

What has been achieved/is still ongoing from the 2017-2020 Directory of Aims and Aspirations (DAA)

Culture, Heritage Leisure and Tourism

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Write strategic heritage-tourism strategy for Dorchester & link with existing economic/tourism reports and plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Tourism strategy completed & Tourism Officer appointed
Town heritage offer more joined up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main providers working together more closely and alongside other attractions – e.g Heritage Open Day
Create 'brand Dorchester' & marketing plan, plus website/online resource to link and promote Dorchester offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover Dorchester website and app
Encourage Heritage organisations to trial passport entry package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been trialled through Tourism Partnership
Design marketing leaflet/map promoting existing heritage offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover Dorchester website/app and leaflets
Implement town centre Wi-Fi and design a 'what's on' app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed with BID and Discover Dorchester
Coordinate accommodation providers to work together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Partnership delivering
Trial and evaluate different types of creative programming – festivals and events engaging the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of events delivered including the Anonymous Festival, Open Air Cinema event, One World Festival, Brewing Festival, Walking Festival, HengeFest, Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair, Heritage Open Day
Help to develop a Community Radio station in partnership with Ridgeway Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Keep Radio to achieve licence
Maker spaces/open workshops – could include community repair workshops and volunteer led tool workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair Café set up, help to promote regularly • Support for 'new' projects such as Men's Shed
Develop more facilities at Poundbury – e.g. jogging route, tennis courts, climbing boulder, dog play area & more benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poundbury has new play and leisure facilities on Great Field • Regular Park Runs and other community events
Find out need for craft group and help to start, and promote art activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Dorset Craft Workshops project – currently looking for premises • Support for local exhibitions and artist opportunities

Community

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Improve/extend funding advice for local organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct funding advice to significant number of local organisations resulting in successful applications • Held several workshops about funding, inc community lunch and Awards for All training • Devised advice sheet of 'top tips' for projects applying for funding • Funding opportunities widely shared with partners
Improved IT skills offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close working relationship with local organisations offering IT skills including Digital Champions, PiPs café, Age UK NSW and other partners
Continued support for DYCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of support for DYCC including help to achieve Reaching Communities grant
Create more social spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm hubs set up (especially through Churches Together)
Include community in decision making e.g. in Local Plan decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision for Dorchester widely consulted on before submission to Local Plan process
Support local diversity projects and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with range of inclusion/equality groups such as Space Youth Project • Coordinated multifaith days • Run regular Holocaust Memorial day event • Support for Gypsy, Roma Traveller event • Support for Pride events including Youth Pride
Inclusive projects for people with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of Dorchester Access Group • Helped to set up Mid-Dorset Mencap café and shop & fundraise to employ a training coordinator • Work with Eco in Mind & The Gap Project Dorchester • Work with other partners such as People First Dorset & Dorchester Disabled Club
Actively engage & involve 'hard to provide for' groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Dorchester Locality and Local Alliance Group • Set up Holiday Hangouts and Kids Clubs • Set up school transition group with Dorset Mind to support pupils with poor attendance

<p>Create events and activities to enhance local food economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for One World event – to be reinstated in 2024 • Work with Dorset Food and Drink – especially looking at growing Poundbury Food Festival
<p>Encourage stronger community voice – e.g. improve consultation to make it more interactive/imaginative to engage wider community and ensure community know how to contact & work with councillors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor surgeries promoted • Consultation opportunities widely disseminated via email and Facebook • Innovative work with Southampton University on Feeling Towns Project
<p>Help groups to better promote and share what they do</p>	<p>Lots of opportunities created including via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Lunches • Informal Town Meeting • Invitations to other community events • Showcasing in newsletter • Better use of Town Council social media • Discover Dorchester and monthly ‘What’s On’
<p>Prevent replication & develop new projects to fill gaps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular advice given to groups to partner with similar projects • Gaps in offer, such as health events noted and met via events like Picnic in the Park
<p>Write a directory of local community organisations to include aims and activities of groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have written up several lists to share with various partners e.g. The Chamber • Regularly advise partners re groups in town (e.g. when organising events like THVF, Hengefest) • Full directory planned for new TC website
<p>Work with Advice and Infrastructure organisations to ensure continuation of support for voluntary sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for CAB, Help and Kindness and Volunteer Centre Dorset who all won contracts with DC to deliver A&I services
<p>Work with Poundbury Residents Association on joint projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work with Poundbury Residents Association and Poundbury Community Trust with support for projects and events

Transport and Accessibility

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Work with regional/national rail providers to get best service – and also to develop tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of touch point information screens planned at Dorchester South • Closer working relationship developed with South Western Railways and National Rail • Potential for advertising at other stations, including in London being considered
Improve access at Dorchester South Station & install lifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements being delivered through Access for All mid-tier scheme with input from stakeholders including Councillors, 'Friends of' group, Access Group and DTAG • Support for Access for All for application to install lifts – awaiting outcome in Autumn 2023
Link 2 stations – to each other and to town, install new wayfinding signage at both stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DTC wayfinding finger posts installed • Further signage to be added as part of Fairfield Road scheme & through Mid-Tier Access for All improvement scheme at Dorchester South Station
Create a designated path between the stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being delivered through Dorset Council Fairfield Road project
Ensure disabled parking access maintained and improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Group advised DC as part of review of blue badge scheme
Address issues with use of parking machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues raised through Access Group. DC have now installed new parking meters
Complete Access Ramp at Dorchester West Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported via Access Group, ramp installed
Maintain town bus routes as far as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work to support Dorset Council Bus Service Improvement Plan
Encourage more children (and others) to use bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for DTAG mapping of potential bike routes • Support for Streets Alive event
Continue to review and report on access in town through facilitation of Dorchester Access Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core group continue to meet 2/3 times per year. Several new members recruited to group • No of reports completed – for instance at Poundbury and Brewery Square

Ensure town is fully accessible e.g. dropped kerbs are sited in correct locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several dropped kerbs installed as result of Access Group actions, as well as other pavement improvements (infills and pavement levelling) • Plus contributed to other improvements such as installation of crossing refuges at Queen Mother's Square
Ensure shops and business are physically accessible and welcoming of people with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility icons added to Discover Dorchester website • Advice given to several local businesses re access • Helped advise Shire Hall and also to set up an access group for Dorset Museum to review their arrangements
Review planned improvements in traffic management & road safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulted on several schemes including plans for Maumbury Cross which will deliver significant access improvements • Access Group support for 20's Plenty scheme

Health, Wellbeing and Safety

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Hold regular community lunches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x well attended themed lunches held per year
Circulate relevant information & consultations to contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular bulletins from Community Development Officer to over 300 plus partners • Information/consultations forwarded to targeted groups
Better sign posting to existing community support and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of advice and information collated/disseminated (especially during Covid) • Close work with Primary Care Network and Social Prescribers
Campaign for more mental health support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started Connected Minds project with Dorset Mind • Helped facilitate a county wide mental health conference • Ongoing work especially during pandemic to support mental health projects • Previous and current work with Thomas Hardy school to provide more support for young people
Support for befriending schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported several initiatives including chat friendly schemes • Work with partners such as Age UK NSW & Royal Voluntary Service

Explore with health partners development of more nature-based health projects & promote Natural Choices and Stepping into Nature opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of partnership work and co-hosting of events with Natural Choices and Stepping into Nature • Support for VCS organisations offering nature based wellbeing • Work with NHS to capitalise on opportunities presented by new Health Village
Encourage residents to speak up about and report hate crime to create culture where all feel safe and respected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported organisations/individuals several times to report hate crime and ensure actions is taken – inc Space Youth Project and Black Lives Matter

Housing

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Set up a Community Land Trust to deliver affordable housing aimed at under 35's & develop West Walks tennis courts as affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLT Established with ongoing support
Support for people who are at risk of becoming homeless or are homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created leaflet of services for people who are at risk of becoming homeless • Work closely with local agencies to support individuals who are sleeping rough

Economy, Training/Education & Volunteering

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Support for people on lower incomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widely disseminate avenues of support for people on lower incomes – including help with heating costs and money management courses • Ongoing support and close working with organisations such as Dorchester Family Support and Dorchester Poverty Action
Highlight benefits of volunteering – particularly for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped organise several volunteer fairs aimed at young people • Direct opportunities provided through youth forum and Youth Council and via roles created for young people at events • Support for Volunteer Centre activities and events

Work with current food projects/food banks & develop project to link allotments, schools, food banks, cookery classes etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support & partnership working with local food banks - especially intensive during Covid lockdowns • Support for introduction of new Community Fridge • Some linking of food banks to allotments and other growing projects such as the Gap Project Dorchester and Eco in Mind • Directory to promote local food sustainability drafted
Support local, independent shops & businesses & address issues of closed shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close work with Dorchester BID & support for Totally Locally • Projects to 'takeover' closed shops to enhance appearance of town (12 Days of Christmas) • Creation of new Town Centre Working Group

Environment

Aim (from DAA)	Actions achieved
Develop Town Centre masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involved local community in creation of the Town Council Vision for Dorchester
Encourage civic pride in open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature walks collated and promoted via Discover Dorchester • Set up community litter picking scheme & regularly run picks and lend equipment
Improve/modernise Townscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New planters installed in South Street • Cornhill Task and Finish group created
Support nature conservation schemes such as tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for projects such as Friends of the Riverside • Involvement of community in tree planting at Kings Road
Develop outdoor spaces inc accessible garden of reflection at Borough Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New rose garden created
Develop wayfinding signage in town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New monolith and finger post signage installed across town
Work with town council & VCS groups to develop more environmental projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involved in helping to achieve Plastic Free Dorchester status • Number of environmental events including Plastic Free Picnic, Earth Day & ReThink Fashion Dorchester • Free water refill point installed with Wessex Water