

Sustainable Swanage Quarterly Review – February 2023

The following table is the 3-year programme established for Sustainable Swanage 2022-2024

Project	How might success be tracked?	February 2023 Update	Possible future plans
<p>1. Develop a business forum which delivers tangible environmental improvements to the local area. Current thinking is that businesses should be engaged and supported to develop carbon neutrality strategies</p>	<p>The number of local businesses that have developed a carbon neutral plan.</p>	<p>A number of activities have taken place including a launch event in March 2022 in which up to 40 businesses attended. Presentations from Suttles and Low Carbon Dorset amongst others. Also set up a ‘Sustainable Retailers Group’ which has looked at reducing bodyboards and is slowly growing. Work also ongoing to establish a ‘Sustainable Shopping’ brand for Swanage retailers. Three shops signed up to date. During the winter 22/23 a survey of retailers is being undertaken.</p>	<p>A further business event in the new year to promote sustainable businesses, depending on volunteer capacity. Develop the ‘Sustainable Retailers Group’ to grow the concept of local sustainable shopping.</p>
<p>2. Work with local businesses, waste collection partners and local councils to reduce the impact of waste on the seafront environment</p>	<p>A reduction in litter collected by Beach Buddies and/or less overflowing bins and side waste</p>	<p>A small range of stickers and posters to support a number of local retailers who sell quality and reusable beach products (to encourage users not to think of these as ‘disposable’).</p>	<p>Promote seafront toy library and work with Litter Free Dorset.</p>
<p>3. Complete the establishment of the Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve</p>	<p>LNR established</p>	<p>The LNR Reserve is now established and legally formed. A public launch event is planned for 15th April 2023 and a series of information boards are currently being designed. A Friends Group is in the process of being formed and will form part of the launch event.</p>	<p>Establish Friends Group Undertake Launch event in Easter 2023. Set up noticeboards.</p>

4.	Continue to develop Prospect Park into a community space that enhances the environment	Being used regularly by the local community and appreciated by people, wildlife surveys	Ongoing. Trees well established and overseen by Greening Swanage. Undertaking survey and monitoring.	Install benches and signage.
5.	Develop and establish at least two additional green sites using the Green Infrastructure Strategy	Two green sites established	Two sites identified as St Mark Playing Fields and Northbrook Copse	Develop plans over winter and bring to next Environment Committee.
6.	Implement 'only rain down the drain' type artwork on the seafront in 2022 and if successful similar scheme in future years	Artwork implemented	Done - Artwork created for summer 2022. Will consider if successful in winter 2022.	Consider painted game on the hardstanding and if STC budget available re-do drain markings in 2023.
7.	Work with other organisations to contribute to setting up repair shop/café in Swanage.	Repair shop/café set up	This is now set up, need to sort governance, issues around P.L.I. Textiles up and running. Bike repair project starting. Successful clothes swap/repair event during January which was well attended	Resolve governance etc and look to support these type of events / projects during 2023.
8.	Run regular engagement activities (i.e. market stalls, Open Meetings) and develop a programme of events	A timetable of activities published	A good number of events held in 2022 and different formats have been trialled. A 'Sustainable Swanage Events List 2023' has been produced and will be promoted throughout the year.	Programme of Events for 2023 to be promoted widely.
9.	Develop and implement ideas around reducing the use of fossil fuelled vehicles in Swanage and including developing ideas around making movement around the town in a sustainable way easier and safer for residents and visitors	This could be a range of outputs which might include increased bike facilities, electric car points, walking routes, promotional and engagement activities such as car free days etc	Support STC with regards the Rights of Way project and the establishment of a volunteer group. A good number of paths have now been graded by the volunteers and consideration is being undertaken to the best way to manage this information in conjunction with Dorset Council.	Considering a 'bike day event' in June 2023 to encourage people to use bikes around the area and offer repair etc. Also consideration of setting up a 'Right of Way Steering Group' to promote local

					paths and support the 'Walkers are Welcome' accreditation
10.	Continue to enhance and develop the website and social media	Increase in visits and followers		Website now complete Sustainable Swanage - WELCOME TO SUSTAINABLE SWANAGE Regular posts on social media	Continue to maintain website and social media
11.	Support and develop a Swanage Community Fridge	Community Pantry established		Established	Continue support as required but no longer required to be directly involved.
12.	Support efforts to increase awareness locally of energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes. Where possible, increase access to national and local schemes to promote installations that reduce energy use and facilitate the move to renewable energy	This could be a range of outputs leading to increased uptake of renewable energy schemes locally		Ongoing – Solar Streets but challenges with supply of solar panels and equipment. Purbeck Energy Group – design and distribution of a 'Purbeck energy crisis leaflet' (with Dorset Public Health) using funds from solar streets. Also £10k grant received for the Energy Local Project	Distribute community leaflets and consider most appropriate way to spend the £10k Energy local grant. Review future direction in light of energy crisis.
13.	Develop a robust governance structure to ensure that the projects and funding can continue after March 2025	Governance roles developed and enhanced, and a clear role structure exists to continue developing local projects and identifying other grants and funding sources. A 'Future Options' report to be produced in 2023-24.		No further action to date	A 'Future Options' report to be produced in 2023-24.
14.	Support the community in developing projects that have local support and interest	This will vary depending on the project but two examples to date might be the Swift project and the work around Bodyboards		Swift project now ongoing. Greening Swanage have designed a 'Tree Trail' across Swanage. The TIC has done a small print run of these leaflets. Supporting the 'Social Supermarket'.	All projects should go through the Sustainable Swanage Steering Group for approval.

Current governance arrangements

Sustainable Swanage Steering Group

(STC, Dorset Coast Forum, Project leads, Planet Purbeck, Swanage Chamber of Trade)

- Chair – Sarah Spurling (Project Officer)
- Secretary – Culvin Milmer (Swanage Town Council)

Feeding into the Steering Group

1. Greening Swanage Group – Lead: Jan Owens
2. Active Travel Group – Lead: Sarah Spurling
3. Business Forum Group – Lead: Pete Floyd
4. Purbeck Energy Group – Lead: Lucinda Neal
5. Beach Buddies – Lead: Dave Pratten / Planet Purbeck
6. Councillors Harris, Monkhouse and Foster– Swanage Town Council

In addition to the above, the Sustainable Swanage project sits within Dorset Coast Forum who offer the following support:

- Line management of Project Officer: Sarah Spurling
- Additional guidance given during regular as well as ad-hoc meetings
- Management of overall budget
- Additional administration as and when needed
- Core office services including finance, IT, legal, training and HR
- ‘Have your say’ website

Northbrook Copse and St Marks Playing Field

Action 3.4 of the Environmental Action Plan (Jan 2023) states 'Identify two further sites to be enhanced by Sustainable Swanage'. This report identifies the two sites for environmental enhancement and proposes some ideas that might be developed. For both sites the work will be undertaken by STC and Sustainable Swanage working in partnership.

Northbrook Copse

Northbrook Copse is a small area located in the northern part of Swanage between D'Urberville Drive and Cauldron Barn Road. A relatively small and secret place, it provides a valuable amenity for wildlife and residents amongst the urban landscape.

It is proposed that the following actions are undertaken:

- Increase awareness of the site
- Undertake wildlife surveys
- Produce a Management Plan
- Develop a site specific tree strategy
- Install signage to provide information about the Copse
- Identify and highlight any notable species of plants/trees
- Consider enhancing habitats for wildlife based upon survey results

St Mark's Playing Field

The playing fields were acquired by the Town Council in July 2021 and are now open to the public. A range of options exist with regards as to how the area could be developed for the future to meet the needs of the community. To that end it is proposed that an event is held on the site on Monday 1st May which is the May Day bank holiday. Swanage Town Council will work with Sustainable Swanage to develop this event which will be an opportunity to engage with local people and capture ideas around the future of the site both in terms of community use and environmental improvements. These ideas can then be developed into a proposal for a future Environmental Committee.

For decision

That Councillors approve the proposals set out in this paper.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager
January 2023

Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve

An original action within the Environmental Action Plan was to develop the Downs as a Local Nature Reserve. Councillors will be aware that this action was completed towards the end of 2022, when the 'Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve' was formally approved by Natural England. Sustainable Swanage, and in particular Sarah Spurling, should be thanked for the work they have done to ensure this designation was a success.

The Town Council will formally open the site in an official launch ceremony on Saturday 15th April 2023. This will be a great opportunity to showcase the area as an important location for both wildlife and the community.

Work has been ongoing to understand the history of the area and many old photos have been identified showing the range of uses on the site over time. Plans for the launch event are being developed and it is anticipated will include guided walks, displays of old photographs and postcards of the site, information on the wildlife and plants that can be found along with stalls by partner organisations and catering. This event will also give an opportunity for those who are interested to express their interest in forming a Friends of Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve Group.

Further consideration is also being given to a summer event displaying the postcards and old photographs of the area and encouraging residents and visitors to attend.

The launch event will also be the opportunity to view the new information boards that are to be installed on key access points to the nature reserve. Four relatively discrete boards will be installed, and each board will focus on one of the following subjects as they relate to the Local Nature Reserve. These are geology, wildlife, history and a detailed map.

Decision required:

That Councillors note the proposals set out in this paper.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

January 2023

Climate Crisis Awareness Training for staff and councillors

Action 1.5 of the Environmental Action Plan (Jan 2023) states ‘Provide climate crisis training for all STC staff and councillors.’ This was originally considered during the pandemic but councillors were keen that this would take the form of face to face training. In addition, the terms of reference for this committee calls for the provision of training for its members.

While a large number of courses exist, many of these are based on e-learning, which councillors have previously indicated that they do not feel would be appropriate on this occasion.

A number of options have been identified as indicated below.

Leeson House, Dorset Council, bespoke course

During the pandemic discussions were held with Leeson House, Dorset Council’s Outdoor Education Centre in Langton Matravers. At the time they were considering developing a bespoke one-day course which would provide a global overview of the crisis and then link the impacts directly to Purbeck. The cost for this would be in the region of £1,500 to £2,000. Due to the number of staff and councillors it can be assumed that the course will take two days to run.

Carbon Literacy Project, bespoke course

Provides an accredited course alongside tools and resources which enable organisations themselves to write a course for their staff, while embedding the learning within the organisation. This seems a very interesting approach but would take up quite a bit of time and resource and would require access to a suitable trainer. Costs vary depending on approach and type of accreditation but a figure of £2,000 should be assumed for the organisation. Councillors may wish to undertake this course themselves which can be done as part of an 8-hour e-learning package at a cost of around £40.

Appoint an independent training provider

Councillors may wish to appoint a specialist in the field to undertake the course, which is unlikely to be be-spoke to the area, but should benefit from very high quality trainers. Costs would vary but can be assumed to be between £1,500 to £2,000 for two days.

Generally, it is felt that further work is required to ensure that the most appropriate course is identified. The training of all staff and councillors is a significant commitment. However, there is sufficient funding in the 2022-23 budgets to take this forward.

Decision required:

That Councillors delegate the decision to officers to identify a suitable course.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

January 2023