



Dorset CAN Annual Report for 2023

Charity registration number: 1204328

Dorset CAN became a registered charity in August 2023 but this report covers the whole year. The accounts presented alongside this report are for the period since charity registration to December 31st 2023.

Dorset CAN's charitable objects are:

- A) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by working with others to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote biological diversity and restoration of nature.

- B) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Dorset.

Activities undertaken during the year

Dorset CAN has focused its efforts on developing an inclusive and growing network of community groups and individuals which:

1. Puts climate and ecological awareness at the heart of all its decision-making
2. Serves as an expert, inspirational and creative agency for change
3. Provides a voice for all who care about these issues and informs, educates and supports positive action.

Dorset CAN is in a strong position to act as an incubator for bold ideas and a knowledge exchange platform, harnessing and showcasing action across the county to address the climate and ecological emergency. We aim to build a strong network of environmental groups and individuals in Dorset, inspire and enable work on nature recovery, support renewable energy projects and encourage and empower our leaders to take urgent action to tackle the climate and ecological crisis. As a network, we sow the seeds of change by providing support, sharing inspiration from existing projects and offering mentoring and learning sessions. We provide the conditions for growth by activating volunteers, providing support for managing their time, advising on fundraising opportunities and connections.

Its plans for 2023 were set out in a one year strategy. It has achieved much of what it set out to do, with input from its Action Team and ten Charity Trustees, supported by a paid, part time coordinator. The Charity Trustees have delegated much of the decision making on day to day matters to the Action Team which met weekly during 2023.

At the year end Dorset CAN had 850 individual members and 76 organisations which are members.

It developed several work strands during 2023:

The Great Big Dorset Hedge is a long term campaign to facilitate the restoration and extension of hedgerows across all of Dorset, helping support biodiversity and protect against the effects of climate change. During the year it enlisted 293 volunteer hedge surveyors; logged 1800 hours of volunteer time; surveyed 450 kms of field boundaries and supported 30 farmers and landowners with those surveys.

Dorset Greener Homes aims to tackle the 22% of Dorset's carbon emissions which come from people's homes. During the year about 250 visitors were able to visit 39 homes where the owners have made significant green changes to their lifestyle, electricity generation and storage, and ways they heat their homes. Most of the visitors came armed with a set of searching questions and many of them stayed for more than an hour discussing the practical aspects with the owners. Feedback from visitors has shown the value of being able to talk to those that have direct experience of living with these new technologies. Many visitors have gone on to make similar changes to their own homes and some have become Greener homes ambassadors themselves. We currently have 20 homes that are open by appointment all year and plan to expand that element of the project. We were able to benefit from grants from Dorset Community Energy and Wessex Water Dorset Community Foundation. This was used to design a new website for the open homes, and to make short films of some of the homes which were put on the website.

Dorset Deserves Better is a campaign to try to persuade Dorset Council to rethink their Draft Local Plan and make it consistent with the county's Climate and Ecological Strategy. Dorset CAN has built an alliance of 66 member organisations and town/parish councils representing over 30% of the population of Dorset. The redrafting of the local plan has been a slow process. During the year the campaign alliance responded to Dorset Council Housing strategy consultation and wrote, with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, to Dorset Council about errors in the housing growth numbers in the evidence base.

Dorset COP was a joint initiative with Sustainable Dorset and Zero Carbon Dorset to hold the first county wide Conference of the Parties (on the same principle as the international COPs held annually). More than 250 people attended representing over 100 organisations and plans are in train for another event in 2024.

Networking: in 2023 Dorset CAN held five main online networking events - Rivers, Retrofit, Solar Community Energy, OffShore Wind and Food Resilience , with four follow up Food Resilience meetings. The latter are leading to the building of a mapped database/networked group of likeminded food organisations who are now working to put together a directory of resources, links and opportunities for wider, effective cooperation between producers, distributors and consumers.

Dorset CAN also attended 8 in-person events during the year. These included stalls and attendance at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show, Planet Purbeck Festival and the Melplash Show in Dorset. Another new event has been held in Dorchester town centre entitled 'Streets Alive', to promote alternative forms of transport, as well as DCAN contributing to the first Purbeck Active and Sustainable Travel week, a collaboration with other organisations including the National Trust, Sustrans, Purbeck Transport Action Group and Poole Harbour Trails.

External Communications: Dorset CAN launched its new interactive website <https://www.dorsetcan.org/>. It also enjoyed media coverage on various topics. We held a series of radio slots on Keep FM with an energy focus, and launched online videos for virtual visits to the Greener Homes.

Achieving our objectives

While we celebrate our achievements we are still seeking a reliable funding base to support our work, and particularly the role of paid coordinator. We identified this as a priority in our Strategy and aspire to multi year funding which would provide confidence in our plans going forward. Not having reliable funding means much time is spent by volunteers seeking funding, when developing and delivering our ambitious programme should be our priority.

However one of our main goals – to register as a charity – was achieved, which should help our fundraising in future.

Despite the funding situation the organisation maintained the role of paid coordinator, which is fundamental to the delivery of our aims.

Funding

We are grateful to the following for grants and donations:

Our members

The Raby Trust

Dorset Community Energy

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

Wessex Water/Dorset Community Foundation

Plans for 2024

Dorset CAN has agreed a three year business plan which sets out detailed targets for 2024 with a review towards the year end to draw up the 2025 targets.

The Trustees have ensured that all relevant policies (in line with Charity Commission guidance) are in place and will keep these under review.

Work has started on a risk plan for the organisation, although risk assessment for all physical activities has been undertaken during the year. The main risk remains lack of certainty about funding and the Trustees plan to work hard to address this.

Treasurer's Report

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period:

At 31st December 2023 the charity held £13,204 in net current assets of which £10,030 was held in restricted funds and £128 held on behalf of a third party, leaving £3,046 available for core funding.

Although the profit and loss account for the charity shows a turnover of £12,582 this relates only to the period 11.8.23 – 31.12.23. Total turnover for the calendar year increased from £11499 in 2022 to £31,741 in 2023 (most of which relates to the period prior to acquiring charity status), which is an indication of the rapid growth of the organisation.

Reserves

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held

DCAN splits all income and expenditure between:

- that received and disbursed in respect of other organisations
- that which is restricted (where it is designated for a particular purpose or project) and
- that which is unrestricted .

Amount of reserves held

Year end DCAN equity based on cumulative income and expenditure to 31.12.23 comprised:

	£
- Restricted funds	10030
- Unrestricted funds	3046

- Total	13076
=====	

There were no zero reserves and no funds materially in deficit.

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern

On the basis of the current spending rates, unrestricted funds at 31.12.23 were enough to cover about 3 months spending, which means that the need for further finance for core funding is urgent and failure to raise this finance in early 2024 prejudices the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

**DORSET CLIMATE ACTION
NETWORK**

CHARITY NUMBER 1204328 wef 11.8.23

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1.1.23 TO 31.12.23

INCOME	STATUS	2023	2022
		£	£
Bank interest		176.30	23.42
Donations		1532.65	5697.63
Event income		1492.53	28.32
Grant income unrestricted		9000.00	5000.00
Great Big Dorset Hedge	Restricted	15939.73	0.00
Greener homes	Restricted	3600.00	750.00
		<u>31741.21</u>	<u>11499.37</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Event costs		1158.37	0.00
Fundraising costs		0.00	1250.00
Great Big Dorset Hedge	Restricted	5606.78	633.59
Greener Homes	Restricted	3234.54	784.42
Hall and pitch hire		89.00	231.90
Paid coordinator		10863.05	5262.50
Publicity		182.66	389.89
Website & software		328.13	149.62

	<u>21462.53</u>	<u>8701.92</u>
Net surplus for the period	<u>10278.68</u>	<u>2797.45</u>

BALANCE SHEET @ 31.12.23

	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank current account	13118.31	4956.76
Cash in hand	15.45	30.00
Debtors	69.93	12.57
	<u>13203.69</u>	<u>4999.33</u>

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors	127.56	2141.88
Receipts in advance	0.00	60.00
	<u>127.56</u>	<u>2201.88</u>

NET EQUITY

<u>13076.13</u>	<u>2797.45</u>
-----------------	----------------

FUNDS STATEMENT @ 31.12.23	STATUS	£	£
Great Big Dorset Hedge	Restricted	9699.36	0.00
Open Greener Homes	Restricted	331.04	0.00
Total restricted funds		<u>10030.40</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Unrestricted funds		3045.73	2797.45
NET EQUITY		<u>13076.13</u>	<u>2797.45</u>

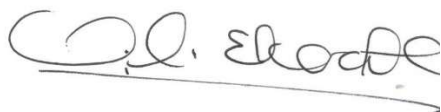
H Lovegrove

Treasurer

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Victoria Elcoate

Chair of Trustees, Dorset CAN 2023-4

May 10th 2024

