are increasing numbers of farms selling meat direct to the public. We are very fortunate that all this excellent local produce is available to us.

We have so much to be grateful for; I can just remember rationing and the very limited diet I ate as a child. There is such an immense variety of food available now but sadly we are very wasteful with it. We need to do more to educate people in how to plan weekly meals and use up leftovers. Some programmes about this have appeared on TV but I think children need to learn about this in school as well as how to budget (but that's another topic!) What distresses me about the wastefulness in the UK is the contrast with the stark situation faced by those living in our war torn linked Diocese of Ezo in South Sudan where people have been displaced from their land and are unable to plant and harvest crops and so provide for their families.

*Rosemary B Clary*

Licensed Lay Minister and  
Dorset CPRE Member

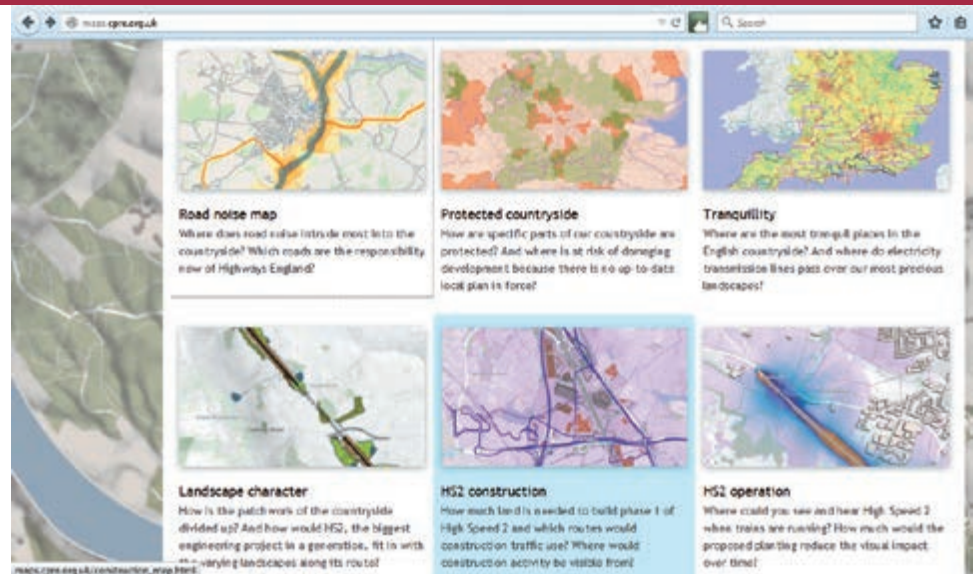
*We welcome contributions to the Review from members and readers. Please send your suggested contribution, electronically if possible, to [info@dorset-cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@dorset-cpre.org.uk). The deadlines for contributions to our Spring and Autumn Reviews are, roughly, the end of March and the end of August each year. If you would like to discuss a possible contribution, or share your ideas about the Review, please email [info@dorset-cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@dorset-cpre.org.uk).*

## CPRE MAPS

CPRE Maps is a new CPRE project that uses the power of open data and visualisation to help you protect and enhance the countryside.

Seeing something on a map can be so much clearer than having it explained in words. With more official data available to us, our maps can help you understand your countryside better than ever.

Whether you have a special interest in a particular development or just want to find out more about where you live, CPRE maps will help provide you with the information you need to make your voice heard. The maps can be found on [maps.cpre.org.uk](http://maps.cpre.org.uk).



## TRANQUILLITY RESEARCH 'GIVE PEACE A CHANCE'

Tranquillity is a natural resource, and an essential quality of the countryside. It is a much valued aspect of human experience that CPRE has long championed. Although found in many places, it is the countryside that gives us the best chance to experience it. With its broad views, woodlands and heaths, wildlife, the sounds of nature, massive skies, and open water, the rural environment offers us many opportunities to experience deep tranquillity. It enables us to appreciate the beauty and harmony of the natural world. Tranquillity is a central part of why the countryside matters deeply to so many people and the reason many want to spend time there.

New research from CPRE published in May showed that better data collection and a new indicator of tranquillity are needed to increase protection for England's most peaceful areas.

In surveying a range of authorities, from National Parks to borough councils, CPRE found that 90 per cent of authorities would like better guidance and new data to develop tranquillity policies. More than 90 per cent of respondents support the case for new national tranquillity maps, which CPRE believes could greatly help local authorities when new infrastructure projects are planned. The research suggests that councils are unlikely to drive forward the policies we need to protect some of our most tranquil areas without better open data and guidance to help them improve quality of life in their communities.

CPRE's report finds that some planning authorities have successfully developed policies to protect tranquillity since 2012, when the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) encouraged them to do so. Yet the report indicates that few authorities outside of those set up to manage protected areas like National Parks have implemented policies protecting tranquillity – and 75 per cent of authorities without a

current policy do not plan to introduce one. With the Conservative manifesto pledging to “build new infrastructure in an environmentally-sensitive way” and for new roads and railways at least to be built “in a way that limits, as far as possible, their impact on the environment,” we are lobbying for measures to cover the impact of noise on tranquillity. CPRE is now calling for Government to invest in planning guidance, an agreed definition of tranquillity, and a new “indicator” of tranquillity – including maps and supporting data.

Alongside investment from Government, we would like to see infrastructure providers and regulators set up design panels, as demonstrated by HS2 and Highways England. The panels would develop good design principles aimed at mitigating the impacts of new infrastructure on rural tranquillity through methods such as putting power lines underground, tunnelling and tree planting.

**Find out more:** Search for Give Peace a Chance at [cpre.org.uk](http://cpre.org.uk). This article appeared in Fieldwork Summer 2015 edition.

### Geological Disposal Facility

Radioactive waste from the Winfrith experimental nuclear reactors, and from many nuclear power stations and elsewhere is presently stored mainly at Sellafield and Dounreay. Some of this waste will take hundreds or even thousands of years to decay to a safe state. A new Review will identify where Britain's radioactive waste can be safely buried. The British Geological Survey has established that about 30 % of the Country would have suitable geology but few Local Authorities have welcomed the idea.



## DECEASED MEMBERS

### East Dorset, Bournemouth & Christchurch:

Mr TG Howarth

### North Dorset:

Miss Gillian Forrester

Mrs Nosworthy

### Poole & Purbeck:

Mr Kenneth Bartlett

Mr Allan Green

### The Sherborne and District Society:

Mrs Eve Keatley

Mrs PW McCormick

Mrs Susan Sale

### West Dorset:

Mr Robert Younger

Mr RS Laverack

Mr John Fisher

## NEW MEMBERS – Since April 2015

### East Dorset, Bournemouth & Christchurch:

Mrs Siobhan Myock

### North Dorset:

Mr Matthew Price

Mr Hodges & Ms Laws

### Purbeck & Poole:

Mr Ralph Holmes

Mr Philp Redl

### The Sherborne and District Society:

Mr John Newman

Reverend Richard Kirlew

Mr & Mrs Bromell

Mr & Mrs Sladden

Mr & Mrs Peters

### West Dorset:

Mr & Mrs Cooper

Mrs Jenny Calverley

Mrs Janet Edwards

Mr Richard Leaf

Ms Mary Lester

Mr Richard Bronk

Ms Wootton & Dr Kelly

We also welcome members who have moved from other branches or rejoined during the year.

## NOT ALREADY A MEMBER?

Joining is the single most effective way to stand up for the countryside. The more you can give, the more we can do to keep our countryside safe. As a member you'll receive our regular Countryside Voice magazine, and enjoy discounted entry to almost 200 houses, gardens and other attractions around England. You will also receive The Dorset Review twice a year, be able to attend and vote at the Dorset Branch AGM, attend various social events throughout the year. Please visit our website for details on how to join or contact our office for a joining form. CPRE Membership also makes an ideal Christmas present.



## DIARY DATES

- 13<sup>th</sup> November** – The Sherborne and District Society CPRE Annual Lecture. Rayleigh Hall, Digby Road, Sherborne for 7.30pm. Guest speaker Heather Gordon – Assistant Designations Advisor (West), Historic England.
- 21<sup>st</sup> November** – Branch AGM, Cerne Abbas Village Hall, 11am. Please see enclosed invite.
- 27<sup>th</sup> November** – Countryside Forum Meeting

Please visit Dorset CPRE Website for 2016 meeting dates for the Countryside Forum, Dorset Campaign Against Litter and District Groups.

# CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND DORSET BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 211974

PO Box 9018, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 9GY.

Tel: 0333 577 0360  
email: [info@dorset-cpre.org.uk](mailto:info@dorset-cpre.org.uk)  
website: [www.dorset-cpre.org.uk](http://www.dorset-cpre.org.uk)  
 @DorsetCPRE

BRANCH SECRETARY

**Mrs Linda Williams**

## Executive Committee & Trustees

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2 Augustan Close, Dorchester DT1 2QU

**Capt Dickie Bird, LVO, RN** **01935 850576**

Manor Farm House, Trent, Sherborne DT9 4SW

### CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

**Mr Stephen G Howard** **01747 828249**

Summer Pool Cottage, Donhead St Andrew, Shaftesbury SP7 9LQ

### HONORARY TREASURER

**Mr Richard H Norman** **01258 472887**

Mngani, 15 Hillcrest Close, Glue Hill,  
Sturminster Newton DT10 2DL

### ELECTED MEMBERS

**Mr Richard H Nicholls** **01308 422679**

159 Victoria Grove, Bridport DT6 3AG

**Mr Stephen G Howard** **01747 828249**

Summer Pool Cottage, Donhead St Andrew,  
Shaftesbury SP79LQ

**Rear Admiral Richard Heaslip, CB** **01202 594982**

2 Longfield Drive, West Parley,  
Ferndown BH22 8TY

**Dr John A Larkin** **01929 555366**

Lorien, Grange Road, Wareham BH20 5AL

**Mr Peter Neal** **01935 814801**

5 Abbeymead Court, Sherborne DT9 3AU

**Mrs Sandra Brown** **01929 551071**

Badgers Keep, Barnhill Road, Ridge,  
Wareham, Dorset BH20 5BG

## Group Chairmen

### West Dorset:

**Mr Richard H Nicholls** **01308 422679**

159 Victoria Grove, Bridport DT6 3AG

### North Dorset:

**Mr Stephen G Howard** **01747 828249**

Summer Pool Cottage, Donhead St Andrew,  
Shaftesbury SP7 9LQ

### The Sherborne and District Society:

**Mr Peter Neal** **01935 814801**

5 Abbeymead Court, Sherborne DT9 3AU

### Purbeck & Poole:

**Mr Gerald Rigler** **01202 601109**

9 Sundew Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9NX

### East Dorset, Bournemouth and Christchurch:

**Contact Dorset CPRE Branch**

## Countryside Forum

### CHAIR OF COUNTRYSIDE FORUM

**Mr John Holiday** **01258 817796**

Hill Farm, Woolland, Blandford Forum, DT11 0ER

## Advisers to the Forum

### Trees for Dorset

**Mrs Rachel M Palmer** **01929 462423**

Clouds, 14 Cologne Road, Bovington,  
Wareham BH20 6NP

### Dorset Wildlife Trust:

**Mrs Alison C Kaye** **01305 260401**

High Ridge House, Charminster,  
Dorchester DT2 9QZ

### Environment Agency

**Guy Parker** **01258 483460**

Flood Resilience Advisor (Wessex)

Rivers House, Sunrise Business Park,

Higher Shaftesbury Road, Blandford Forum DT11 8ST

Email: [guy.parker@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:guy.parker@environment-agency.gov.uk)

### CPRE SOUTH WEST

#### Regional Chairman:

**Janette Ward**

c/o CPRE South West, P O Box 9, Ilminster,  
Somerset TA19 9YX



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The views expressed in some of the articles do not, necessarily, represent the views of CPRE Dorset. Many of the articles have been written from a personal viewpoint.

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