



## DCAN Newsletter November 25

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

Bringing you the latest News and updates...



### Dorset COP 25

The Third Annual Dorset COP took place on Saturday 1st November in the Exchange, Sturminster Newton, with Sustainable Dorset taking the leading role.

“ What an incredible day - full of energy, ideas, and community spirit. From rivers to retrofit, food systems to the future of local collaboration, we saw Dorset’s communities come together to imagine what’s possible when we act collectively for people and planet.”

Over 320 people came to the event. The welcoming session was opened by the mayor of Sturminster, who was followed by an overview of campaigns local to Sturminster, the Vale Family Hub, POP Energy, and this Living Place, and Tanya Bellows, a graduate student in Environmental law.

Fourteen talks & workshops were arranged in four venues over the day, followed by a closing session to reflect on the day, led by Climate and Health Justice Activist Emma de Saram.

It would perhaps be invidious to pick out particular sessions, but there was

a strong feeling of excitement and a determination to seek practical solutions to food security, cleaning up our rivers, promoting sustainable textiles, renewable energy and retrofit, nature-friendly towns, community ownership... the list goes on. John Sloper on Food Security, Julie Leah on Cleaning our Rivers, Nick Ireland and Giles Watts on Transport, Belinda Bawden on the Great Collaboration, Richard Thomas on Nature-friendly Shaftesbury and Tim Crabtree on Retrofitting stand out as exceptionally inspiring.

Equally important was the networking which took place around the display area, with eighteen stalls from Dorset organisations providing a focus for discussions and recruiting volunteers. Thanks to Alex Stephen and Emma Grant for assembling DCAN's display, and the volunteers who manned the stall throughout the day.

Few participants left without a flash of inspiration, a list of new contacts, or a determination to follow a new project or path. Thank you to the team at Sustainable Dorset for their incredible organisation, not to forget the amazing local caterers who provided such a delicious lunch.

The venue for Dorset COP 2026 is yet to be decided, but it will definitely go ahead.

## **Dorset Council Consultations**

Dorset Council has published no less than three major consultations in the last couple of months, one on the Dorset Local Plan options; one on Dorset Local Transport and one on Dorset National Landscapes (formerly AONB).

Summaries of DCAN's submission on these first two (AI generated) can be read below:

### **Dorset Local Transport Plan Key Points**

#### **Support for Vision**

- DCAN endorses Dorset Council's plan for a cleaner, safer, more inclusive transport system with real investment in sustainable, people-centred travel.

#### **Cutting Emissions & Improving Health**

- Calls for rapid decarbonisation, active travel, and public transport improvements to reduce pollution and boost wellbeing.

#### **Sustainable Planning**

- Urges all new developments to prioritise walking, cycling, public transport, and green infrastructure from the outset.

#### **Better Public Transport**

- Seeks restored and integrated bus and train services, rural connectivity (“Every Village, Every Hour”), and affordable through-ticketing

### Safety & Collaboration

- Advocates a “Vision Zero” target for road deaths by 2050 and cross-departmental, community-based working to deliver a low-carbon transport future

[Please click here to read Dorset CAN's full response.](#)

## Dorset Local Plan Key Points

### Overall View

- We support Dorset’s vision but feel it **lacks ambition** on climate and environment.
- **Housing targets are unrealistic**, damaging to nature, and not focused on local needs.

### Key Priorities

- Deliver **truly affordable, social, and community-led housing**..
- **Brownfield-first** development — protect **greenfield and green belt**.

### Environment & Climate

- Protect **at least 30% of land and sea for biodiversity by 2030**.
- Stronger action on **climate, flooding, and nature recovery**.
- Support **renewable energy** (onshore/offshore wind, rooftop solar, community energy).

### Infrastructure & Economy

- **Infrastructure must come before housing** — roads, schools, healthcare, utilities.
- Support **Clean Energy Supercluster** and **rail-linked sustainable growth**, not more road building.
- Use **local masterplanning** to guide town centre renewal and employment growth.

### Regional Focus

- **Oppose green belt loss** and large developments near sensitive heathlands or AONBs.
- **Support small-scale, rail-accessible, and low-carbon developments** in suitable areas.

[Please click here to read Dorset CAN's full response.](#)



*Image: An example of Pollard Thomas Edwards (PTE)'s vision of Cambridge*

## **Dorset Design Code consultation in full swing**

In October Shaftesbury became one of the first of the 29 towns and larger villages in Dorset to be visited by the team drafting the new Dorset Design Code.

This is the code that is intended to become a central part of the Dorset Local Plan now also being consulted on.

The Dorset Design Code will raise design standards of future development through clear rules and guidance. It will help make sure that new buildings and spaces are:

- Locally distinctive
- High quality
- Sustainable

To read more click [here](#)



## Dorset CAN Energy Team Online Meeting on the 6th October

Our webinar covered Open Greener Homes, Community energy projects in Loders and North Dorchester/Slyers Lane, and Martinstown, and the Dorset Community energy retrofit program.

A recording of the meeting can be [viewed here](#) (the recording starts 10 minutes in, on the discussion of the Lyme Regis solar panels rollout).

Below you can find links to all of the slides that were shown at the meeting, along with some points of interest shared in the chat.

- [Sam Wilberforce Slides](#)
- [Giles Watts Slides](#)
- [Tim Crabtree Slides](#)
- Some useful links in the [Chat](#)

Many Thanks to those who kindly donated the price of a coffee to help us cover our overheads so we can continue to hold these meetings!

If you still wish to donate, you can do so here: [Help support our Events with a small donation | DCAN](#)

## Solar Together

Dorset Council is running a one-year trial with Solar Together to roll out solar panels and batteries over Dorset, taking advantage of bulk buying. While we welcome this initiative, we are concerned that householders will opt for this council-approved scheme without getting at least one more quote. Cheapest is not always best, and using a local installer gives the customer a system suited to their needs, and support if the system goes wrong.

We would be interested in comparing the quotes from Solar Together and a local installer - please [send us](#) your quotes.

## The Great Big Dorset Hedge Project



-  Symondsburry Estate
-  Cock Crowing Farm
-  Hurst Farm
-  Newton Peverel South Farm
-  Eastbrook Farm

## Hedge Planting events

### Great Big Dorset Hedge Planting Projects

Three years of hedgerow surveys have introduced the Great Big Dorset Hedge volunteers to 120 farmers across the county (and sometimes even beyond its borders). The reports we have written for those farmers have been welcomed by every farmer involved, but they indicate a lot of hedge-planting needs to be done.

The surge in hedge planting opportunities for volunteers has already begun. If you are not already signed up to the GBDH project you can join us by signing up right [here](#).

In November, the Symondsburry Estate planting is exclusively supported by the staff of Clipper Teas from Beaminster, but the event was instigated by the GBDH project. Also in November we have a further project near Bridport at Cock Crowing Farm. Planting at Hurst Farm, Eastbrook Farm and Newton Peverel South Farm are a little further into the future with no fixed dates yet... many more opportunities will follow.

## Dates for your Diary

- 30 Jan 2026 (TBC) DCAN Strategy and Priorities Day.

More details of these events will be available on the [events page](#) of our website. If you would like to be involved, please [email us](#).

*Help us with a small donation - Follow this link*

[Donate Now](#)



---

*Copyright © 2025 DorsetCAN, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).