

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY, 26th JUNE 2024** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor D Monkhouse

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor J Dorrington

Swanage Town Council (until 3.20 p.m.)

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Sutton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Tomes

Swanage Town Council

Outside Representatives: -

Mrs J Owens

Sustainable Swanage

Mr F Roberts

Swanage Landers

Mr D Skinner

Planet Purbeck

Also in attendance: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services and Business

Development Manager (VSBDM)

Ms G Percival

Assets & Compliance Manager

Mr M Snowdon

Assets & Compliance Support Officer

There was one representative of the press present at the meeting.

Public Participation Time

There were no matters raised.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor Foster, Councillor Coward, Mr D Pratten (Beach Buddies), Ms T Churcher (National Trust), Mr B Bleese (Dorset Wildlife Trust) and Ms K Black (Durlston Country Park).

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

No declarations were made on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from the Meeting of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee held on 28th February 2024

Further to Minute No. 4 of the meeting of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee held on 28th February 2024, the Assets & Compliance Manager reported that a contract has been awarded for seaweed management and that the relevant plan had been implemented. It was noted that several signs have been displayed to inform the public of the new approach to seaweed on the beach.

4) Review of the Corporate Plan: Protecting the Natural Environment and addressing the Climate Crisis

The Town Clerk presented an overview of the process for reviewing the Corporate Plan for the period 2025-29, following the local elections last May. As a first step each of the Council's standing committees were being asked to review the relevant page within the existing plan to highlight any potential changes. Later in the year there would be a councillor workshop and public engagement, prior to a draft revised plan being brought before the Finance & Governance Committee. The importance of inviting contributions from each committee's outside representatives was highlighted.

Members briefly reviewed the 'Protecting the Natural Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis' section of the Corporate Plan, which included a commitment to supporting Sustainable Swanage and the various community projects that it had helped to establish. After a brief discussion, it was noted that the ongoing Rivers Project and the Motion for the Ocean declaration should be considered for inclusion in the revised Corporate Plan as priority projects.

5) Environment Action Plan – Review of progress to date and consideration of future approach

The VSBDM briefly introduced the current Environmental Action Plan (Version 11) which had evolved since its first iteration in 2020. As new actions were identified, the document had been updated in consultation with the relevant working party. It was noted that while solid progress had been made, with many actions now completed, others were still in progress. It was acknowledged that now would be an opportune time to start reviewing the content of the plan and to establish if there are any new actions which need to be included. It was suggested that a shorter list of targeted actions may provide the best way forward.

The Chairman noted that in the first instance the review would be undertaken by the Environmental Policy and Action Plan working party, prior to a revised version being brought back before the Environment and Green Spaces Committee for consideration.

6) Sustainable Swanage - Update

The representative for Sustainable Swanage reported that the group had assisted in the setting up of multiple local community projects focusing on Energy Conservation, Active Travel and Repair and Reuse under the direction of Sarah Spurling, the highly dedicated project officer, who had now moved on to a new role. With the continued support of the Town Council, Sustainable Swanage had engaged Planet Purbeck to put in place a programme of events for the next 12 months. It was noted that one of the critical issues facing Sustainable Swanage is finding volunteers who have the time and are willing to co-ordinate and run new project groups. A brief progress update was given on the following work streams.

- i) Repair and Reuse group has been successful but would like to expand into electrical and mechanical upcycling. This would require finding individuals with the necessary skills or experience.
- ii) Healthy Homes group has assisted a lot of homeowners in Swanage with guidance on solar panel installations, insulation advice and signposting to other organisations that could help.
- iii) Improving our Water Quality – A public meeting in late 2023 had led to the creation of the Swan Brook Partnership which was now in the process of widening its scope to include the Ulwell water system. It was noted that a public meeting scheduled for November 2024 may fit in with the Motion for the Ocean declaration if it were to be adopted by the Town Council.
- iv) In the last year, Youth Climate Vision had worked with the Swanage School to assist in the planting of trees and developing designated areas in an ecologically friendly way. In the coming months they were planning to continue to work with local schools to establish what the expectations of local children are, regarding climate change and biodiversity.

- v) Greening & Biodiversity group has assisted with the planting of trees along Victoria Avenue and on Prospect Green. They had also developed information leaflets and a tree trail walk around Swanage.

It was noted that the Friends of the Downs were holding an Open Day on 29th June 2024 in support of the Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve. This would include guided walks, talks on the monitoring of wildlife and various other activities. This was being strongly supported by the Town Council's operations team and a number of other groups would also be in attendance, including Swanage Swift Group and Greengage Nursery.

7) **Motion for the Ocean – To consider draft declaration**

The Chairman presented a draft declaration for the Motion for the Ocean initiative which had been formulated by the Environmental Policy and Action Plan working party. The model declaration had been amended to tailor it to Swanage and the challenges to ocean recovery in this area. If adopted, an action plan would be developed over a 12-month period and would benefit from the engagement of local stakeholders and their experience and knowledge.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the implications of some of the commitments contained in the draft declaration would need to be better understood prior to the adoption of the draft declaration being considered at the council meeting to be held on 22nd July. It was proposed by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Tomes and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

That the draft Motion for the Ocean declaration be approved and adopted, subject to clarification being provided regarding the implications of some of the commitments set out therein, and that the Environmental Policy and Action Plan working party be tasked with the development of a Motion for the Ocean action plan within twelve months.

8) **Swanage Town Council's Energy Footprint – To receive 2023 report**

The VSBDM presented the Energy Footprint Report for 2023, which also contained a comparison with data from 2022, when the analysis first commenced. The report detailed energy use, water use and waste generated by the Town Council over a 12-month period. It was noted that the data suggests that there was a 5 per cent reduction in carbon emissions year-on-year, but it was noted that there was a significant degree of uncertainty about this due to changes in billing and other factors. Looking towards the next 12 months, it was anticipated that a further reduction in energy usage will be seen as more of the actions contained within the Environmental Action Plan are implemented.

The Assets and Compliance Manager reported that the installation of Solar Photovoltaic Panels on Council-owned buildings within the town is underway (Environment Policy Action Plan item 2.1) and that low-energy LED lighting would be installed by the end of July 2024. The upcoming replacement of a fossil fuel vehicle with another electric vehicle, which is due to be delivered imminently, was also noted.

9) **Swanage Town Council Greenspaces Strategy – Proposed format for review**

Further to Minute No. 7(a) of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 11th October 2023, the Assets and Compliance Manager presented a briefing note which set out the likely format for the Council's first Greenspaces Strategy. The document was designed to inform the budget setting process, ensure the Council's wider strategic plans and policies are embedded into the management of green spaces and provide a framework for their development enabling input by the public and wider stakeholders. Appendices will include management plans for specific locations. It was noted that a draft copy of the strategy would be presented to a future meeting of the committee.

10) To review Carbon Neutral 2030 target and measures to reduce the Council's energy use

The VSBDM reported on the works that are underway in response to the actions identified in the adopted Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Action Plan 2030: Council Buildings.

- Installation of low-energy LED lighting in Council buildings.
- Installation of Solar PV panels on the Council Operations Depot and Workshop and Beach Gardens Pavilion. Other potential sites had been discounted due to a number of factors including available roof space, prohibitive costs and planning restrictions due to buildings being located within conservation areas.
- An earmarked reserve has been formed to build up funds for the installation of heat pumps and contributions of £25k a year have been allocated in the budget so that this part of the strategy can potentially be implemented in 2029/30. It was noted that further investigation is required to identify the actual level of energy efficiency that will be delivered by heat pumps considering the age and construction of some Council buildings. If this was not feasible then the reserve could be allocated to other related projects.

Although considerable progress had been made towards reducing the Council's carbon footprint, attention was drawn to the fact that it is unlikely that the Council will reach its Carbon Neutral target by 2030 given some of the difficulties that would need to be overcome. However, it was agreed that the target should remain in place for the time being to concentrate efforts on exploring whether there are ways in which this objective could be met. It was agreed that the Town Council should review the actions taken by other local councils to identify if there were lessons that could be learned from their experiences.

11) Waste Management

a) Update on Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) Summer schedule

It was reported that the plans agreed with DWP for the summer period are being implemented and proceeding well: collections are taking place every day between 7am and 7pm with only a few exceptions. Additionally, regular road sweeping is now taking place in the town which has reduced the reliance on Town Council funded road sweeping requirements.

b) Update on activities from Beach Buddies

The VSBDM provided an update on behalf of the representative of Beach Buddies which highlighted that the group continues to be well supported by volunteers and receives co-operation from the council operatives and the visitor services team. Up to the end of May 2024, 20 beach cleans had been conducted with an average of 20 volunteers per clean who have removed a total of over 500kg of litter and debris. Additional cleans have been put in place to assist at community events such as the recent skatepark open day.

c) Update on activities from Swanage Landers

The representative of Swanage Landers provided an update on recent activities and confirmed that volunteers are being actively sought to take on certain leadership responsibilities. The importance of this voluntary work to the local environment was highlighted and the Chairman thanked all those engaged in litter clearance for their efforts on behalf of the local community.

Councillor Dorrington left the meeting at 3.20 p.m.

12) Review of representatives on the Committee

The Chairman invited those present to consider whether there were additional outside representatives who had specific areas of expertise that would be of benefit to the Environment and Green Spaces Committee who could be invited to attend future meetings to help deliver the Council's priorities. It was suggested that a representative from Purbeck Energy Group would be a valuable addition to the committee.

It was noted that a recommendation could be made to the Town Council to amend the Terms of Reference for the Environment and Green Spaces Committee to include any new groups invited in the list of outside representatives. Therefore, it was proposed by Councillor Monkhouse, seconded by Councillor Sutton and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

That Purbeck Energy Group be added to the list of outside representatives in the Terms of Reference for the Environment & Green Spaces Committee.

13) Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas

a) Rivers Project update

The VSBDM reported that Planet Purbeck had succeeded in securing a grant from Wessex Water to support a project officer for the Rivers Project.

b) Review and update Environmental Budget

The VSBDM reported that the environmental budget will be presented at the next Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting for review and discussion as part of budget setting for 2025/26.

14) Date of next meeting

Members considered the best time for future committee meetings and it was agreed that they should continue to be held at 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons. It was noted that the next meeting had been scheduled for 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd October 2024.

The Meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

Swanage Town Council

DRAFT Environment Policy Action Plan

Version 12

The draft Environment Policy agreed by Council in March 2020 provided six distinct policy areas and, in the sections below, the actions have been categorised under each of these. Swanage Town Council have taken the approach of producing a short action plan with a small number of key actions that can be developed quickly. This is seen very much as an iterative action plan that can grow and develop as we better understand what is required to meet the challenges of the climate crisis. Completed actions are retained at the bottom of the document.

Recommendation

The Committee are asked to consider the various actions below and note progress to date. Green ones were identified by the Environment Action Working Party as new ones to be included.

Once approved by the Committee the Working Party will develop and implement the necessary actions.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager
October 2024

1. Managing the Town Council in an environmentally sustainable manner

We shall ensure that sustainability is at the heart of how we manage the Town Council and its functions.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Officer
1.	Provide climate crisis training for all STC staff and councillors.	External providers.	Not known	2023	Course undertaken.	ONGOING - The Visitor Services Manager will be undertaking a Carbon Literacy training course during October 2024 with a view to see if this should be rolled out to all councillors and staff. This action was delayed to ensure that new Councillors were able to be trained.	TIC1

2. Managing our built environment sustainably

We are directly responsible for both historic and modern buildings and infrastructure which will be managed sustainably.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Officer
1.	Implement energy reduction measures.	Produce report which details various possible measures.	Not known	March 2024	Energy use reduction will be tracked by officers	COMPLETED - LED lights have now been installed across all council buildings. Solar panels have been installed at the depot and garage and will be installed at Beach Gardens Pavilion during October/ November. It is noted that there are now no more 'quick wins' with regards energy reduction measures	OPS1
2.	Consider options for reducing water use and harvesting rainwater.	Report detailing water use and proposals to reduce.	Not Known	Oct 24	Reduction in water use as measured by water bills	ONGOING - Water use has been reduced significantly with the move away from annual bedding flowers and more drought resistant types. Officers will speak with other councils to see what is taking place elsewhere with water harvesting and Wessex Water.	OPS1

3.	Ensure all new Town Council constructions have sustainability embedded in their design.	Included in each specification.	Not known	Ongoing	All construction specifications will include sustainability.	ONGOING	TH1
4.	Review the Carbon Neutral target for 2030						

3. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

We are directly responsible for a wide range of natural environments and shall work to enhance these and look to support initiatives that enhance other natural areas within the town.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Officer
1.	Undertake a 'biodiversity' audit of all sites owned by the Town Council to assess their importance within the natural environment.	Volunteers could be used from Sustainable Swanage depending on type of work required.	Not known	March 2024	A map demonstrating high, medium or low bio-diverse areas which might include proposals for improvements	The Council are undertaking a Greenspaces Strategy which will encompass this. A biodiversity audit was undertaken of King Georges Field during June 2024. Working Party will need to consider how to implement improvements to King Georges Field.	OPS1
2.	Identify two further sites to be enhanced by Sustainable Swanage	Work with Sustainable Swanage to develop plans	Not known	March 2024	Action Plan developed and work undertaken at sites	COMPLETED - Northbrook Copse and the former St Mark's Playing Field identified for enhancement. For Northbrook Copse a management plan and enhanced information signage has been produced. For Herston Community Field, the National trust has been engaged.	OPS1
3.	Work with partners to implement actions identified within the Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Identify areas within Strategy that can be developed.	Not known	March 2024	Action Plan developed	REMOVE AND REPLACE WITH ACTION BELOW– Need to develop Action Plan for Committee. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is included in the Purbeck Local Plan and will be reviewed during the current preparation of the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan.	OPS1 / TIC 1

4.	Continue to plant trees according to the Swanage Tree Strategy and Policy (approved November 2022) generally with 30 planted each year.	Areas identified and trees planted.	Not known	On-going	Number of trees planted.	ONGOING – For past 3 years at least 30 new trees planted per annum to continue. During 2022, Tree Strategy and Policy were approved by Full Council. Site specific Beach Gardens Tree Strategy also produced in 2023.	OPS1
5.	Work with partners to implement environment actions identified within the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan.						
6.	Implement the Tree Warden Scheme						
7.	Undertake an audit of the Council's hedges						
8.	Implement the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan						
9.	Consider ways to improve the information provision regarding the water quality of the Swanage bathing beach						
10.	Work with partners to gain a better understanding of the impact of the Ulwell Stream Combined Sewer Overflow and engage with Wessex Water regarding a long-term solution to this issue.						
11.	Support the Swanage Streams Partnership to improve the water quality						

of the three streams in the parish.							
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4. Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice

We shall work with the community and other stakeholders to encourage environmental best practice.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	
1.	Support Dorset Waste Services to increase the household recycling rate across Swanage.	Support the education teams at DWS, including about composting and food waste.	None	Ongoing	Positive feedback from DWS.	ONGOING - Work with Sustainable Swanage and other groups to promote household recycling. (FareShare and Community Pantry)	TIC1
2.	Recommend that all new constructions in Swanage are built according to sustainable criteria.	Include recommendation in all responses.	None	Ongoing	Increase in new builds built according to sustainable criteria.	ONGOING - May be included in the Design Code in the draft Swanage Neighbourhood Plan	TH2
3.	Continue to support Sustainable Swanage and other partners to deliver community based environmental improvements.	Through the implementation of a 'Environmental Community Engagement Action Plan'	£20,000 per annum	Ongoing	Successful projects being delivered through Sustainable Swanage or directly by the Town Council	ONGOING - Costs included in 2023-24 budget with agreement to fund this role for 2 years. Committee to consider budget for 2025-26.	TIC1

5. Protecting local infrastructure

By working with the community and stakeholders we shall strive to protect and enhance local infrastructure to retain a vibrant and sustainable town.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	
1.	Develop Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to increase the number of charging facilities in STC car parks.	Consider options and bring a report to Committee.	Not known	July 2023	Chargers installed.	ONGOING - STC is working with Dorset Council to deliver the Charging Ahead scheme in three car parks in Swanage – hopefully will be in place by summer 2025	TIC1
2.	Support businesses in their efforts to be more sustainable	Working with Sustainable Swanage to provide information and support to businesses	None	Ongoing	Positive feedback from businesses.	REMOVE - All new leases between Swanage Town Council and its business partners include a section on environmental considerations. Sustainable Swanage works with businesses to identify effective ways to provide support. With the change of emphasis of Sustainable Swanage, this is no longer a reasonable expectation.	TIC1
3.	Support, where possible, the establishment of a community bus in Swanage.	Review options around a community bus for Swanage	Not yet known	Ongoing	Options exist around improving the route of the Durlston Bus but a community bus serving the whole community could take some time to develop.	REMOVE – This has been the subject of much discussion over the years, but at the current time there does not seem to be a viable solution available. Therefore, this will be removed and subsumed within the ‘sustainable transport’ action below	TIC1
4.	Campaign to ensure essential services are retained in Swanage in accordance with the Swanage Local Plan, to minimise travel requirements.	By working with SPDT Dorset Council, P-TAG, and other relevant organisations, such as DCCG, and supporting community initiatives to maintain services.	None	Ongoing	By recording and reviewing the actions undertaken and reporting to Full Council.	ONGOING – Working in partnership with SPDT on developing the Chapel Lane community services. Working with other groups such as Wellbeing Swanage and will be included within the draft Neighbourhood Plan.	TH1

6. Supporting Sustainable Tourism

We shall support the town's tourism economy through the promotion of sustainable tourism.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	
1.	Enhance the beach 'toy bank' to include a provision at the Ocean Bay end of the beach.	Identify a solution and implement it.	Not known	July 2023	Enhanced Toy Bank in place.	ONGOING - Beach Toy Bank currently successful at the Information Centre. Will engage with North Beach partners in 2025.	TIC1
2.	Develop a sustainable tourism vision.	Work with stakeholders to develop a vision of what a sustainable destination might mean for Swanage.	£0	November 2023	Report to Tourism Committee.	ONGOING - This has been built into the Marketing Strategy that the Marketing Working Group are developing and includes the launch of the new Visit Swanage website.	TIC1
3.	Promote sustainable transport and walking in and around the town to reduce the need for visitors to use cars.	Look at alternative forms of transport and promote these on website and digital media.	-	Ongoing	Customer feedback and uptake.	ONGOING – This will be done through the support of PTAG and the current discussions on a Purbeck tourism strategy.	TIC1
4.	Enhance electric facilities on event fields and the market site to eliminate the requirement for fossil fuelled generators.	Report produced detailing costs of upgrades to sites.	Not known	Ongoing	Upgrades undertaken	ONGOING - Two electric points installed and in use at the market site. Further work required for PAG and Sandpit Field – to be included in the Phase 2 Seafront Development.	OPS1
5.	Improve cycle routes with a particular focus on cycle racks						

Completed Actions 2023-24							
1.	Review vehicle & equipment needs and where possible move to electric machines.	Equipment asset list to be reviewed and options for change considered.	Not known	March 2023	Review undertaken.	DONE - Officers to produce asset list of machines, including power source, during 2022/23 and take report to Committee at the end of 2023.	OPS1
2.	Develop an environmental monitoring system for the Town Council's business which includes tracking carbon use.	System to be set up and managed by officers.	None	March 2023	System set up.	DONE: The Council publishes annually usage for the following: gas, electricity, waste tonnages, petrol, diesel, and water.	OPS1
3.	Develop a system to monitor the Council's waste streams and undertake review.	Identify waste streams and review options for reduction.	Not known	June 2023	Waste tonnages monitored through Management System.	DONE – Linked to 2 above.	OPS1
4.	Reduce the amount of paper documents printed by the Town Council	Review printing volumes and work towards reducing, beginning with introduction of councillor laptops.	Total not known. Budget for Councillor s' laptops agreed.	June 2023	Monitor through Environment Management System	DONE – Laptops have now been procured and training provided to Councillors. Printed copies of Council reports are no longer issued to Councillors.	TH1
6.	Move to a fully renewable energy contract for the electric supply to the Town Council	Reviewing green options and undertaking a procurement exercise.	-	October 2023	New contract set up.	DONE – Fully renewable energy contract is now in place – Sep 2023.	TH3
2.	Consider options for renewable energy on the Town Council estate.	Undertake research and produce report.	Not known	March 2024	Report produced detailing relevant options.	DONE: Solar Panels are being procured.	OPS1 / TIC1
1.	Review options to reduce or eliminate pesticide/herbicide use.	Current use will be reviewed and	Not known	March 2023	By monitoring amount used.	DONE - Report provided to February Committee detailing current use and explanation of some available alternatives. Committee agreed to	OPS1

		alternatives considered.				continue current approach and review in the future	
2.	Reduce quantity of bedding plants and develop more drought resistant plantings.	Planting more drought resistant plants.	Not known	June 2023	Reduction in water use and more hardy plants	DONE - Trial of more drought-resistant plantings is ongoing.	OPS1

Completed Actions 2022-23

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date	
1.5	Make climate impact a determinant in all grant giving.	Add section to grant application form.	None	31 st March 2021	Revised application form	Full Council	COMPLETE – Criteria now included within application form.	NIKI
2.1	Undertake an energy audit of all Town Council buildings and identify ways to reduce energy consumption.	Review options to procure a consultancy to undertake this work.	£2,000	31 st March 2021	A report will be produced once complete	Operations	COMPLETE - A report was procured which provided a range of options for the installation of LED bulbs and solar panels across the Council's estate. This will be incorporated in further work being undertaken by the Council in 2022-23.	CULVIN
3.5	Develop The Downs as a Local Nature Reserve.	Continue to work with Sustainable Swanage to deliver this.	Not yet known	31 st March 2023	Nature Reserve established	Operations	COMPLETE - Customer survey released in January. Sustainable Swanage Open Meeting in early 2021. A Management Plan is complete.	OPS1
5.1	Support a Rights of Way survey to encourage walking in the area	Identify solution and work with partners or other stakeholders	£250	Summer 2021	Survey completed with areas for improvement identified. STC will present findings to Dorset Council for implementation, if necessary	Operations	COMPLETE – Survey complete, Rights of Way Open Meeting on 21 st June 2022 – setting up volunteer hub to undertake grading of ROWs.	TIC1

6.3	All events held on Town Council land to be single use plastic free	No single use plastic will be permitted	£0	Nov 2021	No single use plastic in use	Tourism	COMPLETE - 1 st November 2021 - Full Council confirmed that all events should now be single use plastic free	TIC1
6.5	Enhance the supply of free drinking water solutions across the town	Produce signage for current drinking water taps to make them more obvious and consider if any further are required	Budgeted in 2020-21	31 st March 2021	Signage implemented	Tourism	COMPLETE - Signs have been added to all drinking water taps to make them more visible. A water refill station has been installed on the seafront; part funded by a grant from 'Sea Changers.'	TIC1 / OPS1
6.6	Work with event organisers to ensure that sustainability is embedded into their events	All event applications to detail what positive and negative impacts their events will have on the local environment	£0	Immediate	Event application form updated	Tourism	COMPLETE - All events during 2021 were required to complete an 'Environmental Impact Assessment'. These will be reviewed at year end and a report produced	TIC 1

Swanage Bay Water Quality – Proposals for improving information to the public

1. Why should we improve the information to the public with regards water quality

Since 2020, there has been an exponential growth in open water swimming, throughout the year. In turn there has been a far greater interest in sea water quality. There is a great deal of information available with regards the water quality in Swanage Bay, but in many ways, this has created confusion to water users.

The Town Council has recently declared a ‘Motion for the Ocean’ and is developing an action plan to help support ocean recovery in Swanage Bay. A key part of this is to engage with water users to help them better understand what the current situation might be.

In addition, the Town Council undertook an informal survey of views at the Planet Purbeck Festival on 21st September 2024 by asking how it might improve Swanage Bay. A reasonable number of responses related to providing more information about water quality, with a particular emphasis on providing information during the winter season (October to April). Currently the Environment Agency only provides advice against swimming during the summer bathing season.

2. Current information provided to the public by the Town Council

2.1 The summer bathing season

The Swanage ‘bathing beach’ runs from the Mowlem to the Ulwell Stream. This is also the area which is designated as the Blue Flag Award beach. As a designated ‘bathing beach,’ weekly testing of the water quality is undertaken from May to September by the Environment Agency (EA). Results can be found here: [Bathing water profile \(data.gov.uk\)](#) and are also presented in the window of the Swanage Information Centre. Results show that water quality is consistently classed as ‘excellent.’

Each day during the bathing season, the Town Council receives an automatic email from the Environment Agency stating what advice should be provided for bathing in Swanage Bay. During the 2024 season this stated on eight days that advice should be provided against bathing due to the potential risk of poor water quality. When this occurs the Town Council places plastic notices on each of the entrances to the council operated beach for 24 hours. These ‘advice against bathing’ forecasts are an AI driven risk forecast model which takes into account the weather forecast and the potential that the sea in Swanage Bay might be affected by poor water quality. It is not linked to the Ulwell Stream Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), as many other beaches have a similar EA risk forecast but do not have any CSOs. By looking at the data in Appendix 1, it can be seen that the EA risk forecasts were received eight times during the summer compared to only two occasions when the Ulwell Stream CSO was utilised. Water quality is affected by heavy rain which washes pollutants into the sea from roads, farms and urban areas. CSOs tend to be used only during the heaviest periods of rain.

The public can see these Environment Agency risk forecasts on their website [Bathing water quality \(data.gov.uk\)](#) which is updated daily during the summer bathing season.

In addition, the public can see information about any CSOs that might have been operated by Wessex Water on their website [Coast and rivers watch map | Wessex Water](#). This includes comprehensive and up to date information about the Ulwell Stream and three other CSOs that affect Swanage Bay water quality (Herston, Marine Parade and Marine Parade Tunnel).

Other people choose to use similar websites such as Surfers Against Sewage; these all use the same base data.

The winter season

During the winter season, the EA does not undertake water quality testing, so it is not possible for the Town Council to pass on advice regarding the use of the sea for bathing, using this process. Sea users are encouraged to review the information on the live data on the Wessex Water or similar websites before entering the water. The Town Council does receive email notifications of any releases from the Ulwell Stream CSO (see Appendix 1) although the public can also obtain email notifications and see all relevant information online.

Appendix 1 shows the Ulwell Stream CSO data and the EA risk forecasts for both summer and winter periods.

3. Proposals

3.1 Install Centrally located noticeboard

It is proposed that a single centrally located noticeboard is installed outside the Swanage Information Centre to be called 'Swanage Bay Water Quality.' The Town Council currently have an obsolete A2 double sided board which could be re-used, at a cost of £1,000 to amend the header board. This will enable the display of key water quality information in a single point. There is currently insufficient budget to procure items, although as the noticeboard is already owned by the Council, this could be installed reasonably quickly.

3.2 Fix signs along the beach

These will refer sea users to looking at online information before entering the sea and to check the centrally located noticeboard. This will mean that the Town Council will no longer place plastic notices on the beach entrances when advice against bathing is received. It is often the case that these signs are placed out by staff during a storm and it can be a health and safety risk. It is assumed that it will cost £500 to install appropriate signage along the seafront.

3.3 Engage with the swimming community

An engagement with the local sea swimmers should be undertaken to help them better understand water quality issues in Swanage Bay. It is likely to take the form of a joint meeting with Wessex Water and engagement through the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan. There is no cost to this.

3.4 Provide daily updates on the water quality noticeboard

A number of options exist to provide enhanced information to the public using the proposed noticeboard. These are as follows:

Option	Summer	Benefits	Dis-benefits
1	Provide daily update based on EA risk forecast	<p>Simple for staff to manage</p> <p>Provides advice regarding the risk to water quality.</p>	As the EA risk forecast assumes there will be an impact of road, farm and urban run-off on water quality as well as CSOs, these signs will almost always lead to advice against bathing on occasions when the CSOs are not in operation.
2	Provide daily update based on Wessex Water alert from Ulwell Stream	<p>This is clear for the public to understand as the perception is that water quality is only affected by the use of CSOs.</p> <p>Using this approach would lead to significantly less occasions to issue advice against bathing.</p> <p>Staff would likely be able to put up information earlier than if using the EA forecast approach.</p>	<p>This does not protect the public from the risk posed by other potential pollution sources such as farm, road and urban run-off.</p> <p>Criteria would need to be established for staff to know when to put up notices.</p> <p>Staff only have detailed data for the Ulwell Stream and to be comprehensive, data would also be required for the other 3 CSOs in the bay.</p>

Option	Winter	Benefits	Dis-benefits
1	Signpost all users to online data	Easy for staff to manage	Will require signage on beach and engagement with winter sea users.
2	Provide daily update based on Wessex Water alert from Ulwell Stream	<p>As for summer above.</p> <p>There are a relatively large number of releases from the Ulwell CSO in the winter and this approach would provide advice to people who were unable or unwilling to use online resources.</p>	<p>As for summer above but does not include the EA risk forecasts as they are not available in the winter.</p> <p>There are a relatively large number of releases from the Ulwell CSO in the winter, so this would be more challenging for staff to manage and clear criteria would be required. The Information Centre is closed over the Christmas period.</p> <p>Customers could rely on the advice and not look online. The Information Centre staff would need to have a realistic time to have placed this on the board – assume 10.00am.</p>

4. More information

Further information about Swanage Bay water quality can be found using the following links:

Swanage Town Council document - [Water Quality for Swanage - updated January 2024.pdf](#)

Wessex Water - [Coast and rivers watch map | Wessex Water](#)

Environment Agency - [Bathing water profile \(data.gov.uk\)](#)

Surfers Against Sewage - [Sewage pollution alerts - Surfers Against Sewage \(sas.org.uk\)](#)

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 To consider and approve the proposals identified in section 3.1 , 3.2 and 3.3 above and if necessary recommend that a budget of £1,500 be allocated for 2025-26.
- 5.2 To consider the options presented in the tables in section 3.4 and approve a summer and winter approach

Culvin Milmer

Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

October 2024

**Appendix 1:
Swanage Bay Ulwell Stream releases and EA risk forecasts received 2022 to 2024**

Swanage Beach - Data 2022 to end September 2024 for Ulwell Stream releases and EA risk forecasts received

Season	Date	Alarm Start	Alarm End	Minutes	EA Risk Forecast	Season	Date	Alarm Start	Alarm End	Minutes	EA Risk Forecast	Season	Date	Alarm Start	Alarm End	Minutes	EA Risk Forecast	
W	07/04/2022	02:27:47	02:37:12	10	-	W	16/01/2023	02:15:20	07:17:14	302	-	W	04/01/2024	14:18:03	16:51:06	153	-	
												W	04/01/2024	21:01:25	22:39:10	98	-	
												W	18/02/2024	00:44:40	10:50:40	606	-	
												W	21/02/2024	12:47:48	17:14:59	267	-	
												W	22/02/2024	13:24:25	16:29:54	185	-	
S	15/05/2022	23:39:24	23:58:59	19	15/05/2022 16/05/2022	S					06/05/2023 23/07/2023	S	02/05/2024	03:52:41	04:35:54	43	02/05/2024 14/05/2024	
S	05/06/2022	15.01.50	15:07:07	6		S	17/09/2023	09:46:08	09:58:09	12	17/09/2023	S					09/07/2024	
S	17/08/2022	14.17.04	14:38:00	21		S	17/09/2023	10:44:15	10:53:48	9		S					24/08/2024	
S	17/08/2022	17.34.55	17:42:27	8		S	17/09/2023	22:48:35	22:58:40	10	18/09/2023	S	05/09/2024	15:58:09	17:43:27	105	06/09/2024	
S	05/09/2022	18:50:52	19:20:06	30		S	20/09/2023	18:12:51	18:33:21	21		S					08/09/2024	
S	05/09/2022	19:32:39	20:06:00	34	06/09/2022 08/09/2022 09/09/2022 14/09/2022	S	20/09/2023	18:46:09	19:11:31	25	21/09/2023	S					26/09/2024 30/09/2024	
W	21/10/2022	15:00:20	15:15:02	15	-	W	18/10/2023	15:19:38	15:34:00	15	-							
W	21/10/2022	15:32:09	15:39:36	7	-	W	18/10/2023	15:43:00	17:26:46	103	-							
W	23/10/2022	14:31:21	14:41:38	10	-	W	24/10/2023	18:55:53	19:32:40	37	-							
W	03/11/2022	09:28:20	09:40:50	12	-	W	24/10/2023	19:38:57	20:13:57	35	-							
W	16/11/2022	18:37:40	19:57:05	80	-	W	25/10/2023	05:15:24	07:51:28	156	-							
W	16/11/2022	20:00:40	22:11:51	113	-	W	28/10/2023	16:46:50	16:56:33	10	-							
W	18/12/2022	16:01:15	18:14:11	133	-	W	28/10/2023	19:37:28	23:46:02	249	-							
						W	29/10/2023	00:51:49	02:04:48	73	-							
						W	31/10/2023	00:29:09	00:44:37	15	-							
						W	31/10/2023	21:32:56	23:36:37	124	-							
						W	01/11/2023	23:41:49	23:50:48	9	-							
						W	02/11/2023	00:11:37	11:10:41	659	-							
						W	02/11/2023	11:40:30	15:09:08	209	-							
						W	04/11/2023	07:50:35	07:58:53	8	-							
						W	16/11/2023	07:26:23	11:26:20	240	-							
						W	04/12/2023	21:48:10	00:00:59	132	-							
						W	07/12/2023	15:31:51	19:01:51	210	-							
						W	09/12/2023	07:19:49	11:10:33	231	-							
Totals						Totals						Totals						
	Minutes	Releases	Days Affected		EA Risk Forecast		Minutes	Releases	Days Affected		EA Risk Forecast		Minutes	Releases	Days Affected		EA Risk Forecast	
Summer	118	6	4		6	Summer	77	5	2		5	Summer	148	2	2		8	
Winter	380	8	6			Winter	2817	19	14			Winter						
Total	498	14	10		6	Total	2894	24	16		5	Total	148	2	2		8	

Appendix 2: Current water quality signs on Swanage Beach



Swanage Town Council

Swanage Central Beach and Water Quality

The beach between Ocean Bay and the Mowlem is designated as 'bathing water' by the Environment Agency.

During the bathing season from 1st May to 30th September, the Environment Agency undertakes weekly sampling of the water at this beach.
Results are consistently classed as 'excellent'.

Swanage Town Council | 01929 423636 | admin@swanage.gov.uk

For more information and to see the results of the weekly sampling please scan this QR code		To see if any water quality alerts are currently live, please scan this QR code	
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Swanage Town Council

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The Ulwell Stream and Water Quality

The stream that runs across the beach at this location is also a 'storm overflow'.
After heavy rain there is a risk of diluted sewage exiting this stream.
You are advised not to swim or play in it.

To see if any water quality alerts are currently live, please scan the QR code above.

Swanage Town Council | 01929 423636 | admin@swanage.gov.uk

Swanage Neighbourhood Plan and links with the Environment and Green Spaces Committee

Swanage Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group - Environment Task Team (ETT)

The Town Council is currently in the process of developing the draft Swanage Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) and, following an assessment/review of existing Swanage Local Plan (SLP) policies, the SNP Steering Group (constituted as a Sub-committee of the Council's Planning and Consultation Committee), and two task teams, have been set up to take forward SLP updates/modifications for inclusion in the new SNP, and also explore potential new ideas. Membership of the Group comprises six councillor members of the Planning and Consultation Committee, and six other residents of the parish of Swanage.

A 'Development Task Team' is focussing on housing/community services, and the town centre/economic development, whilst an 'Environment Task Team' is focussing on conservation/heritage and the environment (protection of green infrastructure, local green spaces, and townscape character), reporting back to the Steering Group regarding tasks undertaken, findings, and any recommendations. The SLP will only remain in place until the new Dorset Council Local Plan has been adopted (anticipated in 2027).

Two of the tasks that have been set for the ETT are to undertake a review of green spaces/potential new green spaces which should be protected, and a review of the existing Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy (SGIS), which at present is a Supplemental Planning Document to the SLP. The review of the SGIS is in early stages, and updates from Sustainable Swanage on works completed to date/in progress have been used to inform this project. The review will include exploring possible opportunities for further 'greening' – e.g. footpaths, planting of additional trees, and green corridors. A 'call for greenspace' to the local community/groups has already been undertaken.

Following advice received from Dorset Council (DC) that the SGIS should be reviewed, once the review has been finalised DC has recommended that public consultation is undertaken on the final draft document, and that the Town Council considers adopting it as a standalone policy document (which will then be referred to as a 'companion document' in the SNP). It is therefore anticipated that the SNP Steering Group and the Town Council will work closely together regarding this project.

Please find as an Appendix to this note a copy of the ETT project briefing prepared by the planning consultants (ONeill Homer) who have been engaged to provide advice and guidance and assist the Group in taking the SNP project forward.

Further information on the SLP and the SGIS can be found via the following link:

[Swanage adopted local plan - Dorset Council](#)

In the near future a short digital public survey will be undertaken to inform both the draft Green Spaces Strategy and the Environment Task Team. The survey will seek to understand resident views on Swanage Greenspaces, how they access and use them, what they value most and if they have any suggestions on how they may be improved.

For information

Nicola Clark, Planning and Community Engagement Manager – October 2024

Swanage Neighbourhood Plan and links with the Environment and Green Spaces Committee

SWANAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - TASK TEAM ACTIONS

Environment Task Team

Goal

To provide reports to the Project Steering Group on policy ideas to include in the Neighbourhood Plan relating to green infrastructure, climate change, walking and cycling and local heritage.

SNP5: Townscape Character

- Consider either securing a [Locality Design Coding Technical Support Package](#) or using consultancy [Create Streets](#) (see Chesham NP/NDO example) to prepare the design code and site plans
- Brief the consultants and comment on their draft report(s)
- Draw up a candidate list of buildings and structures of local architectural and historic interest on what might qualify and the information needed to support the case using the [Dorset Council guidance](#) and the [Dorset Historic Environment Record](#) data.
- Map and photograph each candidate and note of ownership if possible
- Finalise list by describing what it is about the building that is of local heritage value (and should therefore be taken into account in future planning proposals) and write to each owner (where known) to invite comments on the possibility of their building being identified in the SNP (explaining the implications and stressing this is not the same as 'listed building' status)
- Receive and publish the final Design Code report
- Review and finalise list in a single heritage asset report

SNP6: Green Infrastructure

- Review the [Swanage GI Strategy](#) to identify any need to update its mapping and data and opportunities for local nature recovery, using [Magic Map](#) for example and contacting the [Dorset Wildlife Trust](#)
- Relate the updated mapping and data to any other land that other DTT/ETT actions are identifying (e.g. brownfield, town centre) to identify if and how that land may contribute to improving green infrastructure
- Identify opportunities to increase street tree planting either on single or groups of streets or as part of wider public realm improvements
- Review the [Urban Green Factor](#) policy and guidance of the London Plan to decide if this approach is desired in the plan area and to what extent, if any, the factor needs to be modified to suit the area
- Pull all this information and analysis together into a single report with policy ideas

SNP7: Local Green Spaces

- Draw up a list of candidate spaces using the [Locality guide](#)
- Map and photograph each candidate and note ownership if possible
- Finalise list by describing what it is about each space that is special and write to each owner (where known) to invite comments on the possibility of their land being identified in the SNP
- Review and finalise list in a single report

Appendix to Item 10

Team Number & Member Attributes

- Between 6 – 8 members able to meet via Zoom etc for an hour or so each month
- A professional interest or experience in environmental issues (climate change etc)
- An interest or expertise in mapping and analysing geographical data
- A good knowledge of the neighbourhood area and its environmental features
- An interest or expertise in research and analysis
- An interest or expertise in the English planning system

Weed control on highways

Dorset Council undertake surface dressing on highways as a preventative treatment to prolong the life of roads. This is an essential part of the road maintenance strategy alongside patching and resurfacing.

For the 2024 season this service was outsourced by Dorset Council and undertaken by a third-party contractor. A map showing the surface spraying routes is attached to this paper.

In 2024 the Town Council were advised that this service was undertaken in Swanage on the 5th, 6th and 8th July. Unfortunately, and in large part due to weather conditions on and around those dates the treatment was in large part unsuccessful. As a result of this, weeds were noticeable along kerb lines and on pavements in many roads within the town. This matter was raised directly with Dorset Council and in September 2024 all routes were re-treated with much greater success.

In the interim period the Council received complaints about the weed growth and the resulting appearance. The Town Council attended and treated the weed growth in some areas mechanically and also via sealed surface spraying undertaken by qualified operatives.

Every year the Town Council commits resources to sealed surface spraying and mechanical weed removal on roads and footpaths that are not within the Council's ownership or management. This is largely undertaken in areas of high footfall and completed to improve the appearance of the town and surrounds.

In order to allocate resource appropriately in forthcoming years it would be extremely helpful to understand the Town Council's perspective on this service and whether:

- The Town Council should withdraw from sealed surface spraying on land not within their ownership, noting the impact on the appearance of the Town that this may have.
- The Town Council should continue with the current position, that is to provide a supplementary weed control service to that provided by Dorset Council, targeting high footfall locations whilst noting that resources may be diverted to essential works on Town Council owned or managed land.

If there is an ambition to expand this service by the Town Council it should be noted that given the competing priorities in the main growing season it is unlikely this could be provided easily without recourse to additional resource.

For decision

To consider continuing with the current position with regards to sealed surface spraying, that is to provide a supplementary weed control service to that provided by Dorset Council, or to withdraw from sealed surface spraying on land not within the ownership of the Council.

Gail Percival, Assets and Compliance Manager

October 2024



Grave Bottom

Round Down

Ulwell

Godlingston Wood

Godlingston Manor Cottages

Herston Yards Farm

Alderbury Barn

Herston Halt

St Mark's Church of England Primary School

St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School

Purbeck View School

Swanne

Swanne

Townsend

Durleston

California Farm

Swanne Bay

Durleston Bay

Broad Road

Peveril Point Road

Township Road

Township Road

Southcliffe Road

Side Of Wright Road

a) Dorset Council Waste Services – Summer service review and 2025 proposals

Dorset Council provided a resorts waste service to Swanage from 29th March to 8th September 2024. This involved several (circa 4) collections a day, 7 days a week. Waste was deposited within a large, covered skip provided by Dorset Council and located in the King’s Road depot that was swapped twice each week. Dorset Council operatives worked to 7pm each day, ensuring that a final collection could be completed at circa 6.15pm.

Additional bins were also provided on the seafront in advance of Swanage Carnival to handle waste associated with the increase of visitor numbers at that time.

There was also an increase in the frequency of visits by the Mechanical Road Sweeper (MRS) over the season which reduced the number of additional sweeps provided directly by Swanage Town Council.

Both Swanage Town and Dorset Council’s officers felt the season went well and that the respective teams communicated and worked together successfully. Dorset Waste Services have advised that their proposal for the 2025 season is to deliver the same service as that provided in 2024.

In respect of street cleansing, following a review of this service by Dorset Waste Services, a decision has been made not to directly replace the previous street cleansing service but have advised that arrangements have been made for Swanage to ensure a regular cleansing presence and are aiming for MRS attendance in the town twice each month.

For information

Gail Percival, Assets and Compliance Manager

October 2024

b) Update on activities from Beach Buddies
Beach Buddies Report October 2024

The Beach Buddies have carried out 50 beach cleans this year to date and removed 915kg of litter and debris. The average number of volunteers attending on Sunday mornings has been 15.

The average weight of litter and debris per beach clean for the last 5 years has been.

2020 16.0kg

2021 19.0kg

2022 19.4kg

2023 16.2kg

2024 18.3 kg

Cigarette butts are the most numerous items of litter found each year.

Environment and Green Spaces Committee Meeting – Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Stakeholder Consultation - Wessex Marine Team, Wessex Area Team, Natural England – Marine Protected Areas - New and updated Marine Conservation Advice packages: September 2024 - Invitation to comment – further to discussions at the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on 7th October 2024

EXTRACT FROM:

Minutes of the Meeting of the **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2024** at **7.00 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor J Lejeune

Swanage Town Council

Councillor D Monkhouse

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S Vile

Swanage Town Council

Also in attendance: -

Miss N Clark

Planning and Community Engagement Manager

There were two members of the public present at the meeting.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Foster and Tomes.

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

Consultation

5) To note receipt of the following consultation document, and to determine the Council's preferred method of response, if any:

- a) **Wessex Marine Team, Wessex Area Team, Natural England – Marine Protected Areas – New and updated Marine Conservation Advice packages: September 2024 – Invitation to comment**

It was reported that the Wessex Marine Team, Natural England, had provided an update on the publication of Marine Conservation Advice packages for September 2024, and comments, feedback or suggestions were being invited from stakeholders for the relevant Marine Protected Areas. These updates included the South Dorset Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), and the Purbeck Coast MCZ.

During the ensuing discussion it was noted that the closing date for responses to the consultation was 19th December 2024, and comments were made that it may also be prudent for the Council's Environment and Green Spaces Committee, and Beach Management Advisory Committee, to review the consultation documents and provide any feedback on the proposals to the Planning and Consultation Committee to assist in the formulation of the Council's response to Natural England. The next meetings of these Committees were being held on 23rd October, and 13th November, respectively.

Further comments were raised regarding the potential impact the packages could have on tourism and recreation, and local fishing activities, and that it would be important to ensure that any interested parties had been made aware of the consultation, including the Fishermen's Association, Swanage Angling Club, Dorset Coast Forum, and Litter Free Dorset. Details of the consultation would therefore be circulated to the Council Committees and local stakeholders accordingly. The Committees would be asked to report back to the Planning and Consultation Committee in time for its meeting scheduled for 2nd December 2024.

Consultation details

Wessex Marine Team, Wessex Area Team, Natural England – Marine Protected Areas - New and updated Marine Conservation Advice packages: September 2024 – Invitation to comment

From: SM-NE-WessexMarine (NE) <WessexMarine@naturalengland.org.uk>

Sent: 30 September 2024 15:49

Subject: Marine Conservation Advice packages: September 2024 Invitation to Comment

Good afternoon

Marine Conservation Advice packages – September 2024 publication

I am emailing you to provide an update on the publication of Marine Conservation Advice packages for September 2024 and offer you the opportunity to send comments/feedback, or suggest new information, for the relevant Marine Protected Area(s). Please send your comments to the Wessex Marine mailbox (WessexMarine@naturalengland.org.uk) between **Monday 30th of September – Thursday 19th of December 2024 inclusive**.

We will review all comments and respond after the 'invitation to comment' period has passed.

Summary of the September 2024 updates

On the 23rd of September, Natural England's Marine Conservation Advice published:

- New draft advice for 1 Marine Protected Area (MPA)
- Draft advice formalised for 2 MPAs
- Updates to 12 formal advice packages and updates to 3 draft advice packages.

Please see this summarised in our infographic (as attached below). The updates to existing packages in this publication round are reflected in the most recent 'September 2024 publication updates' document, available on the [MPA CA Guidance page](#).

Where to find marine conservation advice packages

The packages listed in this email can be accessed via the [Marine Protected Areas: conservation advice packages collection](#) on .GOV.UK, alongside previously published advice. Packages are split among sea regions, as detailed below. You can also navigate directly to the packages by using the [search tool on Designated Sites View](#) or via the [Interactive Map](#).

1. Updates to existing packages

Updates have been made to the package listed below. Details of updates can be found in the 'September 2024 publication updates' document, available on the [MPA CA Guidance page](#). Purbeck Coast MCZ is a formal package with draft updates.

Eastern Channel - Purbeck Coast Marine Conservation Zone (UKMCZ0066)

2. Webpage updates and edits to supporting documents found on the [MPA CA Guidance page](#)

A new '[Marine advice and evidence](#)' landing page on Designated Sites View (DSV) has been published. This page is designed to provide an overview of the marine resources that are available on DSV, directing users to available tools and guidance.

We hope that this will make DSV more intuitive for new users. The page can be accessed through the 'Marine advice & evidence' button on the top ribbon.

We would welcome any additional comments you have on the full range of guidance and supporting materials that are available on the [MPA CA Guidance page](#). Which ones do you consider to be useful? How can they be improved?

3. Condition Assessment

Since the previous MPA Conservation Advice package updates in March 2024 (up to the 23rd of September 2024), condition assessments have been published for the following sites and can be viewed from the relevant site pages within Designated Sites View:

South Dorset MCZ (UKMCZ0022)

We very much look forward to your feedback. Please send your comments to the Wessex Marine mailbox by Thursday 19th of December 2024: WessexMarine@naturalengland.org.uk

You are receiving this email because you are on the Marine Conservation Advice mailing list for 'MCA Invitation to Comment'. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please email WessexMarine@naturalengland.org.uk to be removed from our mailing list.

Kind regards

Wessex Marine Team
Wessex Area Team
Natural England



www.gov.uk/natural-england

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-building-partnerships-for-natures-recovery>

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New and updated Marine Conservation Advice Packages

September 2024

NATURAL ENGLAND

Total number of packages on 'Designated Sites View' webpage:

- 146 Formal
- 11 Draft

September 2024:

- 1 new draft
- 3 drafts updated
- 12 formal updated
- 2 formalising

Key:

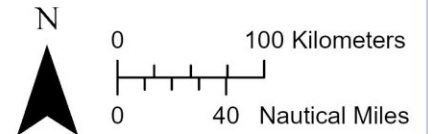
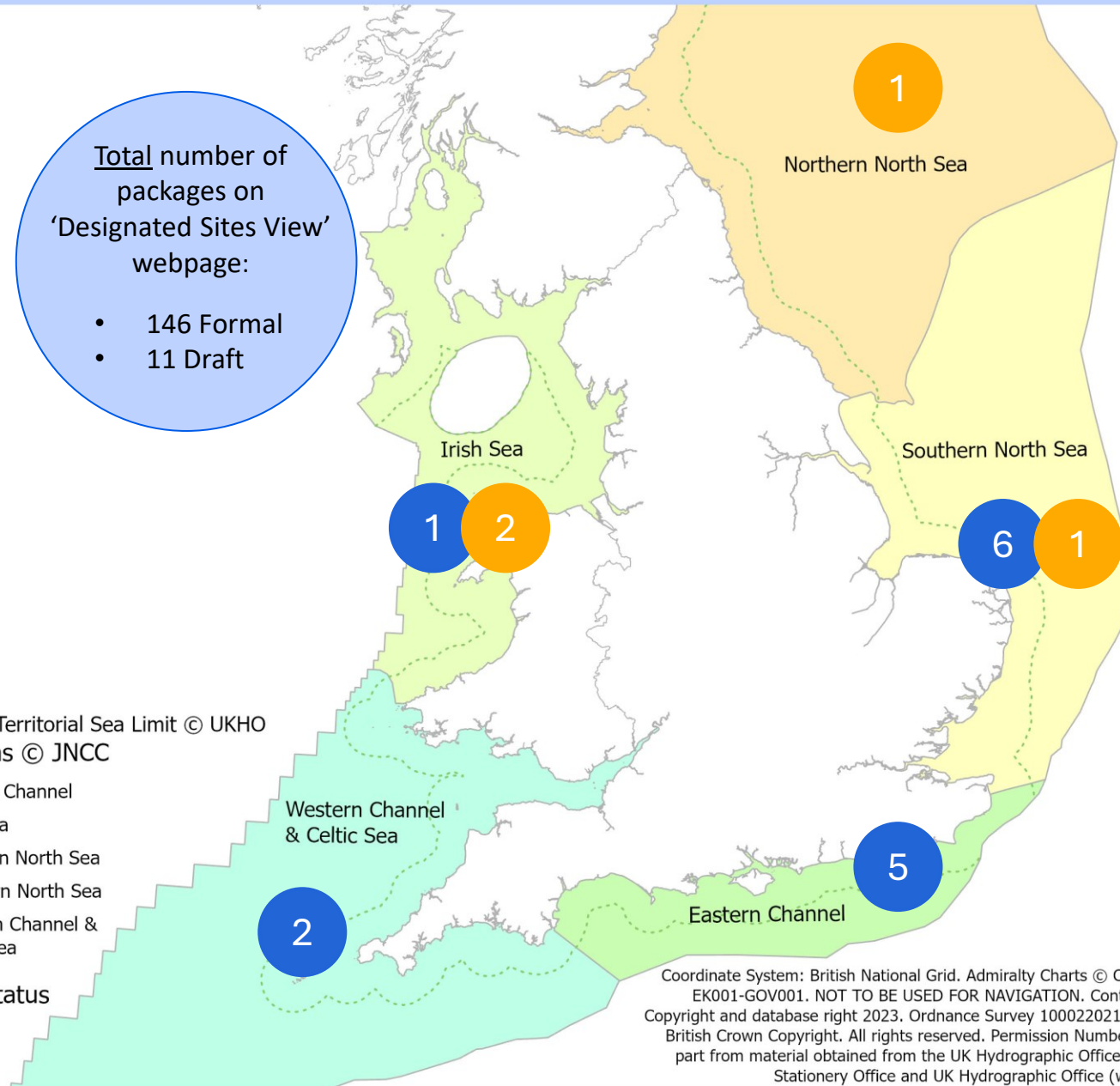
--- 12NM Territorial Sea Limit © UKHO

CP2 Regions © JNCC

- Eastern Channel
- Irish Sea
- Northern North Sea
- Southern North Sea
- Western Channel & Celtic Sea

Package Status

- Draft
- Formal



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