

Dorset Council starts Library Consultation

Dorset Council and the RVS are working together to provide a free non-contact Doorstep Delivery Service to residents that cannot easily get to their local library, either short term or long term.

Books are chosen by volunteers or staff at each library, based on individual preferences, and delivered to your front door every 3 weeks; they can also pick up and return books to the library.

All volunteers have strict safety guidelines and all necessary risk assessments have been carried out. They will only enter your house with your permission and will keep a safe distance at all times.

If you, or someone you know, could make use of the service, or if you are looking to volunteer yourself, contact Maria Jacobson at Dorset Home Library Service on 01305 236666 or email maria.jacobson@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Digital Skills in Dorset

Dorset benefits from many services that help people access technical advice and help. Whether you are struggling to use a new device, are unsure when you use online services such as shopping, using NHS e-consult or staying connected with loved ones, there are many organisations available to help. Providers offer specially trained staff or volunteers, all tailored to suit your needs.

Digital Champions, run by Dorset Council is a service supported by volunteers with IT experience, across the region. Call to book them at Dorchester Library every Thursday, between 2.00 - 5.00pm or, if you need digital help or advice, phone 01305 221048 weekdays 10.00am - Noon.

If you need IT support at home, **Ability Net** offer free digital support at home to older and disabled residents. Please call 0800 048 7642 during weekday office hours to book or receive over the phone assistance.

Age UK also provide IT advice and assistance. Contact them on 01305 269444. A charge is made for home visits.

Citizens Advice on 0800 144 8444 provide specialist advice on filling in particular forms related to welfare, home finances and also signpost on other issues

Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk



Let's talk libraries

Libraries are at the heart of our communities.

Share your ideas and help shape the future of Dorset's library service.

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/lets-talk-libraries

#LetsTalkLibraries

HAVE YOUR SAY

Stay up to date

If you are a Facebook user why not follow our pages? Keep updated on what we are doing and celebrate all things Dorchester!

- @dorchester-town-council
- @DorchesterBoroughGardens

Have you seen the new Discover Dorchester Tourism page? Follow these pages to stay in the loop on what's happening locally.

- Facebook @DiscoverDorchesterDorset
- Instagram @discoverdorchester
- Twitter @DiscoverDorch
- TikTok @discoverdorchester

Or join the 2,500+ people who have already downloaded the Discover Dorchester app since its launch in the summer.



Dorchester News

Dorchester Town Council
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Autumn 2021

New access ramp installed at Dorchester West Station

After a decade of fund raising, planning and negotiation between local councils and Network Rail, a new access ramp has opened between the northbound platform of the railway station and Williams Avenue; improving access for travellers from Weymouth or heading north towards Bristol.

While the majority of funding came from Dorset Council, both the Town Council and the local "Friends" group also made contributions.

The ramp was opened by Sue Blake on behalf of the Friends of Dorchester West Station at an event attended by the Mayor and Mayoress.



Durnovaria Silver Band

Eighty five years young this year, Dorchester's very own band are a key part of our community life.

Many residents will have heard the band play on the bandstand in the summer and they play an important role in both the Remembrance Day service at South Gate and at the German War Memorial service later in the day.

Based in the Band Hall on King's Road they always welcome new members, as well as requests for bookings and hire of the hall.

The Band will be playing in South Street on 11 and 18 December. See <https://durnovariasilver.band/> or look for their Facebook page.



First day back after Covid: VJ Day socially-distanced in the Borough Gardens in August

Dorchester's Young Marketeers

After months sowing, planting, watering and nurturing, pupils from St. Osmund's, Manor Park CE and The Prince of Wales schools sold fruit, vegetables, plants and jams to paying customers at the town's Wednesday Market in September. All money raised goes back into school food programmes and gardening clubs. Young Marketeers is run by school food

campaigners School Food Matters, in partnership with Bridport-based social enterprise, Local Food Links. After running in London for 10 years, this is the first time the project has operated in Dorset.



Dorchester's Mayor Gareth Jones meets the young marketeers at Fairfield market.

Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Play Equipment at The Great Field

The Great Field is now reaching its final stage of development. Co-ordinated and funded by the Duchy of Cornwall, construction of Dorset's largest free play area started in September.



The largest pieces of play equipment are modelled on some of Poundbury's landmark buildings, including The Whistling Witch, The Buttercross and Brownsword Hall.

Earlier work on landscaping and footpaths have transformed the open spaces, while the opening of the Pavilion in the Park in the Spring provided much needed facilities.

Once completed, in Spring 2022, the park will be finished and management of the site will transfer to the Town Council.

Keep up to date with what's on in the town: listen to your volunteer run, not for profit, community radio station from Dorchester, covering central-southern Dorset. Online at KeeP106.com



Councillor Contacts

Phone and e-mail contact details for Ward councillors for the Town Council and the Dorset Council are available on our website.



Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Christmas Events

Following on from **Free Parking** days in Dorset Council car parks in the town centre on the last two Saturdays of November and Small Business Saturday on **4 December**, there will be a number of free Christmas events in the town centre.

Saturday 4 December Dorchester Vegan Fair

11.00am - 4.00pm, Borough Gardens

Sunday 5 December Santa in the Gardens

1.00pm - 4.30pm, Borough Gardens

Saturday 11 & 18 December Durnovaria Silver Band

10.00am onwards, South Street

Sunday 12 December Dorchester Christmas Cracker

11.00am - 4.00pm, Town Centre

Tuesday 14 Dec. Salamanca Band, The Rifles Carols by Candlelight

4.00 - 6.00pm South St

Thursday 16 December Carols in the Gardens

6.30pm onwards, Borough Gardens

Town Centre Masterplan

In responding to the Dorset Council Local Plan options paper earlier this year the Town Council expressed concern regarding out of date policies proposed for the centre of the town, particularly those which continued to focus on retail growth.

The Town Council has since been considering its position on the key long term risk that retail premises will not be reoccupied and that Dorset Council and other workers will not return to town centre offices at pre-Covid levels.

At the same time we recognise that such problems also present opportunities to consider the potential to convert premises into residential properties which will, in turn, sustain the town centre; and will also alter the traffic movements and parking issues that have traditionally caused problems for residents.

We are planning to consult key partners such as the Civic Society and business groups on our views over the winter, prior to a wider discussion with residents later in the new year.

We will also continue to press our point with the Dorset Council, that a clear masterplan is required for the town centre as part of a Local Plan that will control development of Dorchester and the wider area for the next 20+ years.

Repair Café up and running!



Come to the monthly repair café, where volunteer repairers, experienced in electronics, computers, bicycles, etc, do their best to repair broken items; bringing new life to old things saves them from going to landfill, while you may also gain skills and confidence too.



Fixers Lisa, Katy and Emma with Mayor Richard Biggs before lockdown

2021 kicked off with a pop-up on The Great Field, focusing on scooter and bike repairs. September saw the first full Repair Café, with a great turn-out. Again bikes were popular, with little fixes at the end of a summer of cycling!

The next event is on Sunday 28 November, 10 - 12 at Sunninghill Community Centre in Culliford Road N. New volunteer fixers are very welcome!

Funding to cover hall hire, insurance and equipment largely comes from donations received at Repair Café events, so next time you bring something to be repaired, please give what you can – it really does make a difference.

The CasterFridge

Since opening in April 2021, over 2,500 visitors have taken 1,800kg of food from Dorchester's new community fridge, helping to reduce the amount of food waste thrown away by supermarkets.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, grateful, and kind. There are no membership, financial or eligibility checks; anyone from the community can come and help themselves to what is in the fridge.

Open Tues/Fri/Sat from 9.30am 'til empty



The Casterfridge is based in the Co-op foyer in Trinity St

Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

KM students visit our Greenspaces

A huge thank you to Kingston Maurward students for surveying and improving some of our outdoor spaces. Two groups of Level 3 Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation students, supported by their lecturer Brian Heppenstall, recently visited green spaces across the town.

First year students surveyed sites for biodiversity and recreational potential, providing practical experience for students and useful information for how we could look after our spaces.

Second year students cleared vegetation from the pond at the Local Nature Reserve on the Mill Stream, to reduce its impact on wildlife. The vegetation is left on the banks so that minibeasts can safely find their way back into the water. The work will help to increase biodiversity at the site. Brian hopes to bring students back to Dorchester in the new year to continue their studies and to help us to continue to improve our green spaces.

Dorchester TAG

Dorchester has a new Transport Action Group, set up by local people. It will work with TAGs across Dorset, building on a 20 year old government initiative to get local people more involved with transport decisions. TAGs have no direct power, but are consulted on by Dorset Council and help to engage people in transport issues and make sure that local people have a voice in transport decisions.

The Dorchester area has considerable issues in trying to build a transport system which provides fair mobility for everyone in both urban and rural settings, with the added impetus of reducing the significant CO2 impact of transport.

For individuals, this means a move towards active walking and cycling over short distances, more use of public transport (buses, trains) and a move to electricity and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

We need to change our transport system to one that serves all local people as well as being kinder to the planet. The TAG hopes to play a strong part in this by engaging local people in decision making and choices at all levels. For more info contact Stewart Palmer shartandpalmer@gmail.com.