

**NHS and care workers**

NHS and care workers can use any Dorset Council-operated car park free of charge, provided they are on duty and displaying a relevant permit, or they have registered with Dorset Council. There will also be no charge to park for volunteers and people getting vaccination.

**Letter to Health Secretary.**

We have sent a letter to the Health Secretary on 4th January asking that all teachers, support staff and administration staff in schools be prioritised for Covid 19 vaccinations to help the country get children back into schools.

**Thank you Letter from MHCLG**

We have recently received a handwritten letter from the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and local Government (MHCLG), which amongst other things thanks us for our service to local communities during this last challenging year.

**Executive Director of People – Children at Dorset Council.**

Theresa Leavy has been appointed to this critical position for which she has been covering for on an interim basis since January this year. Following a robust recruitment process, she has been appointed to the role permanently. She is responsible for all statutory services for children and young people – including safeguarding and social care, education and early help, as well as working with other partners to champion the interests of children and young people across Dorset. She is responsible for all statutory services for children and young people – including safeguarding and social care, education and early help, as well as working with other partners to champion the interests of children and young people across Dorset.

Theresa started her career as a social worker and over the past 25 years has managed and led a range of children's services authorities across the country, and was previously the transformation lead for Wiltshire Council and. Peter and Laura have worked closely with Theresa over the last year and we are delighted that we now have an individual in this key post who we feel certain will do an excellent job but also she will bring certainty and stability to an area that has been under intense pressure all through the pandemic.

**Traffic Management during the Summer period**

Following the disturbing events of the summer at Durdle Door - a Dorset wide committee was set up led by the Police and it included representatives of Dorset Council Highways, Dorset Council Rights of Way, Dorset Council Communications, The Lulworth Estate and Dorset Councillors Wharf and Miller respectively. The purpose was to review the actions of the summer and to try to develop and coordinate plans to address some of the problems experienced over the summer. Obviously, this will require a Dorset wide solution as there may well be a need to take actions well outside of the immediately affected areas. The directly affected Parish Councils (Wool, East Lulworth, West Lulworth, and Winfrith) have been sent the draft proposals for their comments, particularly how they view their own involvement in these plans as a communications channel for their communities. They are also attending the next review meeting. When these comments have been received the plan will be further refined which I hope will be consulted on again before being published. Other Parishes have also been sent a copy of the plan and their comments will also be included in the review process.

We will be having further multi-agency meetings and we will issue any final plan before the summer.

### **What to do with your waste if you or someone in your household has Covid 19 symptoms**

Dorset Council is reminding residents what to do with their waste if someone in their household is showing symptoms of COVID-19 infection. Cleaning cloths and personal waste such as used tissues and disposable face coverings should be stored in disposable rubbish bags. These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely and put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in your usual external household waste bin or authorised blue sack. Other kinds of household waste can be disposed of as normal. To dispose of any face coverings or PPE you or members of your household use when self-isolating, you should, double bag them, store them for 72 hours before putting them in a 'black bag' waste bin and under no circumstances put them in a recycling bin. You may also wish to clean the handles on your bins before and after they have been emptied.

Household recycling centres (HRCs, or 'the tip') will remain open for waste that cannot be collected at the kerbside, including garden waste. We encourage residents to continue to store waste at home, if you can and where possible, to reduce pressures on these services. If you or anyone in your household is unwell, has been in contact with someone with COVID-19 symptoms and/or self-isolating, you should not make a trip to a HRC.

### **Covid Contact Tracing System**

Dorset Council, in partnership with Public Health England, is launching a locally supported contact tracing system for the Dorset Council area. From Friday 8 January Dorset Council's customer services team will be working to help trace residents who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

If the national NHS Test and Trace system is not able to contact a local resident after two days, their details will be passed on to the council to help find additional contact details. The local contact tracing team will then try to get in touch with the resident by phone, text, or email over the following 72 hours.

### **Battle Lab at Winfrith Innovation Centre**

The new initiative will see the MOD invest £3.1 million into the Defence Innovation Centre, along with a further £2.6 million from Dorset Council & Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership. The Defence Innovation Centre will be built at the Dorset Innovation Park, the county's Enterprise Zone. The construction works will be starting on site in January 2021 and aims to be completed in the Autumn. The Army BattleLab as the Innovation Centre is being termed will provide 1100m<sup>2</sup> new office space and 450m<sup>2</sup> new workshop space for MOD innovation, and associated conference and collaboration space. The Army BattleLab will feature an engineering workshop, as well as joint working and conference areas for use by the Army and wider MOD, for at least 15 years. In its first ten years the programme aims to create 90 new local jobs and add £4 million to the local economy.

Dorset Council and MoD officers would be more than happy to provide a presentation to explain the project in more detail. will arrange for a presentation to be made to those Parish Councils (and/or other organisations) that are interested in this development.

## **Flood Reporting**

We have recently had some flooding issues at Wool which has led to calls for a clearer signposting of who to contact. I have now sent to all Parish Councils information as to how (and to whom) these incidents should be reported

## **Dorset Council Local Plan**

The local plan will form part of the development plan for the Dorset Council area and form the basis for planning decisions. It sets out the strategic approach to managing development and helps deliver the homes and employment opportunities that Dorset needs whilst protecting its environment.

It is produced through an iterative process involving the gathering of evidence and public consultation. It normally takes around five years to produce and adopt a local plan.

The key milestones for the Dorset Council Local Plan are currently proposed as:

Consultation .....January - March 2021  
Publication ..... Autumn 2021  
Submission ..... Spring 2022  
Examination ..... Summer 2022  
Adoption ..... Spring 2023

Prior to the formation of Dorset Council, the legacy authorities had all commenced reviews of their adopted local plans. The evidence that was informing these reviews, and the consultation that was undertaken on them, has been used to assist in the production of the current Dorset Council local plan. It is important to note that the proposals in the plan as outlined, are in draft form and have been prepared for consultation so that we can seek feedback on what is proposed. There will be opportunities as the plan progresses for the content to be amended to respond to the issues raised.

The Local Plan is set out over 10 sections:

1. Introduction: a brief introduction to the Dorset Council area including a spatial portrait and highlighting the main issues and challenges that face the area;
2. Development Strategy: establishes a Vision for the plan area and the Strategic Priorities that the Council is looking to tackle by managing development. It sets out the strategy for managing development across the Dorset Council area including the total number of new homes and jobs that will need to be delivered; and the approach to managing development at different settlements within a hierarchy of settlements;
3. Environment: contains a series of policies to help manage the impact of development on Dorset's high quality environment setting out a strategic approach to green infrastructure; protection of habitats and species and the need for biodiversity net gain; minimising impact on the landscape and protecting heritage assets. It also includes policies to require high quality design; protect the amenity of residents and minimise the risks associated with pollution. It looks to avoid development in areas at risk of flooding and manage surface water; avoid areas of unstable land and where the coast is eroding;
4. Housing: contains policies setting out the mix of homes that are expected on development sites including the size and type of homes: the provision of affordable homes; the delivery of care facilities and how homes for rural workers will be managed;
5. Economy: contains the approach to managing development on employment sites and the protection of strategic sites; the approach to managing town centre development; development associated with the tourism sector and how proposals for farm diversification will be considered;
6. Community Infrastructure: sets out how the council will seek the provision of infrastructure on development sites including the provision of community buildings; recreation space and

sports facilities; how the location of hot food takeaways will be managed; and the provision of education facilities. It also sets out the requirements for the transport network including the provision of parking and electric vehicle charging points; and the provision of telecoms infrastructure including full-fibre broadband. The approach to managing renewable energy development is also covered including highlighting opportunities for the allocation of large-scale wind turbines. Followed by four area-based sections setting out approach to managing development at each town including existing major and proposed new development sites.

7. South Eastern Dorset: the area heavily influenced by the BCP conurbation including the settlements of Corfe Mullen, Upton, Blandford, Ferndown and West Parley, St Leonards and St Ives, Swanage, Verwood, Wareham, West Moors, Wimborne Minster and Colehill, Alderholt, Lytchett Matravers and Lytchett Minster, Sturminster Marshall and Wool.

8. Central Dorset: the area in central Dorset including the settlements of Dorchester, Weymouth, Chickerell, Portland and Crossways / Moreton Station.

9. Northern Dorset: the area influenced by the A303 corridor / Yeovil and Salisbury including the settlements of Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sherborne, Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton.

10. Western Dorset: the smaller area to the west of Dorset including the settlements of Beaminster, Bridport and Lyme Regis.

The overarching objective of the local plan is to contribute to achieving sustainable development – fulfilling the economic, social and environmental objectives

Economic – supporting growth and the transition to a low carbon economy

Social – supporting communities by delivering homes and facilities to meet the need

Environmental – protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment and responding to climate change

Please find attached in the link below a summary of the Dorset Council local plan consultation document. This document gives a brief summary of each of the sections of the local plan. The consultation started on 18 January and runs for 8 weeks. There will also be a phone line that people can call to ask questions. This number will be available Monday – Friday 10am – 2pm. The dedicated phone line is 01305 252500

<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?Ild=11239&PlanId=0&Opt=3#A16723>

### **St Mary's School near Shaftesbury**

As you may have read, we are in the process of purchasing this site. Following a successful purchase, we will be engaging with local people and stakeholders for their views on the options for use of the site. We are however intend to be very ambitious for the site and are determined that it should remain an asset to our community. More as the situation unfolds.

### **Stay at home postcards**

Circa 187,000 postcards will be despatched to all Dorset Council people reminding them of the rules during lockdown and giving detail of where to seek help; this will hopefully have been completed by the time this article first appears.

### **5G Projects**

A suite of testbed 5G projects are being trialed across the DC area. One of them in our area is described below.

An indoor and outdoor 5G accelerator testbed for research and development at Dorset Innovation Park with a very limited footprint intended to provide private 5G network coverage

only within the boundary of the Innovation Park itself. A small number of low power indoor and outdoor radio heads will be deployed by project partners Vodafone and Kimcell to enable third party users to experience the power of 5G networks in providing enhanced mobile connectivity and encouraging them to experiment with devices that can exploit these capabilities within a secure and controlled environment. I will report on progress as these projects develop.

### **Surgery**

We are not holding face to face meetings until we are clear to do so under government guidelines. However, we would be more than delighted to talk to you on the telephone or via Zoom. Please ring or email us with the subject matter so that we can prepare ourselves. Peter's email address is [peterwharf@hotmail.com](mailto:peterwharf@hotmail.com) telephone 07986 600799 and Laura's is [cllr.laura.miller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.laura.miller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) telephone 07814 569563.

Peter Wharf & Laura Miller, Dorset Councillors for West Purbeck