



LNP ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016

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FOREWORD

This was the year that the Dorset LNP came of age. The LNP has four roles: to provide environmental leadership; to advocate the value of the environment; to engage with economic and social agendas; and to ensure environment is in local policies.

As you will see from the following sections, the LNP was active in engaging with the key issues for the county, supporting the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership, Local Authorities and working with health and wellbeing.

Overall our main role is to influence others to protect and enhance the environment whatever their own aims and agendas may be, hence you will see the wide range of engagement the LNP has had, from water management, through economic development to promoting wellbeing.

All these agendas benefit greatly from an environmental element. We will continue to spread our influence, and support an ever growing range of valued partners in the coming years.

Dr Simon Cripps
LNP Chair



Simon Cripps © Debbie Dye

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NATURAL

CAPITAL

Strategic objective i:

Investing in Dorset's natural assets

The Natural Place for Business: A Natural Capital Investment Strategy

The Dorset LNP published its Natural Capital Investment Strategy in March 2016. The strategy outlines how the aspirations for Dorset laid out by the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and in Local Authority plans can be achieved not just without damaging the natural resources on which our prosperity is built, but by enhancing them so that they become even more valuable to us in the future. It also aims to show how development, in addition to that described in the LEP Plan, can be achieved by taking a 'Natural Capital' approach that is suitable for Dorset to increase the quality of Dorset's assets and make them more resilient.

For more information:

dorsetlnp.org.uk/Natural_Capital_Investment_Strategy



Above: Green bridge over Weymouth Relief Road
© Phil Sterling. Right: Natural Capital Investment Strategy

Right: Poole Harbour © Wessex Water
Below: Algal harvesting workshop © PHCI



Algal Harvesting Workshop

A joint LNP, Local Enterprise Partnership and Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative workshop was held in December 2015 to discuss the potential for algal harvesting in Poole Harbour.

A CEFAS¹ report commissioned by the Environment Agency set out options for the removal of algae in the harbour, its uses and the likely constraints. The workshop provided an opportunity to allow stakeholders, including statutory bodies, local authorities, landowners and conservation organisations, to meet, discuss and share opinions on the ideas before any project proposals were developed. It also provided the opportunity to facilitate collaborative partnership working with a range of stakeholder representatives.

For more information:

wessexwater.co.uk/About-us/Environment/Catchment-management/Poole-harbour/Algal-Harvesting-workshop

¹ CEFAS – Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences

NATURAL

VALUE

Strategic objective ii:

Adding natural value to the local economy



Dorset's Environmental Economy Report

Dorset County Council, Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site team commissioned a study on Dorset's Environmental Economy from Ash Futures.

A stakeholder workshop

was held in October and the final study was launched at the LNP's Annual Forum on 25 February 2016. The study highlighted that Dorset's Environmental Economy is worth between £0.9 billion and £2.5 billion per annum and supports between 17,000 and 61,000 jobs in the economy. It is therefore worth between 5% and 15% of Dorset's overall economy each year.

For more information:

dorsetforyou.com/environmental-economy

LNP Forum

The LNP Annual Forum was held on 25 February 2016 at the Lighthouse in Poole and was attended by 70 plus people. The event launched the Environmental Economy report and so engaged many from the business and development sectors.

For more information:

dorsetlnp.org.uk/Dorset_LNP_Forum_2016

Top: Front cover of Dorset's Environmental Economy report

NATURAL

HEALTH

Strategic objective iii:
Developing Dorset's Natural Health service

Links with Health and Wellbeing Board

During the year Dr Jon Orrell stood down from the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board and therefore as its representative on the LNP Board. The LNP would like to thank Jon for his contributions during his term with the LNP.

In March a report was taken to the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board highlighting the links between the natural environment and health and wellbeing and potential links with the LNP. A new Health and Wellbeing Board member was appointed (along with a substitute representative) to the LNP at this meeting. The LNP looks forward to working closely with them once they have been formally appointed by Dorset County Council.

See the report at:
bit.ly/21Z4OEU



Cycling outdoors © Alastair Cook



Above: Dorset Wildlife Trust nature walk on Upton Heath © Tony Bates MBE
Left: Natural Choices logo

Natural Choices Roll Out

Following the pilot project Natural Choices in Weymouth and Portland, the Dorset LNP is leading the expansion of the project to roll it out across Dorset.

Natural Choices aims to enable people to improve their physical health and mental well-being through a range of activities within the natural environment e.g. conservation activities, mindfulness and nature walks.

The project is working closely with the LiveWell Dorset team, commissioned by Public Health Dorset, who coach and sign-post people to activities to improve their health and wellbeing, including activities under the Natural Choices banner.

For more information:
dorsetlnp.org.uk/Natural_Choices

NATURAL

RESILIENCE

Strategic objective iv:
Improving Dorset's resilience

Water Management Position Paper

The Dorset LNP adopted its first position paper on water management in September 2015.

The document sets out the LNP's position and makes recommendations for improving water management in the county following last year's major floods.

For more information:
dorsetlnp.org.uk/Dorset_LNP_Position_Papers



Above: Farmer workshop © Tim Stephens
Right: River Frome seminar day © Rachel Janes



NATURAL

UNDERSTANDING

Strategic objective v:
Understanding natural value

Square Meal Debate

Working with the Big Lottery funded Communities Living Sustainably in Dorset, the LNP helped to run event a debate on the Square Meal Report in October. The Square Meal Report was published by 10 UK organisations including the RSPB, Friends of the Earth, the National Trust, the Food Ethics Council, Sustain, the Wildlife Trusts, the Soil Association, Eating Better and Compassion in World Farming working with the Food Research Collaboration. The Report focused on four key inter-connected areas and proposed solutions for: improving health; good food for all; sustainable farming; and enhancing nature.

The debate in Dorchester brought together over 100 people to discuss the issues. A working group is developing an action plan to take the discussion forward.

For more information:
clsdorset.org.uk/the-square-meal-debate.aspx



Above: Square meal debate © CLS Dorset

NATURAL

INFLUENCE

Strategic objective vi:
Integrating natural value in policy and decision-making

Links with Strategic Planning

A new Dorset Strategic Planning Forum was formed in November to consider strategic planning across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole.

The Dorset LNP has a representative on the forum joined to make links between the environment and planning/development.



Above: Parley Common © Tony Bates MBE
Left: Weymouth Relief Road © Phil Sterling
Right: Housing development © Steve Kinnersley



LNP Meetings

The Dorset LNP Board met four times during 2015-16 on 18 June 2015, 19 September, 10 December and 17 March 2016.

For more information:
dorsetlnp.org.uk/Dorset_LNP_Board

LNP Support

The Dorset LNP Manager, Maria Clarke, was recruited in May and started in post in August.

The LNP is also supported by officers from Dorset County Council, Borough of Poole, Bournemouth Borough Council, Natural England, Dorset Wildlife Trust and Environment Agency.

Improving Communication

Twitter

A Dorset LNP twitter account was set up in December @dorset_lnp.

E-News

A Dorset LNP e-news bulletin has been developed to improve communication with the LNP Forum members. The first e-news was published in February 2016 and circulated to 190 stakeholders.

Website

The LNP previously had a few web pages on the Dorset Wildlife Trust website, to which the LNP is very grateful. A new independent LNP website was developed and launched in January 2016 (screenshot right).

View the LNP website at: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk





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Dorset LNP Manager

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During 2015-16 the Dorset LNP was supported by:



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