



DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

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

Telephone: (01305) 266861

Adrian Stuart, Town Clerk

20 June 2016

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 27 JUNE 2016** 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, T. Loakes

The following Members may attend and speak but not vote:

Mr S Conibear (Duchy of Cornwall), Mr P Mann (Dorchester Civic Society), Mr A Chisholm (Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism), Ms C M Hebditch (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve), Dr J Murden (Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society), Ms J Bryant (Blue Badge Tourist Guides) Mr J Smith (Dorchester Association) Mr R M Biggs and Mr D T Jones (Dorset County Council)

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the remainder of the 2016-17 Council year.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

To elect a Vice Chairman for the remainder of the 2016-17 Council year.

4. **MINUTES**

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21 March 2016 (copy enclosed).

5. **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.

6. **A BOARDS**

To note the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2016 to discuss the proliferation of A Boards in the town centre (enclosed).

7. **DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM**

(a) **Conservation Management Plan**

The Committee's response, prepared by the working group agreed at the last meeting of the Committee, to the draft Conservation Management Plan for Dorset County Museum has been submitted and a copy is enclosed for information.

(b) **Tomorrow's Museum for Dorset**

To note that Dorset County Museum will be holding a briefing for the Town Councillors on **Tuesday 28 June** between **6.00pm and 7.00pm at the Museum**. The briefing will include discussion on the transformation of the Museum and 'Tomorrow's Museum' for the Hardy Collection and Archaeology Collection.

If any Members of the Joint Heritage Committee are interested in attending please let me know as soon as possible and I will request an invitation for you.

8. **2015-16 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

To receive the Committee's 2015-16 statement of accounts (copy enclosed).

9. **INFORMATION SIGNS – DORCHESTER SOUTH AND DORCHESTER WEST STATIONS**

At the last meeting it was agreed that investigations be made into the possibility of having signage at the railway stations based on the signs used in the town's car parks. The signs would be suitable and an approach has been made to West Dorset District Council to see if they could be amended. The anticipated cost for the two amended signs would be in the region of £500.

10. **DORCHESTER TIC**

To consider a report by the Town Clerk regarding the Dorchester TIC (enclosed).

11. **A NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR DORSET AND EAST DEVON**

Following a request from a Member of the Committee to consider whether the Committee wishes to make a comment in respect of the aspiration for a new National Park for Dorset and East Devon (summary note enclosed).

12. **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.

13. **URGENT ITEMS**

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

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2016

At the Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 21 March 2016:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	C. Biggs F.E. Kent-Ledger
	Officer:	S. Newman
West Dorset District Council	Councillor:	A. Canning (Chairman) J. Dunseith S. Jones
Dorset County Council	Councillor:	R.M. Biggs
Dorchester Association		J. Smith
Dorchester Civic Society		P. Mann
Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism		A. Chisholm
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve		C.M. Hebditch

29. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from S. Lloyd-Jacob (West Dorset District Council), Dr J. Murden (Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society) and Councillor B. Armstrong-Marshall (Dorchester Town Council).

30. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2015, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

32. **A BOARDS**

Members received the notes of the meeting, held on 14 January 2016, to discuss the proliferation of A Boards in the town and noted that the County Council had agreed to undertake a consultation in the town centre during the school Easter holidays. The Committee had also been circulated with the questions proposed to be asked during the consultation.

Members supported the consultation questions and format and requested that the County Council publicise the event so as to ensure a good number of responses.

It was noted that no funding had yet to be allocated to implement any new arrangement and that this was an issue that would need to be considered.

RESOLVED

(1) That the notes of the A Board meeting held on 14 January 2016 be received.

(2) That the proposed consultation content and format be agreed and that the County Council be requested to publicise the consultation fully.

33. **OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR EXTENDING THE COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee considered the notes of the open forum held on 29 February 2016 and correspondence which had been received since the meeting.

Members felt that the forum had been well attended with many different organisations and sectors being represented. It was felt that a good way forward would be to have six monthly meetings of the forum to which everyone would be invited. To keep interest it was considered important that the forum saw some positive action in regard to the issues it raised and in this regard identified signage at the railway stations based on the existing car park signs and town branding. In respect of branding Members felt that the Town Council should be fully involved.

With regard to attendance at future forums it was felt that it would be helpful if representatives of the hotel trade be invited. It was also considered that the Chairman of the Committee should continue to chair forum meetings.

It was agreed that a further forum be held later in the year and focus on branding with the Town Council's new community planning officer to attend and the representative from West Dorset District Council in respect of the studies being undertaken by the LEP.

It was noted that DCM and the TIC had some information regarding visitors to the town and Members felt that it would be useful to have this information.

RESOLVED

(1) That another forum be held on 3 October 2016 commencing at 5.45pm in the Council Chamber.

(2) That the focus for the next forum be branding and actions from previous forum.

(3) That the Town Council's new community planning officer to attend and the representative from West Dorset District Council in respect of the studies being undertaken by the LEP.

(4) That investigations be made into the possibility of having signage at the two railway stations based on the signs used in the town's car parks.

34. **DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM – CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee was informed that the draft Conservation Management Plan for Dorset County Museum was being consulted upon shortly for a three week period and that the Committee had been identified as a consultee. Members were asked to nominate a group to comment on behalf of the Committee within the timescale.

RESOLVED

That Councillor F. Kent-Ledger, P. Mann and K. Hebditch be authorised to consider and respond to the Management Plan.

35. **FRINKS SCULPTURE – SOUTH WALKS**

The Committee was informed that this year was the 30th anniversary of the installation of the Frink Sculpture and Members were asked whether an application should be made to Historic England for it to be Listed and also whether the interpretation board should be replaced with one that was legible in the style of the other information boards around the town.

Members agreed that an application should be made for the sculpture to be Listed and agreed that a new board be produced. In respect of the board Members felt that the wording might be less and include something about the sculpture and how it originally came about including the funding for it.

The Committee also requested that the trees near the sculpture be regularly pruned so as to ensure that

RESOLVED

(1) That an application be made to Historic England for the sculpture to be Listed.

(2) That a new information board be produced.

36. **WW1 INFORMATION BOARD – CENTENARY FIELD**

Further to Minute No. 19(a) the Committee had before it a further report from the Town Clerk on a proposal to submit an application to Fields in Trust to rename the area between Holmead Walk and Jubilee Woods at Poundbury as a Centenary Field.

Having given the matter further consideration Members agreed the proposal subject to addition information boards or plaques also being located at sites in the town which had direct significance during WW1.

RESOLVED

That the proposal be agreed subject to addition information boards or plaques also being located at sites in the town which had direct significance during WW1.

37. **RAILWAY BRIDGE AT ALINGTON ROAD**

Further to Minute No. 24(a) Members noted the response from Network Rail as follows:-

"I have passed on your comments to our structures engineer and have been informed that they will look at this but I have been informed that our bridges are regularly inspected and any work is planned in safety priority order first. With regards to the aesthetics of the bridge this would be planned in when the bridge is due a refurbishment."

Members felt that the bridge had deteriorated since Network Rail engineers had last inspected the bridge and felt that they should be invited to inspect it again.

RESOLVED

That further representations be made to Network Rail as set out above.

38. **PROMOTING HERITAGE LEAFLET**

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk on a proposal from Miranda Woodgate requesting that the Committee endorse a privately produced and funded heritage tourism directory for the town.

The Committee supported the proposal subject to it agreeing the final version of any printed material. K. Hebditch and the Chairman agreed to write / check any editorial needed for the publication.

RESOLVED

(1) That the Committee agrees to endorse the proposed heritage tourism leaflet subject to approval of the final draft.

(2) That K. Hebditch and the Chairman be authorised to write / check any editorial needed for the publication.

39. **WORLD HERITAGE STATUS**

Further to Minute No. 23 the Committee considered a further report by the representative from the Local Nature Reserve on the potential for Dorchester to be listed as a World Heritage Site. Members were informed that there was a fairly slim chance of the town being listed but that it was felt important to explore the possibility more by meeting with representatives from the Jurassic Coast, establish the town's important heritage and push for completion of the County Council's historic Towns Survey report.

With regard to completion of the town survey Councillor S. Jones reported that West Dorset District Council was looking at options for the Charles Street site again and the town survey information might be useful for those considerations; Councillor Jones would report this matter back to that group. Members also felt that it might be worth ascertaining the cost of the Committee funding the survey to completion.

It was also noted that the Roman Baths report had yet to be received from Historic England.

RESOLVED

(1) That the possibility of applying for WHS be explored further, taking advice from those with experience in World Heritage Sites at Dorset County Council and at other relevant sites.

(2) That a 'Statement of Outstanding Universal Value' be prepared - whether or not WHS status is applied for. This would be a useful expression of Dorchester's unique cultural and heritage value that could inform future local plans and developments and give local residents pride in their area.

(3) That efforts be made to ensure the County Council's Historic Towns Survey report on Dorchester is completed and seek partnership funding for this project if necessary. The LEP heritage consultant should also be asked to request completion of this document.

40. **FORTHCOMING HISTORIC TOWNS EVENTS**

The Committee noted the forthcoming historic Towns Forum events which had previously been circulated.

41. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

42. **URGENT ITEMS**

The representative from Dorset County Council informed the Committee that some urgent works had been carried out to the Roman Town House to stop and prevent future flooding.

In response to a question the Chairman confirmed that there would be a consultation on each step of the DTEP proposals.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the stock of Town Trails leaflet was very low and that the Dorchester TIC had requested a supply for the summer. The Committee agreed that a further print run be requested.

The representative from the Dorchester Chamber for Business noted that there would be a press release shortly in respect of what might happen at the Charles Street site.

43. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 27 June 2016 commencing at 7.00pm.

NOTES OF A MEETING TO DISCUSS 'A' BOARDS IN DORCHESTER TOWN CENTRE

HELD ON 20 MAY 2016 at THE CORN EXCHANGE DORCHESTER

Present

Councillor Andy Canning (Chairman)
Councillor Molly Rennie
Councillor Trevor Jones
Mike Westwood – Dorset County Council
Jack Daniels – Dorset County Council
Steve Bulley – Dorchester Chamber of Commerce
Peter Mann – Dorchester Civic Society
Tim Batty – Dorchester BID
Steve Newman – Dorchester Town Council

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Group.
2. Mike Westwood, Dorset County Council circulated a summary of the responses received to the public consultation which had taken place in April and early May. The consultation suggested that over 60% of respondents felt that there were too many A Boards. The response to the six options for change presented during the consultation ranged from 11% for no change to 23% for changing to ladder/finger boards.
3. The Group had also been circulated with a suggestion from the Bid but the representatives at the meeting reported that it had not been considered by the Bid Board and was unlikely to receive approval. In any regard the Group felt that the suggestion was not practical and agreed that it should not be considered further.
4. Dorset County Council officers had also recently presented the results of the consultation to a Bid open meeting and a number of business at that meeting felt very strongly that A Boards should continue to be allowed to be used as they were a lifeline for the business. There was also a feeling that some of the smaller independent businesses had not been consulted directly.
5. The Group discussed the options available but felt that change was very difficult without a consensus from the business community and that was unlikely to be forthcoming. It was also noted that the County Council had limited resources and legal powers to deal with the over proliferation of boards.
6. It was reported that if no action was taken there might be individuals or groups within the town that might seek legal address should the boards cause an accident. The Group felt that it was very important that businesses had the necessary insurance cover. County Council officers confirmed that they would take action should A boards cause an obstruction or should they receive complaints about them.
7. The Group felt that, as there was no consensus, it would be very difficult to successfully introduce a new regime at the present time. It was agreed that the County Council would continue to investigate action on boards which were reported to them and/or caused an obstruction. The County Council would also write to all businesses reminding them of their obligation for not obstructing the highway and that they must have the appropriate public liability insurance as it would be the business that was liable should there be an accident and a claim made.

Meeting closed 3.56pm

Dorchester A board Consultation (April/May 2016)

Introduction

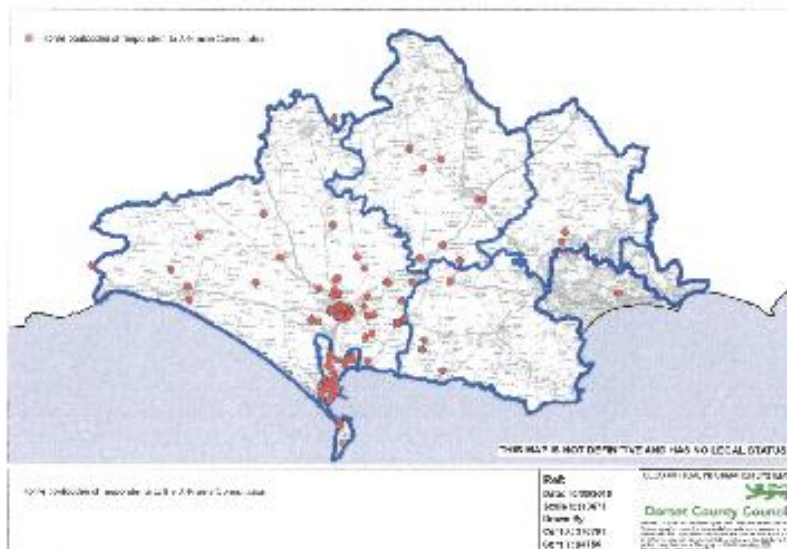
Residents of Dorchester have been consulted by Dorset County Council and their partners about what they think about on-street advertising signs, known as 'A boards'. The freestanding boards - which look like a letter 'A' from the side - can divide opinion. Local businesses use them to attract customers but some people see them as a nuisance.

The county council, as Dorset's highway authority, are responsible for making sure the county's roads and pavements are safe. At the moment, the DCC policy says that A-boards must be in good condition, within a set size and keep the pavement clear for pedestrians. The county council only enforce this if there is a safety issue. The county council are considering whether they need to change their approach. This consultation was the first part of asking residents, businesses, shoppers and visitors what they think.

The county council firstly wanted to know if A-boards are a help or a hazard. They also asked for people's views of options for dealing with A-boards, ranging from no change to a 'zero tolerance' approach, as well as having maps or signposts for shops and businesses in dedicated areas.

Consultation was carried out in two ways. Firstly a stand was erected in South Street Dorchester between Wednesday 6 April and Tuesday 12 April. This was manned by consultation and Community Highway Officers and canvassed the views of passing residents and shoppers. Secondly alongside the engagement events an online survey was conducted from 4 April to 3 May 2016.

Online respondents were asked for their postcode. The postcodes have been analysed and mapped. 53% of respondents were from Dorchester parish. A significant number came from Weymouth, with the rest spread out particularly across central and western Dorset.



Response and confidence Level

In total 218 responses were received to the online survey. A further 422 people took part in the street consultation exercise. The combination of these two methods suggest we received the views back from a total of around 640 people. Based on a population of 20,000 in the Dorchester area our sample size can make us 95% confident that the true answers lie within +/-4% of the responses received.

Quantitative Results

Question 1 – How do you feel about the number of A boards in Dorchester?

- Too many
- About the right amount
- Not enough
- I don't mind

Response (Q1)	Online survey (number)	Online survey (percentage)	Street survey (number)	Street survey (percentage)	Overall (number)	Overall (percentage)
Too many	149	68.3%	237	56.2%	386	60.3%
About the right amount	35	15.1%	73	17.3%	108	16.9%
Not enough	1	0.5%	11	2.6%	12	1.9%
I don't mind	33	15.1%	101	23.9%	134	20.9%

Overall 60.3% of respondents thought there were too many, A boards in Dorchester whilst 39.7% thought there were about the right number, too few or they didn't actually mind. In the online results slightly more people felt there were too many A boards than those responding in the street. Conversely on the street a higher percentage did not mind the boards at 23.9% compared to 15.1%.

Question 2 –Do you feel that the A boards in Dorchester make you?

- More likely to visit the business promoted on the board
- Have no effect on you visiting the business promoted on the board
- Less likely to visit the business promoted on the board
- What boards?

Response (Q2)	Online survey (number)	Online survey (percentage)	Street survey (number)	Street survey (percentage)	Overall (number)	Overall (percentage)
More likely to visit the business promoted on the board	63	29.0%	93	23.3%	156	25.3%
Have no effect on you visiting the business promoted on the board	112	51.6%	227	56.8%	339	54.9%
Less likely to visit the business promoted on the board	38	17.5%	64	16.0%	102	16.5%
What boards?	4	1.8%	15	4.0%	20	3.2%

Question 2 asked about the influence shoppers felt the boards were having on them. 55% believed the boards had no impact on whether they visited the business displayed on the board, whilst 25% felt they were more likely to visit a business because they had seen them advertised on an A board. Over 100 people suggested they were less likely to visit a business promoted on an A board, presumably because they felt aggravated in some way by the advertising boards. Overall just over three out of four people (77.8%) responding either felt the boards had no impact, a negative impact or didn't notice them.

The results received from the stand in the street were similar to the results from the online survey.

Questions 3-8 Options

The following questions are six possible options for the way that we manage A Boards in Dorchester in the future. We asked how much respondents support each possible option. They could choose as few or as many as they wished.

Option 1 - No Change (Leave as is) - we will continue to only enforce issues where there is a general highway safety issue.

Response Option 1 Online	Online (number)	Online (%)
I support this option	53	25%
I am not sure	26	12%
I do not support this option	133	63%

Response Option 1 Street	Street Survey (number)	Street Survey (%)
I support this option	94	11%

Response Option 1 Overall	Overall support (number)	Overall support (% of support for options)
I support this option	147	11%

Option 2 - Strictly enforce existing policy - the policy is that boards must be in a good condition and within a set size, located to keep free passage on the pavement and clusters of boards restricting access may be removed.

Response Option 2 Online	Online (number)	Online (%)
I support this option	82	40%
I am not sure	31	15%
I do not support this option	93	45%

Response Option 2 Street	Street Survey (number)	Street Survey (%)
I support this option	188	22%

Response Option 2 Overall	Overall support (number)	Overall support (% of support for options)
I support this option	270	19%

Option 3 - Zero tolerance enforcement - we would not allow any A boards on the highway (this would include the pavement).

Response Option	Count	Overall
I support this option	98	48%
I am not sure	21	10%
I do not support this option	86	42%

I support this option	142	17%
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Response Option	Overall support (Number)	Overall support (Percentage)
I support this option	240	17%

Option 4 - Marked Zones - there would be areas marked out where A Boards could be placed.

Response Option	Count	Overall
I support this option	55	31%
I am not sure	25	17%
I do not support this option	107	52%

I support this option	142	17%
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Response Option	Overall support (Number)	Overall support (Percentage)
I support this option	207	15%

Option 5 - Shopping zone maps in all car parks - no A boards but map type signs in the car parks directing shoppers to areas in Dorchester where they can find main shopping areas.

Response	Number	Percentage
I support this option	125	6.0%
I am not sure	33	1.6%
I do not support this option	50	2.4%

I support this option	91	11%
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Response	Overall % support	Overall support (number)
I support this option	215	15%

Option 6 - Finger posts/ ladder boards - no A boards but a series of signs in the high street directing shoppers to main shopping areas.

Response	Number	Percentage
I support this option	317	5.6%
I am not sure	32	1.5%
I do not support this option	60	2.3%

I support this option	202	2.4%
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Response	Overall % support	Overall support (number)
I support this option	521	7.3%

Summary of option support

Option	Support (number)	Support (%)
No change	147	11%
Enforce existing policy	270	19%
Ban A boards	240	17%
Marked zones	207	15%
Maps in car parks	216	15%
Ladder/finger boards	321	23%

The results above show 1,401 responses were made to the 6 options offered. The lowest score was for no change at 11% suggesting respondents were keen on the council bringing forward an alternative approach. The strongest support at 23% was for the ladder/finger boards. The other four options all received quite similar support all varying between 15% and 19%

The comments

140 respondents left comments. The comments have been analysed and coded into ten broad areas. Some comments will have covered a number of different points and the analysis below has covered these separately. By far the most dominant theme running through the comments is the perception that the boards are a hazard to pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities. However, there is also considerable support for the boards, concerns about the impact on businesses. A particular strand running through the comments was the issue of finding businesses off the main street in arcades and subsidiary streets.

Elements identified in comments	Number of times mentioned
A boards are a hazard to pedestrians/disabled	62
Support for alternatives to A boards	29
The A boards are visually intrusive	27
Identified problem of finding businesses off the main street	27
A boards are important for small businesses	24
A boards should be controlled within strict guidelines	22
A boards supported as they are not a hazard	20
Small businesses struggle with financial constraints and should be supported	7
A boards should be allowed for a fee	4
Other	3

Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee – response to consultation on Dorset County Museum Conservation Management Plan

We welcome the production of this Conservation Management Plan, commend its thoroughness and are in full agreement with your assessments of ‘heritage values’.

We particularly wish to underline the importance of the following townscape issues:

- Enhancement of the façade of the Crickmay building and replacement of the unsympathetic shopfront at 65/65a High West Street. We would like to see thought being given on how to incorporate elements of the bus stop and bench into any new design and would be happy to work with you on finding a solution to de-cluttering this space while still providing necessary street furniture.
- Restoration of listed buildings in the ownership of the Museum, particularly John White’s Rectory. We support the desire to relocate the doorway from Superdrug in South Street to the Museum.
- Improved signage, particularly at points of arrival in the town (car parks, railway stations).

Within the Museum we have a particular concern for:

- Conservation of the Roman mosaic in the education space;
- Protection for the Roman mosaics in the Crickmay building;
- Full exploration of archaeological issues during the project;
- Improved storage, accessibility and display of the collections;
- Improved educational and research facilities.

We would welcome the restoration of the Victorian gallery to show the original polychrome brickwork, should funds permit.

We accept that building the proposed Collections Discovery Centre will inevitably lead to alterations and demolition. We will not comment on the merits of demolishing, retaining or altering any specific parts of the site at this stage, but will reserve such comments until plans have been drawn up.

We welcome the chance to contribute knowledge of the building (Policy RR4, page 117) and have added our own (see appendix).

In addition to the environmental and climate change issues and opportunities (p.108), we would welcome any additional environmentally-friendly building

solutions, such as greywater re-use, solar panels on new build, habitat creation for nesting swifts etc.

The purchase of the Museum's various properties over several decades represents a considerable investment by the community in the future of the Museum. We welcome the opportunity that the proposed Collections Discovery Centre project brings in making the Dorset collections available to all.

Appendix

Comments from Kate Hebditch on areas listed in Gazetteer:

Crickmay

The building design was the result of a competition. There are also plans showing the designs which weren't used, including a splendid Venetian-inspired version.

Room 1

There is a Roman mosaic from Dorchester Prison on the north wall of the staircase, behind a large painting, which you may not have seen.

Room 19

This was the former site for the Hardy's Study display with a glass window onto the Victorian gallery.

Brawne

Room 5

This was a fully fitted conservation laboratory when the Museum employed a conservator. There are photos of it.

Room 27

This was always the archaeology gallery. If it was ever considered as an auditorium, the idea was never carried out.

Stable

Rooms 18-22

I've always understood that this was the stable block for an inn (the Mail Coach?) in North Square, not the George, but have no evidence beyond word of mouth. There is a barrel-vaulted cellar underneath.

65/65A

Handel House / Williams House

The building has been known as both these names. Williams after the Williams family who gave the site for the Museum and either also owned this building or gave money

for its purchase; and Handel House as I believe it was a piano shop called that at one point.

Room 25

This was the natural history gallery, not geology. There are photos of it. There was little in the way of evidence of the original building here, from memory.

To the left of the stairs from the geology gallery landing (behind the Ooser display) there is a space which was left for a future lift shaft. This site was identified as a site which would serve all floors.

Room 26

Thomas Hardy's Study. I believe that the fireplace is from Max Gate and is part of the gift. The bookcases and all other fittings are Hardy's own, not replicas. When planning the Writers' Gallery, the architect discovered that Hardy's study at Max Gate was co-incidentally the same size as this room.

Room 31

Fitted out as a store for the Sylvia Townsend Warner collection, with furniture made by....

John White's Rectory

I understood that this was an outbuilding rather than the Rectory itself, but no evidence for this. I believe there is a WW2 shelter in the building.

Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee

Year ended 31st March 2016

Statement of Accounts

	£	£
<u>Income and Expenditure</u>		
Contributions in year		
07/04/2015 Lets Explore Dorchester	2.50	
05/05/2015 Dorchester Explorer	2.50	
23/07/2015 Dorchester Explorer	2.50	
24/07/2015 Dorchester Explorer	2.50	
10/11/2015 Dorchester Explorer	6.00	
26/11/2015 Dorchester Explorer	2.50	
	<hr/>	
		18.50
Expenditure in year		
22/04/2015 Wallis Design, Interpretation panel, Eddison's Steam Roller	-250.00	
01/05/2015 Wallis Design, Eddison's Steam Roller accompanying web pages	-140.00	
	<hr/>	
		-
		390.00
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		-
Deficit in year		<u>371.50</u>
 <u>Balance Sheet</u>		
Balance brought forward as at 1st April 2015		14,348.37
		-
Add: Deficit in year		371.50
		<hr/>
Balance carried forward as at 31st March 2016		<u>13,976.87</u>

Outstanding Commitments

	<hr/>	
		-
Blue Plaque / Pub Scheme	-5,000.00	
		-
		5,000.00
		<hr/>
Available balance		<u>8,976.87</u>

**DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE
DORCHESTER TIC**

1. West Dorset DC is undertaking a review of its district-wide TIC services, with the aim of significantly reducing the cost of current operation. Dorchester TIC is part of this review.
2. It is understood that WDDC's original plan, from early 2015, was to relocate the TIC as front of house in the Shire Hall, which would save the significant rental from the current site, present opportunities for staff to multi-task on both TIC and Shire Hall business and streamline retail operations and costs. It would also provide foot fall to one of the two new heritage attractions in the town, with visitors passing the other new attraction (Dorset County Museum) en route to the TIC.
3. This position appeared to provide the best opportunity to both safeguard a quality TIC while making financial savings and use it to support a major new heritage attraction in the town. It appeared that the timing of the opening of Shire Hall was consistent with the closure of the Antelope Walk operation. At that time there was nothing that any other body needed to do to safeguard the service on offer.
4. In recent months the plan appears to have stalled although the reasons for this are not certain. They might include the ending of the lease at Antelope Walk before the Shire Hall is available, the need for the Shire Hall Trustees to focus on their core business offer, and the lack of clarity over how much WDDC funding is available to support the service both short and long term.
5. WDDC staff may be looking for an alternative short term home for the TIC, by relocating it to the South Walks House offices. During discussions another alternative was identified, being the front space in the library. No decision has been made regarding relocation.
6. Dorchester Town Council recently considered the situation and noted the following: -
 - That there is likely to be a gap between the closure of the Antelope Walk offices and the possible opening of a TIC in the Shire Hall
 - The current Antelope Walk operation is very costly to maintain. It is difficult to see how the cost to the taxpayer of running the site in its current form can be justified
 - The uncertainty regarding the planned move to the Shire Hall
 - The move, albeit temporary, to WDDC HQ appears to have little merit. The site is poorly located and there is a risk that the identity of the TIC, and long term funding, might be lost
 - There are, however, no obvious better alternatives sites
6. The Town Council's Policy Committee recognised that as a precursor to any decision on the long term delivery of a TIC in the town, clarity was required over future funding, and consequently resolved

That the Town Clerk write to the District Council seeking clarification of their intentions with regard to future funding support for the Dorchester Tourist Information Centre

The Town Clerk will do this during June and will make any response available to the Joint Committee.

Adrian Stuart
Town Clerk

Summary Note

Dorset and East Devon National Park

Parts of Dorset and East Devon could become a National Park. Natural England, the Government Agency responsible for designated areas, is undertaking an assessment of the area's merits for possible National Park status. This is welcome recognition of the national and international importance of Dorset and East Devon's outstanding landscapes, geology, biodiversity and recreational value.

Sandra Brown, the Chairman of the Dorset and East Devon National Park Team, says:

“This is a great opportunity to create a National Park for the 21st century. The National Park would work in full partnership with communities, businesses, farmers and landowners, recreation and conservation organisations and all local authorities to boost local communities, jobs and tourism while caring for our unique landscape and heritage.

The National Park would:

- Be a catalyst and champion for the things both local people and governments want to achieve: thriving local communities and a strong and diverse economy, achieved with sustainability and sensitivity to the environment.
- Lead improved and “joined-up” care of the area's natural capital and heritage. At a time when the ecosystem services provided by our landscapes are being recognised and valued, not least in mitigating climate change and saving species, a Dorset and East Devon National Park would provide sustainability, landscape-scale conservation and a coherent approach across current boundaries.
- Be a great opportunity to promote the area and its many attractions for leisure and tourism, including increased scope for open-air recreation.
- Work in partnership to deliver a wide range of economic and social benefits, including good quality employment, sustainable development, and increased resources for spending and investment in the area. We want the communities and businesses of the National Park area to benefit from such advantages. The first independent review of the South Downs National Park, designated in 2009, shows that it is already achieving wide-ranging benefits for people in and beyond the National Park area.

Our AONBs do good work. But a National Park, working in partnership with the local authorities and other partners, would take the AONBs' activities to a new level. A National Park would do much more to help local communities, business, farming and tourism, as well as to promote recreation and the area's other attractions, including the area's beautiful and healthy environment.

This is a long term project. Designating a National Park can take some years, involving extensive consultation with communities, local authorities and interest groups. There would be many opportunities for all aspects to be considered.

There is growing support for the proposed National Park. Many organisations and groups across the area and beyond support the idea of a National Park. We hope that communities, local authorities and organisations across the area will work together to achieve the advantages and opportunities of becoming a National Park. We suggest that forward-looking organisations with vision will want to participate at this early stage in order to influence and shape the project.

The proposal represents a great opportunity for Dorset and East Devon.”

Edward Fox, the actor, who is President of the Dorset CPRE, said:

“This is a great opportunity and well-deserved recognition for the Dorset and East Devon landscape and heritage. National Park status would attract visitors and bring new funding opportunities. We would benefit from a more joined-up and sensitive approach to valuing and caring for our world-class environment. The area narrowly missed designation as a National Park after the Second World War. This second chance must not be missed.”

Professor Denys Brunsden, who lobbied successfully for World Heritage status for the Jurassic Coast of Dorset and East Devon, said:

“We were delighted when the Jurassic Coast became Britain’s first and only natural World Heritage Site – a well-deserved honour. Becoming a National Park is the logical next step in valuing and safeguarding this area’s fabulous natural assets.”

Notes:

Natural England [the government agency responsible for designated areas] is assessing the case for a National Park that would include the Dorset and East Devon AONBs plus additional Dorset heathland. The idea is not new – the area was recommended for National Park status in 1945. The proposed National Park would include the whole of the World Heritage Jurassic Coast as part of the uniquely varied and internationally important landscapes, geology, habitats and biodiversity of the two AONBs, together with an additional area of Dorset heath-land, important as habitat and for recreational potential, and rich in cultural associations – immortalised by novelist, Thomas Hardy, as “Egdon Heath.”

This is a long-term project. The process of designating a National Park can take some years, involving extensive consultation with communities and interested groups on all aspects of the proposal.

National Parks are a successful business model, working in partnership to deliver a wide range of economic and social benefits, including good quality employment, increased resources for spending and investment in the area, improved health and wellbeing, sustainable development and “joined-up” conservation. Such benefits have been identified by successive independent evaluations of National Parks [eg DEFRA, 2011.] The first independent review of the South Downs National Park, designated in 2009, shows this is achieving wide-ranging benefits for people in and beyond the National Park area.

A National Park in Dorset and East Devon would achieve better care of the area’s great natural capital and its heritage. It would play a key role in achieving the government’s aim of landscape-scale conservation and connectivity, providing vital and valued ecosystem services, and forming a link in a biodiversity chain stretching from the South Downs National Park and the New Forest National Park in the East, to the Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks in the West. A Dorset & East Devon National Park has the potential to be a “Green Bridge” for Southern England, like the proposed Lakes2Dales National Park extension for the North. Dorset is famed for its extraordinary biodiversity, including species which are found nowhere else. One 10kms grid square in the Purbeck area of Dorset has more different species than any other 10kms grid square in the country.

National Parks give good value for money to UK Plc. The cost to the Treasury of all the English National Parks is less than £1 per head per year.

The Dorset & East Devon National Park Team will be pleased to hear from any group or individual interested in this proposal:

Dorset & East Devon National Park Team
c/o Swanage Town Hall
High Street, Swanage, BH 19 2NZ



The Dorset & East Devon National Park - A “Green Bridge” for Southern England.

The map below shows the area suggested for the proposed National Park: the Dorset AONB and the East Devon AONB, including the full length of the Dorset & East Devon World Heritage Coast [“the Jurassic Coast” World Heritage Site], together with an additional area of Dorset’s internationally important lowland heath – the “Egdon Heath” of Dorset writer Thomas Hardy’s novels.

To the east of the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park are the New Forest National Park [shown on the map below] and the South Downs National Park, and to the west are the Dartmoor National Park [shown below] and Exmoor National Park.

