



Dorset LNP Annual Forum 2020

Nature's Recovery in Dorset

Event Report

5 March 2020



Nature's Recovery in Dorset

Fifty-two people attended the Dorset LNP Forum on 5 March 2020, held at the Lighthouse, Poole.

Aim:

- To bring the Dorset LNP Forum members together to be a force for nature.
- To engage stakeholders in nature recovery planning for Dorset.





Presentations

[Welcome and Introduction to the Forum](#): *Simon Cripps (Chairman, Dorset LNP)*

[The scale of the challenge: Introducing the *Voices for Dorset Report*](#): *Simon Cripps*

[A younger perspective to nature recovery and the climate and ecological emergencies](#): *Mollie Taylor (MSc Student, Bournemouth University)*

[Planning for Nature Recovery – Setting the context](#): *Tom Munro (Manager, Dorset AONB)*

[The New Forest Land Advice Service – our work to help nature recover and thrive in and around the National Park](#): *Julie Melin-Stubbs (Wildlife and Conservation Manager, New Forest National Park Authority)*



Workshop Session

The session focused on four questions:

- What does a nature recovery plan need in it?
- Who should be part of the plan-making process?
- How can we ensure an AONB NRP links to the rest of Dorset?
- Do we need to monitor progress in delivery, and if so, how? What are appropriate measures of success?



1. What does a Nature Recovery Plan (NRP) need in it?

- Proper (comprehensive) connectivity of thinking, plan delivery, results between urban/rural areas – ‘fudging’ or removing boundaries.
- Just as much about people as it is about nature.
- Data and evidence is key, baselines from which to work and considering condition of existing areas and networks.
- Yes, include the new and radical but also look at what we’re doing/planning already – give structure legitimacy to this. Look to short/medium/long term aims and get on with the obvious. Focus on the what not the planning.



Workshop session



Q&A Session

Question 1: What can they do to help (mitigate) climate change and nature recovery? And How can they get more young people involved?

Engage young people through community groups, schools, colleges and youth assemblies. Link in with parish councils and residents. Work with residents to up-skill them.

Question 2: Who should be paying for plan delivery and how can we get them to pay?

It will take corporate responsibility and volunteer effort etc. There are broad mechanisms.



Q&A Session

Question 3: How do the panel feel about thinking more positively? We always mention the declines but don't mention success stories.

We should use Nature Recovery Plans (NRP) to demonstrate successes. It is appropriate to talk of the loss as part of the journey to nature recovery.

Question 4: What do the panel feel about the use of pesticides, especially Glyphosate?

If used extremely carefully it does have its place in habitat restoration work, especially in managing Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). Food production/industrial agriculture are at a turning point, investing in sensitive, sustainable agriculture/regenerative agriculture.



Q&A Session

Question 5: Dorset Youth Council are talking about climate emergency – what ways are there to bring in younger people? Highways are an issue. Communities pledge to look after places without the use of chemicals.

We need a huge engagement exercise on this (to educate the public). There is a very good Verge Management policy at Dorset Council; reinstating road-sweeping to clear soils etc. This is much more effective at stopping weeds than treating with chemicals once they have grown.



Conclusion

In concluding the event Simon Cripps asked the panel what their take-home messages were:

Julie: Your approach [DLNP] is useful, speaking as someone from the outside.

Felicity: How quickly we can see biodiversity change.

Tom: Great enthusiasm from everyone to work together on nature recovery

Mollie: Everyone in the workshop session was willing to listen to young people; this gives me confidence.



Conclusion



Simon Cripps ended the Forum by setting out his overarching / stand-out conclusions from the workshop session:

- Important to include a diverse range of inputs to the Plan.
- Young people despair at the inaction of older, but have energy, passion and views to be included.
- Look for overlapping agendas and shared visions.
- Consistency of messages is important.
- Robust data and evidence base is needed.
- People as well as nature.
- An instant response to changes so recovery is possible.
- There is great enthusiasm.



The full write up of the Annual Forum is [available here](#).

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