



DorsetCAN Newsletter 2 ~ February 2021

This Newsletter brings news of Dorset CAN's own activity, then news from across the county, nationally and internationally. After that come articles and videos, news about funding, climate and zero carbon tools, books, requests for help and advice, poetry and even two fabulous appendices.

Items in red call for action from you!
We're building our website - if you're part of a group that should be listed, please let us know at: DorsetCAN.news@gmail.com

We want a paradigm shift to stop the planet overheating; to reverse the appalling loss of wildlife; to restore and regenerate our soils, our land, our rivers and our oceans from devastating pollution by chemicals, plastics and other toxic waste; and to build a sustainable way of life for all people and all living systems and species.

For that to happen, we need to understand the processes that are damaging our world; to understand how we can reverse that damage; and to see what positive actions we can take and urge others to take.

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Keep UP! – links to related newsletters

Funding

- [New UK fund for non-profit environmental groups, local authorities and businesses](#)
- [Training for Retrofitting](#)

Toolkits for Net Zero Action Planning

- [Carbon Footprinting Toolkit for Town/Parish councils and communities](#)
- [Exeter University have a wide range of other monitoring/mapping tools](#)
- [Giki Zero - An online tool to help dramatically reduce your carbon footprint](#)
- [Ashden Co-Benefits Toolkit](#)
- [Clearinghouse for Zero Carbon and Climate tools at Net Zero Climate](#)
- [Place-based Climate Action Network](#)
- [ClimateJust vulnerability mapping tool for public service providers](#)
- [Climate Outreach: a toolkit to help organisations engage with the British public on climate change](#)
- [Worldometers](#)

Recommended Reading

Examples of successful projects & community engagement

- [Last Mile Logistic hub in London](#)
- [London Borough of Waltham Forest](#)
- [Communicating with the wider community?](#)

Wish List - Anyone interested in / know about? ...

- [Car-clubs and Car-sharing](#)
- [Retrofitting, energy insulation, Green Homes Grant and advice on switching to renewables](#)

And finally...

- [Suggestion for a DorsetCAN anthem](#)
- [Living lightly on the earth – Michael Dower's poem revisited](#)

Appendix I: Dorset and BCP Elections

Appendix II: DorsetCAN members share tips, ideas and campaigns

Update from DorsetCAN

- **Response to DC's draft C&EE Strategy**

Many thanks to everyone who's come to our meetings or who sent ideas that became part of our collective response to Dorset Council's draft Climate and Ecological Emergency (C&EE) Strategy. The response, submitted on 20 January, has attracted favourable comment and warm reaction from several Dorset councillors, including Cllr Ray Bryan, who has Cabinet responsibility for the Strategy. We hope soon to have a meeting with senior Councillors to discuss ways for Dorset CAN to support Dorset Council to turn its plans into action. [Read our response, supporting letter and press release](#)

- **New monthly get-together for Dorset CAN members/supporters**

You're invited to our *Monthly Get-togethers*, every 4th Wednesday of the month 19:00-21:00

First one: Wednesday 24 March 19:00-21:00pm. **Please add it to your diary.**

These are mass gatherings of people who live in or near Dorset who want to do something positive about the Climate & Ecological Emergency and help build thriving local communities.

The Zoom link below will be the same every month, please save it/put it in your calendar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82302940667?pwd=eUFndUdad0p3ckdVbU5PbGxZV1lYdz09>

We need exciting speakers to attract a high turnout, who can talk about relevant issues: e.g: transport, food production, tourism, energy, advocacy/lobbying, biodiversity/land use, media/comms... If you have contacts, please ask them and email Rob Waitt at robbiewaitt@gmail.com

Please SHARE this email with your contacts and get more people across Dorset working together.

- **Dorset CAN Teams ~ Please join/help/get involved...**

At the Action meeting on 1 February, several teams were formed, based on the passions, skills and experience of DorsetCAN members. So far, there are 6 teams (listed with coordinators):

- **Advocacy** (coordinators: Michael Dower and Belinda Bawden: belindabawden@gmail.com)
- **Energy** (Colin Tracy: colintracy66@gmail.com)
- **Land Use and Food** (Ian Duckworth: iduckworth@live.co.uk & Julie Leah: julie_leah@btinternet.com)
- **Newsletter** (Andrew Carey: dorsetCAN.news@gmail.com)
- **Transport** (Helen Sumbler: helens@planetpurbeck.org)
- **Facilitation** (Sandra Reeve and David Brown: emaildrdavidbrown@gmail.com)

We also have the makings of a Media Team to link social media and website development to this newsletter. We expect soon to need a separate team on Public/Community Engagement and Education.

Please join us! To join any of these teams or propose a new one, email the coordinator.

The Coordinators of these Teams together form the core of an enlarged Action Team which meets for an hour every Monday (17.30-18:30), under the leadership of Rob Waitt (Dorset CAN Coordinator), to guide Dorset CAN's priorities and collective energies.

❖ **Newsletter Team report**

The Newsletter Team will produce – roughly monthly – an email Newsletter (THIS!), with articles/news items linked to more details on our website. For now, there will also be a pdf version. The editorial team includes Harriet Stewart-Jones, Rachel Bodle, Belinda Bawden and Michael Dower. **Please send news and suggestions to them at dorsetCAN.news@gmail.com:**

- stories you'd like to share about successful projects (with a contact address)
- ideas for cooperation and requests for help and advice on projects
- events that you are organising and pointers towards interesting news
- ideas for improving the Newsletter.

❖ Land Use and Food Team update

The team needs more members. Anyone interested in joining Land Use and Food team, please contact Julie Leah Julie_Leah@btinternet.com. The team will be dealing with to environment / countryside management, land use, food and agriculture, coastal maintenance and biodiversity.

❖ Advocacy Team report

The Advocacy Team met on 11 February and noted that Dorset CAN's response to the Dorset Council's C&EE strategy had been well received, and discussed how to create a partnership with Dorset Council in shaping and implementing the Strategy.

Dorset CAN members in BCP are preparing a Response to the BCP Council's Climate Action Plan. The team agreed that Dorset CAN should support them, but not submit a separate response. Their main effort in the next 4 weeks is to prepare Dorset CAN's response to Dorset Council's draft Local Plan – see next item.

• Respond to the Dorset Local Plan

The Local Plan outlines the strategy for meeting the needs of the area such as housing, employment, community services and facilities including schools, shops, retail and leisure. The Local Plan is now out for public consultation which ends on 15 March 2021.

The Plan will last at least until 2038, so will shape all development for the next 17 years – that's a long time. Anything built in that time will leave a legacy lasting for several generations. We cannot afford to get it wrong. Two ways to get involved in responding:

1. Join a People's Assembly on the Dorset Local Plan (Zoom links in blue):

[Sunday 28 February 16:00-18:00](#) (focusing on Dorchester)

[Tues 2nd March 19:30-21:00](#) (Corfe Castle Parish Council)

[Saturday 6 March, 14:00-16:00](#) (looking at Dorset as a whole).

During the People's Assemblies, facilitators will collect everyone's comments, opinions, ideas, fears and questions. They will be in a summarised and submitted to the formal Dorset Council consultation process, on behalf of the Assembly

participants. This means that everyone's contribution will be heard by the Council.

Please come along to one of these People's Assemblies to find out more, share knowledge and build our collective response to Dorset Council. [Read more](#)

People's Assembly on the Dorset Local Plan

Dorchester - Sun 28th Feb 4-6pm
Dorset - Sat 6th March 2-4pm

The Dorset Local Plan will shape how we live in Dorset until 2038... **Consultation closes on 15 March**

- Will we have the right homes and facilities, in the right places?
- Where will we work, be educated, spend leisure time?
- How will our communities connect and how will we travel?
- Will it help reduce CO2 emissions and protect our environment?

It's a complex consultation, but just come to the assembly and share your thoughts with others. **Everyone welcome!**

Join the People's Assembly via Zoom
<https://tinyurl.com/47ht3q23>
or visit DTAction.co.uk for more info.

DORSET ACTION

2. **The DorsetCAN Advocacy team is preparing a collective response.** But they also want to stimulate a mass response to the Council's questionnaire about the Plan. So, they are rapidly preparing a guide to the Plan and how to respond process, and will send this to all Dorset CAN members.

Please all mob up and send in personal responses before the deadline of 15 March. To contribute to Dorset CAN's collective response to the Local Plan, please send ideas to Michael Dower, who is acting as editor: mdower6@btinternet.com

- **Petition/Campaign - the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill**

The Bill has been written by scientists, lawyers and activists; it's been proposed in parliament by Caroline Lucas MP and is gathering wide support. The key points contained in the bill are:

1. Ensure the UK cuts greenhouse gas emissions in line with its legal obligations
2. Protect and restore woodlands, wetlands and the wider natural world
3. Set up an assembly to involve people across the UK to develop a climate emergency strategy.

We need the support of as many MPs as possible from all political parties. **Please read more, join the campaign, and ask your MP to vote for the Bill when it returns to the Commons on 12 March.**

More info and/or join the campaign <https://www.ccebill.uk/>

Contact your MP on this issue – [see the Appendix](#)

DORSET UPDATE: Caz Dennett says “Cllr Maria Roe will put a motion to Dorset Council to support the CEE Bill at the April Full Council Meeting. Already the motion has the unanimous backing of the LibDems on DC (29 Councillors), plus the Green Group (4 Cllrs) + Portland's Cllr Paul Kimber. That's 34 Cllrs to start with. We need 43 for it to pass.

We're devising a campaign and schedule with a variety of activities through to the Bill's 2nd reading in Parliament (likely in May). **If you would like to join a working group to further shape and help implement the campaign, please let me know. We will have a short, kick-off meeting next week, please join if you want to get involved.**” Tues 23 Feb, 19:30 [Zoom link](#) ~ Passcode: 488399

- **Future Generations Bill**

Short term decision-making is a real problem with our system of democracy. It prevents the kind of action needed to address climate change and systemic inequalities. This would change if our leaders were compelled to think about future generations. The 'Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill' has recently been introduced into the House of Commons.

[Read more about the Bill](#)

Then please tell people about it and ask your MP to support it (see [Appendix 1](#) for how to do that).

Dorset News & Activities

- **Dorset Council's response to questions about funding its CEE strategy**

In a response to Cllr. Beryl Ezzard's question about how DC will fund its CEE strategy, Cllr. Ray Bryan issued a detailed statement, including:

"Dorset Council will need to invest many millions of pounds over the next 20 years to become a Carbon Neutral Council. However, we are off to a fantastic start: -

- We're installing 44 Electric Vehicle Charge points across the county.
 - We have changed to green energy in all our council owned properties where possible.
 - We're consulting in Weymouth on how to encourage safe walking and cycling along the harbour.
 - Our Low Carbon Dorset Programme was extended with additional funding from MHCLG of £5m
- Read Cllr Ezzard's [Proposed Amendment](#) and [Cllr Bryan's full response](#).

Parish plants one tree per inhabitant

South Perrott Parish Council, in West Dorset, has led a local effort to fix carbon and beautify its parish by planting a tree for each inhabitant. 200 trees and shrubs (27 different species) were supplied by Beaminster Area ECO Group, including many gifted by The Conservation Volunteers through the Word Forest Organisation based in Lyme Regis. This project builds on the creation by the Parish Council in 1999 of a large Millennium Green, which is one of the many village greenspaces country-wide funded by the then Countryside Commission.



Cllr Jill Turner and residents Angela Gillingham and Jane Woodford receive the 200 trees

- **Press your Town or Parish Council to act ... or JOIN IT!**

Town and parish councils have the power to act in tackling the climate and biodiversity crises. They can manage their green spaces sustainably, cut the energy used in their public buildings, promote improvement of footpaths and cycle ways, work towards plastic-free solutions, use their role as consultees on planning applications, and act in many other ways. Dorset Council, in its Climate Strategy, has pledged to support local councils in such work.

So, why not press your local council to be active in the things that matter to you? Look up the details of the clerk or chair of your council (look online or on noticeboards) and contact them. If you are in one of the following towns or parishes, please consider standing in the local by-elections that are coming up on 6 May, 2021 – Ferndown (Central Ward), Lyme Regis, Okeford Fitzpaine, Portland (Tophill East Ward), Shaftesbury (West Ward) and Weymouth (Wyke Regis Ward). If you live in Arne, Milton Abbas or Portland, remember to vote in your Neighbourhood Plan Referendum coming up on the same day. [More information on elections](#).

- **DAPTC Climate Resource Hub – Please help**

Neil Wedge (the helpful and enthusiastic Chief Exec at Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils is working on producing a 'Climate Resource Hub' for their website for parish and town councillors to access. He asked if we could help collect information on Dorset organisations and groups. Then we are going to help him click onto websites etc., to make sure groups are active etc., and up to date etc.

If you are part of an organisation/group that should be on this resource hub, please take two minutes to complete the details below and then send them back to us at DorsetCAN.news@gmail.com

We will add them to our own website and forward them to be added to the DAPTC hub.

Name of organisation/group:

Contact name: Contact phone: Contact email:

Webpage: Facebook page: Twitter: Instagram:

Brief (6 line max) description of your group and what you do:

- **Call for more affordable homes in Dorset**

The housing charity Shelter has called for a sharp increase in the building of affordable homes in Dorset. Data from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government show that, between January and September 2020, work started on building only 450 new affordable homes in the county, down by 37% on the same period in 2019. The drop was explained partly by the Covid lockdown, and partly by the sluggish economy. Shelter foresees a serious shortfall in supply of affordable homes, which will harm prospects for young people and key workers who need such homes, and this will further depress the economy and the resilience of local communities.

- **Beaver Fever**

Two beavers have been released onto a Dorset Wildlife Trust enclosed trial site in west Dorset. Over the coming months and years conservation experts will study how these beavers can improve the landscape for both wildlife and people. Beavers are often referred to as 'ecosystem engineers', improving water flow, water quality and biodiversity, providing a natural solution to growing concerns about wildlife decline in Dorset and the UK nationally.

There is also an exciting new project looking to reintroduce beavers to Purbeck. At a recent Planet Purbeck event, a team from the National Trust explained how they are working towards a positive and carefully-managed phased return of the captivating water engineers here in Purbeck. See the [National Trust website](#) for lots more information about this.

- **Powering up: UK hills could be used as energy 'batteries'**

"Hundreds of hills across the UK could be transformed into renewable energy 'batteries' through a pioneering hydropower system embedded underground.

A team of engineers has developed a system that adapts one of the oldest forms of energy storage, hydropower, to store and release electricity from gentle slopes rather than requiring steep dam walls and mountains. This could unlock hundreds of potential hydropower sites across the UK, which would be quicker and cheaper to build than traditional hydropower dams and also lead to fewer negative environmental impacts." From [The Guardian, Mon 8 Feb 2021](#)

Are there hydropower experts in DorsetCAN? Is this viable for Dorset? Let us know if you have knowledge to share.

- **Climate Action: the Situation in Shaftesbury by Rachel Bodle**

Dorset's Local Plan distinguishes between 'large built-up areas' and 'towns and other main settlements' spread across our rural landscape. Shaftesbury, perched on a hilltop to the north, falls into this latter category. Environmental activists here share many of the same challenges as arise in other settlements as we encourage our local population (c.8,000) to respond to the climate & ecological emergencies.

Planet Shaftesbury comprises around 130 local people concerned about climate breakdown. Each of us feels driven to act in our own way. We connect through physical meetings (monthly when safe), informal weekly zoom meetings, a monthly email newsletter, a website, and some use of social media, as well as collaboration on those projects we choose to engage with. Our combined aim is to seek changes that contribute to nature's recovery and enable us to live more sustainably. Coming together has led to more robust support for pre-existing groups and the emergence of new initiatives. It has also given us the capacity to mount public events that draw additional people in. (www.planetshaftesbury.org)

- **Climate Action: the Situation in BCP by Harriet Stewart-Jones**

In April 2019, the towns of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole were shoehorned together under one authority as "BCP". It is one of the largest Councils in the UK, with 76 councillors, 33 wards and a population of 395,000.

At first, the Council was led by the Unity Alliance, a coalition of Lib-Dem, Labour, Poole People Party, Green Party, ALL and independents, who came together to form an administration with a narrow majority over the Conservatives. Faced with the mammoth task of amalgamating council services for the three towns and then being hit by the Covid epidemic, the Unity Alliance had an uphill struggle to move aspirations into action.

The Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in the summer of 2019, and approved a draft action plan in December 2019. But in September 2020, following the deaths of two councillors and with no possibility of elections, the Conservative group carried a vote of no confidence in the Unity Alliance and set up a new administration, which is determined to "build back better". It has sent the Climate Action Plan out for public consultation; and it has published a "**Big Plan**", largely focused on a shiny new digital future with 15,000 new homes, 13,000 new jobs and an "iconic cityscape".

[Read more about the Big Plan and BCP Community Groups](#)

- **URGENT: Please respond to BCP's Climate Action Plan**

BCP Council has approved a draft Action Plan, outlining actions to make Council operations carbon neutral by 2030 and the BCP area carbon neutral by 2050. The public engagement consultation period **ends on 1 March 2021**. The consultation takes the form of a multi-choice

Survey (with free-text box). **PLEASE USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.** Just express an interest in the Council's climate actions (and perhaps suggest they inject a sense of urgency)!

There is also an Ideas Board. [Read more](#) at the DorsetCAN newsletter site.



- **Stour Valley Park**

The Stour Valley Park Partnership is working to create an area of strategic greenspace and nature park stretching from Sturminster Marshall, Kingston Lacy and Wimborne Minster through to Christchurch and Hengistbury Head. Its location along the edge of the UK's 9th largest conurbation (by population size), means the valley has great potential to improve opportunities for recreation, health and wellbeing, and help wildlife and biodiversity.

The Partnership is keen to involve the local community to ensure that local expertise and concerns guide the project. Their website offers a mailing list, a survey and online events to learn how to get involved and shape how this park may be governed to build a common wealth. [Read more and see a map of the area.](#)

News from Devon and across the Southwest

- **SUSTAINABILITY WEEK, 1-5 March, Falmouth University Students Union.**

Jake, Sustainability Coordinator for Falmouth University and previously an active member of both Plastic Free Lyme Regis and Turn Lyme Green, has organised a week-long sustainability campaign with events on Sustainable Lifestyles ~ Energy & Resources ~ Ecotherapy, Nature & Wellbeing ~ Biodiversity & Conservation ~ Future Thinking. **Let's all support him and especially tell students and other young people about this.** Details: www.thesu.org.uk/sustainabilityweek

- **Devon Climate Emergency is running a series of webinars about the Devon Carbon Plan**

The presentations on topic areas - Economy & Resources; Built Environment; Mobility & Transport etc - are excellent and there are always organisations, networks and individuals contributing useful ideas that we could share. [Read about the webinars](#)

- **The Great South West...**

... has ambitions to make the South West the first region in the UK to become Net Zero and create 190,000 green jobs. Its brochure 'Securing Our Future' describes the vision and proposes to deliver £45 billion economic benefit & 190,000 new jobs over 15 years. [See the brochure.](#)

- **Doughnut Economics in Devon and Cornwall**

Doughnut Economics is an idea of Kate Raworth's that is getting increasing attention nationally and internationally. It sets out 9 ecological 'planetary boundaries' (ocean acidification, air pollution, etc) and 12 social dimensions (education, health, housing, gender equality, etc.) against which all new plans and developments can be measured to see if they are safe and socially just. It's already being discussed and applied in Cornwall and Devon - Devon in particular has other regenerative programmes. [Read more](#)

National and International News

- **Dasgupta: a major new report rethinks our approach to economics and nature**

On 2 February, the Treasury published the 'Final Report of the Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity' led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta. This formidable report was commissioned by the Government to help it - and us - understand how we can rethink our whole economic approach to living with the natural world. It is a sobering tract, hard to read, chastening and thought-provoking. "At the heart of the problem lies deep-rooted, widespread institutional failure The solution starts with

understanding and accepting a simple truth: our economies are embedded within nature, not external to it We need to change how we think, act and measure success.”

The report says GDP should be ditched as measure of wealth and says that most governments pay people more to exploit nature than to protect it and that destructive farming subsidies cause damage costed at £2.9trillion - £4.4trillion per year. [Read more on gov.uk](#)

- **The hottest year on record... and more to come**

NASA has confirmed that 2020 was the hottest year on record, exceeding the record set in 2016.

On 9 February, the Met Office published results of a new study, which assessed the effect of climate change on the prospects for future summer weather and availability of water in Europe. They predict that summers will become drier. “Communities will need to adapt to cope with deficits in water availability and heatwave-related droughts. There is also increased risk of heavier rainfall events, challenging local drainage and storage facilities. The findings will help the UK to plan for future extremes, informing effective adaptation and mitigation strategies to limit impacts of climate change on UK society now and in the future.” Read more – [NASA](#) ~ [Met Office](#)

- **Earth Charter launched by Prince Charles**

On 11 January, at the One Planet Summit, the Prince of Wales launched what he is calling ‘Terra Carta’ - or Earth Charter - aiming to “bring prosperity into harmony with nature, people and plant over the next decade”. The Charter is being launched alongside a fund run by the Natural Capital Investment Alliance, which aims to mobilise \$10 billion towards natural capital by 2022. [Read More](#)

- **Renewables overtake fossil fuels in EU/UK electricity production**

In 2020 renewables overtook fossil fuels to become the EU’s main source of electricity. This is an important milestone in the EU’s transition to Clean Energy. But the transition from coal to clean is still too slow for reaching the EU Target of 55% greenhouse gas reductions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050.

What about the UK ? The UK achieved the same transition, with renewables producing 47% of electricity, and fossil fuels 41% of electricity in 2020. Nuclear plants generated the remaining 17%. [Read the report.](#)

- **Fatal impact of air pollution**

On 8 February, University College London published research results showing that worldwide about 1 in 5 deaths every year can be attributed to fossil fuel pollution, a figure much higher than previously thought. The researchers reckon that in 2012 fine particles were a contributory factor in 99,000 deaths in the UK, more than double the estimate published in 2016 by the Royal College of Physicians. [Read more](#)

- **Scientists Warning Europe issue open letter to Boris Johnson**

Scientists Warning Europe (SWE) have issued an open letter to Boris Johnson, asking for much stronger leadership in the face of catastrophic climate change and growing ecological collapse. The letter from SWE is supported by 20 eminent scientists and academics including the government’s ex science adviser Sir David King. Amongst other things, SWE calls for Mr Johnson to table a much earlier net zero target.

Ed Gemmell, Managing Director, Scientists Warning Europe, said: “*Our politicians are the last ones with the chance to take the necessary actions... We believe Boris Johnson has the courage to bring forward the net zero target and then initiate the emergency action needed to reach it*”

Professor Mark Baldwin, University of Exeter, said: “*The single most important policy action that governments can take is to stop the tax breaks, incentives, and subsidies for fossil fuels. Redirect that support to the green energy industry—wind, solar, and the infrastructure needed for electric transport—to accelerate the transition to net zero.* [Read the full letter here.](#)

- **And an Open Letter from Greta Thunberg and others (you can sign this one)**

An Open Letter and Demands to World Leaders, initiated by Greta Thunberg and others, has attracted 130,000 signatures, including 320 scientists. It starts, “You must stop pretending that we can solve the climate- and ecological crisis without treating it as a crisis”. The demands include : :



- Halt all investment in fossil fuel exploration and extraction, immediately end all fossil-fuel subsidies and completely divest from fossil fuels
- Include total emissions in all figures and targets, including consumption index, international aviation and shipping
- Starting today, establish annual, binding budgets based on the currently best available science and the IPCC’s budget which gives us a 66% chance of limiting the global temperature rise to below 1.5degreesC.”

You can help by signing and sharing [the open letter](#)

- **Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint**

UN secretary-general, António Guterres, launching a major new UN report to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies, says in the Foreword:

“Humanity is waging war on nature. This is senseless and suicidal. The consequences of our recklessness are already apparent in human suffering, towering economic losses and the accelerating erosion of life on Earth. Ending our war does not mean surrendering hard-won development gains. Nor does it cancel the rightful aspiration of poorer nations and people to enjoy better living standards. On the contrary, making peace with nature, securing its health and building on the critical and undervalued benefits that it provides are key to a prosperous and sustainable future for all.” [Read more](#)

- **Rigorous new targets for green building revolution**

“All homes and businesses will have to meet rigorous new energy efficiency standards to lower energy consumption and bills”, helping to protect the environment, the Housing Minister Chris Pincher announced on 19 January 2021.

The UK government has set out plans to improve the energy performance of **new and existing homes**. The government has also announced a consultation on higher performance targets for **non-domestic buildings** which will mean they will be zero carbon ready by 2025. [Read more.](#)

- **Green Homes Grant problems**

The Guardian reported on 10th February that the government’s flagship programme for a green recovery is in turmoil after it was revealed that hundreds of millions of pounds are being withdrawn from its green homes grant programme.

95% of the £1.5bn pot provided for householders in England to make their homes less carbon intensive remains unspent due to long delays in giving out grants to householders and making payments to installers ... [Read more](#)

- **Electrification of Vehicles by 2030: A guide for local authorities**

In light of the 2030 ban on sale of petrol and diesel vehicles, City Science has recently published a white paper to help local authorities understand actions they can take to support the transition to electric vehicles. In addition to personal vehicles, the white paper also covers critical considerations around decarbonisation of buses and freight. The white paper makes 10 key recommendations, including setting goals within a wider strategy and adopting "whole system" thinking. [Read more](#)

Should we ask our councils to undertake these actions? Let us know if you have knowledge to share.

- **UK initiative to get to Net Zero joins global campaign in hopeful coalition**

Pledge To Net Zero – a relatively new initiative tackling greenhouse gas emissions in the UK’s environmental services sector – has joined the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change’s **Race to Zero** campaign. The UN campaign links a coalition of net zero initiatives, representing 23 regions, 454 cities, 1,397 companies, 569 universities, and 74 investors, making up over 12% of the global economy.

Pledge To Net Zero was launched in late 2019 to convene fast climate action in the UK’s environmental sector. So far, 73 firms and institutions have joined **Pledge To Net Zero**, covering around 80% of the UK environmental consulting market and 60,000 UK employees. [Read more](#)

- **How they’re handling the emergency in Lewes**

Lewes District Council’s Climate Change and Sustainability Framework document is highly relevant to Dorset as they have similar topography and demographics - rural, coastal, areas of poverty, retirement wealth, etc. The approach is very positive and interesting, among other reasons, for the very different ‘topic areas’ they have designated. [The document is here.](#)

Articles, Organisations and Events

- **Project Drawdown** – climate solutions: a recent conference gathered thousands of participants from around the world to help shift climate research to action. They have a table of 80+ ‘climate solutions’ from Farmland Restoration to Bamboo Production to Carpooling to Green and Cool Roofs to Plant-Rich Diets to Walkable Cities – all explained, evaluated and tabulated.

See the [Solutions Table](#), and send yourself a **virtual postcard** to centre your climate goals.

- **France’s new ‘Repairability Index’**: France now requires makers of certain electronic devices, including smartphones and laptops, to tell consumers how repairable their products are. This is a step towards combatting planned obsolescence and the transition to a more [circular economy](#) where waste is minimised. [Read the article](#). **Can we campaign for this in the UK?**
- **Coastal erosion risk map**: A report by the Environment Agency **reveals that 7,000 homes are at risk of coastal erosion sometime this century, and 520,000 are in areas that have a high risk of coastal flooding**. Using Environment Agency data, confused.com has produced an interactive coastal erosion risk map that predicts the rate of UK coastal erosion over the next 20, 50 and 100 years.
- **Humanity’s Land-Grab Disaster** – an [article](#) and [video](#) spelling out the health and ecological consequences of our food production methods.

- **NALC – What can local councils do?** The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is supporting its members by providing solutions to climate change via its website, and by providing good practice examples. It has highlighted excellent work local councils are doing round climate change with 100 occurrences in its Climate Change case studies document. One featured council is Frome Parish Council, Somerset, which introduced a solar funding project which helps residents install solar panels at a discounted rate. [Read more](#)

[Dorset CAN members Belinda Bawden and Josey Parish are part of NALC's Climate Action Task & Finish group. They are analysing the results of a climate change survey of town and parish councils to identify barriers to action and support needed to encourage councils to plan effectively for Net Zero futures.]
- **Scientists Warning Europe have climate change events over the coming months, including**

Local Government Outreach Webinar (25 March)
 Nature and Food Webinar (24 April)
 Population and Economy Webinar (11 July)
 Energy and Pollution Webinar (September) [Read more](#)
- **Science Museum talks:** The Science Museum is hosting a series of Climate Talks, panel discussions, Q&As.

26 February: Is capitalism compatible with environmentalism?
 29 April: 1.5 v. 2 Degrees C: Why Half a Degree Really Counts [Details](#)
- **Survey - The climate emergency, local plans and you:** The Centre for Sustainable Energy and the Town & Country Planning Association are seeking funding to encourage communities to engage with their council and its local plan in order to press for stronger climate-focussed policies.

Please complete their survey and ask others to do so, to help them raise funding:
[Read the article](#) ~ [Complete the survey](#)
- **Inspiring video from the UN on the climate crisis and Sustainable Development Goals**

Nations United is a special, first of its kind film, created by the United Nations on its 75th Anniversary and to mark five years since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 34-minute video is an inspiring watch and could be used as part of climate awareness training or sent to those not fully engaged in the need for urgent action.

[Watch the video](#)
- **Carbon Literacy training for local authority elected members**

Local Authorities seeking to embed their climate emergency declarations, demonstrate the need for ambitious carbon reduction strategies, and engage residents on the need for the net zero journey can get accredited training for elected members and senior leadership team. [Details at carbonliteracy.com](#)

We are hoping the DAPTC (Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils) will provide this training for town and parish councillors in Dorset.

Keep UP! – links to related newsletters

- **Stop Ecocide:** work with international criminal lawyers, researchers and diplomats to take forward the process of making ecocide a crime at the International Criminal Court. [Website](#). [Newsletter sign-up](#).
- **The Carbon Trust:** works with businesses, organisations and national and local governments around the world to help them lead the way to a more sustainable future. They publish fairly high-level briefings and organise events. [Website](#). [Newsletter sign-up](#).
- **The Grantham Institute:** is part of Imperial College London's work on climate change and the environment. It does research, turns innovations into applications, trains leaders and communicates academic knowledge to businesses, industry and policymakers. [Website](#). [Newsletter sign-up](#).
- **Chris Goodall's Carbon Commentary:** Chris Goodall is one of the best-informed commentators on all things carbon and carbon-replacement and he writes clearly about the many options the world can use to move away from fossil fuels. His newsletter covers energy generation and efficiency both from technical and policy perspectives. [Website and Newsletter sign-up](#).

Funding

- **New UK fund for non-profit environmental groups, local authorities and businesses.**
The Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund has been established to fund nature projects in England which tackle climate change, create and restore habitats, or improve water quality. From an overall budget of £10 million, grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 are available. Examples of projects that could be eligible for the fund: the creation of new woodlands and the restoration of peatlands, providing habitats for wildlife, the creation of new coastal wetlands, the restoration of river catchments. **Deadline for applications is 26 March 2021.** **Read more:** [Government announcement](#) ~ [Fund website](#)
- **Training for Retrofitting**
There are 50 heavily subsidised places on a whole house #retrofit training for unemployed builders/contractors, delivered by @greenregister in 10 one-hour online sessions. [Read more: Training details](#)

Toolkits for Net Zero Action Planning

The following resources, platforms and toolkits could be used to write, measure, monitor and evaluate action plans. Some may inform the context of the plans, others could be used in presentations to colleagues or community groups.

- **Carbon Footprinting Toolkit for Town/Parish councils and communities**
The Centre for Sustainable Energy and the University of Exeter have developed a tool that will enable parish councils and local communities to estimate baseline carbon emissions for their area. This is calculated using information about energy use, travel behaviours and the consumption of goods and services modelled at household level and scaled up to better reflect individual communities. [Read more](#)
- **Exeter University have a wide range of other monitoring/mapping tools to help:**
 - ❖ Calculate and monitor ocean reflectivity, CO2 exchange and acidification
 - ❖ Understand the environmental impact of existing and altered land use
 - ❖ Understand the benefits derived from accessible green space
 - ❖ PLUS Mapping tools, online resources and live streams from Cornwall's environments[Read more](#)

- **Giki Zero - An online tool to help dramatically reduce your carbon footprint**

Giki is a popular, online personal carbon footprinting tool that you can use to understand, track and reduce your carbon footprint and build your personal path to Net Zero. [Read more](#)

- **Ashden Co-Benefits Toolkit**

The **Ashden Climate Action Co-Benefits Toolkit** helps local authorities and community groups build the business case for climate action. It lays out how lowering emissions also creates improved health, social equality, thriving economies and community resilience.

[See the toolkit on the Ashden Website](#)

- **Clearinghouse for Zero Carbon and Climate tools at Net Zero Climate**

Net Zero Climate has links to dozens of tools for individuals, SMEs, corporates, councils, NGOs and other bodies on a whole range of topics, including:

Carbon Footprint Audits ~ Pensions ~ Declaring a climate emergency ~ Energy efficiency for commercial landlords ~ Food waste ~ Car fleet management ~ Supply Chains ~ Offsetting ~ Packaging ~ Climate Action [Read more](#)

- **Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN)**

The Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN) brings together the research community and decision-makers in the public, private and third sectors through five innovative platforms. It has identified the opportunities for Dorset to reduce its energy use, stimulate its economy, create new jobs, cut household bills and reduce the running costs of its buildings, transport and industry

Useful PCAN resources:

Publications ~ Net-Zero city road maps ~ Climate Commissions: examples of multi-stakeholder action groups ~ Map of UK cities and LEP areas with opportunities to reduce emissions, including Bournemouth and Dorset ~ finance platform - examples of financial innovations to enable a 'just transition' to secure local employment and community-based financial investment ~ news and events e.g. [Trends in local climate action in the UK](#) - 18th March 13:30. [See the analysis for Dorset and Bournemouth](#)

- **ClimateJust vulnerability mapping tool for public service providers**

Climate Just is a free webtool for public service providers designed to:

- Identify those most vulnerable to climate change and fuel poverty and why
- Highlight neighbourhoods where climate disadvantage is highest
- Explain the factors involved and help public service providers decide what to do

[Read more](#)

- **Climate Outreach: tools to help engage with the British public on climate change**

Britain Talks Climate is a toolkit designed to support any organisation that wants to engage with the British public on climate change. Its research says this is difficult but that there is currently no 'culture war' on climate change in Britain.

Britain Talks Climate groups the population into **seven different segments** based on people's core beliefs and identifies ways to engage with each one. See how many you recognise... [Read more](#)

- **Worldometers**

Fantastic, all-in-one-place live world statistics on population, government and economics, society and media, environment, food, water, energy and health. [View the statistics](#)

Recommended reading

- [Rebirthing](#) by Benedict Macdonald is great for the link between nature and economy
- [Doughnut Economics](#) by Kate Raworth – the new way to think about economics and society (see earlier item on Doughnut Economics in Devon and Cornwall)
- [Designing Regenerative Cultures](#) by Daniel Wahl – impressive analysis of societies, organizations and ideologies. Covers finance, agriculture, design, ecology, economy etc. (Praised by Satish Kumar, Jonathon Porritt, Joanna Macy, Fritjof Capra, Christiana Figueres...)

Examples of successful projects & community engagement

- **Last Mile Logistic hub in London** – designed to remove delivery vehicles from Central London. [Read more](#)
- **London Borough of Waltham Forest** – reducing air pollution with its Streets worth Celebrating Active Travel scheme – [Read more](#)
- **Communicating with the wider community?** Rachel Bodle has sent tips and experience from Shaftesbury include posters, press, Nextdoor, the local choir and the local radio station. [Read more](#)

Wish List - Anyone interested in / know about ...

- **Car-clubs and Car-sharing**
[Co-Cars](#) of Exeter will run a survey in Lyme Regis before starting a trial of a car-club. If enough people are prepared to pay a £25 deposit to join, Co-Cars will provide an electric car and run all the booking and administration of the car-club. They might also support a community car-sharing scheme.
Please [contact Belinda Bawden](#) if you'd like to run a similar survey in your area, town or village.
- **Retrofitting, energy insulation, Green Homes Grant + advice on switching to renewables**
We're trying to gather advice and experience of successful projects and funding applications. [If you have either, please contact dorsetCAN.News@gmail.com](#)

And Finally ...

At a DorsetCAN meeting in January, Michael Dower read out his poem 'Living Lightly on the Earth' and Sam Wilberforce has drafted an anthem (do we need to form a choir?).

If you have created **art, images, songs or poetry**, please [send them in](#) - we aim to inspire hope!

- **Suggestion for a DCAN anthem from Sam**

Try to see it my way
Do I have to keep on talking 'til I can't go on?
While you see it your way
keep burning fossil fuels till we are done
D CAN'll work it out
D CAN'll work it out

Think of what you're saying
You can increase carbon in the air and still you think that it's alright
Think of what I'm saying
If we don't tackle climate
we'll all die out
D CAN'll work it out
D CAN'll work it out

Time is very short, we must act today
To reach zero emissions, my friend
I have always thought that it's a crime
So, act now to save our future lives
Try to see it my way

Our children will not forgive if we get it wrong
While you see it your way
Can't you see that we will fall apart before too long
D CAN'll work it out
D CAN'll work it out

To be sung to the tune of 'We Can work it Out' by the Beatles

- **Living lightly on the earth**

If I was a *pessimist*, I think I might go mad
to see how we are squandering the riches that we had
in healthy soil and water, rich wildlife and clear seas;
to note the grievous suffering of the poor and refugees;
and think that all our effort cannot solve gross ills like these.

If I was an *optimist*, I'd point to human skills
and say, "We'll find solutions to all these global ills :
with artificial intelligence to help us, we will fix it,
and use our wider powers in the aftermath of Brexit !"

If I was a *realist*, I'd see the writing on the wall
that we are in a process that may well consume us all
with fire and floods and drought and war that may transform our planet
to be the bare unpeopled place it was when we began it.

But I am an *idealist*. I want to stop the rot;
to press the folk who have the wealth to help those who have not;
to live more lightly on the land and halt the climate change;
to enable all things living to thrive within their range.

What's more, I am a *granddad* : I'm fearful that the life
of all the world's grandchildren may be paralysed by strife
as rising seas and desert growth drive people off the land
and growing populations fight to get what they demand.

This country, more than others, caused this existential threat :
we have a moral duty to redeem historic debt
by cutting our consumption and ensuring life is run
on lines of social justice, with respect for everyone.

This ideal can be real: I believe it can be done.

Michael Dower ~ October 2019

APPENDIX I: Dorset and BCP Local Elections

Dorset Local Elections

Elections will be held on **Thursday 6th May 2021** for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset. By-elections will also be held for:

- [Ferndown Town Council](#) - Ferndown Central Ward
- [Lyme Regis Town Council](#)
- [Portland Town Council](#) - Portland Tophill East Ward
- [Shaftesbury Town Council](#) - West Ward
- [Weymouth Town Council](#) - Wyke Regis Ward
- [Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council](#) (2 seats)
-

Please consider standing for your council and accelerating their climate and ecological action. Identify climate action warriors hidden in any council acting too slowly and give them support. Encourage people to register and to use their vote wisely!

[Neighbourhood Plan Referendums](#) will be held for:

- Arne, Milton Abbas, [Shaftesbury](#), Portland

Contact details for Dorset Council Electoral Services

Email: elections@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01305 838299

BCP Local Elections

On **Thursday 6 May 2021**, elections will be taking place in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset. By-elections will also be held for the Canford Heath and Commons Wards and a Parish Council election for the new Throop & Holdenhurst Village Council.

If you want to vote by post, [click the link](#) for an application form. Or contact the council by email at elections@bcpcouncil.gov.uk or by phone on 01202 633097 and a form will be sent to you.

In order to apply for a postal vote, you must be a registered elector within BCP. If you need to register, the easiest way to do so is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or contact the council on 01202 633097.

Apply to [vote by post](#) (your application must be received by 17:00 on 20 April)

- apply to [vote by proxy](#), appoint someone else to vote on your behalf (your application must be received by 17:00 on 27 April).

[See all this information online](#)

APPENDIX II: DorsetCAN members share lobbying tips, ideas and campaigns

From Emma and Dave (Shaftesbury)

If you want to join our MP mailing campaign in Shaftesbury email planetshaftesbury@gmail.com

From Julie-Ann, Dorchester

We could do a cabinet question to Dorset Council in the name of DorsetCAN.

From Emma and Dave (Shaftesbury)

Have you asked the youth? I just Google “Young environmentalist Dorset” on Twitter. You have 15 or so to ask to amplify a petition.

From Ed Gemmell (SWE)

Offer to do online talks on climate crisis to sixth formers at schools and while in the meeting ask all the teenagers to go on their phones and sign up.

Look at Tim Jackson’s [Net Zero Sooner paper](#) and the new report by [Breakthrough in Australia](#).

When talking to Conservative voters or sympathisers, many of whom treat the Climate & Ecological Emergency as a ‘leftie’ issue, it helps to remind them that Margaret Thatcher was the first global leader to raise the urgency of climate change. See her 1989 [speech to the UN](#) or [read the transcript](#).

From Philip

Margaret Thatcher, who was a scientist, was part of the 1987 UN General Assembly to whom Dr Brundtland made her Commission’s [Our Common Future](#) Report, introducing Sustainable Development as a global goal. There’s a related reference to the Brundtland Report in [NPPF 2.7](#)

From Scott (Portland)

Please support Dorset Community Assemblies. We aim to organise training and promote People’s Assemblies in Dorset. Here’s our [Facebook page](#) or email me: forganicman@gmail.com

From Beth Lewis

North Dorset Red Rebel Brigade contact BethLewis560@gmail.com

From Robin Walter

[Petition to stop new oil drilling in Puddletown](#)

From Caz Dennett, Weymouth

Anyone (XR members or not) who wants to be kept informed of XR advocacy and related actions in Dorset, please contact me: de-net@hotmail.co.uk or Julie-Ann Booker: juliebooker@btinternet.com

From Pete West

Interested in helping to re-launch the [Navitus Bay offshore windfarm?](#) please email me at pete@dorsetcommunityenergy.org.uk

Write to your MP... and read about them first

It's well worth emailing to ask your MP why he (currently!) is voting in a particular way or to ask him to support a project or viewpoint.

Articles from *West Country Bylines* analysing West Country MPs' voting behaviour:

[Dorset MPs October half term report Part I](#)

[Round-ups of our MPs voting behaviour Part II](#)

[Who are the real friends of food and farming in the West Country?](#)

Dorset MPs

Richard Drax - South Dorset

richard.drax.mp@parliament.uk

<https://www.richarddrax.com/>

[Guardian article](#) from December 2020 about the Drax ancestry.

Chris Loder - West Dorset

chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk

<https://www.chrisloder.co.uk/>

[Article from West Country Bylines](#) showing an example of correspondence from September 2020.

[Pets before kids and farmers?](#) Chris Loder's Private Member's Bill (PMB) on Animal Welfare. Sadie Parker contrasts his PMB with his refusal to protect food, farming and animal welfare standards in the Agriculture Bill.

Simon Hoare - North Dorset

simon.hoare.mp@parliament.uk

<https://www.simonhoare.org.uk/>

Simon Hoare seems to be breaking rank on a few issues recently, [voting in favour of the Lords 'stop genocide trade' amendment](#)

[Letting rip on Twitter](#)

Christopher Chope - Christchurch

chopec@parliament.uk

<https://www.chrischope.com/>

['A Damascene Conversion in an Unexpected Corner'](#)

Michael Tomlinson - Mid Dorset and North Poole

michael.tomlinson.mp@parliament.uk

<https://www.michaeltomlinson.org.uk/>