

Dorset Council October 2022 Report Final

Cost of living help

The link below will connect you to a site which will sign-post residents to webpages which we hope will help people impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/cost-of-living-help> .

Dorset Council secures funding to improve electric vehicle infrastructure in rural areas

Dorset has been announced as one of just nine areas in England to receive funding from a new government scheme which aims to improve electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. The funding comes from the new Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme, through which we have managed to secure £2.7million to increase the number of EV charge points in the council area

The project will serve a broad range of users, primarily targeting residents without access to off-street parking, while also meeting demand for en-route charging to support our tourism trade.

The project aims to place chargepoints in up to 150 locations around the county for the convenience of residents and to encourage the take up of electric vehicles. This will involve the council working with local community landowners to install charging infrastructure in accessible locations which might include car parks, community halls, pubs, café's and shops, as well as possible on-street locations where suitable. This pilot will also include a small number rapid or ultra-rapid (50 kW to 150 kW DC) chargers on or near main roads to support enroute charging. Some chargepoints will be located at popular tourist locations where both residents and visitors can access them.

To overcome user concerns over payment methods, all chargepoints will have alternative access with a minimum payment method (a non-proprietary and non-phone payment method, such as contactless) installed.

Need more landlords

There are several initiatives which aim to work with landlords to provide much-needed housing to families across the Dorset Council area. The housing service is appealing to willing landlords to partner the council and benefit from the assistance the council can give. Please look at the Dorset website for further information

Foster with Dorset Council

A note from a foster carer "If anyone is thinking about fostering, I'd say don't hesitate to investigate it, don't be put off making that initial phone call. Just be open with things that you're worried about as they probably won't stop you being a foster carer. Just pick up the phone and make that enquiry. "Every circumstance is different from one person to another, but the process is so thorough that if you have the slightest inkling that this might be what you want to do then give it a go."

Our fostering service puts the children who need loving, local foster homes at the heart of everything we do. The key focus is on keeping local children close to their schools, friends and birth families. Our foster carers transform the lives of children and young people by opening their hearts and homes to those who need it the most. At present, demand for foster carers in Dorset is high – especially for teenagers and sibling groups.

Find out more about fostering with Dorset Council and register your interest today. Keep up to date with the latest fostering news and subscribe to our monthly enewsletter. If you'd like to find out more in-person, the fostering team hold regular fostering drop-in events across Dorset.

The Dorset Parent Carer Council annual information event is back! Dorset SEND

Free Information Event - 4 October

This FREE event is for parents and carers of children aged pre-school to 14, who are disabled or have additional needs. The event brings together a wide variety of services and information all in one place. Teams and organisations from across education, health, and social care and the community sector will be

attending to provide a fantastic opportunity for families to see what work is currently underway to improve services in the future.

Tuesday 4th October; 10am till 2pm; Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester, DT2 8PX

Free parking, free entry, free refreshments. No booking required.

Dorset County Farms

Dorset Council owns 41 farms (and has owned them for quite some time). These are currently managed in accordance with the County Farm Estate Management Plan of which the principal objectives are to:

Provide a provide an initial gateway into agriculture for persons to farm on their own account whilst ensuring a financial return to us. Provide us with a direct interest in the land management of the county, promoting the integration of good environmental and farming practices as well as best practice and innovation in estate management and agriculture. Sustain rural communities whilst providing opportunities for greater public access and understanding of agriculture and the countryside

The estate is currently run on a two-tier system, with smaller 'starter' units providing a point of entry into the agricultural industry and larger 'promotion' units to allow for career progression. Farms on the estate are predominantly livestock based, with both dairy and stock farms.

The review of the Management Plan was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic but is now in progress. In addition to the current objectives, we are considering how the estate can create additional economic, social and environmental value to help meet the priorities identified in the Council Plan. In particular, conversations are ongoing internally in relation to the role the Estate can plan in helping to support the Council's climate and ecological emergency which was declared in 2019. The estate is currently run on a two tier system, with smaller 'starter' units providing a point of entry into the agricultural industry and larger 'promotion' units to allow for career progression. Farms on the estate are predominantly livestock based, with both dairy and stock farms.

Dorset Council's Road maintenance method reduce carbon emissions

As part of Dorset Council's 'green' approach to highways maintenance, road retexturing is contributing to a reduction in emissions, the council has refreshed 67,000sqm of road surface this year – raising skid resistance to improve the safety of highway. Where appropriate, the sustainable solution used eliminates the need to resurface a road and instead uses one of two techniques to blast the road surface to regain its skid resistance to the same – or better – level of resistance it had when the material was first laid. Depending on the individual site, the road will either have small steel shots fired at the surface to improve the texture or will have water blasted at the surface to remove excess binder.

This road retexturing has helped reduce the amount of carbon dioxide produced by over 335,000kg, and saved around 6,700 tonnes of virgin aggregates from being used, It also has financial savings of over £1.2m compared to using conventional resurfacing methods to provide a new textured surface.

Additional Funding to make the streets of Weymouth safer

Initiatives to protect women and girls from violence will continue to operate after almost £250,000 of funding has been secured. Safer Streets will see more CCTV cameras installed to get greater street coverage, a safe space will continue to operate as a sanctuary for women and girls, and more work to prevent and support women who have been subjected to stalking and harassment. The money will help improve the safety of Weymouth throughout the day and at night out.

The successful bid of £246,976 was submitted by Dorset Council to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The council's Community and Public Protection service works with Weymouth Town Council, Dorset Police, Weymouth Street Pastors and St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, which is used as a haven for medical, and other support services, for vulnerable women and girls. The church location also provides services to help in the event of illness or injury, alcohol or drug misuse, victim of crime, becoming separated from friends or emotional distress.

Free School Meals

There's a lot to think about now the children are back at school, so families on qualifying benefits are reminded to check if their child or children could receive a free school meal. They could save families up to £450 per year per child and their school could get extra government funding, known as the Pupil Premium, to boost their education. It is easy to find out if you qualify for free school meals. Complete the confidential checker at dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals or telephone 01305 221090.

Adult Social Care Consultation events

The directorate's senior leadership team and the Portfolio holder and Cabinet Lead for Adult Social Care and Health, are touring the council area to have open conversations with residents and partners. We want stakeholders and community representatives, to join one or more of the public events alongside partners and residents, to help inform and shape adult social care provision over the next five to 10 years.

Starting on 19 September and running through October, the events comprise workshops with interactive discussions and drop in sessions for those preferring a shorter informal conversation about their needs and aspirations and the council's proposals.

It would be helpful if you would share these events to ensure as many people as possible can attend and contribute to this important work, which will affect all residents.

Wednesday 21 September (This session is going ahead)

Workshop: What is going to change about how you pay for your care & support? (Social Care Reforms)

1.30 - 5pm

Dorset Museum, High W Street, Dorchester DT1 1XA [Map](#)

Monday 26 September

Drop in session: 9.30am - 12noon

Digby Memorial Church Hall, Digby Road, Sherborne DT9 3NL [Map](#)

Wednesday 28 September

Workshop: Every conversation about care & support is a conversation about accommodation

1.30 - 5pm

Rembrandt Hotel, 12-18 Dorchester Rd, Weymouth DT4 7JU [Map](#)

Friday 30 September

Drop in session: 9.30am - 12noon

Shaftsbury Town Hall, The High Street, Shaftsbury SP7 8LY [Map](#)

Wednesday 05 October

Workshop: Meeting mental health needs after the pandemic

1.30 - 5pm

Wareham Town Hall, East St, Wareham BH20 4NS [Map](#)

Wednesday 12 October

Workshop: Staying healthy and independent in my community

1.30 - 5pm

Bridport Leisure Centre, Brewery Fields, Skilling Hill Rd, Bridport DT6 5LN [Map](#)

Wednesday 19 October

Workshop: Rural living and access services that meet my needs

1.30 - 5pm

The Exchange, Old Market Hill, Sturminster Newton DT10 1FH [Map](#)

Thursday 20 October

Drop in session 9am - 12.30noon

Portland Community Venue, Three Yards Close, Portland DT5 1JN [Map](#)

Friday 21 October

Drop in session 1.30 - 4.30pm

Verwood Hub, Brock Way, Verwood BH31 7QE [Map](#)

Monday 24 October

Drop in session: 1.30 - 4.30pm

Swanage Library, High St, Swanage BH19 2NU [Map](#)

Wednesday 26 October

Workshop: Social care and support from birth to settled adulthood

1:30 - 5pm

Barrington Centre, Pennys Walk, Ferndown BH22 9TH [Map](#)

Friday 28 October

Drop in session: 9am - 12.30pm

North Dorset RFC, Slaughtergate, Longbury Hill Lane, Gillingham SP8 5SY [Map](#)

Monday 31 October

Drop in session: 10am - 1pm

Lyme Regis GuildHall, Church Street, Lyme Regis DT7 3BS [Map](#)

Verge Cutting

DORSET Council's policy of not cutting some roadside verges for ecological reason will not change, a quote recently issued by a spokesperson said "In order to maintain the highways for users and improve biodiversity in verges, all roadside verges are cut at least once a year – this cut is scheduled for late summer and is currently happening across the Dorset Council area. "In some places, where tall verges are dangerous for road users, we cut more regularly, and safety remains our top priority.

Purbeck Local Plan

The Purbeck Local Plan examination continues. A further hearing session was held in July after which the Inspector recently wrote to the council requesting some more information on nutrient pollution in Poole Harbour and on the timetable for the Dorset Council Local Plan. The Council has responded to the Inspector along the following lines:

Nutrient pollution: For Purbeck, new homes in the area need to be able to demonstrate that they are not increasing the nutrient discharge into the Poole Harbour. The Government is intending to introduce regulatory measures which, once enacted, will secure the improvements to wastewater treatment works. In the meantime, Dorset Council officers are working with Natural England to put in place measures for managing nutrients until the new laws come into force. We will be updating the Habitats Regulations Assessment to take account of this.

Timetable for the Purbeck and Dorset Council Local Plans: There was discussion at the hearing session about the timetable for the production of the Dorset Council Local Plan and how this fits with the Purbeck Local Plan. An updated timetable is being prepared for Dorset Council's Cabinet to consider and approve at its meeting in October.

We are awaiting a response from the Inspector on these matters to confirm if this is satisfactory and whether any further steps are required to enable the conclusion of the examination of the plan. For further information, please see the Purbeck Local Plan section of the Dorset Council website [Purbeck Local Plan - Dorset Council](#).

Contact

I regularly attend Parish Council meetings, face to face, but I would also be more than delighted to talk to you on the telephone or via Zoom. Please ring or email me if there is anything that I can help with. My email address is cllrcherry.brooks@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk. Tel: 07512 897908

Councillor Cherry Brooks South East Purbeck Ward