

Dorset LNP Annual Forum: 4 March 2021

Nature's Recovery in Dorset

Forum chat

From Luke Rake: Good morning everyone. Please feel free to add questions, thoughts and ideas to this thread.

From Denise Hewlett: I am currently running a county-wide research project on evaluating staff wellbeing during the pandemic and how access to green spaces, might affect their wellbeing during these times. Please could I ask all attendees to consider approaching me on denise.hewlett@winchester.ac.uk if you or your organisation would be willing to help us - we are actively recruiting participants sever hundred participants and all major organisations in Dorset are already involved - thank you.

From Josephine Parish: how do the Nature Recovery Networks fit in with the Dorset council Local Plan - should there not be additional land for Nature Recovery allocated in the local plan at the same time as land is allocated for other development such as housing. the plan is really weak on nature recovery.

From Phil: Morning. With reference to the cuckoo story that Imogen related, it worries me that we use industrial methods to farm - pesticides is a case in point - which could be why Dartmoor and the New Forest have good populations, a lack of pesticides? I do feel we need an industrial approach to re-wildllifing.

From Angela Pooley: As a regular volunteer in practical conservation, I've seen strong evidence of the physical & mental benefits of working with nature. This applies to all age groups as we've had youngster that have problems at school

From Robin Walls: With the obvious investment benefits, which have been known for some time, why is it not happening?

From Denise Hewlett: Thanks Luke - just to confirm the project is about evaluating workers wellbeing during the pandemic, so anyone who is still working, in any capacity, volunteer or otherwise, is welcome

From Mary Thornton: Mark Carney in the Reith lectures referred to the natural world as the basis for our existence,

From Ian Rees: A set of ecosystem accounts were developed for the Dorset AONB that aimed to provide a value for the services that the environment provides. It was a test of methods, and only covered a few of the 'ecosystem services' the environment provides, so lots of holes... but gives you an idea of the value that we should be factoring into decision making but currently aren't. The Dorset AONB case study, and others, is available here: <http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=19271>

From Fizz Rice: has anyone seen 'Kiss the Ground' film? I haven't seen it yet, but apparently really inspiring about changes in agricultural practices to becoming regenerative....

From Harriet Stewart-Jones: Kiss the Ground - well worth watching. Available on Netflix

From Deborah Elton: Green Party and increasingly others - Minimum Income Guarantee to enable people to live whatever kind of 'work' they do...

From Tom Munro: Alongside Kiss the Ground I'd like to promote Dorset's very own version: This Good Earth www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/news/this-good-earth-film-out-now/

From Luke Rake: Thanks Tom, Fizz and Harriet - weekend watching for us all there!

From Angela Pooley: Whilst this is a positive strategy it is important that it is followed through with actions - something that isn't always happening at the moment.

From Harriet Stewart-Jones: I wonder how this ties in with "The Big Plan" to build, build, build.

From Phil: For Michael Rowland - do the planning decisions take account of many of the things you spoke of regarding wildlife?

From Josephine Parish: Is more land being allocated for Nature recovery. The Dorset Council Local Plan is planning on building on the green belt that sounds like less land available for nature recovery and for linking up nature. how does that fit in with PM commits to protect 30% of UK land in boost for biodiversity - GOV.UK www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-commits-to-protect-30-of-uk-land-in-boost-for-biodiversity?

From Josephine Parish: if you double the amount of people visiting the natural environment, how do you manage the harm to the very thing that needs to be protected and enhanced?

From Phil: Very good point plus you have to through in dogs which can be a very negative influence in terms of disturbance.

From Imogen Davenport: More space for nature, if well-planned, can mean more space for people to experience it too

From Julian Gray: Latest Exeter Uni and South West Coast Path Association research has calculated health and wellbeing benefits of over £75 million for people walking Britain's longest National Trail: <https://www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk/newsapp/article/361/>

From Luke Rake: Really interesting questions coming up - does building inevitably result in natural damage? Couple that with 'where do people live and how do they afford to', add a sprinkling of 'how do we ensure sustainable communities in rural areas' and we have a full afternoon's debate. Will pick up the thread briefly later.

From Durwyn Liley: interesting comments re school children and access to greenspace. Dartmoor NP management plan review has set a target for all children in Devon to have visited Dartmoor by the time they are 11. An ambitious target.

From Pete Etheridge: Why not re-usable BBQs that people can hire for the day (with deposit), stocked with locally made charcoal? Solves the disposable issue whilst also helping fund sustainable woodland management.

From Simon Cripps: Central government isn't joined up. How are local policy conflicts dealt with, e.g. planning decisions don't appear to follow Council guidelines on sustainability, presumably because planning regulations trump local policy aims?

From Luke Rake: Particularly given there are kids living in Ilfracombe with Exmoor on their doorstep! Maybe the Dorset AONB should have the same target....?

From Ruth Worsley: we should be encouraging good old picnic ... didn't help Boris last year telling folk to go a bbq!

From Tom Munro: National Parks have the statutory purpose and accompanying resources to enable this work. We do what we can with a fraction of the resources.

From Fizz Rice: there are hydrogen cars being produced in Wales - <https://www.riversimple.com/> and there has been hydrogen train trials in the UK already.

From Harriet Stewart-Jones: Riversimple (used to be local, now in Wales) have been developing hydrogen cars in UK for several years.

From Fizz Rice: <https://www.energylivenews.com/2020/09/30/all-aboard-uks-first-hydrogen-powered-train-starts-trial-journeys-today/>

From Robin Walls: I can't help thinking that the safety worries and prosecution risks weigh heavily for teachers who would like to take children out into the local park, let alone the wider countryside. Has H&S become too restrictive?

From Michael Rowland: Hi Phil, We aim for our Green Infrastructure Strategy to inform the emerging Local Plan. The earlier we can set out what positive actions we would like to see the better. The Stour Valley Park Plan will aim to work with a wide partnership to increase the clarity of positive actions that developers can take within development - where it comes forward - being clear it's not promoting development, just encouraging any development to be better for nature.

From Luke Rake: Robin - don't think so. Perception is more the issue - H&S in education isn't too bad really, it's just paperwork. More challenging is the (reduction in) funding of outdoor centres

From Fizz Rice: Robin - in the urban environment, the road danger from increased car domination is certainly a huge factor. The local authorities in urban areas have huge opportunities to help reduce road danger.

From Josephine Parish: @luke it is 10 times an average income in Dorset to be able to buy an average priced new home- so even any "affordable" homes will not be affordable for many people on local salaries. The 2nd homes issue needs addressing. allowing the 30000 homes planned in the plan to be sold as 2nd homes is contrary to the overarching objective of DC's plan page 15 2.1.1. as the ruling of the high court judge when developers challenged the St Ives 2nd homes policy was that "to do nothing will lead to unsustainable development". DC is planning currently on doing nothing. if new homes can be sold as 2nd homes at what point does Dorset Council plan to build homes for people on the low incomes - DC are ignoring many people who are in housing need.

From Phil: Thanks Michael - I was specifically referring to new builds and extensions. Whilst I know Jez checks planning apps, BCP doesn't appear to have a system such as Dorset through the DBAP and the NET Team.

From Luke Rake: @josephine A political point which we'll raise later with the councillors for their thoughts.

From Tom Munro: I'll take that bait Luke! Dorset AONB is 20% larger than Dartmoor NP; the Dorset AONB Partnership receives from Defra a core grant about 15 times greater than ours to do largely similar work (if you exclude Dartmoor's planning costs, it's still 13 times greater). We all need to push Defra to implement the Glover Review to support AONBs more equitably to enable greater delivery on nature recovery and enabling people's connection to nature here in Dorset.

From Tom Munro: *DAONB gets 15 times less!

From Luke Rake: Full agree Tom

From Harriet Stewart-Jones: Does the Nature Recovery Network include the marine/coastal environment? If so, how far out to sea?

From Fiona Bowles: Question for Chris - are river systems being specifically considered? These re-naturalising these 'natural' networks will contribute to the WFD and flood directive objectives as well as delivering biodiversity and wildlife corridors. However it will need significant consideration of priorities and land use planning as well as support for the current users/owners of what should be space for water.

From Simon Cripps: A new scientific study soon to be published by WCS showed that areas of high productivity not just biodiversity need to be prioritised for protection and management.

From Pete Etheridge: I see the benefit of 'net gain' from the planning system being used strategically to support nature networks, but isn't it also promoting nature disconnect by effectively moving nature away from local communities?

From Fizz Rice: For Chris - can we move away from needing car parks at SANGS? In the urban area, it seems very odd and regressive.

From Josephine Parish: need to add community groups to the wider engagement please.

From Angela Price: As biodiversity targets are missed every time they set them, why should this be any different?

From Ian Alexander: Because government is now (post Brexit) fundamentally changing the agriculture support regime (Common Agriculture Policy) which was, by a long way, the biggest facilitator of biodiversity declines.

From Luke Rake: Good point Ian, fully agree

From Robin Walls: The new support package looks good. I just have a worry that it will get diluted and drift back towards the old system. It is important we all keep up the pressure for public goods being what we are 'buying' the essential criterion.

From Angela Price: So why are you still culling badgers?

From Ian Alexander: Who is the 'you'? I'm not aware of any conservation organisation that culls badgers.

From Angela Price: Natural England provides licences to cull badgers.

From Ian Alexander: Indeed. Government instructs Natural England to licence the badger cull; the cull itself is a political decision. If you don't wish badgers culled then address the politics - don't take it out on the public servants.

From Josephine Parish: really encouraging about the Nature Recovery Network and the way Wild Purbeck is working is a great model as well. WP are linking up with local community groups so that anything local groups do are consistent with Wild Purbeck. the management group slide in Chris's presentation didn't include community groups... suggest that is included.

From Josephine Parish: Back on the Local Plan, there is a disconnect with the exciting work to come with NRN and Local Plans such as DC planning to use the green belt in east Dorset and AONB land for the building of new homes. I don't understand where the additional land for nature recovery is coming from if we are concreting over the land needed for nature recovery.

From Josephine Parish: The Dorset Local Plan is also still using the same conventional planning terms about mitigating for harm to nature. Surely we need to stop the mitigation approach and put nature above the priority to develop? development should fit in with nature not the other way around. a big thank you to Dorset Local Nature Partnership for running this event today!

From Durwyn Liley: the maps to my mind are interesting for the gaps - surely these are the areas with the most potential and it is where they can link. Rewilding and regenerative agriculture can fill the gaps where there is no existing potential?

From Pete Etheridge: Exactly Durwyn.

From Chloe Sutcliffe: What support do farmers currently receive to adopt regenerative practices?

From Luke Rake: @chloe There are a range of grants, including Higher Stewardship, but they are not necessarily specifically regenerative. This <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/23/the-new-sustainable-farming-incentive/> is fairly new, and we will see funding and policy move very quickly on this front.

From Pete Etheridge: @Chloe; very little (if any) at present. Hopefully ELMS will provide more support for practices like agroforestry.

From Will Bond: @chloe. There was something in the Budget for it

From Chloe Sutcliffe: Thank you all!

From Kenneth Hutchison: What is the position currently of the Sewage Treatment works to deal with raw sewage flowing into our rivers when flooding occurs more regularly. With more House building proposed can the deal with the increase?

From Fiona Bowles: Kenneth, generally sewage overflows are driven by wet weather conditions, exacerbated by climate change. Increased populations and houses will increase the amount of sewage to be treated at waste recycling works primarily, and the increased loads of nutrient may

have to be managed or offset, such as the nitrate reductions needed for development in the Poole Harbour catchment. The effect of storm discharges is under review (see Wessex Water web site and nationally, with the Environment Agency).

From Angela Price: Also run off from farmland

From Josephine Parish: will all the slides be sent out after the even please- great info here:-)

From Maria Clarke: Yes, slides will be added to the LNP website in the next couple of weeks - with the recording.

From Louise Stratton: Regenerative farming - and other titles such as biological farming, conservation farming - is extremely complex to 'fund'. It is a long-term investment in the farm, it takes 10+ years to convert the farm and soil to hold its own. It is hard to establish how to monitor the benefits, such as soil health. It is also complex in that many practices benefit one farming system but not another, such as organic farmers need to till, whereas through regenerative farming its deemed a negative, but both systems produce benefits! ELMs are trying to incorporate it, but its not easy!

From Robin Walls: Bryan's histogram of losses, with the main period being 1950-75 is most worrying because it means the baseline for lots of people will be much lower than for an older person. The shifting baseline syndrome reducing the aspirations of future targets. The fact that the situation is improving is very welcome - we are on the right track.

From Durwyn Liley: reflecting on some of these figures highlights how fortunate we are in Dorset to have some very experienced naturalists - particularly the likes of Bryan!

From Phil: What's the Swanage disposal ground on the second map.

From Peter Tinsley: Swanage disposal ground is licenced for dumping of, for example, dredged sediment from Poole Harbour

From Jez: where dredging from Poole harbour and elsewhere are deposited

From Harriet Stewart-Jones: Impact of non-native farmed oysters?

From Fizz Rice: is the joint strategic advisory planning and transport group a public meeting?

From Harriet Stewart-Jones: Tell that to BCP Council who have come up with a Big Plan to "invest in an iconic cityscape" and "involves five big projects that will deliver big changes across our whole area and support the creation of 13,000 jobs across all sectors of our economy". Lots of glass and steel. Little in the way of biodiversity

From Phil: Perhaps they should look at Singapore and the sky forests they have created on their city buildings!

From Fizz Rice: Michael - do you have any comments on the BCP local plan development - is there enough emphasis on biodiversity?

From Janet: We've heard some encouraging things today. LNP and LEP - when it comes to re-connecting people with nature and access to nature in general, don't forget your sister body, the

Local Access Forum which advises Dorset and BCP Councils on access issues (we are a statutory body, established under the CRow Act 2000).

From Maria Clarke: I am in contact with the Local Access Forum

From Angela Price: Can we see more creation of wildlife corridors by reducing the tidiness of roadside verges, it's essential for insects and small mammals? Can we get farmers to stop cutting back hedges every year, it isn't necessary?

From Josephine Parish: can we avoid mitigation for harm and just stop creating the harm in the first place?

From Michael Rowland: BCP will open public engagement in a green infrastructure strategy in the next couple of months. It's important that residents engage in that strategy to inform how we might incorporate green infrastructure amongst and into our built infrastructure. We'll ensure we promote this through media local channels. Take part!

From Fizz Rice: Isn't private gardens a big source of pesticides?

From Angela Price: ecosystem services are worth over a £trillion to the UK.

From Angela Price: Education, education, education!

From Ray Bryan: We should be proud of our country parks and education centre's. Moors Valley Country Farm have introduced an education centre to educate young people so they can educate their parents and grandparents.

From Luke Rake: Quite agree Ray

From Robin Walls: Can we at least stop spraying pesticides along all our streets. So unnecessary and spoiling the enjoyment of botanists. Also damaging is the scattering of inappropriate seeds and cultivated plants along the verges.

From Ray Bryan: Thanks Keith how do we extend this to the bigger audience.

From Josephine Parish: re farmers hedge cutting, a point made by organic farmer in Purbeck was that the hedges are being cut at wrong time. stop cutting them in when they still have food or berries in them, they cut in Jan and Feb so birds can feed over winter

From Fizz Rice, Poole: like grass verges!