



DCAN Newsletter June 25

Community-led action to cut carbon emissions, adapt to our changing climate and restore nature across Dorset

Dorset's Local Nature Recovery Strategy now published and out for consultation.

It can be viewed [here](#). Produced with key county stakeholders, the strategy aims to 'identify key pressures and opportunities for nature recovery and sets 12 nature recovery priorities supported by detailed activities'.

Dorset CAN has begun to discuss and formulate a response. Our nature-focused initiatives are focused on improving farmland by repairing, reinstating, and planting hedges through the Great Big Dorset Hedge Project, and improving the quality of our rivers and beaches. Both are based on volunteer work, through hedge surveys, hedge planting, and in due course even hedge-laying work parties, and citizen science monitoring of rivers, etc. Still, these aspects are barely addressed (at this stage) in the LNRS document.

If you want to influence the DCAN response to the consultation, please read it and let us know your views. And please [visit the webpage](#) and submit your comments to DC **and be aware that you can arrange to make changes in your response at any time between now and July 30th.**

Dorset Council's response to DEFRA's national consultation on Land Use in England that ended in April can be [viewed here](#).



Dorset Council leader Nick Ireland addresses DCAN's AGM and new trustees appointed

Nick Ireland, leader of Dorset Council, addressed some 50 members on the council's plans for net zero, restoring nature and improving resilience in Dorset over the next few years at DCAN's online annual general meeting on 28 May.

He then answered a number of questions from members including on planning regulations, centrally imposed housing targets and why developers are not made to include solar panels, heat pumps and proper insulation in all new builds as standard. He blamed outdated regulations set by Whitehall.

At the annual meeting proper, Giles Watts was unanimously elected as the new chair of DCAN's trustees in place of Vicki Elcoate who is standing down after acting as chair since DCAN became a charity in 2022. Vicki was thanked by Giles for her massive contribution.

Three new trustees - John West, Nicola Harris and Max Griffith - were appointed. Jennifer Morisetti, who stood down as a trustee, was also thanked for her work as a trustee over the last four years.



Carbon Literacy for Town and Parish councils, community groups & Dorset CAN Members

These two-half-day courses will be run on the following dates on Zoom:

Tues 17 June Workshop 8.1.

Thurs 19 June Workshop 8.2.

Weds 10 Sept Workshop 9.1.

Weds 17 Sept Workshop 9.2.

This accredited course aims to encourage and facilitate the development of a carbon strategy for your council or community group and enables certification as Carbon Literate.

Community Pot funding from the Carbon Literacy Project means we are keeping costs low and accessible to all.

Belinda Bawden and Helen Sumbler were invited to Manchester to receive a Silver level Carbon Award from CLO on behalf of DCAN, more info in the next newsletter.

For further information see [here](#)



Dorset Greener Homes 2025

DCAN is gearing up to run another Open Homes event on the last two weekends of September. We have nine homes which will open with us for the first time, but we need more. Have you fitted more insulation, a heat pump, a home battery, or a car charger? Have you sold your car? Do you do active travel? Do you tend your wildlife-friendly garden or grow your own food? Your home does not have to be perfect!

Can you spare one day opening your home to inspire and inform others? Please [contact us](#).



To participate in surveys or hedge
planting projects scan this code

Sign up as a Volunteer

Great Big Dorset Hedge Update

There are usually twenty scheduled hedge surveys in the summer months, in different parts of the county and our winter volunteering should focus on hedge planting. Why not sign up with us and walk with knowledgeable and congenial companions while you record the state of the hedges. No previous knowledge necessary. Read about volunteering with the project [here](#).

GBDH is already working with 100 farmers. Surveys are still needed & some planting has been done (for example: the project has been invited back to plant at Sherford Farm; 40km were surveyed at Rampisham Manor Farm, leading to some planting; similarly planting followed surveys at Manor Farm, Hammoon & Gorwell Farm near Abbotsbury). [Read more](#)



DCAN visit to Alaska Wind Farm, near Wareham

We are delighted that Will Bond of Alaska Wind Farm has agreed to take a limited number of us round his four wind turbines and talk about his solar farm. If you are interested in joining us on 16 August at 14:30, [please fill out this form](#) to register your interest - spaces are limited.

[Read more about the project here](#)



Bridport Food Matters at Bridport Food Festival 14th June

[Feeding Dorset](#) - the county's Sustainable Food Places partnership, led by Help & Kindness and Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN), will be on hand to tell you more about what's going on around Dorset, and how Bridport is working together as one of the beacons for a sustainable local food system. [Read More...](#)

DCAN Member News: Shaftesbury becomes Britain's first Nature Friendly Town

Shaftesbury Town Council declared itself to be Britain's first Nature Friendly Town in April after a recommendation by Sustainable Shaftesbury's advisory committee.

The council is now working with Dorset Wildlife Trust on a plan to introduce the idea nationally to all towns and parishes through the Wildlife Trusts national organisation, starting in Dorset.

The declaration follows the town council's earlier declaration of becoming an Orchard Town, with 'free-to-eat' fruit and nut trees being planted in public parks and open spaces instead of ornamental trees, as part of a ten-year tree and hedge planting policy and its adoption of 'Nature First' wildflower and allotments policies.

• Shaftesbury Town Council's former town clerk Brie Logan has joined Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils (DAPTC) as training officer where it is believed she will be helping to promote carbon literacy training to town and parish councils among other innovations to how Dorset's councils work in the move towards greater decentralisation of councils in the south west.

Dates for your Diary

- 14th June Bridport Food festival
- 16th June Food resilience webinar (Now Postponed)
- 13th-14th August Gillingham and Shaftesbury Agricultural Show
- 16th August visit to Alaska Wind farm.
- 20th-28th Sept Dorset Greener Homes
- 1st November Dorset COP 25 will take place this year at Sturminster Newton.

More details of these events will be available on the [events page](#) of our website

If you would like to be involved in any of these events or our projects, please [email us](#).

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