



## **Dorset Local Nature Partnership’s Annual Forum focuses on Nature Recovery**

Dorset Local Nature Partnership (LNP), Dorset Council and BCP Council (both of which are members of the LNP) jointly hosted the partnership’s annual forum for 2024 which focused on nature recovery on 8 February at the George Albert Hotel. The annual forum brought together over 120 people from a wide range of organisations (including wildlife charities, farmers, land managers and community organisations), all with an interest in how we can improve Dorset’s natural environment to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies. Work to support our environment over the years has looked at protecting our environment, but we need to go further and recover (improve or add) habitats so that nature can thrive.

The forum celebrated the positive work already taking place to recover nature within the county, through inspiring presentations from projects such as those nationally funded through the Landscape Recovery Scheme, but also highlighted that more needs to be done due to wildlife decline over the last 50-100 years. The event included a series of interactive sessions, where attendees were asked for their input to inform the development of the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which is being led by Dorset Council, including the pressures and opportunities facing Dorset natural environment and those who own or manage these landscapes.

Luke Rake, chair of Dorset LNP said *“It was privilege to chair this event, bringing together so many people all focused on improving Dorset’s natural world. So many connections were made between people from different groups that I have no doubt we will see an even bigger event next year to celebrate the great progress we are making.”*

Councillor Ray Bryan, Dorset Council’s Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment (and Dorset LNP Board member), said: *“Protecting our natural environment is a key commitment for Dorset Council, and through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy we now have the chance to collectively create a plan which will help grow, improve and connect nature in our county for years to come.*

*“The Local Nature Partnership’s recent forum provided a great platform for communities, landowners and organisations to share what they are doing to help restore and enhance nature in our county, as well as highlighting where efforts are still needed.*

*“It was really encouraging to see so many people attend and was great to hear all of the valuable discussions and feedback provided through the workshop sessions.”*

Attendee Hugh Miles, Wild Wise Ltd. said *“Your Forum yesterday was excellent, so thank you for the hard work you all had to do to make for such a fascinating and encouraging day, and for leaving us optimistic that we may still have some wildlife and wild places to enjoy into the future. Bravo to you all, inspiring...”*

The presentations from the forum are available at: [www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2024](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2024)

The development of the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy is at an early stage and more information can be found on the [Dorset Council website](#). This event will not be the only chance to input into its development, future opportunities will be shared in the coming months.

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Dorset Local Nature Partnership is a strategic partnership which works to enhance the environment for wildlife, people and the economy. The LNP Board is made up of representative across Dorset and BCP Council areas, including members from Dorset Council, BCP Council, Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust, CLA, Jurassic Coast Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West, Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board, and Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership. [www.dorsetlnp.org.uk](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk) / [info@dorsetlnp.org.uk](mailto:info@dorsetlnp.org.uk) – [info@dorsetlnp.org.uk](mailto:info@dorsetlnp.org.uk) / 01305 213183

Dorset Council is the accountable body for developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset. With BCP Council as the supporting authority. [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/nature-recovery](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/nature-recovery) / [LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)