



# Dorchester Town Council

## Cost of Living Help

Dorset Council have set up a Webpage dedicated to the Cost of Living Crisis – this has useful links to help Access to Food, Financial Advice and Housing: [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help)

See what cost of living support you could be eligible for: [Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#)

Get free energy advice and funding for energy saving measures from Ridgewater Energy who are funded by Dorset Council: [Healthy Homes Dorset | Ridgewater Energy](#) You may be eligible for further support through the Ridgewater Energy LEAP project [LEAP Home Visit | Ridgewater Energy](#) You can call them on: 01202 612726

Sign up online for a free Cap Money course – running in January on the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
[CAP Money Course | Dorchester Baptist Church \(dorchesterbc.org.uk\)](#) or call: 01305 262045

The CAP Money Course is a free money management course that teaches people budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system. It will help anyone to get more in control of their finances, so they can budget, save and spend better.

You can contact our local Citizens Advice Bureau by calling the Dorset Advice Line: 0800 144 8848 or via email: <https://centraldorsetca.org.uk>

Their office in Dorchester (1 Acland Road, DT1 1JW) will be open as usual for drop-in's on Friday 23rd December in the morning. It will close at 1.00 p.m. and will then reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

### **Warm Spaces**

Warm Spaces are free places within the local community where people can be assured of finding a warm and friendly environment in which to enjoy refreshments, social activity and the company of other people.

To keep other users as safe as possible, please do not attend sessions if you suspect you have an infectious illness such as flu or Covid.

### **Be Winter Ready**

As winter is upon us, it is best to be prepared for bad weather and make sure we remain safe in different situations. Dorset Council have created a very useful one-stop-shop to give you advice on a range of topics such as what to do if your water or energy supply is disrupted, and how to stay safe when on the road or out and about.

Go to: [Be winter ready - Dorset Council](#)

For further information, visit the Dorset Local Resilience Forum (LRF) [www.dorsetprepared.org.uk](http://www.dorsetprepared.org.uk)

The LRF have produced a useful booklet to give you some basic information on how you can help yourself and your family in emergencies. Click here ( <https://www.dorsetprepared.org.uk/media/61339/dorset-lrf-heap-leaflet-nov19.pdf> ) to download it.

### **Is your home at risk of flooding?**

In Dorchester there are 4 main types of flooding - River, Surface Water, Ground Water and Sewage Flooding.

- Visit Gov.uk/flood or call Floodline 0345 988 1188 to:
  - Check long term flood risk to your home and area
  - Check current flood situation, 5 day flood forecast and main river, groundwater and rainfall levels

- Sign up to the Environment Agency free Flood Warning service for main river and groundwater flooding
- Download and complete a personal or business flood plan
- Find guidance on how to prepare for flooding
- Sign up to Metoffice National Severe Weather Warning Service via web or app
- Chat to neighbours and friends about how you could help each other
- Keep useful numbers handy
- Download our leaflet from the 'What's New' section of the Town Council website, for more useful tips and contact details

### **Utility outages**

- Check out information about planned and unexpected power outages, or report an outage on the Power Track page of the SSEN website [www.ssen.co.uk](http://www.ssen.co.uk) or call them to report a power cut on 105 (24 hours).
- If you or someone you know is vulnerable then you can sign up online (free of charge) with your utility providers to be put onto their priority list which will trigger additional support services from the utility company in an emergency or prolonged outage. You can also call them to register.
  - Electricity – SSEN: 0800 294 3259
  - Gas – SGN: 0800 975 1818
  - Water – Wessex Water Customer Services: 0345 600 3 600

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