

## Dorset Coast Forum (DCF) eNews January 2021

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### DCF NEWS

Welcome to the new-look DCF eNews, we hope you enjoy the new style but please do let us know if you have any feedback. If you do prefer the traditional format there is a PDF copy attached.

- As part of the **Dorset Coastal Connections portfolio, the West Dorset Walkers Welcome** project of artistic parish boundary markers can now be found on parish boundaries along the Dorset coast path from Ware, on the Dorset/Devon boundary, all the way to Abbotsbury. Local artists and craftspeople were invited to design and create parish boundary markers to be permanently sited along the West Dorset Coast Path. Photo above is Alice Blogg's design located at the Symonsbury and Bridport parish boundary. See more information about the artworks and artists on the project [website](#).
- **West Bay Beach Access, Dorset Coastal Connections.** Improvement works for the access will soon be underway following delays due to Covid-19. Surface aggregates have been selected and works to resurface the access alongside the West Bay Discovery Centre to the toilets are scheduled to start in mid-January.
- The preferred design option for the **Weymouth Station Gateway Project** has been approved by the key stakeholders, partners and the Project Steering Group. This has reflected on the feedback we received from the broad ranging consultation undertaken last year. The process is now moving forward to a more detailed design working with our key partners.

### FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT WORK

- In mid-December, Martin presented at a regional, online conference on how aquaculture might help contribute to the UK Governments Net-Zero Carbon agenda. The event was attended by local MPs and the Environment Secretary, George Eustace. Martin's presentation was well received by MPs. Martin is continuing his work with Maritime UK South West promoting aquaculture across the region.
- **FLAG Strategy 2:** Following on from the FLAG survey, Martin will use the feedback to update the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Strategy for the fisheries and seafood sectors, which will then be circulated for feedback from stakeholders. **If you didn't complete the survey, but want to contribute, please contact Martin directly on 01305 224766.**
- The next South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN) meeting is on January 19<sup>th</sup>. There are a number of exciting presentations from stakeholders across the county and if you would like to join the Network or find out more, please contact Martin.
- You may have seen both Boris Johnson and Michael Gove talk about a new £100 million fund for fisheries in England. The final announcement is yet to come out, but as soon as it does, Martin will be available to help develop projects for the new fund. In the meantime, if you have any ideas for funding please e-mail Martin at [martin.sutcliffe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:martin.sutcliffe@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

### LITTER FREE COAST AND SEA (LFCS)

- LFCS will be developing our action plans for 2021 based on research and community engagement conducted throughout 2020.
- We will be hosting the second workshop together with the Lulworth Estate and residents and volunteers to plan collaborative action around waste prevention.
- Following on from our recent Weymouth Waste Reduction workshop, we are looking at all the information and feedback we received and will look to develop the next steps- so watch this space.

### SUSTAINABLE SWANAGE

- Exciting projects developing this year including the proposal to declare the Peveril Downs as a Local Nature Reserve. Have Your Say about the management of the site by completing this [survey](#). There will be many

opportunities for people to be involved in the Friends group to help with this site so do get in touch. Follow us on [Facebook](#) for updates on other projects too.

- The next **Sustainable Swanage Open zoom meeting** will be held on **Wednesday 27th January at 7pm**. We will be talking 'environmental action plans' and how we can all respond to the Climate and Ecological crisis. Swanage Town Council will be presenting their newly formed plan and offering a chance to ask questions and see how people can support it too. Please [register here](#) if you would like to attend.

## **TOURISM AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT**

### **Stay Local for your Exercise**

Following the national lockdown announcement on 4 January 2021, Dorset and BCP parks, play areas, car parks and toilets will remain open for local exercise with new guidelines in place. Visitors must:

- follow [government guidance](#);
- minimise the time spent outside your home,
- not travel too far to exercise;
- observe any additional requirements in place for the safety of all Dorset visitors and residents.

### **Section of Hengistbury Head beach inaccessible**

If you are visiting Hengistbury Head beach, please be vigilant. A 500 metre section of beach around the Head, between Hiker Café and Long Groyne, is closed due to the recent cliff slip and high tides and is no longer accessible.

### **[Update Hive Beach rockfall](#)**

Dorset Council rangers have been checking on December's rockfall at Hive Beach. There has been no change in the situation, which means that the cliff and the fallen material is still unstable. People should stay away from the immediate area as a further fall or resettlement of the rocks now on the beach could happen at any time. The heavy rain that the county has received recently and the strong waves that are pounding the base of the cliffs will help destabilise it further.

### **[RNLI's Water Safety warning during lockdown](#)**

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is urging anyone who is able under government guidelines to visit the coast during lockdown, to stay safe and not take any unnecessary risks that may put extra pressure on emergency services. See the RNLI's key water safety advice.

### **[Audio Trail at Durlston](#)**

If you are able to visit Durlston for your daily exercise, why not download their new audio tour of the beautiful Clifftop Trail to enhance your walk? Created by their brilliant volunteer Rachel, you can download the walk by clicking [here](#).

### **[BCP Council gains Department for Transport approval for e-scooter rental trial](#)**

A fleet of brand-new electric powered scooters will soon be available for hire or both residents and visitors across Bournemouth and Poole following Ministerial approval for a trial in the area. The initial trial is set to commence on 25 January.

### **[44 new electric vehicle charge points coming to Dorset](#)**

Charge points will be ready to use in 18 Dorset Council-owned car parks from February 2021.

### **[Update on bathing waters in England](#)**

Due to lockdown restrictions, the Environment Agency had to pause sampling at bathing waters for much of the 2020 season to adhere with social distancing and to protect the safety of field, office and laboratory staff. Bathing waters in England have therefore not been classified in 2020. Monitoring and classifications will resume as normal in 2021. The latest classifications for over 400 designated bathing waters in England can be found through the Environment Agency's water quality [website](#).

## FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

### [Seafish Brexit Guide: What you need to do to keep trading from January 2021](#)

Brexit changes how we trade, fish and work with the EU. Seafish are providing practical support to help seafood businesses be ready for the change in 2021.

### [The Fisheries Act 2020: What You Need to Know](#)

APPG on fisheries provides information on what you need to know about the Fisheries Act 2020. On 23rd November 2020, the Fisheries Bill gained royal assent and is now enshrined in UK law as the Fisheries Act 2020. This comes as the UK prepares to fully leave the EU, following the end of the transition period on 1st January 2021. The Fisheries Act 2020 (the Act) gives the UK full control of its fishing waters for the first time since 1973.

### [ABPMer White Paper: EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement – Thoughts on fisheries from a UK](#)

[perspective](#). Following the end of the Brexit transition period, ABPMer's latest White Paper explores what the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement has to say on fisheries.

[Guidance to support commercial fishermen, merchants and exporters following the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#). Support for seafood businesses to help them from 1 January 2021, following the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU.

### [Fishing Gear Survey](#)

Fishermen are invited to participate in an online survey that Cefas are working on with a number of partners on the European funded project INdIGO. The project has two main objectives:

1. To develop fishing gear with a controlled lifespan that is biodegradable in the marine environment
2. To improve the recycling of fishing gear at the end of its life

### [5G RuralDorset and Wessex Internet to deliver UK's largest ever 5G trial into the future of food](#)

5G RuralDorset and project partner Wessex Internet are to launch pioneering trials that will see Dorset become a world-leader in agri-tech and shape the future of food across the UK. It involves farms from across the county, including two large arable farms in North Dorset, a mixed farm at Kingston Maurward College and a shellfish & seaweed farm on the Dorset coast.

## PLASTICS & LITTER

### [Keep Britain Tidy Award](#)

Litter Free Dorset and Urban Heath Partnership have been shortlisted for the Keep Britain Tidy 'Litter Initiative of the year award' for the campaign [BBQs Burn More Than Bangers](#). The award ceremony will be held virtually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February – fingers crossed!

### [Greening West Dorset's Hills & Vales](#)

Dorset AONB was successful with a bid to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The AONB, Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust, the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SW, Litter Free Dorset, Dorset Environmental Records Centre, Dorset Council and numerous farmers will work together to conserve and restore some of the best loved and valuable landscapes features in West Dorset. Litter Free Dorset will work closely with 5 communities between March 2021 – March 2022 to reduce litter and pollution within West Dorset.

## CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY

### [Chesil Little Tern Recovery Project Report 2020](#)

The project had a very positive season despite the Covid restrictions and the absence of a seasonal project officer. The volunteer team worked incredibly hard and deserve huge credit for the colony producing 30-plus little tern chicks. See the report summary [here](#).

### [Changes to the measurement \(metric\) used to report on the condition of SSSIs in England](#)

Natural England is seeking views on the proposed change to the measurement used in the reporting of SSSI condition in England. The changes will be a move from a unit or area based assessment to one which measures the condition of a notified feature across the whole of the SSSI.

**Deadline: 18 January**

### [Planners give green light to Otter Valley project](#)

East Devon District Council has approved a pioneering project to help a river valley on England's Jurassic Coast adapt to climate change and create an internationally important wildlife reserve.

### [A Living Laboratory](#)

Durlston National Nature Reserve is one of the UK's most important places for wildlife, with an incredible 2,927 species of living thing recorded (so far)!

## **HARBOURS & PORTS**

### [Weymouth Harbour - Covid Lockdown update](#)

Weymouth Harbour office is currently open from 07:30 – 17:00 but with reduced manning. All harbour users and customers are strongly encouraged to adhere to the Government's lockdown guidelines requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purposes. As many of staff are having to work from home, please remain patient and if you can, send queries by email to:

- Berthing office / general enquiries: [weymouthharbour@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:weymouthharbour@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)
- Annual / temporary moorings: [weymouthmoorings@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:weymouthmoorings@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

### [Portland Port - COVID-19 update](#)

Portland Port Ltd. and Portland Harbour Authority are taking the COVID-19 situation seriously by closely monitoring the advice given out by the Government and maintaining regular contact with the local port health department. New advice is coming out regularly and as such the port will be updating its notices, policies and procedures on a regular basis as well.

### **Bridport & Lyme Regis Harbours – Covid-19 Update**

Please find attached the Notice to Mariners No.01/21 (T) safe boating update for Bridport & Lyme Regis Harbours.

## **COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

### [Improved safety at Lulworth Estate as part of 5G RuralDorset project](#)

Constant monitoring of sea conditions using 5G technology is set to be trialed off the Dorset coast. The system will use buoys to measure the sea state, it will then transfer the data to electronic signs and the information can also be accessed by emergency services. The buoys are to be deployed off the coast of the Lulworth Estate in March.

### [Parkdean Riverbank Improvements in West Bay](#)

Improvement works to the River Brit riverbank in West Bay are now well underway. These works will provide protection against the river overflowing and flooding the Parkdean Resorts West Bay Holiday Park and West Bay

[The Environment Agency is urging people to sign up to flood warnings and to check the latest safety advice.](#) The Environment Agency is warning communities to stay vigilant while flood risk continues for parts of England, with ongoing flooding expected in some areas due to recent extreme weather and some further minor flooding impacts possible as more rain is expected.

### [New guidance published: Applying the natural capital approach to Sustainability Appraisal](#)

New guidance to help those interested in applying natural capital principles to Sustainability Appraisal is now available on the SWEEP website.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### [Don't forget to have your say on Dorset Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan.](#)

The strategy and action plan details how we can change the way we work and deliver services to achieve net-zero carbon emissions in Dorset over the next 20-30 years. A full consultation is underway, and we are asking everyone to spend a few minutes to help make a big impact.

**DEADLINE: 20 January**

### [Building back better, supporting green jobs, and accelerating our path to net zero](#)

Government have released their Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

### [University of Plymouth awarded £1m to create national test facility for renewable technology](#)

The UK Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Test facility will be created within the COAST Lab's Ocean Basin based within the University's Marine Building.

## GRANTS AND FUNDING & NEWS

[The Local Connections Fund](#) is a new £4 million fund to help charities and community groups in England that are working to reduce loneliness by helping them build connections across their communities. This will be used to fund hundreds of 'microgrants' between £300 and £2,500, so small, local organisations (with an annual income of £50,000 or less) can bring people and communities together.

**DEADLINE FOR ROUND 1: 26 January**

### [Blue Impact Fund](#)

Finance Earth and WWF have worked together since 2018 to create the Blue Impact Fund, a pioneering impact fund investing in the UK sustainable blue economy. The Blue Impact Fund will target enterprises producing sustainable seafood and aquatic plants that can generate attractive returns while delivering ocean resilience and recovery.

## SAVE THE DATE – CONFERENCES & EVENTS

The results of the [SCOPAC funded research into storms and sea level rise](#) across the central south coast of England will be disseminated via a webinar on the **15th January 2021 at 10am**. Please contact [Coastal.Assurance@havant.gov.uk](mailto:Coastal.Assurance@havant.gov.uk) if you would like to attend.

### [Next steps for UK fisheries - trade, opportunities, policy, sustainability and support](#)

Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference Morning, **Wednesday, 20th January 2021**

### [Ocean Recovery - Online Conference January 19-21, 2021](#)

To book & register for the event click [here](#). Booking will close on Friday 15th January.

### [South West Marine Ecosystems Webinar Programme 2021 - DATES for YOUR DIARY](#)

For over 10 years the South West Marine Ecosystems Conference (SWME) has been taking place in the spring. For 2021 the SWME steering committee have decided to organise a series of webinars from January to March 2021; these will be free to view.

### [First digital Hydrogen Summit in the south west 2-4 February](#)

Listen to the experts to gain an overview of the sector and explore the opportunities it may bring to the South West supply chain.