

Lubbecke Way Garden Plots

We are seeking to establish a new group to take on the operation of smaller allotment plots on a site between Lubbecke Way and the River Frome that was given to us as part of the Red Cow Farm development.

The town's 300 plots, across 6 allotment sites, operate on a landlord/ individual tenant basis, but Lubbecke Way offers the opportunity to try a different approach, pioneered by the Duchy of Cornwall at Poundbury, leasing the whole site to a properly constituted group of residents who will work together to manage the site.

So far we have the land, funds to put a shared shed and other infrastructure in place, and a small group of keen volunteers.

If you are interested in cultivating a small plot at this site and would like to join the Group, please contact us at admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk and we will put you in touch with them.

Young Workers needed to join a Housing Register

The project to build affordable flats took another step forward recently with the first meeting of a Steering Group of local volunteers who will set up and run a CLT to build around 20 flats on the tennis courts between Trinity St and West Walks.

The Town Council is working with West Dorset DC to identify young people who are interested in low cost home ownership, as part of a wider exercise to gather information about the housing needs of residents and workers.

West Dorset's work will complement the existing housing register, to focus attention on new housing that meets a local need and also making it easier to keep people up to date with new developments.

From May onwards please check the housing pages of www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk and register your interest in low cost home ownership.

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Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Dorchester News

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Spring 2017



Dippy is coming to Dorchester Get Involved Now!

Dippy, the Natural History Museum's famous dinosaur, is going on a nationwide tour next year and his first stop is at the Dorset County Museum, where you can see him from 10 February through to 8 May 2018.

The Museum is expecting Dippy to attract big crowds, and extra volunteers are needed to help with lots of interesting roles, including Front of House, serving in the tearoom, stewarding in the galleries, running family craft activities and educational sessions.

You'll get training, the opportunity to meet new people, and stories to dine out on! If you're over 18 and would like to be involved, the Museum would love to hear from you. For further details see www.dorsetcountymuseum.org and click on **Dippy on Tour**.



Lower South Street paving works to start this Spring

On Tuesday 18th April, immediately after the Easter Bank Holiday, works start to pave the pedestrian area running from the top of New Street, round past Nappers Mite, and down through lower South St.

The works will cost £700,000, with two thirds coming from West Dorset District Council and the balance from Dorchester Town Council. The works will be managed by Dorset County Council's Highways Team.

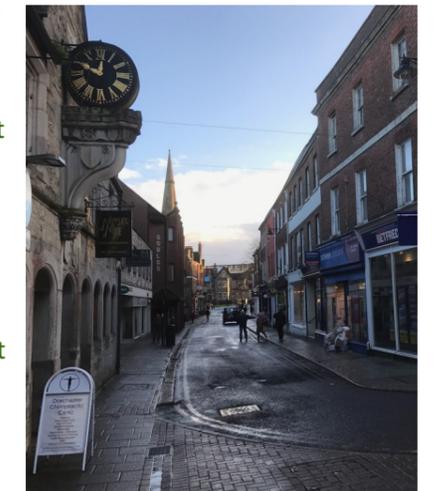
It is aimed to have substantially completed the works in South Street in time for the school holidays.

Access for loading and unloading vehicles will be restricted during the project for the safety of the public and workforce. Disabled parking will be available in Trinity Street and at the rear of the Hardy Arcade.

While the main focus of the work is the Nappers Mite area, the scheme will also include repairs and patching in upper South Street.

The scheme is the latest element of the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan programme, which also sees completion of the Great

Western Cross junction improvements this spring, then the relocation of the pedestrian crossing on South Walks Road this summer.



Later phases of works will include Damers/Williams Avenue and Maumbury Cross junction improvements, as well as environmental improvements outside the Shire Hall in High West Street.

Further information and updates on schemes included in the DTEP programme are available at

www.dorsetforyou.com/dorchester-transport-plan

You can see Dippy for free from February 2018, advanced booking is strongly advised. Booking opens online in August 2017. Sign up to an e-newsletter to keep up to date with Dippy's journey to Dorset, and be the first to know when bookings open. Visit www.dorsetcountymuseum.org/dippy_on_tour

Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Key projects secure Planning Gain funding

Over the last two years we have been working closely with West Dorset DC to allocate £2.0M received from housing development, mainly from Poundbury.

Following an audit of recreation facilities the District Council invited bids from local organisations who were looking to develop the buildings and land in Dorchester that is used to deliver recreation. While not every project could be funded (initial bids totalled over £3.5M) the £2.0M was finally allocated in March 2017 across eight important projects:-

- £1,000,000 to Maltings Arts towards their visionary development of a building at Brewery Square to deliver a significant regional arts offer
- £300,000 from two sources to the County Museum, supporting a £13M refurbishment of their site
- £250,000 to Dorchester Town Community FC to lay a 3G artificial pitch at The Avenue Stadium, turning it into a hub for youth football in the town
- £220,000 for outdoor facilities on the Great Field, supplementing other monies from the Duchy of Cornwall to provide play equipment and landscaping
- £130,000 towards a larger clubhouse at Dorchester Rugby Club
- £84,000 towards the £3.0M cost of reopening the Shire Hall as a heritage visitor attraction
- £25,000 to help the Boxing Club secure new premises
- £8,000 for a climbing boulder in the Borough Gardens

Most of the projects require additional funds to be raised, and offers are conditional on this. The Town Council will work with the recipients to help achieve their ambitions, and to reshape the services we provide as a result of their successful delivery.

These are the last major allocations that will be made from this source, known as Section 106 funding. In future the Town Council will receive a fixed share of planning contributions from new housing developments and will develop a list of recreation projects to support.



Council Tax to rise by 2% in 2017/18

The Town Council share of the Council Tax will rise by 2% in 2017, a Band D charge of £183.50, up £3.50 on last year, with similar increases planned in future years.

The increase will allow us to continue to deliver good quality facilities such as the Borough Gardens, whilst creating financial capacity to help others minimise the worst impact of service cuts at county and district level.

The Council is well placed to support local organisations seeking to minimise the loss of services. A good example is the Youth Club in Kings Road; faced with closure a year ago we were able to guarantee a local group up to £30,000 for each of the next three years, to take over and run the centre. They have matched our contribution, providing a Youth Club now used by around 150 young people each week.

The Town Council is also working with partners to deliver a series of important capital projects in the town, with the following commitments already made:-

- £200,000 towards the paving of lower South Street plus £60,000 towards paving repairs in the town centre (see front page for details)
- £100,000 to build two new tennis courts on the old Bowling Green in the Borough Gardens, due for completion this summer
- Grants of £25,000 towards the major County Museum refurbishment and £8,000 towards the architectural feasibility study for the Maltings Arts venue
- £20,000 towards funding for a new pedestrian signage scheme for the town centre

In April the Council will start to review its Corporate Plan, in particular focusing on how Reserves of over £300,000 might help those groups that have secured s106 project funding from the District Council.

We are also developing our views regarding the District Council's Local Plan Review, which is seeking to allocate significant additional land for new houses across West Dorset.

Finally we are trying to understand what additional role the Town Council will be required to play in the future as a result of the latest proposals to restructure local government for Dorset.

Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Welcoming The Rifles on St George's Day

Two companies of the Rifles, supported by the Salamanca Band, will be marching through the centre of Dorchester on the morning of Sunday 23rd April.

The Mayor will inspect the troops in the Borough Gardens, watched by veterans and cadets. The Rifles will then march round the Walks into South Street, returning to barracks up High West Street.

The Rifles are visiting the town to celebrate 50 years of the Reserve Centre in Poundbury Road, and the march is part of a week of events across Dorset to celebrate their connection to the county. More details of the march route will be available on our website nearer the day.



The Rifles last marched through Dorchester at a Homecoming from Afghanistan parade in 2010

St. George's Day will be a busy day for the town, as Scouts and Guides from across west Dorset parade through town and along The Walks to the Borough Gardens to renew their promise in the afternoon.



St George's Day 2016 in the Borough Gardens

Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Events April-June 2017

- Sunday 23 April - St George's Day Parades**
11.30am, The Rifles, Borough Gardens and town
2.30pm, Dorchester & W. Dorset Scouts, and Dorset Guides - town and Borough Gardens
 - Saturday 29 April - World Tai Chi Day**
10.00am, Borough Gardens
 - Monday 1 May - Mayor Tim's Fun Day**
Noon, Borough Gardens
 - Sunday 14 May - Durnovaria Silver Band**
2.30pm, Borough Gardens
 - Saturday 3 June - Thomas Hardy's Birthday**
5.30pm, Thomas Hardy Statue
 - Tuesday 6 June - D-Day Commemoration**
11.00am, The Keep
 - Saturday 10 June - Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Family Event** - Noon, Borough Gardens
 - Sunday 11 June - Durnovaria Silver Band**
2.30pm, Borough Gardens
- To keep up to date with new events and changes to the programme please check the notice boards in the Borough Gardens.

Carnival Weekend

- Friday 16 June - Party in the Park** inc. Four Legged Race, Evening, Borough Gardens
- Saturday 17 June - Carnival Day**

The theme is "A night at the Movies".

If your organisation would like to join the procession (walking entries welcomed) please visit

www.dorchester-carnival.org



Outdoor Theatre at Maumbury Rings

- Sunday 25 June 7.00pm - Twelfth Night**
performed by Rain or Shine Theatre Co.
- Thursday 13 July 7.30pm - The Third Policeman**
performed by Miracle Theatre
- Thursday 24 August 7.30pm - As You Like It**
performed by The Handlebards

Details and tickets at www.dorchesterarts.org.uk,
Box office 01305 266929

DorchesterARTS