



# DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

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

Telephone: (01305) 266861

**Steve Newman, Town Clerk**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

You are invited to a meeting of the **DORCHESTER HERITAGE JOINT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **BOROUGH GARDENS HOUSE, CORNWALL ROAD, DORCHESTER DT1 1RG** on **TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025** 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, R. Major and R. Tarr.

Dorchester Town Council: S. Biles, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, 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), M. Gayton or S. Johnson (Dorset History Centre), R. White (National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage)), V. Smith (Shire Hall), A. Worth (Keep 106 Community Radio), M. Chutter (Thomas Hardy Society), S. Wallis (Dorset Council – Archaeologist) and Anthony Harrison (Town Crier).

## 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<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (**enclosed**).

3. **BUDGET UPDATE**

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

4. **ROMAN FESTIVAL - UPDATE**

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

5. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

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

6. **ONGOING PROJECTS**

To received update reports on the following matters:

- a) Refreshing heritage information panels.
- b) Roman baths interpretation project.
- c) Town Pump enhancement proposals from Civic Society (A. Harrison).
- d) *The Dorchester Story* project (A. Harrison) – (project brief enclosed).

7. **FUTURE PROJECTS**

To discuss the following potential projects:

- a) Information board proposal for the Moule Institute, Fordington.
- b) Sylvia Townsend Warner statue project – update and funding request (M. Chutter).
- c) Heritage Open Day 2025 (**report enclosed**).
- d) Maiden Castle excavation 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.

8. **THE GORGE BUILDING, SOUTH STREET**

To receive an update.

9. **UPDATE FROM MEMBERS**

To receive updates from members and partners.

10. **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.

11. **URGENT ITEMS**

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

## ITEM 2: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 15<sup>TH</sup> October 2024:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	G. Jones (Chairman) S. Biles
	Officers:	T. Hurley M. Manley
Dorset Council	Councillors:	R. Major R. Tarr
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Local Nature Reserve		L. Poulsen
Dorset Council - Archaeology		S. Wallis
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter
Dorchester Civic Society		A. Harrison
Dorset History Centre		S. Johnston
Blue Badge Tour Guide		J. Wallis
Dorchester Sheroes Project		A. Pearson

#### 26. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs F. Kent-Ledger, S. Jones and D. Taylor (Dorchester Town Council), Cllrs R. Biggs and L. Fry (Dorset Council), E. Metcalfe (The Keep Military Museum), V. Smith (Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum), and C. Dixon (Dorset Museum & Art Gallery).

#### 27. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

#### 28. **DECLARATION OF PREDETERMINATION**

None were declared.

#### 29. **BUDGET UPDATE**

An update report on the committee's budget was presented.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the budget update be noted.

30. **COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR 2025-2029**

A proposal for the committee budget requirements for the period 2025-29 was discussed. Cllr Biles enquired about the cost of road closures and Cllr Tarr stated that investment in heritage events bring visitors to the town.

**RESOLVED**

That the following funding request for 2025-29 be submitted to Dorchester Town Council for consideration:

- a) £8,500 per annum for major events
- b) £3,000 per annum for small projects

31. **ONGOING PROJECTS**

Updates on the following were received:

- a) **Millstream information boards.** Tony Hurley reported the final heritage information panel on the Old Mill would be unveiled tomorrow and then the trail would be complete.
- b) **Refreshing heritage information panels.** Tony Hurley reported that several panels had been replaced recently due to weathering and that all the panels at Maumbury Rings would be refreshed in the Spring. Cllr Tarr stated that the Hardy trail panels were looking quite worn and it would be good to find the original designs so that these too could be refreshed.
- c) **Dorchester Heroines Project.** Mark Chutter and Anya Pearson updated the committee on the project and stated that the author Sylvia Townsend Warner had been chosen by the project as the subject of a new statue in Dorchester. A concept design was circulated showing the statue seated on a bench in South Street. Anya Pearson confirmed that Dorset Council had been contacted with regard to the proposed location. The committee agreed that if this design was pursued then it would be useful to have an information plaque nearby. Mark Chutter indicated that some funding had already been promised by the organisation Visible Women UK and that a crowd funding campaign would be launched on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- d) **Roman Baths Interpretation Project.** Tony Hurley stated that steps to improve the interpretation would be included in the Roman Festival project.
- e) **Feedback from New Hardy Players.** Andy Worth provided an update on the Players highly successful performances of the Six Men of Dorset play. There had been 12 performances and an outdoor performance at the Tolpuddle Festival. Andy Worth stated that there was a film of the performance and that the script and other material would go to the Dorset History Centre. Matilda Manley suggested that perhaps there could be a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary performance in 10 years' time. The committee congratulated Andy Worth and the Players for such an excellent project.

- f) **Museums After Dark.** Tony Hurley reported that the museums would like to retain the Committee's grant of £400 and use it to support a families' event just before Christmas as the Museums After Dark project would not be going ahead. This was agreed by the Committee.
- g) **Town Pump enhancements.** Anthony Harrison provided an update from the Dorchester Civic Society's project to install a water fountain in the Town Pump. Discussions with Wessex Water were very positive and there were planning/conservation permissions to secure. Cllr Biles recommended that the Society work closely with the Town Council's own project to enhance the surroundings of the Town Pump.

### 32. HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2024

Tony Hurley and Matilda Manley presented a feedback report on Heritage Open Day in September. There had been an impact on footfall in town as a result of the IronMan event. Mark Chutter stated that it was a shame there access to the Old Oak Rooms had not been given. The members of the committee stated a preference for any future event to be timed so that it did not clash with the County Show or IronMan, even if it was outside of the national Heritage Open Day fortnight, and for it to be a street event with entertainment requiring the closure of High West Street.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Assistant Town Clerk bring forward a proposal for a heritage street event to take place in September 2025.

### 33. FUTURE PROJECTS

- a) **Water meadows project.** It was reported that the Civic Society had been in discussions with Kingston Maurward College regarding the reintroduction of water meadows but this project was current in abeyance.
- b) **History of Dorchester online content.** Anthony Harrison reported on the Civic Society's very popular 'history of Dorchester' Facebook page which had attracted considerable attention. However, the content was unstructured and capturing it for archiving was a challenge. Andy Worth highlighted that there were interviews and oral history recordings on the Keep 106 website.
- c) **Heritage information panels on Fairfield public realm area.** Cllr G. Jones stated that there were on-going discussions with Dorset Council with regard to improving heritage interpretation in the new pedestrianised area of Fairfield. Ideally, Cllr Jones would like to see replicas of the reliefs in Tudor Arcade installed in this area. Steve Wallis stated that there was a great deal of information about the 1909-13 excavations at Maumbury Rings which could be used. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with Historic England to discuss the better interpretation of the prehistoric heritage of Dorchester.
- d) **Proposal for information board for the Moule Institute.** Mark Chutter highlighted the need for a heritage information panel about the Moule Institute in Fordington and would give a presentation on this to a future meeting.

34. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Matilda Manley presented an update on progress with the Heritage Tourism Strategy and the work of the Tourism Partnership.

**RESOLVED**

That the report on the activities of the Tourism Partnership were noted.

35. **DORCHESTER TOURISM PARTNERSHIP – FESTIVAL PROPOSALS FOR 2025**

Matilda Manley presented proposals for a Food & Drink Festival and a Dorchester Walking Festival to take place in 2025.

**RESOLVED**

That funding be allocated to support the Food & Drink Festival and a Dorchester Walking Festival to take place in 2025.

36. **ROMAN FESTIVAL 2025 - PROPOSAL**

The Committee considered a proposal from Matilda Manley to hold a Roman Festival in Dorchester in April 2025 to co-incide with the British Museum's 'Gladiators of Britain; exhibition which is being hosted by Dorset Museum & Art Galleries in 2025.

**RESOLVED**

That the proposals for a Dorchester Roman Festival be agreed.

37. **UPDATES FROM PARTNERS**

**Dorset History Centre** – Sam Johnson reported that the Thomas Hardy archiving project was going well and that fundraising was on-going for the cataloguing of the William Barnes archive. The Sylvia Townsend Warner collection is also in need of cataloguing. The Wessex Water archive had been received along with a grant to help with cataloguing.

**Keep 106.** Andy Worth reported that the radio station was the third most listened to in the Dorchester area just behind Greatest Hits Radio. The station has a 'whats on' page which can be added to at no charge and is distributed to all the presenters.

**Riverside Reserve.** Linda Poulsen reported on the problem of ash dieback affecting many trees in the Riverside Reserve and there were also problems with anti-social behaviour in the evenings. Linda Poulson also expressed concerns about the level of graffiti in the town.

**Dorchester Association.** Michael Rice reported collaboration with Dorset Museum.

**Thomas Hardy Society.** Mark Chutter reported that the annual conference had been very successful. Plans were starting for the 2028 centenary conference and the Society was working with the BBC on a film about Thomas Hardy. The Society has a busy programme for 2025 with a combined Hardy and Barnes conference.

**Dorset Council archaeology service** – Steve Wallis reported that the Roman townhouse tours were popular and the television series *Digging for Britain* had been filming in Dorchester.

Andy Worth highlighted the work being undertaken at Athelhampton House and suggested that the owner, Giles Keating, be invited to a future meeting to talk about this.

38. **QUESTIONS**

None were raised.

39. **URGENT ITEMS**

Chairman.....

### **ITEM 3: BUDGET UPDATE**

#### **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024-25**

1. **Appendix A**, below, sets out the Committee's income and expenditure to date since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.
2. For the financial year 2025-26, Dorchester Town Council will, as before, allocate to the Committee £3,000 for activities and £8,500 for events.
3. At its meeting in November, the Committee agreed the allocation of £5,000 for the Dorchester Roman Festival in April 2025. In addition, in the coming financial year, there will be a need for expenditure on Heritage Open Day subject to the Committee's decision as to the scope of the event (see report below).

**Assistant Town Clerk  
Dorchester Town Council**



**APPENDIX A – Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee statement of accounts**

		<b>Activities</b>	<b>Events</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Balance brought forward as at 1st April 2024	5,863.59	7,938.00
<b>Income and Expenditure 24-25</b>			
Contributions:			
1/4/2024	DTC Contribution to activities	3,000.00	
1/4/2024	DTC Contribution to events		8,500.00
18/10/2024	THVF 2023 Balance		994.04
	<b>Total income:</b>	3,000.00	9,494.04
Expenditure in year			
		<b>Activities</b>	<b>Events</b>
	Wallis Agency - Hosting Town Trail mini-sites	60.00	
	Dorset Council - HOD Road Closures		130.00
	Grassby & Sons - Treves Grant	500.00	
	Rural Market Town Membership	137.00	
	Swift Signs Weymouth - Aluminium Signs	128.33	
	Dorchester Arts Centre - Grant	200.00	
	Shire Hall Courthouse - Grant	200.00	
	New Hardy Players - Grant	200.00	
	Swift Signs Weymouth - Fordington Mill Signage	109.63	
	Advantage Digital Print - 3 x A2 Posters	48.00	
	Swift Signs Weymouth - Maumbury Rings Signs	315.42	
	Swift Signs Weymouth - Garden Restoration Panel	255.57	
	Talk About Trust - Community Room Hire	15.00	
	Amazon - Voice Amplifiers HOD		67.26
	Dorset Council - HOD Road Closures (credit note)		-130.00
	Swift Signs Weymouth - Kings Arms Signage	116.16	
	Swift Signs Weymouth - Poppy Trail Panel	121.29	
	Joy Wallis - Heritage Day Walks		100.00
	Thomas Hardy Society - Heritage Tours		100.00
	<b>Total expenditure:</b>	2,406.40	267.26
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>6,457.19</b>	<b>17,164.78</b>
	<b>Total Balance:</b>		23,621.97
<b>Outstanding commitments</b>		<b>Activities</b>	<b>Events</b>
	Blue Plaque / Pub Scheme / Information Boards	1,420.00	
	Mill Stream Boards	19.42	
	Available balance	<b>5,017.77</b>	<b>17,164.78</b>
<b>Future projects</b>	Roman Festival (April 2025) - agreed		<b>£5,000</b>
	Heritage Open Day 2025 – yet to be agreed		<b>£4,500</b>

## ITEM 4.

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025 ROMAN FESTIVAL - UPDATE

1. Following agreement to both the concept and budget of a Roman festival in Dorchester, the town council has further developed the project for consideration by the Committee.

2. It is proposed that the Festival details will be as follows:

**Dates:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April (main festival in Maumbury Rings on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. However, will be a couple of walks and talks on Friday).

**Location:** Main base is Maumbury Rings but other fringe events happening in other locations around the town.

**Aim:** To celebrate Dorchester's Roman Heritage. Bring new visitors to Dorchester.

**Tickets:** Main Festival in Maumbury Rings to be a free event. However, offshoot activities can be paid for and can be promoted alongside the main festival.

3. The key venues for the festival will be as follows:

#### **Maumbury Rings (Wet Weather Plan to use the Victorian Hall):**

- Gladiator training sessions
- Make a mosaics with tiles
- Gladiator combat displays (with and without fake blood)
- Roman Soldier parading
- Roman Goddess of Flora ceremony
- Taste food cooked with Roman utensils from a Roman cookbook
- Roman board games - areas with games like Ludus Latruncularum or Tabula.
- Flower crowns and goddess area celebrating the Roman Goddess of Flora
- Portable antiquities Team and Historic Environment Record handling collection and activities
- Dorset Museum & Art Gallery handling collection and activities
- Roman themed Lego builds with Dorchester Library (TBC)

#### **Roman Town House:**

- Pre-booked tours of the Roman Town House throughout the day with Dorset Museum & Art Gallery (Paid) (TBC)

#### **Roman Walls:**

- Work with Dead Walk Designs to create an entrance to Durnovaria at the gates to the town and to promote the festival (TBC).

**Roman Baths:**

- See a mural on the wall outside of the car park emerge over the weekend showing an artist's impression of what Dorchester Roman Baths would have looked like. Join in with the painting in a paint by numbers section. (TBC)
- Visit a gazebo on site that shows photographs, newspaper articles and plans of Dorchester's Roman Baths and learn more about Roman baths generally in Roman times (TBC if mural works out)

**Dorset Museum & Art Gallery:**

- Promotion of the British Museum Gladiator Exhibition (paid)

**Roman Aqueduct:**

- Guided walk by Steve Wallis (paid) (Friday)

**Thorncombe Woods:**

- Roman Road walk with Claire Platten (paid) (Friday)

4. **Talks:** In addition to the above, the festival will also include the following talks:

- Roman Baths and Dorchester Overview Talk - what people can still see (Steve Wallis)
- Recent archaeological work in Dorchester and the surrounding area – what Roman finds have there been? what is below ground even where there has been little or no excavation (e.g. the extent of Durnovaria's Forum) Peter Bellamy

5. **Other activities: Additional activities will include:**

- *Carry On Cleo* showing on the evening of Sat April 12<sup>th</sup> at Corn Exchange with Dorchester Arts
- Roman-themed Alive and Drawing at Corn Exchange with Dorchester Arts (TBC)

6. **Volunteers:** If any members of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee would like to volunteer and help at the festival in Maumbury Rings on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April that would be very welcome. Please email Matilda Manley.

**Tourism Development Officer  
Dorchester Town Council**

## ITEM 5.

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025 HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY UPDATE

1. The last Tourism Partnership Meeting was held on 7 January 2025 at Borough Gardens House. The meeting was well attended, and the following issues/areas of work were discussed:
  - Concern was raised about the level of promotion of Poundbury as a destination by the partnership. One member felt that Poundbury is potentially neglected within the partnership, others disagreed with this. It was noted that there is a strong need for greater input and engagement from Poundbury businesses in the tourism partnership. There was general agreement that Poundbury businesses need to play a more active role in the partnership.
  - Luxury magazine advertising. The Tourism Partnership had previously allocated marketing budget spending for advertising in national luxury magazines as part of the 2025 Spring campaign. The partnership discussed the proposals send over by two print magazines Country Living and The Simple Things for advertising. Both were not seen as good value for money and therefore it was agreed that the Tourism Development Officer would instead look at hosting a Visit Dorset competition with complementary boosted social media posts.
  - Tourism Development Officer led a discussion on whether to run the Events & Experiences Grant again next year. Positive feedback was given regarding all three events funded in 2024. The grant process was praised for being excellent, providing opportunities to trial new ideas, and supporting smaller organisations. The group thought the diversity of events and projects benefit the town. If the grant is to run again, the group decided postcode data is essential to determine whether the events are benefitting Dorchester’s tourism economy. Tourism Development Officer to revise grant system potentially exploring a rolling fund throughout the year.
  - Tourism Development Officer led the group in a discussion regarding the Discover Dorchester Easter/Summer Campaign. This campaign will target families with kids looking for a holiday with both fun and relaxing activities. The partners discussed why Dorchester attractions were not ranking very highly on high google ranking sites like Trip Advisor and “Days out with the Kids”. Tourism Development Officer to investigate rank improvement training for local attractions. Campaign will also focus on developing a google ad words campaign leading to a family day out in Dorchester page, sponsored posts for blogs, newsletter send outs the week before rainy weather (& push notifications on the day).
2. **Key actions for the next three months for the Tourism Development Officer are to:**
  - Deliver agreed Spring campaign promoting Weekend away in Dorchester
  - Deliver Dorchester Roman Festival
  - Deliver Easter Egg Rolling Event
  - Work with Coordinator to deliver Dorchester Walking Festival
  - Develop Easter and Summer holiday “Day out in Dorchester for families” online promotion
  - Continue development of Hardy 2028 project with partners

- Continue with events promotion, Enewsletters and social media.
3. Full notes and slides from the last meeting can be found online at: [Microsoft Word - Dorchester Tourism Partnership Meeting Notes 07.01.2025](#) and [Microsoft PowerPoint - Tourism Partnership January 2025](#)

**Tourism Development Officer**  
**Dorchester Town Council**

**ITEM 6 (d).**

**DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025  
BRIEF FOR THE STORY OF DORCHESTER PROJECT**

<p><b>Name of Organisation and Remit</b></p>	<p><b>Dorchester Town Council (DTC) / Dorchester Civic Society (DCS)</b></p> <p>DTC is the parish authority for the county town of Dorset which has a population of around 21,000. It has 20 elected councillors. It provides a range of community and recreational facilities and promotes the town's interests with the other statutory bodies that operate in the town.</p> <p>DCS is an independent and non-political charity which seeks to stimulate people's interest in the town and its setting and promote civic pride. It encourages high standards of architecture, urban design and planning; and works to preserve and enhance buildings and areas of historic interest and the town's landscape setting.</p>
<p><b>Project Title</b> (or working title)</p>	<p><b>The Story of Dorchester</b></p>
<p><b>Project Context / Background</b></p>	<p>DTC and DCS are keen to provide a Web resource (as part of the Discover Dorchester package) which explores the story of Dorchester. They intend to work in partnership with a range of local museums and other organisations to deliver an educational package which records, illustrates and actively examines the various stages of the town's history.</p> <p>The project is in its initial phase of development, but it would be useful to draft-out and initiate one of the components of the story to trial the approach and provide material to assist with its promotion to partners and other interested parties.</p>
<p><b>Project Brief</b> (up to 250 words)</p>	<p>We would like a team of researchers to research, prepare and construct Web/App pages that examine the 'Roman' period of Dorchester's* history (approximately 43-410 AD/CE). Based on chapter 2 of 'Dorchester Past by Jo Draper (Draper 2001), we would like the team to build the story around a range of historical objects and active learning activities that complement and/or promote the work of the museums located in Dorchester.</p> <p>The Web resource should cover (but not be limited to) the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Roman conquest of Dorset</li> <li>• The Roman fort (location uncertain)</li> <li>• Roman roads / streets (location partially uncertain)</li> <li>• The Roman walls / defences</li> <li>• The Roman baths</li> <li>• The Forum (location uncertain)</li> <li>• The Amphitheatre</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Roman aqueduct</li> <li>• Roman houses (including mosaic flooring)</li> <li>• Roman cemeteries</li> </ul> <p>* Dorchester includes Fordington and Poundbury</p>
<b>Key Objectives</b>	<p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an educational resource for residents, visitors, students and researchers</li> <li>• Actively engage with users in order that they can ‘learn by doing’</li> <li>• Complement and promote the museums operating in the town</li> <li>• Provide a ‘template’ for further material to be added to ‘The Story of Dorchester’ on <i>Discover Dorchester</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Desired Output</b>	<p>Project output should be in the form of Web pages which can be added to <i>Discover Dorchester</i> Website/App. The detailed content and format of the pages can be negotiated with the DTC/DCS team (lead contact persons: Matilda Manley and Joe Doak).</p>
<b>Important Dates and/or Deadlines</b>	<p>None, other than those set by module requirements. It should be noted that many local events during 2025 will be focused on ‘Roman Dorchester’. The material produced during this project will form an important reference point to support those events.</p>
<b>Resources and Budget (if any)</b> (e.g. desk space available, organisation web team)	<p>The following project resources/assistance will be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dorchester base-room for students available in DTC offices</li> <li>• Web site / App space will be made available by DTC</li> <li>• Assistance on Web design and related technical issues will be provided by DTC</li> <li>• Historical and resource guidance will be provided by Joe Doak (DCS)</li> </ul>
<b>Useful Skills or Attributes</b> (Are there any skills, attributes or experience that you think student team should have?)	<p>The following skills/attributes are essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability (or interest) in working with Web/App page design</li> <li>• Library, Internet and/or archival research skills</li> </ul> <p>The following skills/attributes are desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative approach to Web/App-based presentation and active learning</li> <li>• Interest in Roman and/or local history</li> </ul>
<b>Collaborative Working</b>	<p>In the first instance, communicating and liaising with the DTC/DCS team leads (Matilda Manley and Joe Doak). Possible contact with local museums and Dorset History Centre.</p>
<b>Any other comments</b> (requirements, considerations)	<p>The Story of Dorchester Web pages will be based on the structure of Jo Draper’s 2001 book ‘Dorchester Past’. This should be considered as ‘essential reading’ for students undertaking the project. A list of other key references and resources will be provided to students at the beginning of the project. The <i>Discover Dorchester</i> Web pages can be accessed at: <a href="https://discoverdorchester.co.uk">https://discoverdorchester.co.uk</a></p>

## ITEM 7 (c).

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025 HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2025

1. The Committee is invited to give its views as to how and when the Heritage Open Day event should take place in 2025.
2. At its meeting in October 2024, the Committee considered options for the event and stated a preference for any future event to be timed so that it did not clash with the County Show or IronMan, even if it was outside of the national Heritage Open Day fortnight, and for it to be a street event with entertainment requiring the closure of High West Street.
3. Given this preference, it is proposed that HOD event takes place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September – the last day of the national Heritage Open Day weekend. This date would avoid clashes with the following local events:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - Dorset Show.
  - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - IronMan Weymouth.
  - 28<sup>th</sup> September – Dorchester Artisan Market
4. **Event proposal:** The HOD event could comprise the following:
  - Road closure of High West Street from Top 'o Town to Church Street. 10.00 until 4.00pm with the event from 11.00am until 3.00pm.
  - Guided walks.
  - Displays of traditional crafts in the street.
  - Re-enactment groups making use of the closed road – with different groups representing different periods in history.
5. **Budget.** If the Committee wishes to see Heritage Open Day follow the format as above, and involve a road closure, then a budget of £2,500 should be set aside for Dorset Council's road closure fees and an additional £2,000 for fees to re-enactment groups and an event co-ordinator. This would give a total budget requirement of £2,500 for the event.
6. The Committee is invited, therefore, to consider the above proposals and budget requirements.

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



## ITEM 7 (d).

### DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2025 MAIDEN CASTLE - 40 YEARS ON

1. The Dorchester Association (DA) is planning an event to mark the 40th Anniversary of Professor Niall Sharples excavation/re-excavation at Maiden Castle. This is being planned in collaboration with some of the original excavation team and the Dorset History Centre.
2. A one-day conference is planned at the Dorford Centre with a visit to the hillfort the following day. Niall is supportive and we have several speakers already lined up. The theme will be a reflection on Niall's work 40 years ago and its contribution since to British prehistory and the archaeology of Dorset; subsequent work on the hillfort and its archives; and future potential for research and the questions which we can ask. We also plan to carry out an oral history project about the excavations (including the excavation team and local people), which we hope will be facilitated by Dorset History Centre.
3. The DA has a good track record of delivering successful and popular 'dayschool/conference' events over the last few years with up to 120 attendees. We have the support of various other local archaeological organisations, and are discussing collaboration with The Prehistoric Society (a national and international archaeological body; [www.prehistoricsociety.org](http://www.prehistoricsociety.org)). Many Dorchester residents as well as those in the surrounding county will remember the excavations and may well have visited the site, and we expect interest to be high.
4. The project hopes to secure some funding from The Prehistoric Society but it would welcome financial support from the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee to help with printing of the programme and the displays about the role of local people in the excavations.

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