

Towards a South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Strategy

Report of Stakeholder Event 15 July 2010

East Dorset District Council Offices, Furzehill, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 4HN



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Introduction

The Councils in South East Dorset are working with the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England to prepare a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the sub-region. The intention is that the strategy will create a bold vision for the South East Dorset and set a framework for high quality accessible green infrastructure. The strategy is set at the strategic level and will provide a basis for the delivery of projects and a robust evidence base for other policy makers to draw upon.

A working draft strategy has been prepared and before further progress is made the South East Dorset Officer Steering Group wanted to gain input from interested parties in terms of the key parts of the document. A workshop event was therefore held on 15 July 2010. A list of those who attended is set out in Appendix I. Stakeholders from the following groupings were invited to the event:

- Agency & Public Land managers
- Building Industry & Chamber of Commerce
- Agriculture & Forestry
- Environment Groups
- Councils & Large Civic Associations
- Natural Area and Recreation Users

The main purposes of the event were to:

- Gain a shared understanding of Green Infrastructure
- Raise awareness of the need for a strategy
- Update on progress so far
- Get input – in terms of agreeing the direction of travel and shaping the strategy.

This report summarises the stakeholder event and the discussions held at the workshop sessions.

Agenda

| | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 9.15 | Arrival & Registration | |
| 9.45 | Welcome & Introduction | Mike Garrity – Chair of South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Group |
| 9.50 | Why Green Infrastructure is Important and the Benefits a Sub-regional GI Strategy & Action Plan | Anne Jaluzot - Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) |
| 10.10 | Developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy for South East Dorset | Nick Squirrell, Gemma Yardley, Clare Freeman – South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Group |
| 10.40 | Questions | |
| 11.00 | Tea/Coffee | |
| 11.20 | Explaining the Workshops | Mike Garrity – Chair of South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Group |
| 11.25 | Workshop 1: Vision & Strategic Objectives | |
| 11.55 | Workshop 2: Green Infrastructure Framework & Strategic Projects | |
| 12.45 | Summary and Next Steps | Mike Garrity – Chair of South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Group |
| 13.00 | Lunch | |

Presentations

Copies of the presentations are available to view on www.dorsetforyou.com/392709

Question Session

The points raised in the question and answer session were:

Q: Do **agriculture** and **food production** form part of the vision/strategy?

A: This is an issue that needs further thought in terms of its inclusion in the strategy.

Q What is the impact of public sector cuts in **funding** on the **delivery** of the strategy?

A: The strategy is not looking for new funding from councils but it is looking for new ways to develop green infrastructure through partnership working. We will also look for new opportunities and funding streams as well as funding from developer contributions.

AJ noted that a recent CABI review of Green Infrastructure strategies across the country has demonstrated that having a strategy in place gives clear priorities in terms of green infrastructure and such areas are more successful in gaining alternative funding. Multi-functional green infrastructure is about synergy (joining together) and not about a new shopping list.

GC noted that some projects will require development to make them happen – a mechanism is needed to for both greenfield and brownfield sites in terms of gaining funding from development.

NS pointed out that the environmental organisations are supportive of the strategy as they want to align with councils in terms with delivering projects.

Q: Are there dangers in the terminology used - it is not clear how wide green infrastructure stretches. There needs to be a clear link to **public transport hubs** such as the Swanage Railway.

A: The intention of the strategy is to create stronger links and so we will need to look to make this clearer in the document.

Q: Do you intend following up this strategy for South East Dorset with one for **south west Dorset**?

A: No decision has been made. Work started in South East Dorset in recognition of the level of growth proposed for the area.

Summary of Workshop Discussions

Two workshop sessions were held to gain the views of the stakeholders about the vision, strategic objectives, green infrastructure framework and strategic projects. The main questions asked were:

- Are you happy with the broad direction of travel?
- Are the Vision, Strategic Objectives, Framework and Strategic Projects about right?
- Are we missing anything?
- Help us to move the strategy forward and develop an implementation plan
- What can you do to help deliver green infrastructure?

The key issues raised in the workshop sessions are set out below. More detailed notes of each workshop are included in Appendix 2.

Vision

There is no need to fundamentally alter the vision but some changes are needed to make it clear, meaningful, jargon free and if possible short and snappy. The following changes are suggested:

- A layered approach of a strap line followed by sentences.
- A clear time marker for the vision and state what will be achieved by a specific date.
- Consider adding the following issues: more explicit reference to transport; recognise biodiversity beyond the European designations; agriculture and public rights of way; local food as a theme in its own right; the value of private garden space; involving local people in decisions about how local space is used and managed; needs of people who are disabled; cutting travel distances to green spaces/venues; refer to green travel plans; energy production; potential conflicts between opening up access and habitat conservation, play/natural play.
- There are a number of detailed wording suggestions and queries about specific terms.

Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives are broadly supported but some rewording is needed to improve clarity and meaning. Plain English is suggested. The strategic objectives should be about problems specific to South East Dorset that the strategy is trying to resolve.

SO1 – The difference between mitigation and adaptation needs to be explained.

SO2 – The wording should be simplified. This is a how statement. The following wording is suggested: 'To ensure we are working in partnership to deliver green infrastructure'.

SO3 – No need to mention tourism as this is covered by reference to the economy.

SO4 – The terminology 'mitigate' and 'growth' need to be clarified. There is also a need to enhance the existing natural environment. Restoration is important along with conserving and enhancing.

SO5 – The wording 'improve ... inequality' is confusing and should say 'reduce inequality'.

SO6 – The phrases 'place making' and 'local character' are too jargon and not clear terms.

The following should be considered for inclusion in the strategic objectives:

- Sustainability as a desirable overarching outcome. Reducing travel and sustainable travel.
- Education about the benefits of green infrastructure and the importance of a strategic approach. It is about making places work better.
- Health.

- Inspiring people to make use of and have pride in existing green spaces.
- Involving local people/community in making decisions about the use and management of spaces.

Green Infrastructure Framework

Overall there was broad acceptance of the structure of the framework into zones, corridors and cross-cutting themes. A number of changes were suggested, particularly in relation to the diagram and mapping:

- **Zones** – The urban greening zone needs to be more carefully explained and a ‘work zone’ dealing with economic issues is suggested.
- **Theme 3 Flood Risk and Water Management** – there is a need to balance flood risk in terms of the needs of river wildlife and the damage done by flooding.
- **Theme 4 Enhancing the Urban Environment**– need to be clear about why we are enhancing the urban environment. It is suggested renaming to ‘Greening the urban environment’.
- **Theme 6 Habitat Creation and Restoration**– need a long term management strategy for restored sites. Also need to consider other habitats and biodiversity in general, not just European designations.
- **Theme 7 Heritage Opportunities** – the purpose of this theme is unclear. It is suggested that the theme is renamed ‘Celebrating Heritage’ and that more thought is given to how heritage fits into the strategy.
- Cross cutting issues and potential conflicts need to be recognised between themes, corridors and zones eg. educating about green infrastructure and the impact of its use on lifestyles and community.
- Other themes to consider: Soil for growing food, local food, allotments and allotments; education and community events to promote awareness; reducing light pollution and tranquillity.
- The **map** is an important tool in developing the strategy. There is the opportunity for different types of maps: a diagrammatic representation of the Green Infrastructure Framework (framework map) and an interactive web based map showing detailed information.
- The map should include the context around South East Dorset eg. New Forest, south west Dorset. This will help to form consistency/identify inconsistency with adjoining areas.
- The framework map needs to be clear, labelled appropriately and it should not include blank or white bits.

Strategic Projects

Again the overall approach was supported with some specific queries in general and in relation to specific projects. Additional comments were made about the strategic projects on post-it notes. These comments are listed in Appendix 3.

- Links between projects should be shown diagrammatically and include a map of the projects.
- There needs to be an even distribution of projects across the area.
- The priorities and cultures of partner organisations need to change to take on board the principles of the strategy.
- Needs to be clear that small scale local projects can link into the wider strategy.
- It is not clear who will prioritise the Strategic Projects. Given the ‘localism’ agenda there may be delays in project delivery if priorities cannot be agreed.

- The funding and delivery of projects was a recurring theme.
- Castleman Trailway is a fantastic artery that is currently underused but has potential for integrated transport
- Local Food – there is demand for allotments across South East Dorset. It is not clear whether this project includes encouraging food in private gardens.
- Projects need to tie in with Local Transport Plan.
- Enjoying Water – it is unclear what this project is trying to do. Concern that enjoying water can be expensive.
- Stour Valley – the projects seem to focus on rivers rather than the second largest harbour in the world. No water centre in the harbour and this presents an opportunity for an education and regional water sports centre. The European designations may prevent such use.
- Greenway, Coast and Chines – chines could be used more than at present. Commuter cyclists should be allowed during set times along promenade.
- Heathland Restoration – concern about loss of broadleaved trees in such locations
- Avon Heath Country Park – it is unclear why this project is included as the visitor centre would happen anyway.
- Street Trees – Careful management will be needed. Concerns about vandalism, traffic accidents on A35, verge cutting and wildlife corridors
- Additional project areas: biomass

The Next Steps

The Stakeholder event on 15th July 2010 is the start of consultation and engagement. The following are the key stages to completing the strategy:

- On-going engagement: summer 2010
- Refine strategy and work up detailed implementation plan: summer/autumn 2010
- Consult on revised draft Strategy: autumn 2010 (probably around October 2010)
- Seek partner endorsement of final strategy: Nov 2010 – February 2011
- Publish final strategy: March 2011

Appendix I – Attendance

Delegates

| | | |
|------------|------------|---|
| Nikki | Brunt | Dorset Wildlife Trust |
| Richard | Burton | Terence O'Rourke Ltd |
| Graham | Chandler | Borough of Poole, Councillor Environment Theme Action Group, East Dorset Community |
| Hilary R | Chittenden | Partnership |
| Martin | Colvey | Purbeck District Council, Councillor |
| Geoff | Cross | Savills (L&P) Limited |
| Jon | Cullum | Bournemouth Chamber of Trade & Commerce |
| Rob | Doyle | Wimborne and District Angling Club |
| Shan | Edwards | West Moors Parish Council |
| Helen | Fearnley | Footprint Ecology |
| Mark | Fortune | Dorset County Council – Climate Change Adaptation |
| Susan | Frost | Holt Parish Council |
| Carina | Gallacher | Christchurch Borough Council – Countryside & Open Spaces |
| Simon | Goldsack | Purbeck District Council, Councillor |
| Clare | Gronow | East Dorset District Council – Countryside Manager |
| Janet | Healy | CPRE - East Dorset & Christchurch |
| Ruth | Hopkins | Gleeson Strategic Land Limited |
| KA | Johnson | Colehill Parish Council |
| Mike | Lovell | Dorset County Council/Purbeck District Council, Councillor |
| Steve | Lugg | Ferndown Town Council |
| Michael | Madgwick | Natural England |
| Steve | Maros | Dorset County Council - Arboricultural Manager |
| Gloria | Marsh | Purbeck District Council, Councillor |
| Jez | Martin | Borough of Poole - Leisure Services |
| Theresa | McManus | Poole Agenda 21 / Dorset Energy Advice Centre |
| David | Mitchell | Colehill Parish Council |
| Jennifer | Morgen | Bournemouth University, Student |
| Jacqueline | Mulliner | Terence O'Rourke Ltd |
| Hamish | Murray | Dorset County Council - Ranger Service |
| Steve | Neale | Wimborne and District Angling Club |
| Alan | Ottaway | Christchurch Borough Council – Countryside & Open Spaces |
| Ron | Parker | Borough of Poole, Councillor |
| Owen | Richards | Kinson Manor Farm |
| Rachael | Shefford | Purbeck District Council |
| Sophia | Thorpe | Gleeson Strategic Land Limited |
| Heather | Tidball | Urban Heaths Partnership |
| Martin | Whitchurch | Borough of Poole – Leisure Services |
| Graham | Willetts | St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council |

| | | |
|-------|----------|--|
| Steve | Williams | Dorset County Council - Local Transport Plan |
| John | Wilson | Dorset County Council, Councillor |

South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Steering Group

| | | |
|----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Mark | Axford | Bournemouth Borough Council |
| Margaret | Cheetham | Purbeck District Council |
| Kate | Evans | Christchurch Borough Council |
| Clare | Freeman | Borough of Poole |
| Mike | Garrity | Dorset County Council |
| Helen | Harris | Borough of Poole |
| Tony | Harris | Dorset County Council |
| Sally | Knott | East Dorset District Council |
| Brian | Richards | Environment Agency |
| Simon | Smith | Forestry Commission |
| Nick | Squirrell | Natural England |
| Gemma | Yardley | Dorset County Council |

CABE Space Enabling

| | | |
|------|---------|------|
| Anne | Jaluzot | CABE |
|------|---------|------|

Apologies

| | | |
|-------|-----------|---|
| Peter | Adam | Borough of Poole, Councillor |
| Mike | Wilkins | Borough of Poole, Councillor |
| Ron | Whittaker | Bournemouth Borough Council, Councillor |

Appendix 2 - Workshop Notes

Workshop Notes Group 1

Facilitator: Brian Richards, Environment Agency

Scribe: Mike Garrity, Dorset County Council

VISION

There was no disagreement with the sentiment or general direction of the vision. Discussion then considered the level of detail and contents of the vision.

Key comments:

- The vision needs to be snappy
- Shorter and jargon-free so that members of public can understand it clearly
- Could have layers within the vision with:
 - A strap-line
 - Sentences to follow
- Generally accepted that it is helpful to make it relevant to area
- There was some disagreement about wording it in the present tense. It was explained that this describes the position in 20 years time assuming we deliver the strategy.
- It was suggested that the vision be rephrased to state the area 'will be served by'...
- Transport may need to be more explicitly referred to, and perhaps refer to links rather than corridors?
- There should also be recognition of biodiversity beyond the European designations (although it was acknowledged reference to wetland and heathland is a unique feature of the sub-region)
- Adaptability to a changing climate is important. Needs to be:
 - Sustainable; and
 - Maintainable
- Generally considered that references to sub-region are helpful despite Government's move away from regional agenda. Some thought will need to be given to a consistent and meaningful way of conveying the concept of the sub-region.

Outcome:

The discussion would suggest that there is no need to fundamentally alter the vision. It will be a case of tweaking it to make sure it is clear, meaningful and sufficiently covers the relevant challenges.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The discussion moved in a fairly structured way through the objectives. Notes were made for those which attracted a comment.

Objective 1

- Is there merit in promoting green roofs? These have climate benefits
- Important to state the need to protect existing 'carbon sinks' that are already here – woodlands, etc.
- The objectives would benefit from some clearer distinction / explanation of the difference between mitigation and adaptation.

Objective 2

- The wording is lengthy and complex – need to simplify. For example: *‘To ensure we are working in partnership to deliver Green Infrastructure’*.

Objective 3

- No need to mention tourism – this is covered by economy.
- There was support for reference to competitiveness but felt that ‘advantages’ didn’t necessarily add anything
- It is important to retain recognition of the special environmental attributes of the area.

Objective 4

- Clarify terminology regarding mitigation and adaptation (refer to comments on objective 1)
- ‘improve...inequality’ – rephrase as this might be misunderstood!

Objective 6

- Place making sounds a bit like jargon. Make this clear and meaningful

Outcome:

No specific omissions were noted. However, a question was posed of the steering group: do the objectives sufficiently convey sustainability as the desirable outcome?

The strategic objectives appear to be broadly supported in their content and there are no significant omissions. Some rewording will be needed to improve clarity and meaning, and the steering group will need to check that sustainability in its broadest sense is comprehensively addressed.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

Overall there was broad acceptance of the structure of the framework into zones, corridors and cross-cutting themes. Workshop participants were pleased to note that the themes could apply to the more geographically specific zones and corridors.

Zones:

- Urban greening zones: concern was expressed that this may not be understood by the public. However, it was recognized that the term ‘zone’ is useful for making clear that it applies to a given area. It was also acknowledged that finding a generic term which is meaningful can be difficult. No strong view either way on the merits of the term but it might be a matter for the Steering Group to consider.
- Is it worth having a ‘work zone’, dealing with economy in general, employment areas, and green economy aspirations? If not here then perhaps somewhere in the strategy.
- Habitat restoration zones map is missing (Map 3).

Themes:

- Theme 4 (enhancing the urban environment): be clear about why we are enhancing this.
- Theme 6 (habitat creation and restoration): long-term strategy for managing restored sites needs to be considered. Also need to think about other habitats and biodiversity in general – not just European designations.

- Cross-cutting issues need to be recognised between themes, corridors and zones. It might be helpful to show as a diagram / flow chart?
- Theme 7 (heritage opportunities): important to include this.

Corridors:

- No specific comments on these.

Strategy diagram:

- Line (corridors) going out into the sea. These might be confusing.
- Important to make sure the map adds something (there was no expressed concern that it did not).
- Colours and key might need some adjusting to make them clearer. Remove references to 'region' and 'line'.
- Important to make sure any diagrams are sufficiently good quality / resolution and size in the document to be legible.
- Paragraph 5.3 could be expanded to explain the map – i.e. that it is only a high-level visualisation of main components of the framework and not intended to be detailed OS boundaries.
- A question was raised as to what the white 'blank' areas are. It might be preferable to avoid blank areas.

Projects:

- Links between projects should be made as many of them are interrelated and will achieve a variety of objectives and themes. It was explained that this was recognised in the project details, but it might make sense to explain this or illustrate it (diagrammatically) in the strategy.
- A map is needed to show where the projects are.
- A request was made that the project details be emailed to participants.

Outcomes:

The overall approach was supported. The only possible omission from the strategic projects that participants mentioned was a 'work zone' classification (although others might emerge).

Broader biodiversity priorities need to be reflected in the framework / projects, including management of restored sites.

A key factor appears to be the need to identify the interrelationship between projects and how these relate to, and help to deliver, the vision, objectives and strategy. This could be done visually.

Clarity of maps needs careful attention, including avoidance of 'blank' areas.

Workshop Notes Group 2

Facilitator: Nick Squirrel (Natural England)
Scribe: Clare Freeman (Borough of Poole)

VISION

- Wetlands and heathlands are expressed separately – does this help / is this clear that not exclusive of other habitats.

- If ---- from inside may help and then include in more detail later.
- Natural play could be enhanced – reflects multi – functionality and may help influence development.
- Gained other support to include play.
- No specific mention of disabled needs – as treated equally – is included in ANGST – but perhaps needs to be more explicit about this in strategy.
- On map are some harbour side “brown areas” but in reality these are used by public. NE clarified has taken out designated sites.
- Partnerships will be important – Ferndown Town Council – concerns about how this has been developed don’t want this to be a top down strategy and to be “done to us”.
- Visual – needs to be less jargon and in plain English if there is to be community buy – in.
- Healthy, prosperous community is key. (Green I is just part of this)
- Comes across as greater emphasis on people not biodiversity.
- Agricultural land and PROW network are important to consider.
- Visual human element could be made stronger.
- Mechanisms to influence DCC and footpaths is difficult e.g. of allotment path.
- Currently too many blocks in place.
- Developing the green economy is not mentioned. Green technology businesses could contribute and add value.
- Transition town networks could feed into GI.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Comment reference traffic concerns and recognition that space is limited for the transport network.
- Spaces for natural wildlife – need to be careful that green corridors do not develop into SSSIs and then people can’t access.
- Need to make spaces work better.
- No two objective too long winded (could cut out the middle line)
- Is there really space for more tourists?
- Could we attract tourists to newer areas e.g. West Moors?
- Perhaps overall too much emphasis on economic – re-balance to social benefits.
- Objective number six could be made more of i.e. make more of local areas and community.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

- Framework diagram – too diagrammatic – needs to show where actual places are. i.e. What are dotted lines on the plan? – Perhaps use of overlays would help. Map 3 missing from document.
- Themes – need to balance flood risk, quite critical as to balance of river wildlife and damage done by flooding.
- Re-word enhancing the urban environment to “greening the urban environment” as theme.
- Detail of mowing regimes on roundabouts and verges. Need to get Highways Agency on board to leave grass long.
- Some areas of large heathland may have more scope for community involvement.
- E.g. Bournemouth Air Show and more green events will be held to promote awareness.

- Not immediately obvious what heritage opportunities perhaps replace with “celebrating heritage” as theme word / making the most of our heritage – sustainable development of heritage.
- Explain clearer what we mean about heritage i.e. are we going to increase access, or are we going to promote more.
- Tranquillity could be picked up more – are counter issues – e.g. tourism may not help tranquillity.
- East Dorset area of deprivation is not picked up. The report implies they do not exist and they do in reality. (Three Legged Cross, Heatherlands if others are mentioned) Should use others as examples as otherwise not a true list.
- Would like to see educational (especially of younger people) strengthened e.g. if young people use green routes/spaces it will help develop community / lifestyles.
- Links with growing green businesses. Linking grassroots and overview.
- Council objectives of reducing light pollution.
- Soil carbon, not being released. Aerial carbon value. FC now being challenged about carbon release during soil disturbance.
- Would hope that this strategy can influence other council work e.g. provision of street lights and trends towards being more green and sustainable.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- Could text of project be circulated?
- Needs to be an even distribution of projects across geographical area (e.g. Christchurch?)
- Ensure review of strategy is included.
- If strategic plan could help unblock transportation culture of not being able to plant trees. Need to adjust and align cultures and priorities i.e. so local groups can plant trees on verges / roundabouts.
- Would Sport England be consulted?

Workshop Notes Group 3

Facilitator: Simon Smith - Forestry Commission
 Scribe: Tony Harris - Dorset County Council

Present: Two Parish Councillors, Purbeck District Councillor, Geoff Cross, Fishing representative, Agenda 21 representative, Footprint Ecology representative.

VISION

- Add term 'resilience' to last sentence in STRAP line of VISION.
- Question? Do we need to mention outlying settlements as we all know what sub-region is?
- Add 'growing space' to vision, i.e. areas for communities to grow food.
- Add open and wooded habitats to vision.
- Habitats: add note to say habitats as defined by BAPs.
- Add/make clearer the need to integrate with transport initiatives/projects/ strategies such as Swanage Railway.
- Add habitat CREATION so not just about restoration.
- Local food production should be a THEME in own right.

- Need to emphasise protection of sensitive habitats and ensure any future car parking provision is kept away from these sensitive locations.
- General comments about future funding; seen as major issue in deliverability of strategy and without this not a realistic vision.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- What are 'essential strategic services'? Clarify.
- The condition and quality of habitats is the key issue which needs to be emphasised. For example many heaths/woods/water courses are in poor condition now.
- Do we need to link bullet points 2 or 4 and/or emphasise cross cutting/link nature of the objectives?
- More emphasis placed on enhancing what we already have (link with 2).
- Make whole document easier to read/understand in terms of plain English , e.g. what does 'planning making' and 'local character' mean and what is 'mitigation' and 'adaptation' all about.
- Add the need/importance of communicating/educating people/partners about GI benefits and the importance of a strategic approach. This needs to be one of the objectives.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

- There needs to be greater awareness and emphasis on the importance of soil for growing food/local agriculture. Agriculture generally not mentioned. The whole locally grown food issue is weak.
- Shown indicative transport links on Map 2 for Purbeck.
- Eventually will need more detail on the plans as 'move through' document and eventually shown on interactive basis via Dorset Explorer: This could become a hub for access to a wide range of GI information, e.g. access points/recreation trails etc. This will need to be marketed and communicated widely.
- Consider how we show the context of the study area, i.e. important GI assets just outside the study area.
- Clarify how we arrived at study area boundary?
- Need to make it very clear that the Strategic local small scale projects link to wider strategy and will be targeted at areas identified as deficient. This then leads to a 'hook' for LDF/planning policy provision for small scale green space projects.
- Timescale for strategy needs to be clearer, e.g. on front cover 2010 - 2030?
- Who will prioritise Strategic Projects? Will this cause delivery delays as no-one can agree/prioritise the strategic projects due to 'localism'? Suggested that Steering Group does this first and consults on suggested priority listing?
- More 'capacity' (natural resource) studies needed to determine capacity for area to absorb more development, e.g. water.
- Monitoring is needed now to determine baseline conditions prior to any change so long term changes can be reviewed and monitored.

Workshop Notes Group 4

Facilitator: Helen Harris (Borough of Poole)

Scribe: Margaret Cheetham (Purbeck District Council)

NB – themes of integrated transport and including wider Purbeck were frequently mentioned. “(A)” refers to CABE comments

VISION

- On the long side, 2nd para could be part of objectives
- Nothing missing – good stuff
- Last 8 words are good
- Unique coast etc = surplus
- Problem – how to protect quality of the environment, eg use of bikes. Therefore important to have more GI available
- Can't have no-go areas. People need to be trained how to use protected areas
- Honey pot areas should be encouraged
- 3 county parks = current honey pots
- Need to work with farmers
- Need to attract people elsewhere – not in car – more opportunities and more directions.
- Routes get worn down – keeping it in good shape is difficult
- Well-worn paths are usually followed
- Vision needs educational mention
- Reference to management required
- Tarmac on Snowdon is unforgivable. However, Moors Valley did it, and it works and is cost-effective.
- Maintaining Jurassic Coast = v. difficult
- “Unique environment” is important
- SED – people want to live here and visit it
- Shorten vision and widen objectives
- Remove “conurbation and settlements”

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- No 7 should be biodiversity
- What's the difference between themes and objectives?
- Objective should be – what are the problems we're trying to solve? (AJ)
- No 4 = most important
- No 5 = most important
- Another function = alleviating transport issues (congestion)
- No 2 = “how” rather than being an objective
- Try to avoid tick-box exercise (some authorities have done this) (AJ)
- Most important should be at top.
- One should lead on to the next.
- Cycleways = crucial
- 5 = necessary? More a by-product?
- Health should be objective
- Tendency to have v. long list – but not helpful. Need political support and must resonate locally – eg transport, economy. (AJ)

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- Castleman Trailway and integrated transport - Fantastic artery and potential – underused. CT - New bit through Stape Hill = impassable after today's rain – this bit could be identified as GI project. CT – LTP3 money may be more forthcoming if identified as GI project. All of the projects should lead to integrated transport. Important – role of electric bikes

- Money - Concept of pots of money – but may not be around in future. Peripheral pots may disappear. GI's selling point – will provide savings in other areas. Certain successes difficult to quantify – eg obesity stats
- Allotments - Allotment in Colehill – hard to get land as people are hanging on to it for development. 940 people waiting on EDDC waiting list for allotments. Residential option needs to be taken away to encourage allotments. Website (name unknown) – in which people can put forward land for allotments. Garden-sharing also a possibility. Benefits can be provided by housing (disputed comment). New proposals by government to lower council taxes if additional development is accepted = bribery and corruption
- Harbour route - Police worried about this (Purbeck). Cycle routes through housing estates – 1980s style ginnels led to crime, light pollution
- Projects cover strategic objectives: “Impressive”, “the right projects at this moment in time”, “good spectrum”
- Heathland - Trees that are taken down to restore heathland = controversial. Broad leafed trees should not be removed. Work is progressive – not set in stone.
- Avon Heath visitor centre – why is this included? Wouldn't it happen anyway?
- Upton – close to conurbation, could link to Upton Woods project
- Implementation can be problematic – eg with tenant farms.
- Street trees, verges, highways - The more the merrier, especially in Ferndown. New trees can lead to vandalism. A35 – high incidence of traffic accidents – careful management of trees required. Roads have recently become wildlife corridors. Looking after verges = too much cutting? Not enough cutting?.
- Management issues – it depends on soil. Highways has an important role to play. Local support for trees = crucial – reduced vandalism. Hard-surfacing of gardens hasn't helped.
- Biomass - What about biomass?

Workshop Notes Group 5

Facilitator: Sally Knott (East Dorset District Council)

Scribe: Gemma Yardley (Dorset County Council)

Present: Jacqueline Mulliner (Terence O' Rourke Ltd)), Councillor Gloria Marsh (Purbeck District Council), Rachael Shefford (Purbeck District Council), Hamish Murray (Dorset County Council), Alan Ottaway (Christchurch Borough Council), Jennifer Morgen (Bournemouth University)

VISION

- Private garden standards - The draft strategy focuses on public open space and does not recognise the value of private space for growing food, trees and biodiversity etc. Would be useful to consider having standards for private gardens. Less garden space increases the need for public spaces.
- Links to allotment spaces and shortages
- Master planning approach to development – to build in green space and biodiversity needs and accessibility through a site rather than turnover the leftover space to green space.
- People are missing– the vision/strategy is about sites/things on the ground. Need to involve local people in the decisions about how their local space is used and managed. Gives ownership and pride. Train volunteers.

- Balance conservation/preservation with visitor attraction in Dorset.
- Removal of clutter/eyesores from the beautiful landscapes eg. under grounding cables
- Reducing travel distances - Be explicit about the need to cut travel distances people travel to venues and where this not possible, the use of sustainable travel modes.
- Coast and harbours - wording in overarching statement seems to separate coast and harbours from the rest of green infrastructure. SMPs are relevant policy documents to consider.
- Accessible green space and biodiversity – potential for conflict between sensitive/designated wildlife/habitat locations and access to these areas for recreation reasons. Need to identify a priority approach in terms of usage.
- Capacity of green space – need to ensure existing green spaces is able to meet the demands of extra visitors. Relates to standards for green spaces.
- Threat to wetlands – due to sea level rise and access by people.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Inspire people to make use of and have pride in existing spaces: improve awareness and accessibility of local green spaces ie. local knowledge of existing green spaces, signage, circular routes, quality of local environment
- Involving the local community in making decisions about the use and management of spaces
- Make sure various components are linked and not seen as separate objectives

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

- White bits – what are these? Wimborne appears to be missing from the urban greening zone.
- Clear definition of all elements of map needed eg. Four different habitat types should be shown as different shading on map and listed separately on the key, routes continuing beyond the boundary, naming etc
- Include Brownsea and other islands on map
- Not clear if GI Framework diagram is the current situation or a diagram of the future – a before and after map would be more useful
- Suggest a web enabled layer approach would help to make the map more understandable. Need to be able to zoom in/out. Currently some elements are hidden due to layering. This would help if the map is intended for use by general public.
- Map is an important tool in developing the strategy.
- Would like to see a context and how it fits in/is consistent with adjoining areas such as New Forest, South West Dorset.
- Themed initiatives – would be useful to see what has been discussed and discarded ie. Cemeteries – need to sell these as viable multi-functional green infrastructure assets.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- Local food project – not clear whether this project includes encouraging growing food in own back gardens.

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS

- Summary diagram (page 4) – currently text too small
- Make use of university, college and school students in terms of resources eg master's projects, data collection

- Put working draft strategy, project forms (and presentations) on website to allow easy access for comments. Also add notes of discussion when prepared.

Workshop Notes Group 6

Facilitator: Mark Axford (MA)

Scribe: Kate Evans (KE)

Group members: Michael Madgwick (Natural England), Martin Whitchurch (BoP), Heather Tidball (UHP), Sophia Thorpe (Gleeson Strategic Land), Owen Richards (Kinson Manor Farm), Graham Willets (St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council)

VISION

- Vision focuses too much on open space without making reference to green travel plans and energy production. Also, too focussed on the natural environment and doesn't link to other policies.
- Others disagreed and noted that the vision referred to corridors, which could incorporate things like roads. It is important to keep the vision short.
- The document links with other strategies eg. refers to PPGs and PPSs.
- A lay person would not read into it in as much detail and may not interpret 'corridors' to cover things like roads.
- Noted that the vision tries to pick up the key elements rather than incorporate everything.
- The point was raised that one sentence is too long and it was asked who the target audience for the document / vision is.
- Suggested that the vision should be broken down. The vision could be half the length and could be a high level vision. It should incorporate both strategic and local elements.
- The document refers to Natura 2000 and Ramsar designations but there are other important designations that have not been included. It was explained that local residents may see their local open space as more important to them than many of the internationally / designated sites.
- The vision was written to be locally distinctive rather than an 'anywhere' vision.
- The vision should be broken down into two sentences, one about GI and the other about South East Dorset.
- The conflict between opening up access and habitat conservation is missing from the vision. The vision should note that a balance between the two needs to be struck. Also, the potential tension needs to be acknowledged in the vision – there needs to be education and people need to behave responsibly on these sites as increased use may jeopardise these sites. Must manage the impact of people on habitats.
- Noted that the public will lose interest when you start drilling down into the detail of habitat protection and that it needs to link into travel. If there is too much nature detail there is the danger that it will become just another nature conservation document.
- Document must outline how it will affect people's lives as people only tend to be interested if it affects them directly.
- Flood control and climate change mitigation are important.
- Discussion about the timescale of the strategy. It should be time bound / needs a marker/ specific year end, rather than just saying 20 years.
- The wording doesn't convey this as a process, should be something along the lines of by 2030 will have created / achieved.... Be more positive so it is not just an approach.

It should include delivered / created so that it is a statement of intent rather than as current (pipe dream).

- Para 3.2 was noted as a strange bullet point and that the numbering needs work.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- The penultimate one had the wording wrong, it should say reduce inequality.
- Not just about mitigating the impacts of growth, it needs to include enhancing what we already have. We already have inadequate GI as a result of mistakes in the past.
- Restoration is very important as is conserving and enhancing.
- The use of new development should be used to enhance the local environment, including tree planting, bird boxes etc. Also, important to improve the existing urban area/areas of no change and not just improve areas where there is development.
- It was agreed by the group that the word 'growth' is too generic – something more specific needs to be used.
- 'Place making' is not an understandable term.
- It was questioned how the steering group had arrived at these bullet points. It was explained that the steering group had looked at others, CABI had an input, and that they had been adapted through other examples and through the groups own thought process.
- The words 'tackle climate change' are too generic and need to be clarified.
- The word tourism shouldn't be included as it was a given. The sentence should end at the word economy.
- Not much in there to argue with as much of it was 'motherhood and apple pie'.
- The strategy needed to look at focussing on skill sets and retaining them in the local area (DTZ paper).

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK

- It was questioned whether the Stour Valley concept was achievable. But others felt that it was one of the more achievable projects as it could receive heritage funding and included other agencies.
- It was highlighted that money that is spent on facilities is usually for a small group of people and gave examples of this happening in the local area.
- Noted that the concept of GI is very worthy, as in parts of Dorset areas can be quite fragmented and access can be bitty, whereas GI looks at things strategically and sensibly.
- GI must also link into transport routes. Stour Valley and Castleman Trailway noted as being potentially quite significant.
- The group had a discussion surrounding links with trailways and the coast and an example was given of a dismantled railway line in Guildford which is used as a commuter cycling route and that this could be replicated in parts of South East Dorset using the river corridors.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

- The group discussed how the projects affect so many people, are multiuse for many groups in society and for local people.
- It was highlighted that in the MAA the natural environment is key and that the Stour Valley forms part of the Green Knowledge Economy action plan.
- Delivery is seen as the overriding constraint in relation to the projects.

- The group agreed that the projects in the document were the right ones; but it was noted that they needed to be tied in with the Local Transport Plan (LTP).
- It was questioned what the enjoying water project was trying to do. It was felt that people already knew about the water and how to use it.
- A choice must be made between fishermen and canoeists. A response was that it was a case of education so that the river can be a multifunctional resource.
- The rivers are becoming smaller and more difficult to use due to trees impinging on the rivers which is a management issue. A response was that it needs to be worked out how user groups can share the river as a resource. It was highlighted that the trees were part of the habitat for Kingfishers and other species – all needs have to be balanced.
- There must be a strategic approach to how we use water.
- It was felt that there are better projects that money could be spent on.
- The projects seem to focus on the rivers rather than the second largest natural harbour in the world. It was explained that there is no water centre at the harbour and there is an opportunity for a facility that includes an education centre and a regional water sports centre. But it was noted that the harbour was an SPA and that this would not be appropriate.
- Also, to enjoy the water was very expensive – launching boats etc.
- Greenway, coast and chine project was noted to crossover with the Stour Valley project. The chines could be used much better than at present.
- Times were suggested where cyclists commuting to work should be allowed to use the promenade and that it was currently a wasted resource.
- Moors Valley extension – highlighted that this was a more complex project and must be done in a sensitive way. It may not be realistic due to land ownership issues. A response noted that it was a strategic project rather than an action plan.
- Request for the word allotment to be used in the document as people don't understand the term 'community garden'.

Appendix 3 – Post-it Comments on Strategic Projects

1. Stour Valley Project

- Key strategic project. Should include up to Sturminster Marshall.
- DWT interested in this project. What community engagement, link to our work on the Allen.

2. Upton Country Park

- Does this include creating a cycle lane from the Country Park into Upton? Also, improving the Upton Trailway?
- Great opportunity to create more land close to the conurbation.
- Designated dog exercising walking field facility. Upton Country Park to relieve pressure on other parks/commons in locality.
- If not already being done, the Town Council need to be involved so that they can encourage local people to 'own' the project.

3. Castleman Trailway

- Need to fill Wimborne gap so that can cycle from Poole to Ringwood.
- A circular route from the Trailway into the Country Park, through open wood and then over the by-pass to Upton Heath and back onto the Trailway might be a good idea.
- Don't overlook the need to improve surfaces of some existing stretches or that the Trailway is also for walkers. Behaviour of some cyclists is reckless.

4. Cycleways

- ED cycleways project needs to be included.
- Links between strategic routes and settlements/leisure destinations needed.
- Also safer routes to school as cycleway recently opened in COLEHILL.
- Want to link Ferndown's green spaces, KGV, Ford Lane etc with cycle network, particularly Avon Heath and Moors Valley. And work hot spots.
- Great opportunity to shift patterns of use.

5. Enjoying Water Strategy

- Why does this not tick 'Coast – a year round destination' box.
- Does this link to the Jurassic Coast Marine Transport Study?
- Blue Gym
- Water sports/exercise very important and to be encouraged and supported, both on inland waters and coastal area ie. sailing, canoeing, gig sea rowing etc!

6. Bournemouth and Poole Cliff, Coast and Chines

- Link to LTP. Major green travel opportunities as well as leisure uses.
- DWT keen to work on this project – SNCI on coast.

7. Moors Valley Extension

- Interesting, but opening up this area would need to be mindful of potentially adverse impacts on adjacent sensitive sites eg. Lions Hill SSSI and the FC enclosure North of the Trailway – which is already under pressure.

- As a regular visitor/observer of this area, G Willetts (St Leonards PC) would like to be involved in strategy development.
- Can you get here by bus? If not, why not.
- Proper management of Moors River SSSI needs to be carefully considered so as not to introduce pressures to largely undisturbed river habitats.
- Please include provision of allotments. 86 on waiting list in West Moors.
- Need cycle path from W. Moors rural areas usually disadvantaged.
- Don't forget Slop Bog.

8. Avon Heath Enhancement

- Can you get here by bus? If not, why not.
- Need to be very careful not to encourage more use of vulnerable habitats.

9. Local Food and Community Garden

- Promote wildlife gardening alongside
- E. Dorset is massively under-provided with allotments. Many communities have none at all.
- What about looking at how to utilise private gardens for food production by providing (at a reduced cost) wooden raised garden beds, food plants and seeds so people can grow food in their own spaces. It can relieve the strain on the road networks to get people to allotment sites and encourage more people to grow their own food. Maybe have small allotments in school yards for kids and grow food and learn about healthy living.
- Please include allotments. Influences several strands: community, local open spaces.

10. Local Open Spaces

- The less used open spaces need to be promoted more – should be shown on Dorset For You, Poole and Bournemouth websites under 'your nearest' function so people can enter their postcode and find their local park, play space etc.
- Link with Bournemouth Wildlife Survey – BCC, BNSs, DWT, DERC partners.
- Consultation for Access to Nature bid showed residents want more information about where to go, how to get there, what they can do when they get there etc
- Reflect importance of play spaces and link through play-shaping eg. travel links, play streets, restrict severance to parks.
- Potential for increasing outdoor fitness provision in targeted areas.
- Support keeping local open spaces. 'Green Lungs' are very important for wildlife and people!!
- Need to develop Ford Lane Rec. as an important green/open space, and link it with others via cycle/(Urban Heaths Partnership) footpaths.
- Develop Harmont Wood.

11. Woodland/Chalk Downland Restoration

- Without Map 3 don't know where this is proposed for. Area described in working draft sounded a bit confused.
- DWT partners – Veteran Tree Project, SNCI advice.

12. Heathland Restoration

- Restoration of heathland and removal of trees would provide a wood fuel source for local communities, schools, public buildings etc.
- Would support the safeguarding of wetland/harbour areas for birds and waterfowl (Coasts and Harbours and Floodplains).

13. Urban Street Trees

- Is providing a wood fuel source mentioned?
- Ferndown is characterised by its sylvan outlook. This project is important to the T.C. and we are committed to planting more trees (community orchard?).
- Please plant fruit trees.
- Don't exclude semi urban areas ie. most of East Dorset!!

14. Historic Environment Liaison Project

- This should be about wider heritage opportunities
- Need to do a study like the one done of Historic Environment in Cranborne Chase AONB.

Appendix 4 – Event Feedback Form: Results

Quality of Event:

| | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Poor | Comment |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|--------------|------|---|
| Topics covered | 4 | 9 | 1 | | |
| Format and chairing | 4 | 7 | 2 | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing |
| Overall conference organisation | 3 | 6 | 5 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor joining instructions Microphone |

Quality of Presentations:

| | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Poor | Comment |
|---|-----------|------|--------------|------|--|
| Welcome & Introduction... Mike Garrity | 2 | 9 | | | |
| Why Green Infrastructure is important ... Anne Jaluzot | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples were most helpful Loads of info but too long & fast Too long, went over time Speaker hard to understand Quite long but very interesting |
| Developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy for SED ...Nick Squirrell, Gemma Yardley & Clare Freeman | 2 | 8 | 5 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not keen on having draft strategy read out No need to read out slides Felt a little rushed due to length of previous presentation Clare was excellent |
| Workshop 1: Vision & Strategic Objectives | 3 | 8 | | | |
| Workshop 2: Green Infrastructure Framework & Strategic Projects | 3 | 8 | | | |
| Summary & Next Steps... Mike Garrity | 4 | 4 | 1 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very brief – time pressure |

Quality of Venue:

| | Excellent | Good | Satisfactory | Poor | Comment |
|---------------------|-----------|------|--------------|------|---|
| Location | 8 | 4 | 1 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to find Always nice to visit EDDC! |
| Equipment/acoustics | 2 | 7 | 3 | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microphone Lapel mike would have helped, also a pointer for maps |
| Facilities/Comfort | 2 | 9 | 2 | | |
| Catering | 2 | 6 | | | |

Any other comments:

- Perhaps a little more time could have been put aside for the workshops
- After event actions/feedback important. Need to know if this event has made a difference.
- V poor continuity between this meeting and the GI meeting at the BIC in January 2010.
- If the catering is by EDDC I'm sure it will be good or excellent. Thanks for providing paper copy of the draft strategy- it was a bit much for my home printer.
- Overall a very interesting day and the strategy presents a very comprehensive picture of green infrastructure for South East Dorset.
- Since some of us had downloaded all 50 pages of the working draft document – it would have been somewhat helpful to have had some reference to items/pages etc.
- Looking forward to South West Dorset Green Infrastructure Strategy when available.
- The presentations overran which impacted on the whole process and other presenters.

Contacts willing/able to deliver projects/strategy:

- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- West Moors Parish Council
- Colehill Parish Council