

**West Dorset Partnership
24 September 2018**

Minutes of the West Dorset Partnership meeting held on 24 September 2018 at South Walks House, Dorchester

Present:

Organisation	Name
Chairman	Paul Overall
Beaminster & Villages LAP Sherborne Communitiy Focus	Joanna Keats
Bridport Local Area Partnership	Maureen Jackson
Bridport Town Council	Will Austin
Dorchester Community Forum	Emma Scott
LymeForward	Chris Tipping, Wendy Davies
BAVLAP	Cllr Jacqui Sewell
Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils	Cllr Alan Thacker
Churches Together in Dorset	Tom Murphy
Health & Wellbeing Locality Group	Guy Patterson
West Dorset District Council/Dorset Councils Partnership	Cllr Anthony Alford (WDDC), Cllr Ian Gardner (WDDC), Jane Nicklen (Community Planning & Development Manager), Kathy Boston-Mammah (Community Development Team Leader) and Stephen Hill (Strategic Director, DCP), Fiona Thomas (Community Development Officer)

Apologies:

Organisation	Name
Dorset Councils Partnership	Hilary Jordan
Public Health Dorset	Vicky Abbott
Magna Housing	David Aldwinkle
LymeForward	Cllr Cheryl Reynolds
Dorset Community Action	Alex Picot
Dorset Local Nature Partnership	Maria Clarke

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all parties present to the meeting and each attendee introduced themselves.

2. Notes of the last meeting.

23rd April 2018 minutes of last meeting were checked. Bob Gillis for Bridport Town Concil has been omitted from the attendance list. As there here were no further matters arising that would not be picked up in todays agenda, the minutes were agreed.

3. Revised Partnership Constitution

The constitution previously circulated in the agenda papers to Partnership members was put to the vote and accepted as fit for purpose for the forthcoming transition year.

A future Action Plan is intended and a suggestion to expand membership to other Housing Associations was tabled.

4. Local Area Partnership Achievement Reports.

(a) BAVLAP - Beaminster & Villages

Review of Action Plan

- Housing – 30 affordable homes at Flaxfield. Active CLT in Broadwindsor Drimpton (new). Marshwood - 8 affordable homes.
- Transport and Accessibility – The community bus is a major issue and local Councillors have set up a community bus service.
- Environment – a number of litter picks have taken place and entry made to the Best village competition.
- Yarn Barton – Wyvern Savings come weekly and are making a big difference
- Superfast broadband now has coverage up to 90%, 50 Digital Champions across Dorset
- CAB outreach surgery has made many referrals to Beaminster Food Bank and in 2017 – 193 helped. Referral vouchers available in local shops
- PCOS's there has been a lack of consistency due to staff changes. Road safety & a street style event for young people have featured in their local work.
- Dementia Friendly very active,
- Childrens Centre is to be run by a local charity and expanded to cover more community projects
- Beaminster Play Park has got EU funding and the play park is being completed
- Village Halls are using DCA for funding and governance advice
- Marshwood Garage now runs a prescription collection service
- Marshwood PO is now closed
- St Marys church now runs a walk-in Wednesday to support young mums.

Tom Murphy: applauded activity and echoed the wide and diverse nature of stakeholder engagement. The Beaminster Food Bank now takes self-referrals.

(b) BLAP - Bridport

Concentrated on letter sent to Shadow Executive over proposal to remove funding from LAPs contained in a report to its September 2018 meeting. Assuming there will be a call for more detailed information for the review of discretionary funding.

The BLAP update report lists groups in which BLAP is involved with, their focus, role and membership.

- Rural Sustainability and meaningful involvement in the new Council is the current focus of the Parish Liaison Working Group.

- Rough Sleepers/Homeless Working Group looking to extend Cupboard Love (Food bank) services to include laundry and cooking facilities in the DCC community hub on Flood Lane.
- Establishing a Bridport and District Poverty Action Group with CAB.
- Health and Wellbeing – variety of local groups. Community Front Room – supporting the Bridport Harmony Drop-In Centre and another partner. Social prescribing working with The Living Tree on how elements of the Frome Initiative can be introduced to the area.
- : Doing shared group work with Lyme Forward on the health locality group.
- Jacqui Sewell added that Pilsdon Community is celebrating their 60th anniversary this October.

Tom Murphy: asked where the BLAP website is located? **On Bridport and West Bay.**

(c) Dorchester Community Forum

Emma Scott in post for 2 years. 1st year largely consultation with 80 groups. 2nd year working to a condensed action plan based on contributions.

- YP Mental Health Initiative – working with MIND, Thomas Hardy School (in school drop-in), Out of School project – 6 week course, Family Partnerships Zone are paying for transport to the group, working with middle schools (problems emerging at Yr 7 & 8), Shire Hall has offered premises.
- Health – setting up social prescribing group, linking with Livewell Dorset, Stepping into Nature Dorset, Dorchester Strollers, Disabled Club, City Picnic in Town gardens. Encouraging health professionals to refer.
- Dorchester Access Group – access into physical environment, drop curbs in Poundbury, developing access to guide to Dorchester town centre.
- Environment – new signage helped by Town Council, Damers First School plastic free status for Dorchester involving Chamber & Town Council, local groups.
- Arts and Culture – working with Inside Out Dorset, Try This (launching website).
- Housing – Dorchester CLT building affordable housing for young people
- Young People – Dorchester Youth Council – Universal Suffragette event, Democracy event for children working with schools. Dorchester Youth Extra – Mental Health Initiative, Anonymous Festival, Open-air Cinema at Maumbury Rings.
- Community Lunches and consultations,
- Social inclusion – Holocaust Memorial Event and One World Festival.

Future projects:

- Food poverty – Accessible fresh produce working with allotment owners. Older people not always recognised.
- Closed shops on the high street - Setting up pop up shops in empty shops. Supporting local groups on funding sustainability and how they work together.
- Financial advice for YP.

Wendy Davies: Requested further explanation of Emma's model of working – employed by DTC setting up of thematic working with minimal parish liaison.

Networking achieved through community lunches and information network with 280 contacts.

(d) LymeForward

Report says it all. Method of operation very different. Does projects rather than co-ordinating working group took plan responsibility. Originally employed a co-ordinator with part funding from WDDC and SWRDA (Marcus Dixon).

As part of the NCTI Initiative in 2006-7, took planning responsibility for delivering the Town Community plan with LTC signed aligning to the WD thematic headings. 2012 updated the plan.

LF meets quarterly with attendees from Charmouth and Uplyme, service providers (schools, police, health, tourism, local organisations) working all together and often across boundaries.

- Smaller community means there are less volunteers with the resources to enable things to happen but despite this the partnership has a very active and diverse participation.
- Co-ordinator, now Manager- Part funded by Town council and WDDC employed for 24 hours per week. Main focus on the economy with CCF funding, very successful in Round 4 and also applied to Round 5.
- Health and Wellbeing – mapping services in a 50 page document analysing local issues, gap analysis and bullet points for the future including a mental health review.
- Runs Lyme Regis Food Bank & Community lunches for older and vulnerable people with access to support service professionals.
- Meet and Remember Group and All Together group.

(e) Sherborne Community Focus

LAP folded in June 2017. SCF met in February and also meeting this Friday to look at the option of becoming a Community Development Trust. Local projects include:

- DCA is working with Sherborne Douzelage on training in Sherborne using different venues.
- Magna Housing is very supportive and offers community lounges to hold meetings.
- Syrian Refugee Group supported by DCA.
- Supporting Village Halls
- DREC – traveller and gypsies support group
- Fuel Poverty advice – DCA provide this from central government funding.
- Working with the Samaritans on YP mental health in schools.

5. LGR Update

Cllr Alford:

Shadow Authority and Executive established (10 Cllrs from DCC and 2 each per District.) Cllr Sherry Jespersen is lead Member for Communities. Boundary review results to be expected on the 23rd October 2018. Interim positions appointed – Section 151 Officer, Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer. Matt Prosser is recommended as Chief Executive.

Shadow Executive on the 17th September agreed to roll forward existing grants into 2019-20 for one year. Also considered transfer of services to towns and parishes but this was not “supported”.

A review of discretionary grants to take place in 2019-20.

Cllr Gardner – said Chickerell TC funds Weymouth & Portland CAB. Cllr Thacker – DAPTC is watching carefully what towns and parishes could take over
Paul Overall – Are certain Task and Finish Groups still in abeyance?
Cllr Alford – Lead members are taking on the roles in Task and Finish Groups.
Because of the speed of change Area Boards sits with the Governance Task and Finish Group.

- Tom Murphy – much to be done. How are structures being managed so work goes forward?
- Stephen Hill – 3 Interim Officers are in their roles with no additional funding. CE to be appointed this week. Level 2 appointments to be confirmed by early December. Budget set. Programme Team established – mixture of new and existing staff. Governance assured through Programme Board. Governance/People/Place streams. Officers preparing implementation plans for themes under themed headings concentrating on Day 1 priorities. Existing Council concentrating in “finishing well”. Budgets on target and customer services remain good to ensure a seamless transition.
- Maureen Jackson – mistake to focus on Day 1 without being involved with the community, maintain respect, ensure transparency and maintain community networks entwined with the build of the new Unitary. Recognition of volunteer time and taking communities with us is essential to moving forward. Focus must be on building capacity not just the amount of external funding they might bring in.
- Cllr Thacker – DAPTC Chair and Deputies meeting with Senior officers to ensure good finish. Not easy at a time of flux.
- Tom Murphy – Will jobs be ring-fenced?
- Cllr Alford – C/E open recruitment 2nd Tier ringfenced to certain people alongside open recruitment.
- Joanna Keats – BCP have started a consultation on Council Tax (CT) assistance will DCP be the same?
- Cllr Alford – will consider this and take it back, variations on CT assistance schemes across all areas.
- Will Austin – Robust Review to be undertaken. Town Councils will also need to review their position. Will review be undertaken in time?
- Stephen Hill – Will speak to Cllr Jesperson to understand her position. Officers will work alongside her. Review process will be undertaken with yourselves with an opportunity to influence outcomes.

6. Partner Updates

- Guy Patterson, Health & Wellbeing Locality Officer – newly appointed, will be able to contribute more fully in the future.
- Cllr Thacker – DAPTC has role in being the link between the Unitary, towns and parishes. Transport is a key issue of concern.

7. LAP Matters

- BLAP – public convenience questionnaire designed by Guy Patterson.
- BAVLAP – PoPP will be sadly missed

8. Date and theme of next meeting.

Confirmed subsequently as Monday 14 January 2019, 10 am. Theme – Health and Wellbeing.

9. Any other business

Annual Report to follow with apologies that it was not ready for this meeting.

Signed as a correct record

Chairman

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