



# DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

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**Adrian Stuart, Town Clerk**

23 January 2019

You are invited to a meeting of the **DORCHESTER HERITAGE JOINT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, NORTH SQUARE, DORCHESTER** on **MONDAY 28 JANUARY 2019** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Town Clerk and Secretary to the Committee

## **Declaration of Interests**

Members are reminded that the Code of Conduct requires Members to declare any interest which they have in any matter under discussion. If the interest is regarded as a Personal Interest the Member may remain and take part in the consideration of the item but if the interest is a Prejudicial Interest the Member must withdraw from the Chamber during the consideration of it.

## **Membership**

West Dorset District Council: A. Canning, J. Dunseith, S. Jones

Dorchester Town Council: C. Biggs, G. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger

The following Members may attend and speak but not vote:

Mr S Conibear (Duchy of Cornwall), T. James (Dorchester Civic Society), A Chisholm (Dorchester Chamber for Business), C Copson (The Keep Military Museum), C M Hebditch (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve), J Murden (Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society), T Loasby (Blue Badge Tourist Guides) M Rice (Dorchester Association), A Bright (Shire Hall), R M Biggs (Dorset County Council)

## **AGENDA**

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **2. MINUTES**

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 15 October 2018 (copy enclosed).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF PREDETERMINATION**

Members to declare if they consider that they have predetermined or may predetermine in the relation to the following items and to indicate the action they will be taking when the item is considered.

*NOTE: It is the responsibility of individual Members to decide whether they have predetermined in relation to an item. Members who make a declaration should leave the room during the discussion and voting.*

*Members who may wish to take part in the decision making process as a member of another committee, at which the item is to be considered, should decide whether they wish to participate at this stage.*

4. **ROMAN TOWN HOUSE**

To receive an update from Mr S Wallis, Dorset County Council Senior Archaeologist, in regard to the proposed project to refurbish and enhance the Roman Town House.

5. **DORSET ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE WEEK – DORCHESTER EVENT – SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2018**

To consider the evaluation report in respect of the ‘Open Dor’ event held last September.

6. **A THOMAS HARDY DAY FOR DORCHESTER**

Further to Minute No. 27/2018 to give further consideration to the idea of a Thomas Hardy Day for Dorchester.

7. **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL - HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

To note an extract from a report of the Town Clerk which was presented to the Town Council’s Policy Committee on 22 January 2019 (report enclosed).

8. **ROWAN HOUSE BLUE PLAQUE**

The Committee has previously agreed to support the idea of a blue plaque, to be placed on Rowan House, in respect of Captain G R Sullivan VC who had resided in the property and was commemorated on the Town’s war memorial.

The owners of the property are keen to progress with the blue plaque and to have an official unveiling.

A request has been received to contribute £400 towards the cost of the plaque and installation and also assistance with the opening ceremony. Members are asked to give consideration to this request.

9. **COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION POST LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION**

At the present time the Committee constitution states that there shall be three Councillors from Dorchester Town Council and three Councillors from West Dorset District Council. These Councillors have voting rights. Dorset County Council Councillors within the Dorchester electoral divisions are also invited to attend but do not have voting rights.

From April Dorset County Council and West Dorset District Council will cease to exist and will be replaced by the new Dorset Council unitary authority.

The new Dorset Council will need to give consideration to those bodies it wishes to be represented on and how it will appoint Members to them.

Members will be asked to note that the review of the constitution will be undertaken following the establishment of the new Dorset Council.

10. **COMMEMORATION OF 1623 EMIGRATION TO MASSACHUSETTS**

To give consideration to correspondence received in respect of a suggestion for a celebration, in 2023, of the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the first ship taking folk from Dorchester to found a new settlement in Massachusetts (correspondence enclosed).

11. **QUESTIONS**

To receive questions submitted by Members in writing to the Dorchester Town Clerk and in respect of which the appropriate notice has been given.

12. **URGENT ITEMS**

To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To consider a date for the next meeting of the Committee.



**DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**15 OCTOBER 2018**

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 15 October 2018:

**PRESENT:**

|                                 |              |                       |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Dorchester Town Council         | Councillors: | C. Biggs              |
|                                 |              | G. Jones              |
|                                 |              | F. Kent-Ledger        |
|                                 | Officer:     | S. Newman             |
| West Dorset District Council    | Councillors: | A. Canning (Chairman) |
|                                 |              | J. Dunseith           |
|                                 |              | S. Jones              |
| Blue Badge Tourist Guides       |              | T. Loasby             |
| Dorchester Association          |              | M. Rice               |
| Dorchester Chamber for Business |              | A. Chisholm           |
| Dorchester Civic Society        |              | T. James              |
| Dorset County Council           |              | R. Biggs              |
| Dorchester Local Nature Reserve |              | K. Hebditch           |

17. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from J. Murden (Dorset Natural history and Archaeological Society), A. Bright (Shire Hall) and C. Copson (The Keep Military Museum).

18. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2018, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

19. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

20. **NEW MEMBER**

The Committee welcomed back Tess James who was representing the Dorchester Civic Society in place of Peter Mann.

21. **DORSET ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE WEEK – DORCHESTER EVENT – SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The representative from the Dorchester Chamber for Business reported on the success of the event arranged to support Dorset Architectural Heritage week.

It was reported that over 2,000 people had taken part in the event which had included closing High West and East Streets, guided walks, entry to Shire Hall Museum and more. Feedback received from those attending was that it was an excellent event with one person asking whether the roads could be closed every Sunday.

One issue had been identified in respect of needing a good number of volunteers to staff the road closures and it was hoped that for future years it might be possible for the Army Reserves to help in this regard.

The Committee considered contributing £125 to the cost of preparing a report on the overall benefit of the event to the town. The Town Council would also contribute £125 to the cost of a report.

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee contribute £125 towards the cost of preparing a report on the benefit of the event to the town.

22. **ROMAN TOWN HOUSE**

The Deputy Town Clerk updated the Committee in respect of the project to refurbish and improve the setting of the Roman Town House.

Dorset County Council, which was leading the project, would be submitting a HLF bid around January 2019, a brief for the work that needed to be carried out to the structure and lighting of the building had been completed, Historic England had been consulted regarding the proposed design of the site and new access, the concept plan was being completed and meetings were also taking place with regard to educational resources and interpretation of the site. A further meeting with HLF was planned for November 2018.

Members were supportive of the project and requested that officers from Dorset

County Council attend the next meeting of the Committee to update it on progress.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted.

23. **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL – HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

Further to Minute No 11/2018, the Committee had before it a report by the Town Clerk which included an updated briefing document for a Heritage Tourism Strategy. The Town Council had agreed to allocate up to £3,000 from its budgets to progress this project.

It was noted that there were two needs that underpinned moving the project forward:-

- The existing steering group needed some high quality expertise to gather initial thoughts on paper, delivered on a contract basis.
- A project management resource, delivered on either a contract of employee basis, to support the process and deliver an action plan once agreed.

Members were pleased that progress was being made with this initiative and stressed the importance to the future of the town to make the most of its attractions.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted.

24. **DORCHESTER POPPY TRAIL**

Further to Minute No 12/2018 the Committee was informed that the Dorchester Poppy Trail was now very largely complete. The trail was to be officially launched at the Town Council's WW1 Homecoming event being held in the Corn Exchange on Wednesday 7 November 2018.

The Committee thanked all of those involved with this successful project.

It was also noted that the sculpture to commemorate a 100 years since the end of WW1 was to be unveiled on 3 November 2018 and Members requested that the Lubbecke Society be invited to attend.

25. **SIGN - CORNER OF NORTH WALK / COLLITON WALK**

Further to Minute No 13/2018, the Deputy Town Clerk reported that the sign which had been placed into the Scheduled Monument on the corner of North Walk and Colliton Walk had now been removed. Additionally that part of The Walks had been resurfaced and the out of character aluminium benches had been replaced with more traditional ones.

26. **JO DRAPER**

Further to minute No 34/2017-18 it was reported that the cost of having a new edition of 'A Dorchester Camera' had been received - a high quality re-print case bound as per the first edition would cost £3,185 for 750 copies with run on costs at £3.75 per copy. Further discussion would be required with regard to warehousing and distribution and a possible publication date if that option was to be pursued.

It was also reported that an alternative proposal had been received which was for the provision of a quality bespoke public seat to be located at the front of the Dorset County Museum.

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee supports the provision of a bespoke bench in memory of Jo Draper to be located at the front of Dorset County Museum.

27. **A THOMAS HARDY DAY FOR DORCHESTER**

The Dorchester Chamber representative and G. Jones put forward an idea regarding a 'Thomas Hardy Day'. Initial thoughts included closing High West Street, having people dressed up, a fun family event. The event could be scheduled to coincide with the annual birthday celebration and include the Thomas Hardy Society. It was noted that there were other groups that might be interested such as the Thomas Hardy players.

Members felt that the idea should be explored further.

**RESOLVED**

That the Dorchester Chamber representative and G. Jones explore further the idea of a Thomas Hardy Day and work up a more detailed proposal for the Committee's consideration.

28. **A LOCAL HERITAGE LIST FOR DORCHESTER**

Subject to consideration by the Civic Society, the Committee was asked to consider supporting the idea of a Local Heritage List for Dorchester.

Local Heritage listing was a Civic Voice initiative and was a means for a community and a local authority to jointly identify heritage assets that were valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment. The Local Heritage List would identify those heritage assets that were not protected by statutory national designations but were of local heritage interest, contributing to the sense of place and history of the local area. Preparing a local heritage list would mean that the significance of heritage assets on the list was given due consideration by the Local Planning Authority, when change was being proposed.

It was noted that the Town Council also had an aspiration to produce such a list and



would, in principle, be agreeable to providing a modest contribution and technical support to put any end list on the Council's GIS.

Whilst discussing this matter it was reported that part of Dorset's heritage was its breeds of sheep and the importance that sheep had to the rural economy etc. Members felt that it might be possible to include an aspect of rural heritage with the idea for a Thomas Hardy Day, this could then include an aspect of William Barnes.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the idea of a Local Heritage List for Dorchester be supported.

#### 29. **NAPPERS MITE CLOCK**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that, following the Committee underwriting the cost of the scaffolding, the work to the clock drum was presently being undertaken and once that had been completed the clock would be put back together. It was anticipated that the clock would be completed by the end of October 2018.

Members requested that some publicity be given to the clock once the restoration was completed.

#### 30. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

#### 31. **URGENT ITEMS**

WDDC Consultation on the Local Plan Preferred Options – Policy DOR15 – Following a question the Chairman confirmed that on behalf of the Committee he would write objecting to the Policy DOR15.

In response to a question the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that a report would be presented to the next meeting regarding revisions to the constitution as a result of Local Government Reorganisation.

#### 32. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 28 January 2019 commencing at 7.00pm.

Chairman:



# DORCHESTER HERITAGE COMMITTEE

## An Evaluation of 'Open Dor' – High Street Heritage Day, held on 16 September 2018

### 1. What was the event?

High West and High East Streets were closed to traffic from 10am to 4pm on Sunday 16 September 2018 to enable people to enjoy their High Street without traffic. Shire Hall and the Dorset County Museum ran free events as part of this and heritage tours were provided by Blue Badge Guides and the Curator of the Keep Museum. The event was part of Dorset Architectural Heritage Week and the Europe-wide Heritage Open Days initiative.

### The Highlights

Over 2,000 visitors to High East and High West Streets, 1,162 visitors to Shire Hall, around 500 tour participants, and 1,080 museum visitors

"It was like being tourists in our own town,"

" A fab day!"

"Three times my usual takings. Events like this have the potential to revive High East Street's economy."

"This is 100% success. It's wonderful; you wouldn't know the area. We could do with this once a month. That's what we need: a break from the traffic. As a resident I must thank you and the team and the Council."

"About 80% of the visitors were local; some of whom had never been before."

"It made a Sunday like a Saturday in terms of business."

"DEFINITELY worth doing again."

28,665 views on Facebook of the video of Tom Brown's mass hokey-cokey!

## 2. What did the event include?

Dorset Architectural Heritage Week has been running for 25 years and is part of the Europe-wide Heritage Open Days initiative. Some Dorchester attractions such as Shire Hall have taken part in previous years' programmes, but this is the first time that High West and High East Streets were closed to traffic to allow people to enjoy Dorchester's best street without cars, noise and pollution.

All businesses and residents in High East / High West Streets and those residents affected by road closures were informed by letter well in advance of the event.

The programme included:

- 10am – 4pm – Closure of the street from Eastgate to Top o'Town
- 10am – 4pm – Free entry at Shire Hall
- 10am – 4pm – Free entry at Dorset County Museum with archaeological tours
- 10am – 4pm – Civic Society display in the Corn Exchange, plus display about the Kings Arms
- 11am and 3pm – Tour of the Keep and Barracks with Chris Copson, Curator
- 11am, noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm – tours of High West Street with Blue Badge Guide
- 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm – tours of High East Street with Blue Badge Guide
- Around 11.30am – 4pm – Forgiveness Project exhibition in St Peter's Church
- 12.30pm – The Mayor's tour of High West/High East Street tunnels and cellars
- 3pm – Hokey-Cokey in the High Street, arranged by Tom Brown's pub
- Roman tours of Dorchester (private arrangement with Dorset County Museum, charge applied).

## 3. Who ran it?

Open Dor was run by Dorchester Heritage Committee with assistance from Dorchester Blue Badge Guides and Dorchester Civic Society. Events were run independently at Shire Hall through the week and on the Sunday and the day co-incided with St Peter's Church's Forgiveness Project events.

The event was co-ordinated by Kate Hebditch and Alistair Chisholm on a voluntary basis, with support from Steve Newman, Dorchester Town Council. The time contributed by volunteer guides, stewards, marshals and organisers amounted to about 80 hours.

## 4. Advance publicity

The event was given national publicity via the Heritage Open Days website <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/open-dor> and featured in the Dorset Architectural Heritage Week booklet produced by East Dorset Heritage Trust <http://www.edht.org.uk/dahw.html>. In addition, posters were distributed around the town and press releases issued. Tom Brown's event was publicised widely on social media and the street closure and tours were publicised by email newsletter, in the Town Council newsletter and on the Visit Dorset website.

## 5. What did people think of it?

### 5.1 Visitor response

The best estimate of visitor numbers that we have is around 2,250 (based on an estimate of 50% of all visitors visiting Shire Hall, which had 1,162 visitors).

Responses from visitors were overwhelmingly positive, with comments including "It was like being a tourist in your own town" and "there was so much to see we didn't manage to do it all" and hundreds of comments about the ability to enjoy walking down the middle of the street.



*No, it's not a traffic accident; it's someone enjoying the experience of being able to lie down in the street and not be run over!*

Around 360 people took one of the ten tours with the Blue Badge Guides and a further 60 people joined the Mayor on his Dorchester tunnels tour. The guides and volunteers reported very positive feedback: “It was a fantastic day and good to see so many residents as well as visitors out and about. It gave much pleasure to walk down the middle of the High Street!” “It was quite an amazing experience and very enjoyable on many different levels. I was amazed and delighted at how many people came out.” “DEFINITELY worth doing again.”

A survey after the event only resulted in twelve responses, which are reproduced at the end of the report.

## **5.2 Impact on local residents**

Responses from residents were also overwhelmingly positive, with all enjoying the peace and absence of traffic. Some commented on the cleaner air that they experienced and church-goers reported a much more peaceful service without the noise of traffic and the frequent beeping of the pedestrian crossing. A resident of Homechester House asked if future events could include something at the Top o’Town for less mobile residents.

## **5.3 Visitor attractions in High West Street**

### **5.3.1 Shire Hall**

Shire Hall had 1,162 visitors. They were very pleased with numbers and with the level of donations. The event acted as a good advertisement for the new attraction and they expect first time visitors who came that day to return for future visits. 30-40 new names were signed up to the mailing list. A lot of visitors were locals who were very curious about the building, and a significant number had worked there when it was WDDC offices. The popularity of the building tours has led to Shire Hall deciding to do monthly behind-the-scenes tours.



Shire Hall is generally open on Sundays and visitors benefit from free parking. They feel that there is the potential for other heritage attractions to work together to provide a more coherent offer on other Sundays. The spend in the shop that day was comparable to other busy days, and exceptionally good for a Sunday.

The advertised free days appear to have led to a reduction in visitors in the week leading up to the event, but Shire Hall are keen to be involved in next year's Heritage Open Days and any additional traffic-free High Street days, although would not be able to offer free admission on any additional days.

### **5.3.2 Dorset County Museum**

The County Museum was in the process of closure for redevelopment, but opened on Sunday 16 September with free admission and archaeological tours of the excavations at the rear of the Museum. A museum trustee reported it to have been an extremely good day, with approximately 1,080 visitors. The trustee running archaeological tours reported: "We had a constant stream of people viewing the archaeological excavation from the minute we opened and throughout the day. It was great to see such a wide variety of people of all ages showing a real interest in the history of the town, and enjoying the opportunity to see, the site and hear about what had been found."

### **5.3.4 Tutankhamun Exhibition**

Staff reported that visitor numbers were good that day and that they would be happy to collect figures if the event is repeated.

### **5.3.5 The Keep Military Museum**

It was more difficult to build in the Keep as part of the event, as it lies outside the pedestrianised area. The Keep has previously taken part in Heritage Open Day events by providing evening tours and this time the Curator provided two tours of the Keep and Barracks area at 11am and 3pm. It was not possible to open the Museum on this occasion. Previous HOD events have had a take-up of around 8-10 people per tour and this time there were around 40 people on each. The majority of these were local, with just two people from the West Midlands.

The Museum would be happy to take part in future and would be willing to provide free admission if additional help in either staffing or a grant could be provided. They also see the potential for architectural study days to take place on the Saturday before the HOD Sunday event.

### **5.3.6 St Peter's Church**

The Vicar reported a very positive experience. She said: "It brought in loads more people to the church than usual on a Sunday which was excellent as we had the Forgiveness Project exhibition going on. Mostly people were just interested in the church building and were asking questions. Any grumbles about access were outweighed by the positive experience of so many people around. We have already talked about wanting to put on more hospitality, and to provide proper guides and perhaps do trips up the tower – the view is amazing! I think it was well worth doing."

### 5.3.7 Roman Town Tours

These were run privately by two costumed individuals, in conjunction with the County Museum, and there was a charge for the tours. As all other activities were free, they did not have any customers. If they are involved in the future, a grant could be found to enable them to offer free tours. This may be a way of encouraging visitors to the Roman Town House, which would be a valid inclusion in a town-wide heritage event.



### 5.3.8 Dorchester Civic Society

Dorchester Civic Society had intended to have a photographic exhibition in the Corn Exchange, but the volunteer who was arranging this was away. A Civic Society committee member had information stall in the Corn Exchange and handed out leaflets about High East / West Street buildings and stated it to be a very worthwhile exercise. It would be beneficial to build the Civic Society into the planning of the event next year to ensure their efforts do not overlap with others and that they can receive assistance with displays etc.

## 5.4 Response from High West and High East Street businesses

Not all businesses were open, but those which were were satisfied with the result, with some reporting an increase of three times their normal business and others reporting an equivalent to a Saturday's trading. Some, such as **Medusa**, did not see a particular increase in trade, but felt that it was good publicity for their business with visitors saying "I didn't know you were here," or "I didn't know you sold that". **Seventh Seal** felt that, although there wasn't a real increase in business, they were keen to join in as they occupy one of the oldest buildings in the town and wanted to show it off.

**Beyond Words** bookshop reported trade of around three times higher than usual and about eight times more than the subsequent Sunday. They believed events like this have the potential to revive the economy in High East Street.



**Fusion Lighting** were pleased with the day and surprised more shops weren't open; **Majestic Wine** had extra customers and thought it was "generally a good thing". **Great Western Camping** liked the idea, but are not open on Sunday and would prefer the event to be run on a Saturday.

**Autobitz**, which is usually open in Sundays would like marshals to provide better information, but were not against the closure in principle. **Kwik-Fit** in North Square had informed their management of the road closure, but were still required to be open and saw very little trade.

### 5.5 Pubs, cafés and hotels in High West/High East Street

**Tom Brown's** pub threw themselves into the event and had a barbecue outside, tables and chairs in the street and arranged a mass hokey-cokey dance in High East Street for customers and visitors. They reported that it had been a good day for business and a really good community event. They are keen to support future events and would like to compete for the hokey-cokey world record!



*The Tom Brown's Hokey-Cokey*

The **Posh Partridge** was open and saw good trade – the equivalent to a Saturday. The Horse with the Red Umbrella would have opened, but were unable to due to family circumstances. Hot and Sweet Café at Top o'Town was not open.

**Re-loved Café** considered it a success and put extra tables out in Cornhill. They did better than ordinary Sundays and would like to see it repeated. **Ye Olde Tea House** had a good trade in both Sunday lunches and cream teas. They felt that they had benefited from being included in the information being provided by guides running the tours of High West Street. The **café in Shire Hall** had its best day since opening in Spring 2018.

The **Borough Arms (Goldies)** claimed to have lost trade and the **Ship** has changed hands so we do not have data from them.

**Wessex** and **Westwood House Hotels** reported no problems, as they had known in advance and were able to alert guests. Visitors arriving that day and using sat-nav did have some difficulty, but were re-directed by marshals.

## 6. The health bonus for residents

A surprising number of people commented on the clean air in the High Street – an unexpected bonus. All the residents of High East/High West Street that we spoke to said, unprompted, that they had enjoyed a day without the constant throat irritation caused by pollution from traffic. They all enjoyed the absence of traffic noise and some said they would like a traffic-free day once a month. Edwin, of High West Street, said: “This is 100% success. It’s wonderful; you wouldn’t know the area. We could do with this once a month. That’s what we need: a break from the traffic! As a resident I must thank you and the team and the Council.”

Unfortunately the pollution records collected by WDDC Environmental Health are collected on a monthly basis, so do not record the impact of one traffic-free day.

## 7. Publicity generated by the day

The event received positive publicity in the Dorset Echo (<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/16886492.watch-residents-and-visitors-join-in-spontaneous-hokey-cokey-on-heritage-open-day-in-dorchester/>) and on social media. A post shared on 16 September on Tom Brown pub’s Facebook page has been shared 28,665 times. (<https://engb.facebook.com/tombrownspub/>).



## **8. Practical improvements for future events**

### **8.1 More traffic marshals**

Although there were plenty of volunteers, very few wanted to be traffic marshals. Ideally one (or more) is needed at each road junction with High East/West Street as well as each end (ie. 7 junctions). This would mean 28 marshals working in pairs and doing half a day each.

Marshalls need to be provided with information about routes, how to get to hotels, car parks and residential areas on the north side of town, and information about which businesses are open. "Ignore Sat-Nav" notices could usefully be employed at each end of the High Street as many of the traffic problems were caused by people attempting to follow instructions. It would also be useful to have more barriers across the whole of the side street entrances, as one or two motorists just drove round them.

### **8.2 A clearer starting point for tours**

Making the Town Pump the starting place for tours and an information point would make it easier for guides.

### **8.3 A meeting in advance**

Although all the participating organisations are part of the Dorchester Heritage Committee, the Committee should not assume that its members have read the minutes! A meeting should be held a week or two in advance to ensure that all are co-ordinating their efforts. Although there was a good sense of people working together, Shire Hall felt this was more by luck than design.

### **8.4 A publication and/or exhibition**

Although the Civic Society produced a short guide leaflet to the buildings of High East / West Street, there were requests for additional material and more places from which this could be collected. There is the potential to involve the Dorset History Centre in an exhibition or publication, as their building is too far away from the High Street to be included in tours.

### **8.5 Activities for children**

Family activities could be included in future events.

## **9. Future events**

### **9.1 Heritage Open Days 2019**

Next year's festival runs from **13 to 22 September** and the theme is "**People Power: Then, Now, Always.**" 2019 marks the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo massacre, when British forces attacked a massive pro-democracy rally. It also marks the HOD 25th anniversary.

Given the importance in British history of both Peterloo and the Tolpuddle Martyrs, there is the opportunity to gain significant publicity for Dorchester as part of this event. And what better demonstration of People Power is there than opening the streets for people to enjoy free of traffic?

## 9.2 Other opportunities

There is the potential for other events, especially in the summer. Opportunities include:

- Thomas Hardy's birthday (2 June) – perhaps a rural heritage event to include country crafts, animals etc.
- A children's play event – and perhaps a giant slide (see <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/gallery/2014/may/04/bristol-turns-central-street-into-giant-water-slide-in-pictures>)
- A dance event – building on Tom Brown's Hokey-Cokey event
- Skateboard demonstrations, go-cart races, egg-rolling, record-breaking knitting, tea parties and similar community events.

## 10. Recommendations

1. That Dorchester Heritage Committee welcomes the overwhelmingly positive response from local residents and visitors and runs this event again in 2019.
2. That a small budget is allocated in order to pay for street closures and signage, event management, posters, an information leaflet, and a sum for assisting organisations to take part if they are currently unable.
3. That the Committee works with its partners to make the most of the 'People Power' theme of the 2019 Heritage Open Days and to seek national publicity.
4. That the Committee seeks to recruit traffic marshals at an early stage in order to ensure the safety of the event.
5. That the Committee explores other opportunities for traffic-free High Street events, especially as this gives health benefits to the residents of High West and High East Streets by reducing pollution and traffic noise.
6. That the Committee explores with its partners, cafés, local businesses and the BID the potential for a combined Sunday heritage offer.

*Kate Hebditch  
3 December 2018*

*Note: all photos copyright Patricia Bailey*

## Survey responses

Only 12 surveys were completed, but people's responses are included below:

The event was good because...

- Lovely to wander around, speak to people without traffic noise, admire buildings. absolutely great. Please do it again.
- It was traffic free.
- So great to be able to walk around without the noise and fumes of traffic - just such a lovely relaxed atmosphere.
- It was relaxing to enjoy the town without traffic.
- Great atmosphere in town centre.
- Traffic free. Can see the buildings. Sense of community. People were enjoying themselves.
- I learned things I had never known and it was all done in a very relaxed and informal way.
- Mostly the historical and architectural focus on the high street.
- No traffic - a great feeling.
- Much more interesting than I thought it would be! Excellent!
- There was a magnificent 'festive' feel about the day and a chance to meet friends and see buildings free of traffic. (I saw parts of buildings which I had never taken in before.)
- Great being able to look at all the buildings in detail without worrying about traffic or blocking up the narrow pavements.

It would have been even better if...

- It happened once a month.
- The buildings open had been clearly indicated, maybe with a colourful flag.
- The road had been closed for more hours.
- We had arrived earlier-plenty to see!
- Clearer information point.
- The tours had been a bit more selective and shorter (one guide insisted on giving us an exhaustive history of every house, even though it was obvious it was taking too long).
- There were much more comprehensive info as above (architecture & history).
- Some drivers of cars coming up Trinity Street hadn't taken the law into their own hands and removed 'no entry' signs before emerging in to a High West Street full of pedestrians.
- It had gone on even longer



## Dorchester Heritage Open Day 2018 Event Plan

| Time                                  | What   | Who   | Elsewhere  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Over a month before                   | Apply for street closures and order signage  | Steve Newman  |  |
| A month before                        | Put out road closure notices   | Alistair Chisholm   |  |
|                                       | Deliver letters giving notice of the event to all businesses and residents on High East & High West Streets and those residents north of the High St who will be affected by road closures   | Alistair Chisholm   |  |
|                                       | Recruit volunteers   | Kate Hebditch   |  |
|                                       | Publicity – press releases, posters  | Kate Hebditch, DTC  |  |
|                                       | Risk assessment  | Kate Hebditch, DTC  |  |
| Day before                            | Put out street signs   |   | Highways dept. (Dorset Works)  |
| <b>In charge: Joy and Paul Wallis</b> |  |   |  |
| 9.00 – 10.00                          | Set up diversion signs as per traffic plan   | Highways dept to do on Saturday   | Church services at St Peter's and Holy Trinity c. 10.30 – 11.30<br>May need access for disabled people being collected by car                              |
| 9.45                                  | Set up barriers & signs to close off the side streets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trinity Street junction</li> <li>North Square</li> <li>Friary Lane / Church St.</li> <li>Icen Way</li> </ul>   | Paul & Joy Wallis<br>Sally Cooke  |  |
| 10.00                                 | Set up barriers & signs to close High Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The White Hart/Eastgate</li> <li>Top o'Town/High West Street</li> </ul> Close street at 10am<br>Set up Colliton St flow reversal<br>Set up gazebo, table & 3 chairs near the Pump. | <b>Note:</b><br><b>Traffic signs to be left at points nearest where needed.</b><br><b>4 road closed signs for side streets to be left at Corn Exchange.</b> |  |
|                                       |  |   |  |
|                                       |  |   |  |
| <b>In charge: Tim Loasby</b>          |  |   |  |
| 10.00 – 1.00                          | Volunteers - morning session   | <u>Welcomers/assistant guides</u><br>Jean Lawson (at top of High West St)<br>Sue Worth<br>Jan Tomerfield<br><u>Traffic marshals</u>                         | Tour of the Barracks – Chris Copson – 11am<br>Shire Hall open free<br>County Museum open free<br>Archaeological tours of the excavations at back of Museum |

|                                 |   |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
|                                 |   | Penny Treadwell<br>2 from Event Security:<br>Stuart & Malcolm   | Roman tours of Dorchester<br>Civic Society exhibition in Corn Exchange<br>King's Arms exhibition in Corn Exchange   |
| 11.00 – 11.30                   | First tour High West Street                             | Tim Loasby  |   |
| 11.30 – 12.00                   | First tour High East Street                             | Derek Pride   |   |
| 12.00 – 12.30                   | Second tour High West Street                            | Tim Loasby  |   |
| 12.30 – 1.00                    | Second tour High East Street                            | Derek Pride & The Mayor   |   |
| <b>In charge: Derek Pride</b>   |   |   |   |
| 1.00 – 2.00                     | Volunteers - lunchtime session                          | Lorna Low<br>Sarah Harbige  | As above  |
| 1.00 – 1.30                     | Third tour High West Street                             | Joy Wallis  |   |
| 1.30 – 2.00                     | Third tour High East Street                             | Derek Pride   |   |
| 2.00 – 4.00                     | Volunteers - afternoon session                          | <b><u>Welcomers/assistant guides</u></b><br>Jean Lawson (at top of High West St)<br>Patricia & Alec Bailey<br>Michael Rice<br><b><u>Traffic marshalls</u></b><br>Kate Hebditch<br>2 from Event Security<br>Stuart & Malcolm | Tour of the Barracks – Chris Copson 3pm<br>Shire Hall open free<br>County Museum open free<br>Archaeological tours of the excavations at back of<br>Museum<br>Roman tours of Dorchester<br>Civic Society exhibition in Corn Exchange<br>King's Arms exhibition in Corn Exchange |
| <b>In charge: Joy Wallis</b>    |   |   |   |
| 2.00 – 2.30                     | Fourth tour High West Street                            | Joy Wallis  |   |
| 2.30 – 3.00                     | Fourth tour High East Street                            | Tim Loasby  |   |
| 3.00 – 3.30                     | Fifth tour High West Street                             | Joy Wallis  |   |
| 3.00                            | High Street Conga (High East St)                        | Tom Brown's pub staff & customers   |   |
| 3.30 – 4.00                     | Fifth tour High East Street                             | Alistair Chisholm   |   |
| <b>In charge: Kate Hebditch</b> |   |   |   |
| 4.00                            | Take down barriers<br>Open streets to traffic once safe | Alistair Chisholm<br>Kate Hebditch  |   |

Corn Exchange phone no. 819039

Town Council 266861

Event Security 777858



## **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2019**

### **EXTRACT FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S REPORT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S POLICY COMMITTEE ON 22 JANUARY 2019**

#### **AN ORAL UPDATE ON THE POLICY COMMITTEE'S DECISION WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 28 JANUARY 2019**

##### **Heritage Tourism Strategy Development**

1. At the November meeting the Committee allocated funds to try to progress the development of a strategy with a specific specialist. On further reflection, working with the Economic Development Officer at West Dorset DC, while acknowledging that the specialist could play a significant role in facilitating others to consider how to develop a strategy, this would not in itself result in a strategy being developed. At present this item has therefore not been pursued further.
2. As a result of an informal approach to the Town Council and a meeting with the Town Clerk and other members of the Heritage Strategy Steering Group, a potential contractor has submitted a comprehensive costed, proposal for consideration.
3. The proposal is for works totalling £25,000 - £30,000 (not all with the supplier) and focused on the word "brand" rather than "strategy". It is worthy of consideration but it is again not certain that it will fill the broad brief considered by the Committee last year. Approval of the contractor would require our contract procedures to be waived and I would wish to discuss with other partners whether they are willing to part fund the work.
4. There are two options open to Members
  - Reject the approach from the potential contractor and continue to search for a way to explore what the market options are to support the development of a Heritage Strategy for Dorchester
  - Meet with the potential contractor, with our partners, to explore the submission they have made, and consider whether it meets the needs of the Town Council and its partners for a Heritage Strategy
5. If Members wish to consider the later option they may wish to nominate 2 – 3 members to join with partners to meet the potential contractor.



Adrian Stuart  
Town Clerk  
Dorchester Town Council  
19 North Square  
Dorchester  
DT1 1JF

29 November 2018

Dear Mr Stuart

### **Commemoration of 1623 emigration to Massachusetts**

As you may have heard, at the recent AGM of the Dorset County Museum I suggested that the Museum include in its forward programme a celebration in 2023 of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the first ship taking folk from Dorchester to found a new settlement in Massachusetts. The Museum welcomed the suggestion, especially since by then the old rectory building in Colliton Street, which was occupied by the Rev John White, the inspiration and driving force behind the 1623 voyage, will have been restored as part of the present redevelopment scheme.

I am now writing to you formally to ask the Town Council to consider taking a leading role in such a celebration. Hopefully this could include input from the State of Massachusetts, possibly a delegation from the USA or, at least, the presence of the US Ambassador to the UK. I should make it clear that this is distinct from the association with Dorchester Massachusetts, which was founded by a later expedition in 1630. The first settlement was at Cape Ann, the area of which now includes the city of Gloucester and the town of Rockport.

As part of my personal interest in the legacy of the Rev John White I have written a little book to outline his achievements, under the title: *Dorchester's New World: The Vision of John White, Founder of Massachusetts*. If it would help, I could provide any further information which you feel might be useful and/or come to discuss any ideas for such a celebration.

Yours sincerely

**David Cuckson**