



# DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, 19 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1JF

Telephone: (01305) 266861

Steve Newman, Town Clerk

10<sup>TH</sup> April 2024

You are invited to a meeting of the **DORCHESTER HERITAGE JOINT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER DT1 1HF** on **TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024** commencing at **5.30pm**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Newman'.

Town Clerk and Secretary to the Committee

## Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to disclose interests where appropriate. A Member who declares any interest must leave the room. A Member who declares a registerable interest as a Council nominee to a partner organisation may first address the meeting as a member of the public.

## Membership

Dorset Council: R. Biggs, A. Canning, L. Fry, S. Jones and R. Tarr

Dorchester Town Council: S. Biles, A. Chisholm, F. Hogwood, G. Jones and D. Taylor

The following Members may attend and speak but not vote:

Mr B Murphy (Duchy of Cornwall), I. Gosling (Dorchester Civic Society), Vacancy (Dorchester Chamber for Business), M. Woodgate (Dorchester Heritage Magazine), E. Metcalfe (The Keep Military Museum), L. Poulsen (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve), C. Dixon (Dorset Museum & Art Gallery), J Wallis (Blue Badge Tourist Guides) M Rice (Dorchester Association), Maria Gayton or S. Johnson (Dorset History Centre), R. Raine (National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage)), T. Little (Shire Hall), A. Worth (Keep 106 Community Radio), M. Chutter (Thomas Hardy Society).

## 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 23 January 2024 (**enclosed**).

3. **BUDGET UPDATE**

To receive a report from the Finance Officer (**report enclosed**).

4. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

To receive an update on the work of the Tourism Partnership (**report enclosed**).

5. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2024**

To receive a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (**report enclosed**).

6. **ONGOING PROJECTS**

To received update reports on the following matters:

- a) Millstream Paths information boards – location of final board (**report enclosed**)
- b) Roman mosaic project – The Walks
- c) Dorchester Sheroes Project

7. **FUTURE PROJECTS**

To discuss the following potential projects:

- a) Roman baths interpretation project (**report enclosed**).
- b) Water meadows – liaison with Stinsford Parish Council
- c) History of Dorchester online content.
- d) Town Pump enhancement proposals from Civic Society (I. Gosling)
- e) Refurbishment of Treves monument in Weymouth Avenue Cemetery (I. Gosling)

8. **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.

9. **URGENT ITEMS**

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

## ITEM 2: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2024

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	G. Jones (Chairman) A. Chisholm F. Hogwood
	Officers:	T. Hurley M. Manley
Dorset Council	Councillors:	R. Biggs A. Canning L. Fry
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Local Nature Reserve		L. Poulsen
Dorset Museum & Art Gallery		C. Dixon
Dorset Council - Archaeology		S. Wallis
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter
Dorchester Civic Society		I. Gosling
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum		T. Little
Dorset History Centre		M. Gayton
Blue Badge Tour Guide		J. Wallis

#### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S. Biles and D. Taylor (Dorchester Town Council), Cllrs S. Jones and R. Tarr (Dorset Council), R. White (National Trust), A. Worth (Keep 106) and E. Metcalfe (The Keep Military Museum).

#### 2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2023, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

#### 3. **BUDGET UPDATE**

A report on the budget position as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 was presented. Mark Chutter noted that it was the Thomas Hardy Conference this year and the Fair next year but perhaps, looking

ahead, the two events could both take place in 2028 to mark the centenary of Hardy's death. Maria Gayton reported that the History Centre has appointed an officer to catalogue the Hardy archive and they may be available to give talks/presentations.

**RESOLVED**

That the budget update be noted.

4. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Matilda Manley provided an update on the work of the Tourism Partnership. Three projects had been selected to benefit from the Events & Experiences small grant fund – these were: 'Hardy Ha' comedy festival, Opera in Shire Hall, and a Drawing Festival.

Matilda also reported that co-ordinators had been appointed for the 2024 Walking Festival. Tamsin Little thanked Matilda for facilitating the Tourism Partnership.

**RESOLVED**

The Committee report on the activities of the Tourism Partnership were noted.

5. **MUSEUMS AFTER DARK 2023**

Tamsin Little present a report on the successful event in 2023 and agreed to bring forward a proposal for the 2024 to the next meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED**

That the report on the Museums After Dark 2023 event was noted.

6. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2024**

Tony Hurley presented an update on emerging plans for Heritage Open Day in 2024. Maria Gayton reported that the History Centre would be offering free tours on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The optional dates of either 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> September (both Sundays) and consideration was given to clashes with the County Show and the IronMan event. It was proposed that Heritage Open Day should take place on 15<sup>th</sup> September and Dorset Council asked if a closure of High West/East Street might be possible that day.

**RESOLVED**

That detailed proposals for Heritage Open Day on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

7. **ONGOING PROJECTS:**

Updates on the following were received:

a) **Millstream information boards.** Tony Hurley confirmed that the undergrowth had now

been cleared from the path by Dorset Council and the installation/unveiling could be arranged. It was agreed that Tony Hurley will circulate the optional dates for the unveiling ceremony.

- b) **Roman mosaic project.** Matilda Manley reported that there not capacity to take the project forward at present but it was agreed that Matilda would explore options for a way forward with Claire Dixon.

## 8. **FUTURE PROJECTS**

- d) **Roman baths interpretation project.** Tony Hurley presented a report on options for the interpretation of the site. There was a need to improve the appearance of this area of town and the importance of linking any information to other Roman heritage signs in the town. Linda Poulsen highlighted the Victorian heritage of the site with links to Wollaston House and the Wollaston family. It was agreed that a more detailed proposal for this project be presented to the next meeting of the committee.
- e) **Water meadows project.** Tony Hurley reported that he had contacted Stinsford Parish Council regarding a potential joint project and was awaiting a response.
- f) **History of Dorchester online content.** Matilda Manley demonstrated that online content that had been produced for Heritage Open Day 2023. Cllr Gareth Jones was still keen on this being developed in to a presentation or display.
- g) **List of major events.** Matilda Manley reported that a list of annual events in Dorchester had been produced as was available online [www.discoverdorchester.co.uk/annual-events/](http://www.discoverdorchester.co.uk/annual-events/)
- h) **Proposal for Bayeux Twinning / Norman invasion event.** Cllr Gareth Jones highlighted the opportunity to celebrate the links with Bayeux with an event focusing on the Norman invasion, the Bayeux tapestry (using images from the Reading Museum replica), and linking to the forthcoming television series and film. It was agreed that a detailed proposal will be presented to the April meeting of the Committee.
- i) **Town Pump enhancement proposal.** Ian Gosling outlined a proposal to install a water fountain near the base of the Town Pump to link with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civic Society. Local architects had been approached as were keen to work on the project. The Committee expressed its support for this idea. Tony Hurley mentioned the town council's ongoing project to enhancement the area of Cornhill around the Pump including new paving and benches.
- j) **Refurbishment of Treves memorial in Weymouth Avenue cemetery.** Ian Gosling reported on fundraising to have the memorial cleaned and refurbished – likely top cost about £1,000. The Civic Society had made a donation to the project and would make appeal for further contributions via the Echo.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That a detailed proposal for the interpretation of the Roman baths be presented to the next meeting.
- (e) A proposal for a Bayeux/Norman invasion event be brought to the next meeting.

(f) That the Civic Society's proposals for the Town Pump be supported.

**9. NEW STATUE FOR DORCHESTER**

The Committee received a presentation from Mark Chutter and Anya Pearson regarding a proposal to erect a statue to a significant woman from Dorchester's history and suggested a range of people who could be considered. However, they explained the importance of consulting the community and, from this, new suggestions are likely to emerge. Various women were discussed and Mark Chutter highlighted Mary Moule as playing a significant role in the history of the town. Cllr Les Fry emphasised the importance of someone with a strong link to the town and Linda Poulsen stated that it was important to have an open consultation which might generate new names and perhaps also an alternative to a statue. Maria Gayton suggested that any community consultation should also ask whether a statue is the most appropriate way to celebrate a significant figure. Mark Chutter and Anya Pearson agreed that the consultation should be explore all options.

Matilda Manley suggested that the History of Dorchester Facebook page established by the Civic Society might be a good channel for consultation. The committee agreed to support a public consultation as part of a first step for the project.

**RESOLVED**

That the committee support the public consultation on options on the local woman to be commemorated in a new sculpture.

**10. QUESTIONS**

None were raised.

**11. PROPOSED DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED**

That the following dates be agreed. 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (all at 5.30pm).

**12. URGENT ITEMS**

None were raised.

Chairman.....

### ITEM 3: BUDGET UPDATE

#### Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee

<b>Statement of Accounts - Year ended 31st March 2024</b>			
		<b>Activities</b>	<b>Events</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Balance brought forward as at 1st April 2023	4,699.61	6,800.00
<b>Income:</b>			
10/04/2023	DTC Contribution to activities	3,000.00	
10/04/2023	DTC Contribution to events		8,500.00
26/09/2023	Balance from HOD 2022		14.14
	<b>Total income:</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>8,514.14</b>
<b>Expenditure in year:</b>			
		<b>Activities</b>	<b>Events</b>
05/04/2023	Wallis Agency - Hosting Town Trail minisites	50.00	
08/06/2023	Event Security LTD - THVF Security		798.00
15/06/2023	Rural Market Town Membership	121.82	
27/06/2023	THVF		450.00
28/06/2023	Wallis Agency - Mill Stream boards, 4 x A1	1187.50	
30/07/2023	A2E Medical - Henge Fest		282.00
07/09/2023	Meta Platforms Limited - HOD Advertising		37.72
11/09/2023	Event Security LTD - HOD 2023		480.00
18/10/2023	Dorset Council - HOD Road Closures		2,301.29
19/10/2023	Dorset Council - THVF Road Closures		2,032.23
07/11/2023	Meta Platforms Limited - HOD Advertising		6.97
12/12/2023	Swift Signs - Mill Street boards	367.07	
27/03/2024	Museums After Dark		237.93
07/03/2024	Swift Signs - replacement Roman Walls board	109.63	
27/03/2024	Contribution to Brew Dorch		250.00
27/03/2024	Contribution to Walking Festival		500.00
	<b>Total expenditure:</b>	<b>1,836.02</b>	<b>7,376.14</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>5,863.59</b>	<b>7,938.00</b>
	<b>Total Balance</b>		<b>13,801.59</b>
<b>Outstanding Commitments</b>			
	Blue Plaque / Pub Scheme / Information Boards	1,420.00	
	Mill Stream Boards	19.42	
	<b>Available balance at year end</b>	<b>4,424.17</b>	<b>7,938.00</b>

<b>Budget for 2024-25</b>		<b>Activities</b>	<b>Events</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Balance brought forward as at 1st April 2024	4,424.17	7,938.00
<b>Income:</b>			
	DTC Contribution to activities	3,000.00	
	DTC Contribution to events		8,500.00
	Available budget:	7,424.17	16,438.00



## ITEM 4.

### Update from the Dorchester Tourism Partnership

The last Tourism Partnership meeting was held on 2 April 2024 at Shire Hall. The meeting was well attended.

At the meeting, the partnership received an update from the Tourism Development Officer - highlights from this update include:

- Discover Dorchester is growing its number of followers on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok – and increasing interactions..
- Over 50% of Facebook and Instagram followers are NOT Dorchester based.
- The app now has over 6000 downloads.
- London is the location in the UK that generates the largest number of visits to Discover Dorchester.
- The E-newsletter has over 1100 subscribers.
- Website and social media postings relating to competitions generate the most interaction.
- The competition linked to the Spring Campaign (weekend spa break) generated 7481 entries.
- Paid-for articles will appear in the March and April editions of Good Housekeeping magazine at a cost of £2,500. The magazine has a readership of 1.1 million.
- The Summer of Sunflowers festival will be returning to Dorchester again this year.
- With the benefit of Dorset Council funding, the Tourism Officer and colleagues from DTC will be implementing a series of projects to support the economy of the town centre – including the installation of footfall counters and short-form video interviews.

The Partnership discussed an evaluation of the **BrewDorch festival** and although a change in timing for 2025 was considered (i.e. moving the event to the autumn) it was generally agreed that a February event would help hospitality businesses in the post-Christmas lull.

The **2024 Walking Festival** is being held from 11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May and is being organised for the Tourism Partnership by the Dorset-based company Wild Boots. The Festival has been promoted via adverts in The Rambler and Country Walking magazines and through train station posters on the South Western and Great Western lines. Tickets for the many guided walks are already selling on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/dorchester-walking-festival-2024-3185499>

The three projects supported via Tourism Partnership's **Events & Experiences funding** are in preparation.

- Drawing Festival – this will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> September in the Corn Exchange.
- Comedy Festival – the Hardy Har festival will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> July and is already being promoted via social media:
- Courtroom Opera – The Trial of Iago will take place in the court room of Shire Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**Free Parking in Dorchester.** The allocation of the four days of free parking, offered by Dorset Council to town council's to use between January and November were discussed with a particular proposal

for the use of one day to help promote the new Dorchester Artisan Market ( <https://dorsetartisanmarkets.com/dorchester> ). It was proposed that one day's free parking should be allocated to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May to support the second market day of 2024.

**D-Day 80<sup>th</sup>.** The Tourism Development Officer is helping to organise commemorative events in Dorchester for this significant anniversary. The programme will include a beacon lighting event on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> June, with a personnel of the US First Infantry Division in attendance, and military re-enactments at various locations around the town on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Partner update** – the many organisations that form the Tourism Partnership provided the following updates:

- **Shire Hall** – forthcoming activities include Courtroom Couture exhibition and performances of The Six Men of Dorset play by the New Hardy Players.
- **Dorchester BID** – working to set up a tourist information point inside the new Outpatient Assessment Unit.
- **Kings Arms** – experiencing an increase in trade and developing a focus on corporate hospitality.
- **The Keep Military Museum** – planning for D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> activities including a 'D-Day dance', talks, dinner and exhibition. Also planning for the Kohima 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April.
- **Dorset Museum & Art Gallery** – planning the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition this summer.
- **Dorchester Arts** – supporting the D-Day celebrations with a performance by the Glen Miller Orchestra and organising a youth gospel choir for the beacon lighting event.
- **National Trust** – visitor numbers are increasing since the pandemic and Hardy's Monument will be open each weekend.
- **Visit Dorset** – with the benefit of Shared Prosperity funding further market research was undertaken – the results indicated, amongst other things, that one in five visitors were seeking accommodation/attractions with good accessibility.
- **Dorset Council** – guided tours of the Roman Townhouse have started again at weekends.
- **Civic Society** – the next in the programme of lectures will be Jeremy Pope talking about the suburban expansion of Dorchester. Members of the Society are also contributing to the Walking Festival and working on a project to refurbish the Sir Fredrick Treves memorial in Weymouth Avenue Cemetery.

**Date of next meeting** – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

The Tourism Development Officer's Update to the Tourism Partnership and Notes from the previous meeting can be viewed online at: [Business Area - Discover Dorchester](#)

**Tourism Development Officer  
Dorchester Town Council**

## ITEM 5.

### Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### Heritage Open Day 2024

The criteria for being accepted as part of the national Heritage Open Day programme is as follows:

- **Free from entrance to exit.** It is possible to raise money over the festival BUT admission to the main attraction of your event has to be free of charge. Running a free tour if visitors have to pay a site entrance fee doesn't count.
  
- **Offer something special**
  - Open a site / part of a site that isn't usually open to the public
  - Launch a new online activity/event
  - Offer free entry to a usually charging site/activity
  - If your site is open free of charge all year round - then something out of the ordinary! Such as: have volunteer stewards on site to greet visitors and answer questions / put on some activities or a competition / invite other groups to showcase their work – eg artists, choirs, local history societies.
  
- **Take place within the festival dates.** 6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Proposed date:** Following a discussion at the January meeting of the committee, it was provisionally agreed that Heritage Open Day (HOD) 2024 would take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. This would fall at the end of both the national period for Heritage Open Days and also Dorset Architectural Heritage Week.

**Road closure:** Dorset Council has confirmed that it would not allow the closure of High West / East Street on 15<sup>th</sup> September due to other road closures on that day required for the IronMan event.

**Main offer:** The main cultural organisations have been asked for an early indication as to what they might offer on HOD 2024 and the following responses have been received:

- Dorset Museum & Art Gallery: There won't be free access to the Museum but it is looking at offering some behind the scenes tours with a number of free places, and possibly some free Roman Town house Tours as well.
- The Keep Military Museum: may be offering free entry.
- Shire Hall Museum: keen to take part but the offer will be determined by the new Director.
- Dorset History Centre: an exhibition of architectural plans which shaped Dorset, alongside a selection of Dorset's archaeological finds curated by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. A family activity and behind the scenes tours will run every hour from 10.00am – 3.00pm.

**Guided walks:** The Blue Badge guides have indicated that, with sufficient notice, they could offer a rolling programme of themed tours throughout the day focusing on historic buildings and significant

people from Dorchester's past. If there is no road closure, then the provision of headsets and microphones for the walk leader and participants would be most helpful.

**Timetable:** The deadline for registering with the national Heritage Open Day organisation is early August. The advantage of being registered is that it assists with publicity.

**Promotion and publicity:** The town council's Tourism Development Officer can assist with co-ordinating publicity for Heritage Open Day

**Budget / cost:** It is requested that a budget of £500 be allocated by the Committee for publicity (leaflets and social media) and additional microphone/headsets for walk leaders.

**Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)**  
**Dorchester Town Council**

**ITEM 6 (a).**

**Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Millstream Interpretation Project – Location of final panel**

In order to complete the Millstream interpretation project, the final panel with information about the town mill needs to be installed near Swan's Bridge. The town council has consulted with Dorset Council highways and the most appropriate location is identified in the photograph and map below. The committee is requested, therefore, to consider this proposal.



Above: Proposed location of free-standing panel marked in red.



Above: Proposed location marked with red cross.

## ITEM 7 (a).

### Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### Dorchester Roman Baths – Interpretation Project

1. Following the discussion at the Committee meeting in January, Clare Randall, Post-Excavation Manager at the Cotswold Archaeological Trust, was asked to develop a costed specification for producing interpretation material for about the Roman baths for use online and on-site. Clare was selected by the Town Council on the basis of her knowledge of Dorset Museum (where she acts as an advisor) and experience of heritage interpretation.
2. In order to develop this cost specification, Clare Randall agreed to help locate the archive for the 1977 archaeological excavation. With the assistance of Liz Selby at Dorset Museum, we were able to locate the right archive.
3. The physical archive (the finds) may be held by Dorset Museum in its All Saints Church store – however this has not yet been located and for various health and safety reasons it may not be possible to locate it within a reasonable timeframe. Eventually it would be good to examine and photograph some of these finds for presentation online, but this is a longer-term aim.
4. However, Clare Randall has located the paper archive, original drawings, and photographs from the excavation. The photographic slides have already been scanned by the museum and Clare has identified a fair number which would be suitable to put on online. The drawings (mainly plans) will be more time consuming to deal with. A plan of the whole site would be useful, but not vital, and sorting it out from the numerous ‘segments’ in which the site as a whole was planned will be a significant task – although the archive may include be a schematic plan which could be used.
5. As a result of this initial research, Clare Randall is developing a costed proposal for preparing content for 4-6 pages of web content which could be used on an existing website – such as Discover Dorchester. This content could include the text for a main page – explaining the excavation and nature of the site, a couple of additional pages focusing on aspects of the building or finds (using images from the archive - there are good photographs of the underfloor heating in the baths), and how the Baths fitted into Roman Dorchester/suggestions of the presence of the Roman army, and a few of pages of local people’s memories and own photos of the excavations.
6. In terms of developing a costed proposal, Clare Randall will take account of the need for further archive research, preparing the images/any plan or map (optimised for web viewing and including any mapping fees), liaison with local people regarding memories, and the writing, checking and organising of text. On this basis the fee is likely to be in the region £2,500.
7. Another aspect not included in this is any museum can levy licencing fees for re-producing the images however £500 should more than cover it. The reconstruction drawing used in Bill Putnam’s book on Roman Dorset could be used that would also incur a licencing fee.

8. As far as timescales are concerned, Clare Randall would be in a position to progress this over the summer subject to agreement of a detailed specification by the Committee, but this timescale will depend on the availability of access to All Saints to look at the archive more closely.