

Purbeck Heaths NNR End of Season meeting at Castle View of 18th October 2022

Presentations given as follows:

- Tom Clarke, NT – gave background to the Sustainable Tourism Plan, and the progress at the PHNNR.
- Alex Brocklesbury, NNR – gave update on low carbon transport planning. 2RN bus, appears to have been successful, will probably run again next year. New leaflet with map and enhanced information to be published next spring, and will include car free activities. From funding through Wytch Farm, there will be Beryl Bikes at Studland as a trial. Beryl Bikes are already in Wool. Working on next phases of low carbon plan with Sustainable Swanage, PTAG and Community Rail Partnership. There are extensive resources available on the website – videos, downloads, walking & cycling routes, learning packs, info about flora and fauna, etc.
- Peter Robertson, RSPB – As part of the Sustainable Food group, RSPB looked at their café, and the menu, with a view to becoming a sustainable café, aiming to inform and inspire people about a sustainable food chain. Not fully there yet, aiming for organic (in the absence of any other appropriate measure but recognising that this will miss some choices). The shop has changed, it doesn't just sell the national offering, now selling Dorset and Purbeck goods. Hoping in time to sell the things you can buy in the café, e.g. organic meat. Redecorated to change the café presentation to make it more relevant to Arne.
- Paul Morton, Birds of Poole Harbour – Gave an intro to the organisation. Comparison 2017 – 3 boats, 150 people, 2022 – 30 boats, 1600 people, sold out in 2 weeks! Working on osprey breeding, white tail eagles will be settling in Poole harbour, reintroduction of Choughs. In 4-5 years, Purbeck will become a focal point for Sustainable Tourism.
- Paul Humphries, Dorset Council Transport Officer – Gave an update on 3 cycle routes, Stoborough – Bushey via Sharford Bridge, Purbeck Park to CC Visitor Centre, and Wareham Northmoor, and an update on DC LTP.
- Ria Loveridge, Bird and Recreation Initiative – Advised how BARI is funded (BCP./ DC developer contributions. Responsible for direct engagement with the public as a warden and also via online platforms, Partnership with Dorset Dogs and Coastwide Canines. Target hotspots for recreation. There is already a Poole Harbour kayak map, hoping to add to this for paddleboarder, working with watersports users. Able to provide mitigation works such as Rockley viewing platform while zoning off important wildlife areas.
- David Brown, NT – Briefed about work completed at Shell Bay to screen off an area of beach to allow high tide roost for sandlings, plovers, etc. Dog Proof fencing went in approx a month ago, appears to be working so far. The work is more than just protecting, its also about raising awareness about why the fences are required.
- Bev Langden, RSPB – 2RN Shuttlebus, ran 3 days a week, Sat service in holidays to Norden. Run by Dorset Community Transport but open everyone. Not just selling a bus journey, but a car free journey to the reserve for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to come to Arne. £2 per journey bus far liked, probably won't ever be a commercial success, but pleased with first year figures.
- Melanie Roberts, Purbeck Dog Park – Why? Too many dogs. Some lockdown dogs are unsocialised, cannot be walked off lead. Field offers the opportunity to have off lead with no other dogs around. But also provides mitigation for heathland.
- David Brown, NT, Purbeck Natural History Forum – advised there are some species we know a lot about, that have been studied by naturalists, a history of information and recording of wildlife. Also the impact of people and nature's response to that. AGM is on 16th November.

Next event will be a pre-season event on 9th March in Arne.

Report by Cllr Helen Sumblar, 2/11/22.