

Dorset Coast Forum (DCF) eNews February 2021

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DCF NEWS

- The new design for **Weymouth Station Gateway Project** is making good progress and is welcoming, attractive, contemporary and focuses on pedestrian access and safety. The station will have a sustainable transport hub and the provision of better interpretation and wayfinding. The design is being developed to a more detailed level as we work through the permissions to implement. We hope to share the design drawings with the wider public as this phase moves towards planning and construction.
- The Dorset Harbours Strategy is moving forward, and we are now at the stage of consulting with the Harbour Consultative Groups on the draft mission, vision and strategic goals, followed by consultation with the harbour users and then with the wider communities.

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT WORK

- Kingston Maurward will be launching their **Level 3 Marine Aquaculture in September 2021** which is equivalent to A-Level qualifications. Martin has been working closely with the college and aquaculture sector to make sure the course trains the workforce of the future and meets the unique needs of the sector in Dorset. The course is aimed at young people and people already working in the sector who are looking for extra training and to boost their career. You can find out more about the course on the Kingston Maurward website [here](#).
- At the **South West Aquaculture Network (SWAN)** meeting on January 19th, Martin was elected as Chair, again for the next 12 months. SWAN's focus has always been to develop cross sector, collaborative projects and Martin will now work with Maritime UK South West to develop some significant funding opportunities for the aquaculture sector. If you would like to join the Network or find out more, please contact Martin.
- The **MMO announced a £23 million fund** to help the fisheries sector overcome the changes to exporting rules post Brexit. The fund is targeted at SME's and businesses that can demonstrate losses due to the change in regulations. This fund is now open and the application closing date is **28 February**, as ever Martin will be available to help with applications and project development once the fund is in place. More info on the [MMO website here](#).
- On January 13th, Martin presented at the national **Aquaculture Common Issues Group meeting** hosted by Seafish, highlighting the working in aquaculture that has been done over the last four years in Dorset and the Southwest. The online events are free and if you would like to attend future events, please contact Seafish directly via the website [here](#) and you can download a copy of Martin's presentation from the same website [here](#).

LITTER FREE COAST AND SEA (LFCS)

- LFCS plan to run the Great Dorset Beach Clean between 29 – 30 May 2021 this year to align with the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean (we are hoping life might be a little more normal by May). More information on this to follow.
- We are also currently doing a lot of work preparing for our summer campaigns. We would like to run a new and improved version of the Slam Dunk the Junk campaign again this year so that we have one consistent message along the coast again.

SUSTAINABLE SWANAGE

- Sustainable Swanage is working with IDDEA Energy Systems to enable residents in Swanage and surrounding villages to find out more about the [Solar Streets](#) scheme, which provides affordable residential solar panel installations. The scheme will be launched at a Zoom event on Wednesday 17th March at 7.00pm where there will be a presentation on Solar Streets followed by Q&A.

- The [Swanage Downs survey](#) for the Downs will be running until midnight 14th February, a fantastic response so far. A meeting will be organised for early March date TBC, to discuss main findings and respond to questions about the proposals.

TOURISM AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Active landslide on Swanage Beach near Sheps Hollow

Members of the public have been asked to avoid Shep's Hollow (between groyne 17 and 21), Swanage - just below the footpath due to an 'active landslide'.

[Follow this winter safety advice from the RNLI and HM Coastguard](#)

It's important to know what to watch out for and how to protect yourself and your family at the coast. Cliffs and stormy seas can be dangerous, so make sure you stay well back, take a phone with you, and get home safely.

[Ask the experts online: Open Water Swimming](#)

To help you stay safe while you enjoy a chilly dip, RNLI have teamed up with Swim Ireland to offer a series of webinars on open water swimming.

[The Stour Valley Park proposal](#)

Help shape the Stour Valley Park. Stretching along 25km of the lower River Stour, from the Kingston Lacy estate to Hengistbury Head on the coast, this park will become a fantastic, shared resource for generations to come. [Find out more here](#)

[Whitecliff and Baiter Park proposed cycleway](#)

BCP Council are proposing to widen the existing waterside path with two north/south links connecting to Whitecliff Road. This new widened path will be segregated to create both a dedicated cycle way and pedestrian path. You can have your say by completing a [short survey](#) or using the interactive map.

[West Bay Discovery Centre wins Silver in the Dorset Tourism Awards](#)

Congratulations to the West Bay Discovery Centre! Winners of the silver award in the Accessible & Inclusive Tourism category.

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

[£23 million Seafood Disruption Support Scheme now open](#)

Fund will cover up to £100,000 of losses per business caused by delays related to the export of fresh or live fish and shellfish to the EU during January 2021.

Closing date: 28 February

[A New Era: The Fisheries Act and Brexit Special Briefing Event – 25th February](#)

APPG on Fisheries are hosting a public briefing event, where we will hear from government and fishing authorities about what the Fisheries Act 2020 and the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement mean for UK fishing, both now and in the future. The meeting will be taking place via Zoom on Thursday 25 February from 2pm to 3.30pm. [Register here](#) to attend.

[Get Fishing Fund - £100,000 to benefit new anglers](#)

The Environment Agency and Angling Trust have announced a new £100,000 'Get Fishing Fund' to encourage more people to give fishing a go for the first time or get back into angling after a break from the sport. Read more about it [here](#).

Closing date: 12 March

[Exporting live bivalve molluscs to the European Union](#)

Defra update on the disruption of exporting live bivalve molluscs from the UK to the European Union.

The Government is in communication with the shellfish sector and will continue to raise the issue with the European Commission to find an appropriate solution.

[How to trade under the new EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#)

Seafish have added a new page to their website with more detail on trading with the EU. This is based on the questions and queries we've been getting from businesses over the first few weeks of the new agreement.

[Calling all whelk fishermen!](#)

Does your whelk bait come in plastic mesh bags? If so, you can help this 'Take the Bait' partnership project redesign the bags & reduce the amount of plastic in them by filling out this [short questionnaire](#).

[The Fish Standard consultation](#)

The Fish Standard who provide voluntary, independent and accredited labour certification for fishing vessels has launched a consultation. The 'FISH Standard for Crew' is designed to help ensure that fish sold in markets, grocery stores and restaurants around the world is harvested by crews who are recruited and hired ethically, treated with respect on the vessel, paid properly, and have fair processes to address grievances.

Closing date – 8 March

PLASTICS & LITTER

[Love Your Verge Campaign](#)

Litter Free Dorset's 'Love Your Verge' campaign, in partnership with Dorset Council has had the go-ahead to be launched in Spring 2021. This campaign will be Dorset-wide and aims to help the public to appreciate and love their roadside verges and at the same time raise awareness of the Dorset Council verge management techniques to encourage biodiversity while reducing incidents of roadside litter in our county.

[BBQs burn more than bangers](#)

Following last summer's BBQ campaign, Dorset Council will be taking action to help reduce incidents of wildfire this Summer. This year, Litter Free Dorset will be focussing on business engagement, and encouraging businesses to stop selling disposable barbecues. This campaign is still in the planning phase, but more details will follow as plans evolve.

[Sea-Changers Coastal Fountain Fund 2021](#)

Sea-Changers is pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 Coastal Fountain Fund. The purpose of the fund is to reduce the impact of single-use plastic water bottles on coastal habitats by funding communities to purchase water drinking fountains and install them for use by the public in busy or environmentally important areas.

Closing date: 15 March

[Surfers Against Sewage – Plastic Free Awards 2021](#)

Nominate your plastic free hero. Who do you know that deserves recognition for their role in the fight against plastic pollution?

CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY

[Launch of the Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership \(NRNDP\)](#)

The Nature Recovery Network (NRN) Delivery Partnership launched on 5 November 2020, led by Natural England supported by Defra, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and a core management group of 30 cross-sectoral membership bodies representing over 600 organisations. The Partnership has been established to drive England-wide collaborative action for nature by encouraging organisations to join the partnership and take action to deliver the Nature Recovery Network (NRN). You can access the [launch video here](#).

[Ocean sharks and rays threatened with extinction](#)

According to new research, three quarters of ocean shark and ray species face an elevated risk of extinction. The study, which included Exeter University, reveals an alarming 71% decline in shark and ray populations over the last 50 years, primarily due to overfishing.

HARBOURS & PORTS

[Proposals for Custom House Quay](#)

Dorset Council are asking Weymouth residents to have their say on proposals to enhance the harbourside area for families, hospitality businesses and active travel. The potential new layout could include a wider footway on the harbour edge, improved cycle links and more space for cafes, restaurants and pubs to use for outside seating, while preserving access for commercial harbour users. [Have your say here!](#)

[Poole Harbour Notice to Mariners No. 06/2021](#)

Mariners are advised that Military Parachute Training will take place during specific dates in February listed [here](#).

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

[Southbourne Beach renourishment in progress](#)

BCP Council are renourishing seven depleted beach areas from Southbourne to Poole with sand and beach material as part of the Poole Bay Beach Management Scheme which is designed to make the coastline more climate resilient. It is anticipated that all works will be completed by Spring 2021, subject to weather conditions, tides and working arrangements based on latest COVID-19 guidance.

[Flood & Coast Excellence Awards are back!](#)

The Environment Agency are now accepting nominations for the Flood & Coast Excellence Awards 2021. These prestigious awards are a long-standing way to recognise the important work done in the previous year that has contributed to managing flood and coastal risk, building local flood resilience and taking action on climate change. Submit your entry [here](#) by **Sun, 28 Feb 2021**.

[What is coastal squeeze?](#)

The Environment Agency reports on a project to better define and understand what causes 'coastal squeeze' as well as to assess the best way of managing its past and future impacts.

[River basin planning: Challenges and Choices – consultation outcomes](#)

You can read the short summary of responses or, for the detail the Environment Agency Challenges and Choices consultation summary report [here](#).

[Open consultation - Amendments to the Flood Re scheme](#)

Defra are seeking views on changes to the Flood Re scheme to improve its efficiency and effectiveness and to increase uptake of property flood resilience.

Closing date: 11:45pm on 26 April 2021

[New The Green Blue Resources Available](#)

[The Environmental Legal Register](#) is an online resource to record all environmental legislation that may be directly or indirectly applicable to the operations and activities of a marina / boatyard / manufacturer.

[Anchoring and mooring best practice guide](#)

A new practical guide to anchoring and mooring best practice has been published by The Green Blue, the joint environmental awareness programme between the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and British Marine. The guidance, The Green Guide to Anchoring and Moorings, has been launched to help raise awareness of the importance of seagrass and maerl habitats and to actively inspire the boating community to adopt best practice when on the water to minimise any impact on these protected marine habitats.

MARINE PLANNING

[South Dorset Marine Conservation Zone – Formal Consultation](#)

The MMO are seeking views on the draft assessments and management measures proposed for four offshore MPAs including the South Dorset Marine Conservation Zone.

Closing date: 28 March

CLIMATE CHANGE

[BCP Council's 2050 Climate Action Plan](#)

A draft action plan was submitted to Council in December 2019, outlining actions that the council, its partner organisations, local businesses and residents could take to reduce our collective carbon emissions. The Council is working to eliminate its own carbon footprint by 2030 but need everyone to help the BCP Area become carbon neutral before 2050. Have your say and share ideas on which actions should be prioritised [here](#).

[Tackling climate and ecological change in Dorset](#)

Dorset Council still want your views on Climate and Ecological change in Dorset and what they're planning to do to tackle it. If you didn't respond to the consultation (or even if you did), they have a much shorter and simpler survey you can fill out in just a couple of minutes.

[Coverage of Maritime UK South West – Road to Net Zero Event](#)

Maritime decarbonisation projects based in the UK's south west were highlighted this week in the first of a series of virtual 'Road to Net Zero' roadshows led by Maritime UK. The key message from the event was that maritime's energy transition is on the country's to-do list. DCF's Martin presented on opportunities in the south west for aquaculture.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

[New partnership to unlock offshore energy ambitions and protect the nation's marine environment](#)

The Crown Estate and UK Government have launched a new partnership to protect and restore the UK's precious marine environment. The partnership, called the 'Offshore Wind Evidence and Change Programme', will gather and harness data and evidence, to drive forward the growth of UK offshore wind, crucial for the sector as it gears up to meet Government's 2030 ambitions for 40GW of offshore wind.

GRANTS AND FUNDING & NEWS

[New £10 million Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund](#)

New fund will provide grants of up to £100,000 to environmental groups, local authorities, businesses & other organisations. The fund will help deliver on commitments in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan and Green Finance Strategy, as well as supporting the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

Closing date: 26 March

[Further financial support for Dorset businesses](#)

Dorset Council are currently paying business support grants to qualifying businesses. All businesses that successfully applied for the Local Restriction Support Grant (closed) addendum for the second lockdown (5 November to 2 December) will receive payments and do not need to go through an application process to receive funding. If you haven't yet applied for a support grant for your business but think it is eligible you can check [here](#).

[Introducing the Ofwat Innovation Fund](#)

Ofwat, the Water Services Regulation Authority for England and Wales, has established a £200 million Innovation Fund to grow the water sector's capacity to innovate, enabling it to better meet the evolving needs of customers,

society and the environment. They will be launching two competitions that water companies, in partnerships with others, can enter with their innovations.

- A £2 million [Innovation in Water Challenge \(IWC\)](#) with opportunity to win funding up to £250,000. **Deadline 12 noon on 26 February 2021.**
- A £40 million [main competition](#). The first round will open for entries in Spring 2021. More details will be available from early 2021.

SAVE THE DATE – CONFERENCES & EVENTS

[British Marine Spring Expo: Save the date](#)

The British Marine Digital Spring Expo will take place between 16-18 March 2021. Returning in an online format the Spring Expo will bring the industry together for a packed three-day schedule of keynote talks, great networking and trade opportunities. The Expo is free for British Marine members.