

Dorchester Area Community Land Trust looking for new members

Last November the Council invited residents along to a meeting to explore setting up a Community Land Trust (CLT) to develop affordable housing in the town for young people, initially focusing on the tennis courts site to the rear of Trinity Street Car Park.

Our aim was to deliver 20+ one bed flats in the centre of town, to be lived in by young workers on average wages who are prevented from accessing the normal housing market due to the gap between house prices and wages. The target sale price for the flats was to be £90,000 and the aim was to secure the properties as affordable for young people into the long term.

Over 70 residents attended, from which 12 have worked with the Council to establish the CLT. With generous financial support from West Dorset DC's Community Housing Fund and supported by Hastoe HA and Wessex CLT Project the CLT has been constituted as a Community Benefit Society, undertaken background investigations on the tennis court site and is now selecting an architect to prepare plans for the site. The current aim is to submit a planning application to West Dorset DC by March 2018.

Youth Centre celebrates first year

Eighteen months ago a group of volunteers responded to the challenge to keep the Lubbecke Way Youth Centre open and secured support from the Town Council to match-fund other grants and income they were raising.

The Centre re-opened in September 2016, recently celebrating its first birthday. It provides a Youth Club for 11–16 year olds 3 nights a week plus a fortnightly Saturday Club.

The Centre also provides community space for other groups, including a popular school holiday club as well as large spaces for birthday parties and rehearsals and private meeting and training facilities.

If your children would enjoy the Youth Club, or you are looking for a venue to hire, the [Dorchester Youth and Community Centre](#) can be contacted via [Facebook](#).

You can now join the CLT as a Member. To join costs £1.00 and enables you to demonstrate support for the wider aims of the Trust. It also gives you the right to elect the Board.

A public meeting is being held on Wed. 8 November at 7.00pm in the Town Hall, Municipal Buildings, where you can find out more about the Trust's ambitions and fill out a membership form. This will lead on to the first AGM for the Trust in January 2018 when the first Board will be elected.



Trinity St Tennis Courts, the first site planned for development by the CLT

Ridgeway launches community radio

Having spent most of its 50 years providing a hospital service, in recent times Ridgeway Radio has become a community station accessible to anyone through its website on the internet.

Ridgeway is now in talks with Ofcom to launch an FM based radio service for the Dorchester area. To obtain the licence it must demonstrate a commitment to community broadcasting, with a business plan proving it can fund its operation without an over-reliance on commercial advertising.

If Ofcom accept the application the station would launch in around 18 months. Ridgeway would like to hear from potential sponsors or anyone who would like to be involved with the radio. Contact Andy Worth at www.ridgewayradio.org.uk.

Dorchester News

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Autumn 2017

Corporate Plan Review

In May the Town Council reviewed its Corporate Plan, the document that identifies how we propose to develop our services and influence how other organisations deliver their projects and services over the next few years.

The key messages that came from the review were that we need to

- ◆ Lead on delivering Affordable Housing for Young Workers
- ◆ Influence Dorset CC and West Dorset DC to manage increasing problems associated with parking and traffic in the town
- ◆ Actively bring Heritage and Tourism sectors together to jointly promote the town
- ◆ Decide which "at risk" District and County services need to be supported financially should a decision be taken to end them

The Town Council will be contacting community and other consultee groups over the next two months to seek their views on our draft priorities and associated actions.

The latest draft of priorities is available on the What's New tab of our website. If you have any questions or comments about individual items please contact a.stuart@dorchester-tc.gov.uk.

Further Town Centre improvements on the way

In August the completion of the long-awaited paving scheme for lower South Street and New Street was celebrated by the 3 partner Councils who had delivered the scheme, at an event organised by Dorchester BID.

New loading ban restrictions will also be in place in High West Street and High East Street by Christmas, focused on improving traffic flows.

The major junction improvements works within the DTEP programme also continue apace. Works to

Mayor Susie Hosford and councillors from West Dorset DC and Dorset CC joined representatives and ambassadors from Dorchester BID to welcome the return to normal business in lower South Street.



The paving works are the most visible element of the Environmental part of the DTEP programme, with works continuing into 2018 to improve the appearance of the town centre. Work has now started to widen the paving at Shire Hall in High West Street, to be completed by Christmas.

In the New Year the paving team will return to South Street, laying new materials outside Barclays Bank and Tudor Arcade and also replacing slabs and bricks that have been lost over the years. Plans are also being developed to renew the street furniture and introduce new pedestrian signage, as well as resurfacing South Walks.

improve pedestrian movement have been completed at Great Western Cross and South Gate and attention now turns to the Trinity Street junction with High West Street; these works should be completed by Christmas. Further works are scheduled at the Damers Road/Williams Avenue junction in 2018.

While acknowledging the traffic delays that the works have caused it is worth bearing in mind that these are the first major junction improvement works to be carried out in the town since the 1990's on a system that was beginning to fail.

Further updates can be found at www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/dorchester-transport-plan

Events Autumn 2017

Wednesday 25 October - Tirah Memorial Service

11.00am Tirah Memorial, Borough Gardens

Sunday 12 November - Remembrance Sunday

11.00am War Memorial, South Walks Road
12.30pm German War Memorial, Fordington

Saturday 26 November - WAND Reclaim the Night

6.30pm -10.30pm Town Hall in Dorchester

Thursday 7 December - Christmas Cracker

6.00pm - 9.00pm Town Centre

Thursday 21 December - Carols in the Gardens

6.30pm Borough Gardens (weather permitting)

Bath Students to exhibit their ideas

Last winter 85 year 4 students from Bath University visited Dorchester, having been set the task for their final degree project of reimagining a site in the town for a fresh purpose, under the title "The Uncanny".

Supported by the Dorchester Civic Society, their innovative and thought provoking ideas will be presented at a free exhibition in the Town Hall in November. It will be well worth a visit.

University of Bath
Architecture
Student Exhibition

9 - 10 November 2017, 11am - 4pm
Town Hall, Municipal Buildings,
High East Street, Dorchester

Free Entry

UNIVERSITY OF BATH
DORCHESTER CIVIC SOCIETY

Image: The House of Clay courtesy of Emma V Moburg

www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Consultation on The Great Field

Work has now started to plan the layout of The Great Field, in the western part of the town, as a public amenity space. Once completed it will be the largest public open space in the town.

The site will include play provision for children as well as fully accessible walking paths and informal landscaping, supplementing the football pitches, outdoor gym and older children's equipment already on the site.

The Duchy of Cornwall has commissioned landscape architect Fabrik, who specialise in environmental design, alongside Copper Consultancy, to carry out consultation regarding what local residents would like to see on the site. The consultation programme runs from October until January 2018, with the aim of starting to build new facilities in summer 2018.

Funding has been set aside from Section 106 planning gain monies provided by the Duchy, while individual parts of the project may also attract lottery and other funding.

A copy of a recent Duchy presentation is on our Home page at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk. More information can be obtained from info@poundburygreatfield.co.uk

Shire Hall: A new courthouse museum

There are now just 6 months to go until this exciting new museum opens in March 2018. The finishing touches are being put to complement and interpret the town's most atmospheric building, bringing its history to life, with wigs and gowns to try on, hidden corners to discover, games to play, digital interaction and much more!

You will walk in the footsteps of those who experienced the full force of the 19th century court system, through virtually unchanged dark Georgian and Victorian cells, then climb spiral stairs into the dock - a truly terrifying experience for the accused, many facing the threat of transportation to the ends of the earth or even worse.

The Shire Hall Trust, a new independent charity, will run the museum, providing daytime visits and evening events. They are currently recruiting volunteers - if you would like to be in at the start of this new venture and find out more about the many volunteering opportunities on offer, contact anne.brown@shirehalldorset.org

Join the Strollers

Dorchester Strollers is a Walking for Health Group offering two regular walks each week, Monday am and Tuesday pm. Both a slow 45 minute walk and a longer, faster 1 hour walk are offered. Afterwards both groups meet for tea/coffee.

Walks are free and led by trained leaders. The Group is run by volunteers and is looking for both new leaders and walkers. Further info can be found at the TIC, from www.walkingforhealth.org.uk or on 01305 263759.



Enjoying the social side of Strolling, the Group held a picnic in the Borough Gardens, with table tennis and ice cream.

Cyber Crime Advice

Dorset Police are receiving increasing numbers of calls related to cyber crime from residents. Their checklist to minimise the risk of getting caught out includes: -

- ◆ Back up data & phones to the cloud/external drive
- ◆ Use 3G/4G for private browsing, not free public WiFi
- ◆ Use reputable companies to shop online. Don't enter personal information on websites with no padlock in the browser or that does not begin https://
- ◆ Always use the latest version of your browser, an up to date anti-virus software and a firewall
- ◆ Use different passwords for different sites - strong, random, 10+ numbers and characters in both cases
- ◆ Delete & block spam/junk emails. Take care opening attachments, downloads/links from unknown senders.
- ◆ Double check who is sending invoices and where they want money sent. Use secure payments, PayPal or credit cards. Think before sending large amounts.
- ◆ Be aware of fraud scams: criminal gangs are very creative at using the internet to fish for money
- ◆ Protect your identity online - you will lose control of pictures and info you share openly on social websites

For further information contact

CyberCrimePrevention@dorset.pnn.police.uk

If you ever need to report suspicious activity contact

http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud

Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion Appeal launches on Friday 27th October, with the usual house-house and street collections starting on the 28th. Last year £24,260 was raised in Dorchester, a tribute to the generosity of our community. A big Thank You to all who supported the Appeal.

This year RBL would like to raise more, as the cost of the services they provide increases year on year. The RBL always need new volunteers; if you can help with either the street or house collections please contact [Paul Buckland](mailto:Paul.Buckland@rbl.org.uk), Appeal Organiser on [01305 250011](tel:01305250011).

County Regiments' Memorial Dedicated

Following a major fund-raising campaign, in September a new memorial was dedicated at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, to the county regiments of Devon and Dorset.

The memorial consists of three bronze figures commemorating the Regiments' involvement on the Somme in WW1, the battle for Kohima in WW2, and post war service in Northern Ireland, on stone plinths with regimental badges.



The service of dedication was attended by members of the Regimental Association, donors, including a number of the county's Mayors and the Regimental Association's Patron, the Duke of Kent.

The Keep Museum www.keepmilitarymuseum.org in Dorchester explains the fascinating history of The Dorsetshire Regiment, which was merged with the Devonshires in 1958, subsequently amalgamated into The Rifles in 2007. There is more information about the memorial at www.devondorsetregiment.co.uk.

www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk