

A Big Conversation **Engagement Response Report**

Produced by Consultation and Engagement Team
for Dorset Council

September 2024

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Introduction

This summer, Dorset Council asked residents to help shape the proposed council plan priorities of Communities, Climate, Housing, and Economic growth.

The aim of 'A Big Conversation' resident engagement programme is to create meaningful dialogue with our residents and communities, finding out whether they support the council's proposed priorities for the next 5 years, and seeking further ideas and suggestions. By bringing people together (online and in person), we can understand individual views, build connections, and create positive change.

With this method in mind, we focused our online and in-person conversations on the proposed overarching themes within each priority.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
- Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change
- Support the recovery of nature
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
- Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive
- Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas
- Support local and sustainable tourism

A Big Conversation

Purpose

A Big Conversation was designed to be a broad engagement programme that encouraged Dorset Council residents to contribute to the conversation via a number of means including: online via our Citizen Space platform using the Dialogue engagement function; via customer services teams over the phone; within our libraries with paper copy or online support and with a selected number of accessible in person events where residents could have the opportunity to chat to us and to

discuss and record their feedback. There were also 4 specific events to hear the views of the Town and Parish Councillors.

Our primary aim of 'A Big Conversation' was to involve Dorset's residents in the early stages of the development of the new Council Plan.

Methodology

Face to face engagement – events

We attended locations across the Dorset Council area in high pedestrian traffic areas where we would have the opportunity to speak to as many residents as possible. This included locations such as markets, events and busy foot traffic areas where signs, staff and Ward Councillor support, and public curiosity would be the driving force to encourage our residents to participate in this face-to-face opportunity. Event locations were selected with various factors in mind, with foot traffic and no financial barriers for our residents the key goals.

We were limited by the number of events we were able to attend due primarily due to staffing resource, speed of delivery and the General election pre-election period.

The activity included stickers for agreement or disagreement of the proposed themes with opportunity to offer detail and suggestions on post-it notes. As this was an open event space which relied on conversations for collection of data, demographics were not collected. It is important to note that the agreement and disagreement counts were not 100% reflective of the number of people we engaged with during the events. As this event was a listening session, many conversations may have been summarised in comments. Some residents chose not to participate in the sticker activity or only wanted to contribute to a certain priority. Therefore, attendance figures are indicative only.

As part of the project, we also reached out to seldom-heard groups. This consisted of attending several youth club groups and a dedicated public youth event. We also worked with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Reference Group who supported with the EqIA and signposted materials and information to groups across the Council area, seeking their feedback. This included attendance at a People First Dorset event.

Digital engagement – Dialogue

We conducted this engagement through an online approach to give all residents with digital access the opportunity to participate. We used a platform called Dialogue which allowed residents to comment on the key ideas, leave comments, write ideas of their own as well as rate other ideas. It was important that the digital offer reflect the in-person events and encouraged residents to interact with the Big Conversation digitally.



Image 1: The homepage of the Dialogue platform. The page had an introduction (not pictured) to the engagement activity and below was a list of challenges – which were the 4 priorities. The image depicts an example of the ‘Grow our economy challenge’

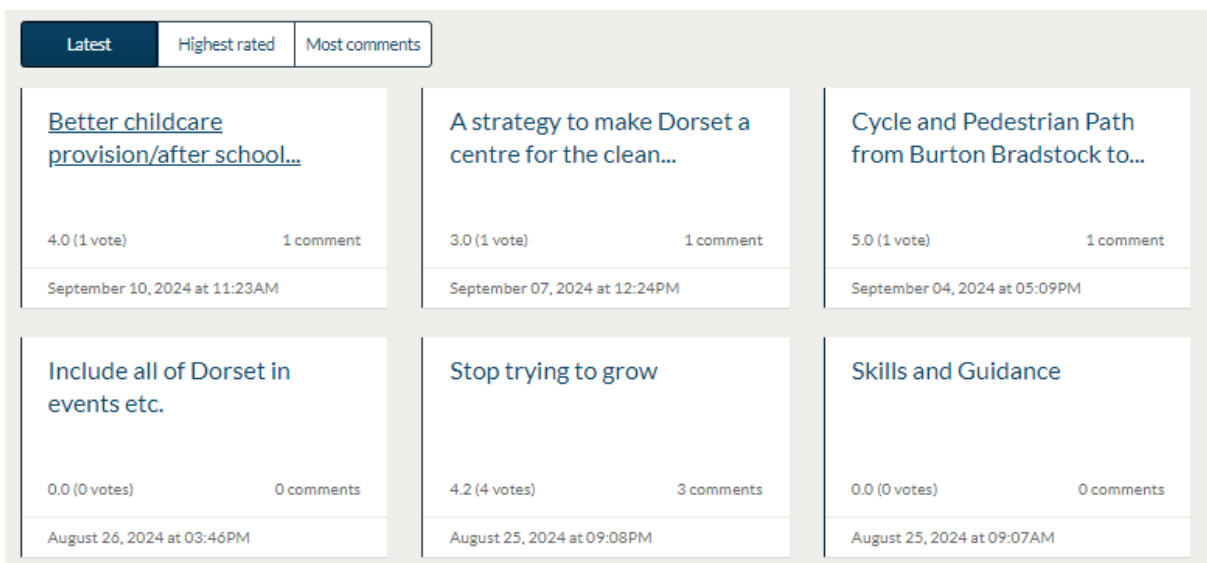


Image 2: Screen shot of ‘Grow our economy’ challenge once a resident clicked on it. Image depicts how residents could post ideas, comment and rate them.

Digitally excluded residents –

A4 paper copies of the in-person events were available in all Dorset Council-run libraries. Residents could complete these and hand them to the library staff. Alternatively, library staff were able to support residents to use the online Dialogue. Residents who are digitally excluded and unable to access a library were able to have a paper copy sent to them at home via the Dorset Council customer service team.

In-Person Event Locations

Resident Events

- Bridport (Bucky Doo Square), Wednesday 24 July, 10am to 3pm
- Dorchester (Food and Arts Festival), Saturday 3 August, 10am to 3pm
- Wimborne (Town Square), Friday 16 August, 8am to 2pm
- Portland (Easton Gardens), Saturday 24 August, 10am to 3pm
- Shaftesbury Town Market, Thursday 29 August, 9:30am to 2:30pm
- Wareham (The Quay), Saturday 31 August, 8am to 1pm
- Weymouth (New Bond Street), Saturday 7 September, 10am to 3pm

- Sherborne (Market), Sunday 15 September, 10am to 3pm

Town and Parish Council Events

- Wimborne (Leigh Park), Wednesday 21 August, 4.30pm to 6.30pm
- Bridport (Town Hall), Tuesday 27 Aug, 5pm to 7pm
- Blandford (Durweston Hall), Friday 6 September, 5.30pm to 7.30pm
- Dorchester (United Church - The Main Hall), Thursday 12 September, 5pm to 7pm

Executive Summary

Across all the priorities and overarching themes, with one exception, there is a very high level of agreement to the proposals, the data summary is detailed in the table and graph below. It is worth noting that there were there several comments on the theme of ‘how can you disagree with these?’, or ‘the statements as too overarching.’

In addition to the main engagement methods, we also received five additional detailed responses. Four from organisations/groups and one from an individual resident which are cited throughout against the relevant theme, but their full responses can be found in Appendix 1.

The organisation/group responses were from:

- Bridport Local Area Partnership
- Dorset Women CIC
- The Purbeck and Poole Group of Dorset CPRE (The Campaign to Protect Rural England)
- Langton Matravers Parish Council

The fifth was from an individual resident which can also be seen in the appendix.

The overall outcome summary:

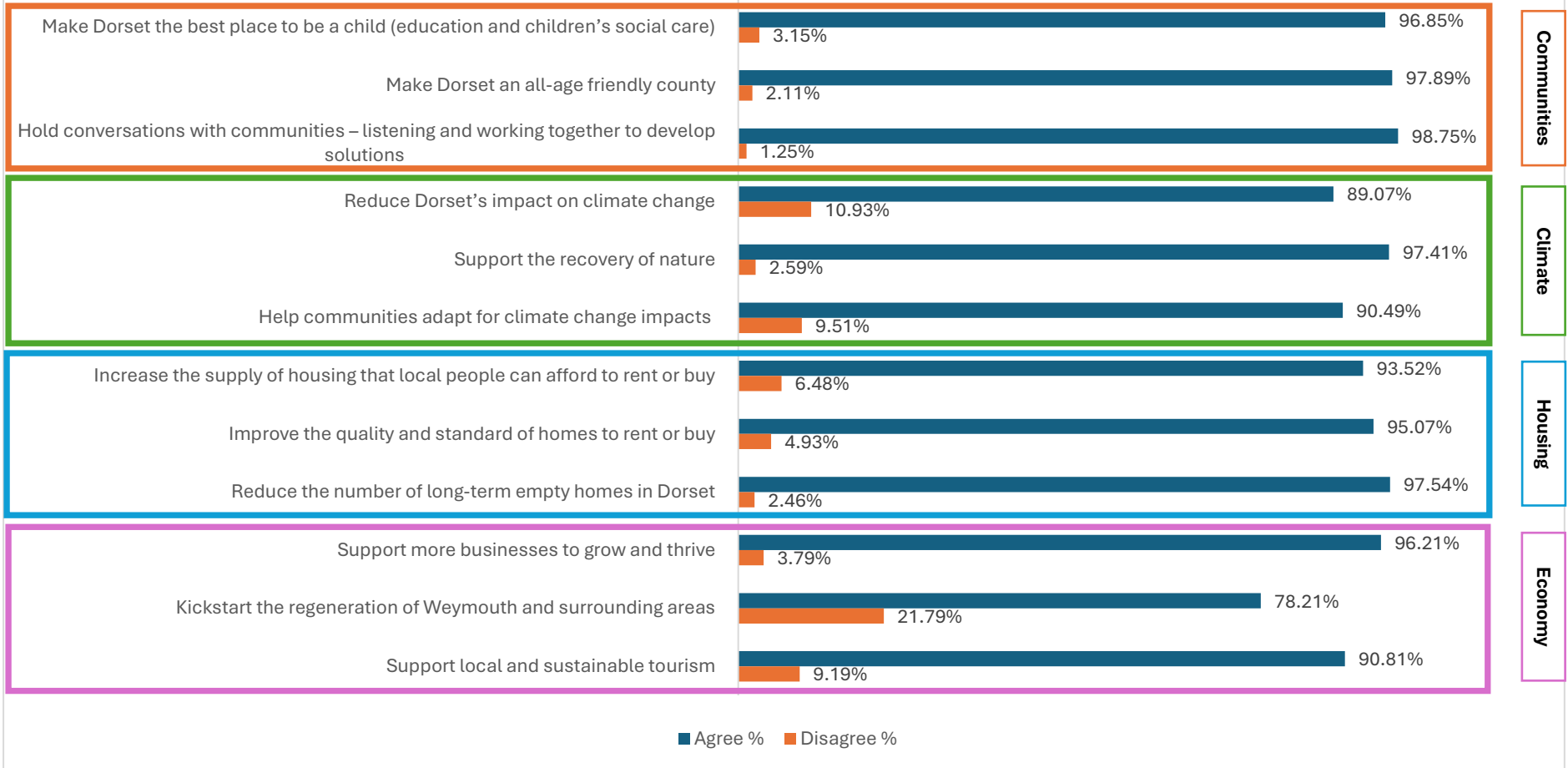
- The ‘Communities for all’ priority has the highest agreement overall compared to the other priorities
- ‘Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas’ had the highest disagreement of all the themes at 21.79%
- As an overall priority, the economy section had the highest disagreement percentages – namely due to ‘Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas’ (21.79%) and ‘Support local and sustainable tourism’ (9.19%)
- Across all the housing themes there is a high level of agreement, particularly in relation to reducing empty homes.
- ‘Reduce Dorset’s impact on climate change’ and ‘Help communities adapt for climate change impacts’ had disagreement rates of 10.93% and 9.51% respectively. ‘Support the recovery of nature’ however had the 4th highest overall agreement, at 97.41%

- A number of Towns and Parishes specifically disagreed with the ‘Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas’ aim, with 66.67% disagreeing across the 4 events.
- When looking at the youth events, the lowest agreement rate was with the ‘Support local and sustainable tourism’ aim at 60.71%
- A recurring theme across all 4 proposed priorities was regarding the need for better public and/or community transport
- The overall totals and percentages across the events are detailed in the table and graph below

Overall totals across all the events held				
Priorities	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Communities for all				
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children’s social care)	492	96.85%	16	3.15%
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county	511	97.89%	11	2.11%
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions	475	98.75%	6	1.25%
Respond to the climate crisis				
Reduce Dorset’s impact on climate change	432	89.07%	53	10.93%
Support the recovery of nature	527	97.41%	14	2.59%
Help communities adapt for climate change impacts	428	90.49%	45	9.51%
Provide high quality housing				
Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy	534	93.52%	37	6.48%
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy	444	95.07%	23	4.93%
Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset	556	97.54%	14	2.46%
Grow our economy				

Support more businesses to grow and thrive	482	96.21%	19	3.79%
Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas	305	78.21%	85	21.79%
Support local and sustainable tourism	415	90.81%	42	9.19%

Overall results



Statistical Detail

This section sets out the details of all events based on the key ideas for the four priorities: communities for all, respond to the climate crisis, provide high quality housing, grow our economy.

A full list of all the online and event comments can be found in Appendix 2 and 3 respectively.

The comments for all of the paper surveys and other events attended are included in the 'Residents' part of the tables and charts below.

The individual ideas on the online platform 'Dialogue' have been listed, and the comments we received in relation to the 4 proposed priorities have been added in as part of the main coding from the resident events. Where there are resident additional ideas, these are shown later in the report.

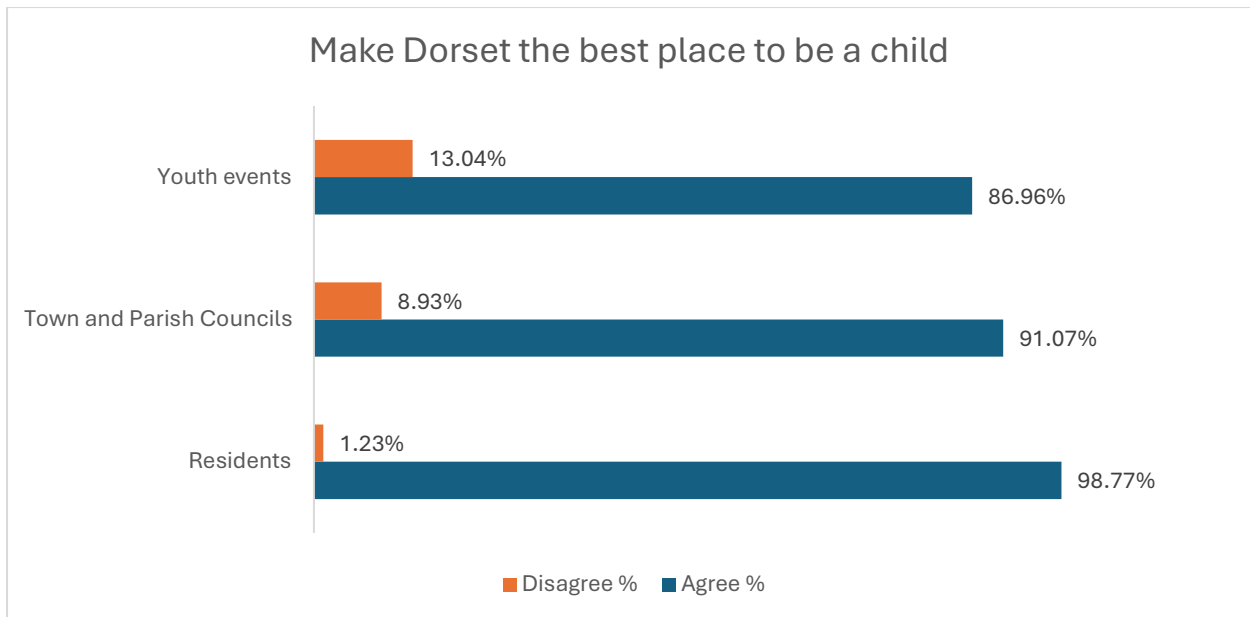
Please note that analysis has been performed with a thematic approach and in some areas throughout this report, this may not have been possible due to a sample size of comments.

Communities for all

Make Dorset the best place to be a child

Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	401	98.77%	5	1.23%
Town and Parish Councils	51	91.07%	5	8.93%
Youth Events	40	86.96%	6	13.04%

Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	5	4.8	4



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Safe indoor and outdoor spaces for children
- Youth services, centres and facilities - places for young people to go and have things to do
- Better funding to improve and support schools
- Increase SEND provision to support more young people
- Mental health support for young people including SEN support
- Transport and active travel for young people
- Some comments referencing vagueness of the aim/can't disagree
- Support for teenagers, not just children. Several respondents (from youth events) said there was no provision for them in their towns

Organisational comments

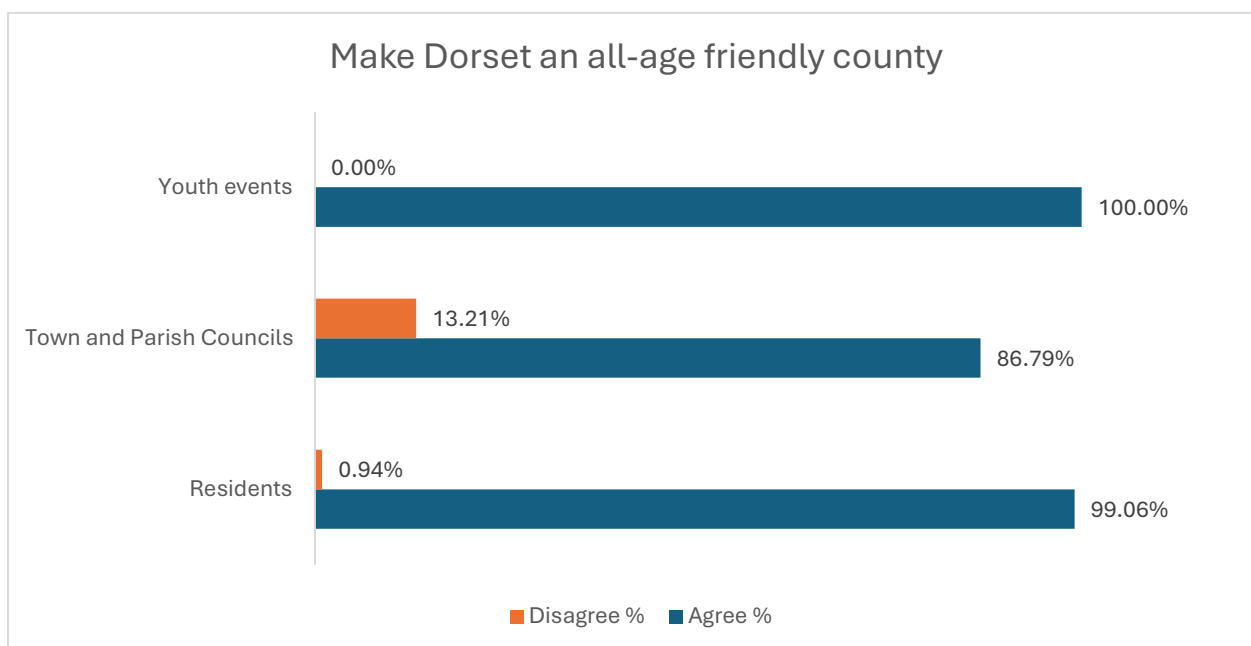
Dorset Women CIC said to make Dorset the best place to be a child, they recommend: *'Adopt and promote the Dorset Women's Charter and work collaboratively with the voluntary and private sectors to achieve the standards set out in 1, 2, 5, and 7 of the Charter'*.

Bridport Local Area Partnership support the priority *'and highlight a need to address the growing number of children living in households in poverty. We welcome the recent opening of a Family Hub in Bridport (on the site of the former Children's Centre) and believe this initiative could be developed further, including to ensure its support is accessible to those living in outlying rural parishes. We also note that Special Educational Needs (SEND) services are under severe and growing pressure'*.

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	420	99.06%	4	0.94%
Town and Parish Councils	46	86.79%	7	13.21%
Youth Events	45	100%	0	0

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	9	4.4	7



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- More focus on young people including housing and job opportunities
- Incorporate more alternatives to digital offer (more in person support)
- More balance of support for older and younger demographics. Value in bringing different age groups together – improves synergy and community
- Improved public transport across the board, particularly the bus service. Elderly can feel isolated in their community
- Make village life affordable for families and young people

- Proportion of new homes go to retirees from other counties. Do we want to encourage this? Focus on how we can support elderly without encouraging an influx of retirees from outside local area

Organisational comments

Bridport Local Area Partnership said *‘if the priority is about meeting the service needs of and providing opportunities for residents of differing ages, then we support it. It could, however, usefully be broadened out to refer to all residents, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, etc. We note that improving public transport networks would benefit those who don’t drive or don’t have access to a car, including many young people, older people who no longer drive and others on low incomes. Providing more people with adequate digital skills would also help to deliver fair access to services, including Council and NHS services.’*

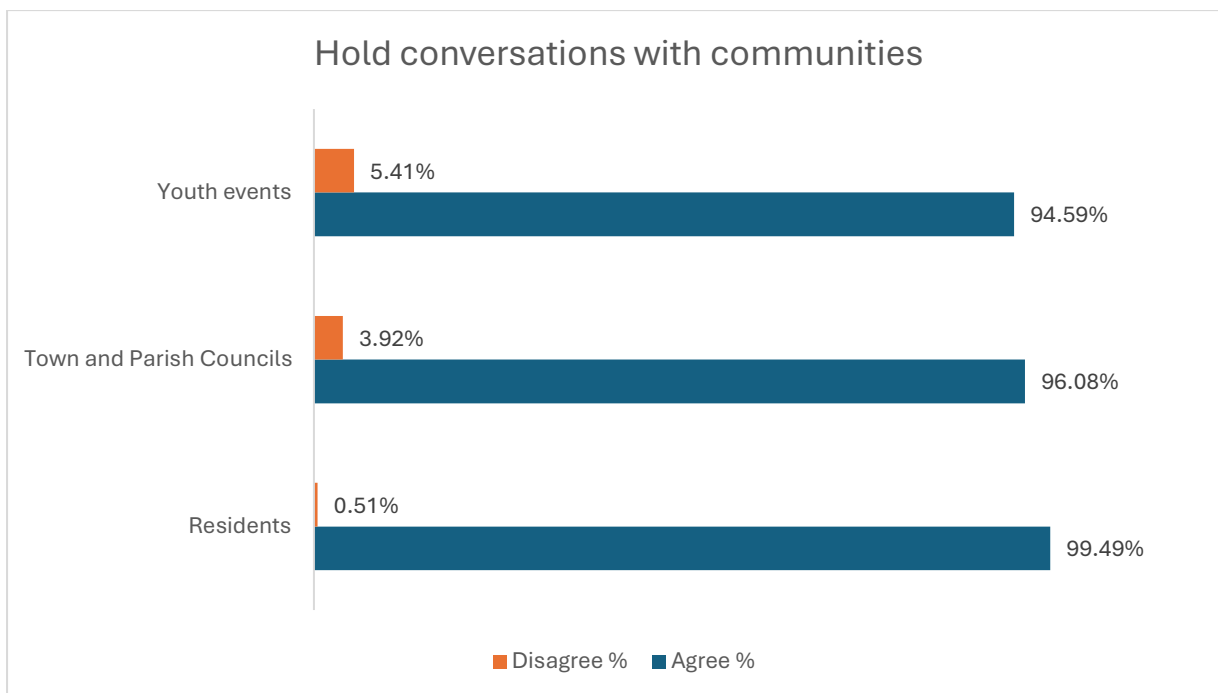
The Purbeck and Poole Group of Dorset CPRE, said, *‘protect and value the environment, green spaces and local cultural heritage which are vital for communities’ mental and physical health and wellbeing’.*

Dorset Women CIC listed a recommendation with references to the Dorset Women’s Charter (Appendix 1), but also said, *‘women and girls of different ages face unique challenges. The Council should engage with community leaders and organisations to identify and address these issues through targeted initiatives’.*

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	391	99.49%	2	0.51%
Town and Parish Councils	49	96.08%	2	3.92%
Youth Events	35	94.59%	2	5.41%

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	7	5	0



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- More diverse methods of engagement, with a general concern about lack of engagement. How this is fed back important too
- Local communities to have a voice in local decisions
- Some areas already work with DC/charities
- Need to improve communications and consultation with smaller parishes especially – not just about having conversations with larger areas. Formalise communication flow
- Clarity on neighbourhood plans and more interaction with planning team and Parish Councils
- Dorset Council to listen and communicate with Town and Parish Councils

Organisational responses

Dorset Women CIC have provided a list of recommendations for solutions to support holding conversations with communities which can be found in Appendix 1, but also said *'Women and girls should be actively involved in community decision-*

making processes. The Council should adopt inclusive engagement strategies that ensure their voices are heard and their needs are addressed’.

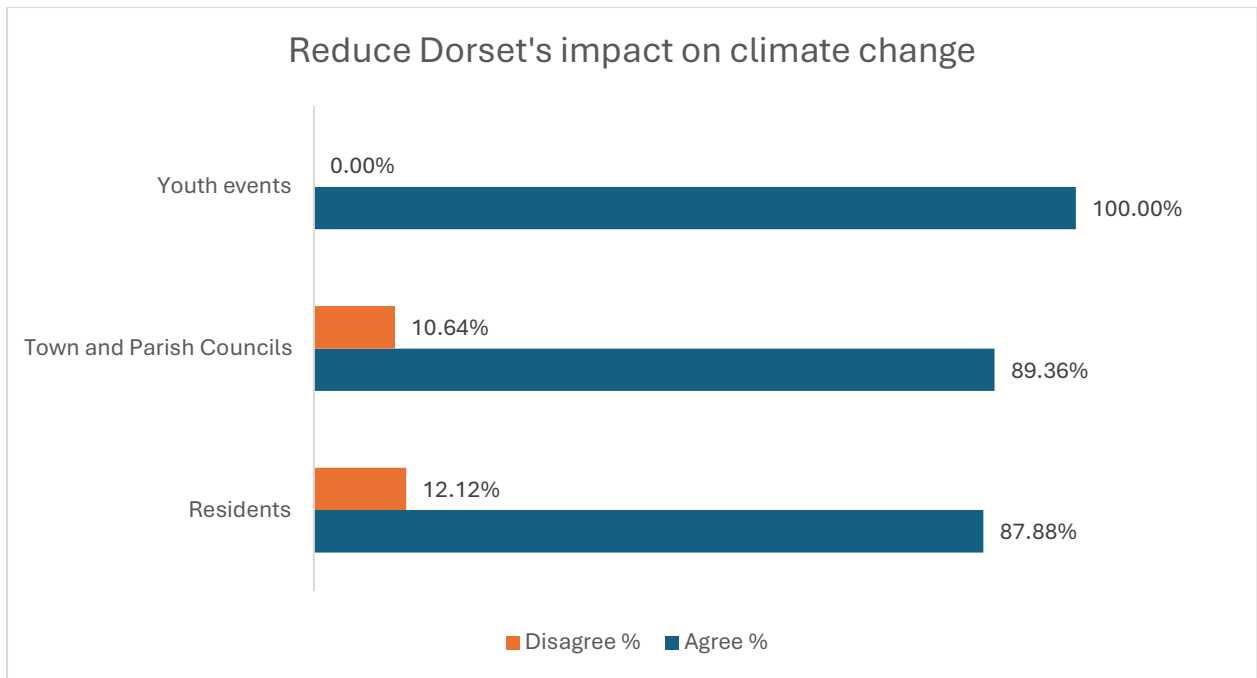
Bridport Local Area Partnership strongly support this priority: *‘Dorset is a sizeable and varied county. There is considerable variation in local circumstance and community needs, so policies and services should be designed with sufficient flexibility (rather than imposing a single approach). We understand that Dorset Council is exploring the scope for ‘area forums’ or similar. In principle, this would be a very welcome development, which could enable two-way communication and help improve or tailor local delivery.’* The full response to this aim can be seen in Appendix 1.

Respond to the climate crisis

Reduce Dorset’s impact on climate change

Reduce Dorset’s impact on climate change	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	348	87.88%	48	12.12%
Town and Parish Councils	42	89.36%	5	10.64%
Youth Events	42	100%	0	0%

Reduce Dorset’s impact on climate change	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	9	4.4	4



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Fit solar panels as standard to new build/more green technology
- Wind, solar and wave should be the priority
- Better integration and connectedness of public transport. Make being car-free more attractive, particularly in rural areas
- Make green travel easier and safer
- Retrofit schemes to support existing homeowners
- More information needed – how will it be reduced?
- Involve Town and Parishes in decision-making
- More public bins to reduce litter

Organisational Responses

Bridport Local Area Partnership support the aim and *'commend relevant plans or actions already developed by a number of the Partnership's member town and parish councils. The need to produce an up-to-date and Dorset-wide Local Plan should be used as an opportunity to make more headway on this agenda. As noted above, the scope to improve provision of public transport (and active transport) also presents an opportunity for Dorset Council.'*

Dorset Women CIC provided two main recommendations, which are:

1. *'Work with specific employers to implement policies and programs that encourage women's participation in the energy sector, including renewable energy development and energy efficiency initiatives*

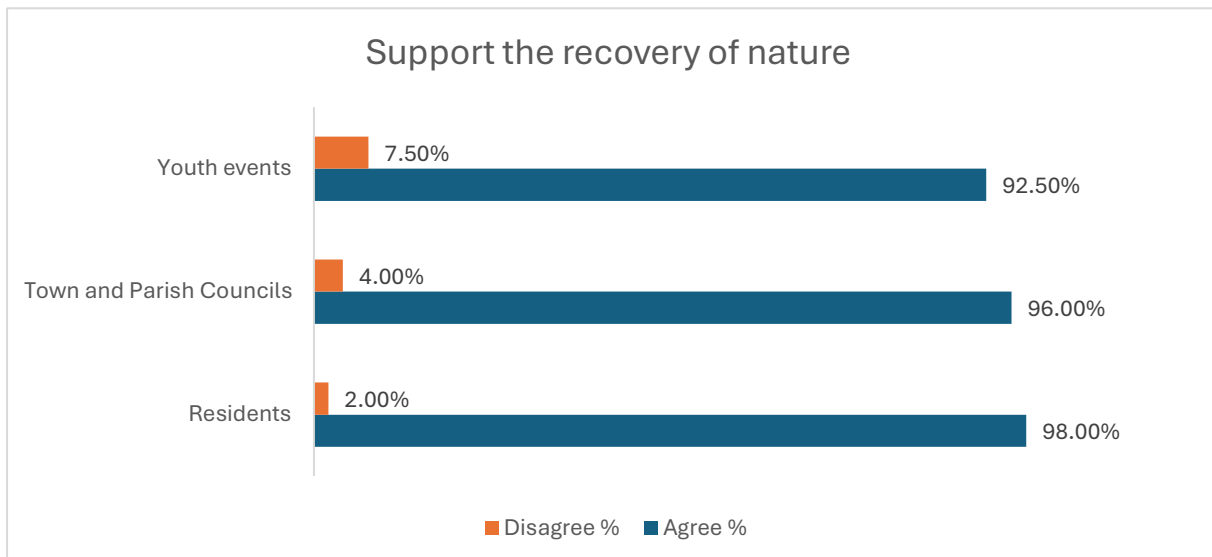
2. *Strengthen women's advocacy networks to support the growth and development of activity focused on climate change, such as the Green Women's Network'*

The Purbeck and Poole Group of Dorset CPRE said, *'value and enhance our countryside so that it can provide high quality food products and good jobs, support and enhance nature, manage water resources and quality, capture carbon in soils, woods and hedges, and support public health and wellbeing'*.

Support recovery of nature

Support the recovery of nature	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	442	98%	9	2%
Town and Parish Councils	48	96%	2	4%
Youth Events	37	92.5%	3	7.5%

Support the recovery of nature	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	16	4.8	10



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Regenerative farming also supports nature. Should not be conflict of food and nature. Support local farmers as it needs support to be sustainable
- More wildflower and tree planting
- Conflicting comments on verges. Support nature recovery but can affect visibility
- Stopping use of chemicals such as glyphosates and phosphate
- Stop allowing builds on green belt
- Careful consideration of impact on rural economy – need to stand up for Dorset and protect our unique landscapes

Organisational Responses

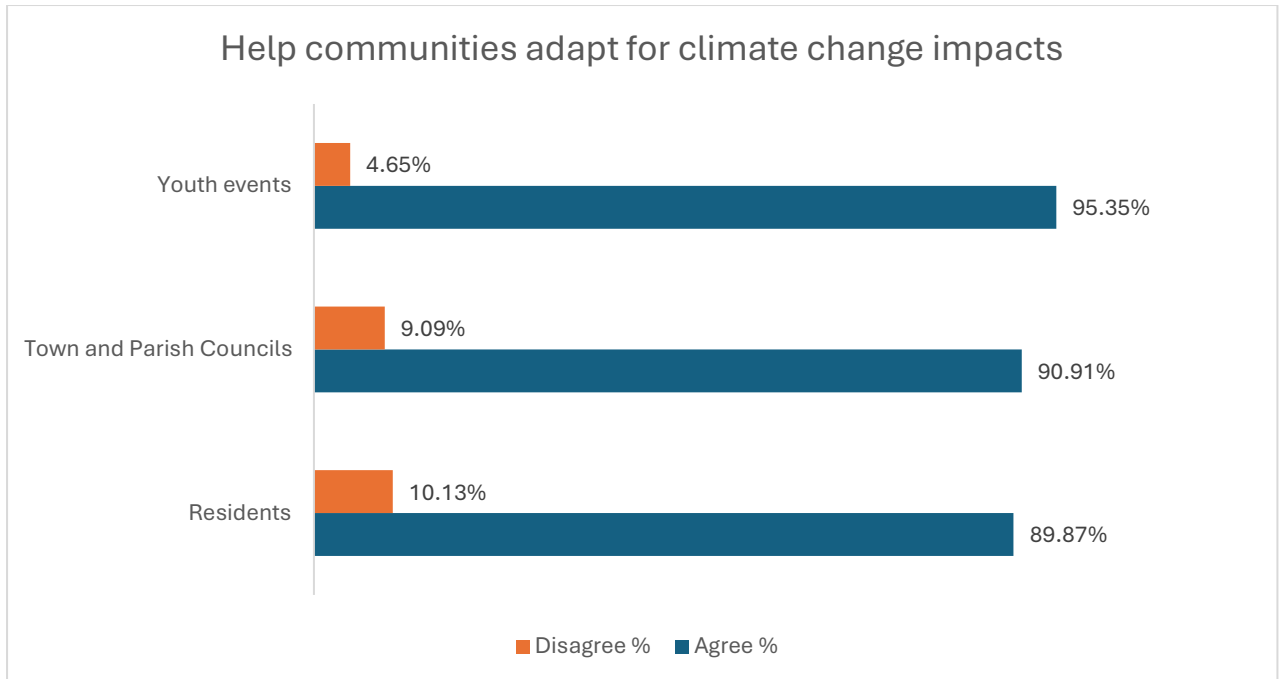
Bridport Local Area Partnership support this priority, saying ‘*Dorset Council should partner with key organisations such as Dorset Wildlife Trust, support landscape recovery projects such as West Dorset Wilding and encourage the many community groups which are active on this agenda.*’ Further comments are available in Appendix 1.

Dorset Women CIC provided a recommendation, saying: ‘*Support Community-Based Conservation Initiatives Led by Women: Provide funding, training, and resources to women-led community-based conservation projects in order to support initiatives led by women.*’

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	337	89.87%	38	10.13%
Town and Parish Councils	50	90.91%	5	9.09%
Youth Events	41	95.35%	2	4.65%

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	9	4	4



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Support for residents to install energy saving items
- Encourage householders and commercial properties to install solar
- Support for flooding and flash floods, including ensuring drains are cleaned and those covered by soil/bank slippage
- Reduction of land to build means more surface water and flooding as old infrastructure cannot cope. No additional development in flooding communities
- Work with Town and Parishes, both in action and communications to communities

Organisational Responses

Bridport Local Area Partnership support the aim, citing *‘there has been growing concern in the wider Bridport area about river and groundwater flooding, and about quickening coastal erosion. Dorset Council should prioritise its work with other relevant agencies, such as the Environment Agency, and should aim to better resource maintenance of drainage networks. It should also partner with Parish and Town Councils, to help them help their communities at times of stress e.g. by providing sufficient sandbags.’*

Dorset Women CIC had 2 recommendations for this aim:

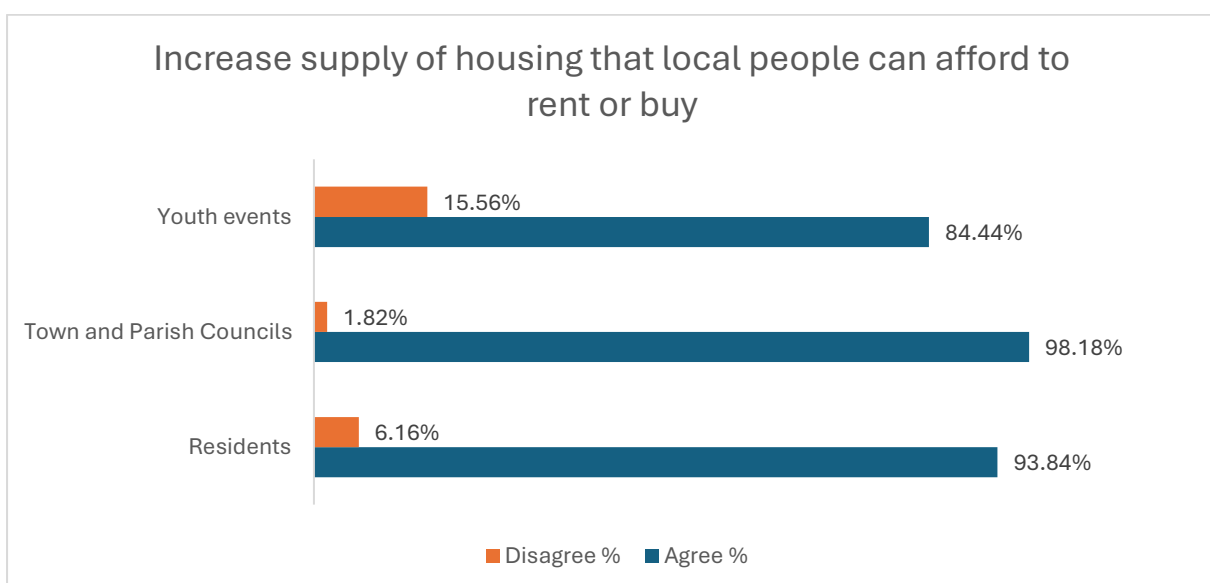
1. *'Increase Women's Representation in Climate Leadership Roles: Promote women's leadership in decision-making bodies and governance structures related to climate change to inspire young women and girls to engage in initiatives and use their influence in families and workplaces*
2. *Work with education providers to develop educational programs that equip women and girls with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate effectively in climate action, particularly in relation to climate change engineering and other STEM related subjects'*

Provide high quality housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	442	93.84%	29	6.16%
Town and Parish Councils	54	98.18%	1	1.82%
Youth Events	38	84.44%	7	15.56%

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	19	4.6	14



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Need infrastructure such as doctors and pharmacies to support the new houses
- Affordable housing/starter homes to help young people onto the ladder or to rent
- More affordable properties/social homes to rent and/or buy generally. Build social housing/council houses
- Developments should be linked to local needs. This support should help people remain in their local area.
- Rent control or rent to be more affordable
- Affordable properties not what they claim to be
- What is affordable? How will this be quantified?

Organisation Responses

Bridport Local Area Partnership strongly support this aim, referencing the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan: *‘There is a severe shortage of affordable housing in the Bridport area, with many local households priced out of the market. Analysis for the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan found that the core need was for Social Rent housing, with so-called Affordable Rent beyond the means of most of those in need. With that in mind, we note current Government proposals to reform the National Planning Policy Framework, which will expect local planning authorities to consider Social Rent housing (specifically) when carrying out housing needs assessment and setting affordable housing policies. We hope that this policy change can be reflected quickly in an up-to-date Dorset Local Plan.’*

Dorset Women CIC had 3 specific recommendations, which are:

- *‘Mainstream the use of sex-disaggregated data about housing in order to understand the gendered issues related to provision of housing and housing related support needs.*
- *Invest in new social and affordable housing with very specific intentions and focus on meeting the needs of women and girls.*
- *Provision of, or investment in, ring-fenced funding for women-only accommodation across a range of sectors that recognises the specific needs of women and girls’*

The Purbeck and Poole Group of Dorset CPRE stated, *‘Dorset needs the right houses in the right places, of appropriate tenure to meet local needs (including more truly affordable homes) and high quality (for example including solar panels, good insulation), in the interests of sustainable communities, environment, economy and climate. Dorset Council has responsibility, in consultation with local people, to devise a Local Plan which is appropriate for Dorset, a Local Plan which: supports*

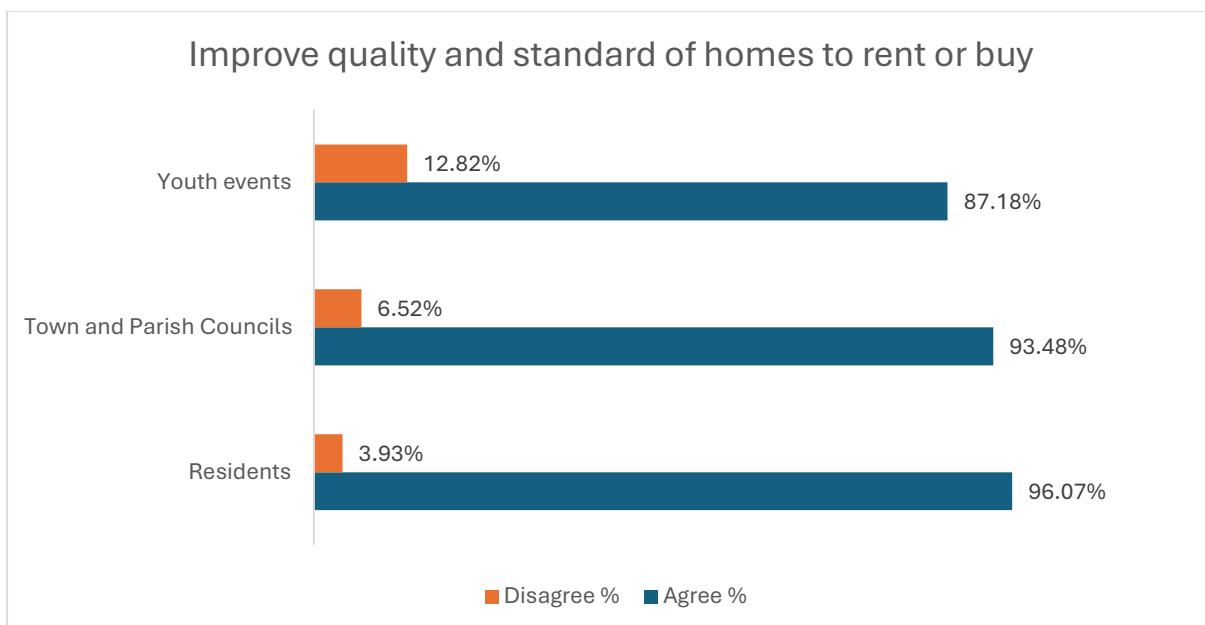
sustainable communities and meets their needs; promotes the local economy; addresses the climate and nature emergencies; and protects, enhances, and respects the significance and value of Dorset’s environment and heritage.’

Langton Matravers Parish Council provided 7 recommendations regarding the priority, which can be seen in Appendix 1. They have said, *‘to improve our housing situation, Dorset Council should enhance the role of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) in Dorset and encourage CLTs to drive the development of affordable high-quality homes.’*

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	367	96.07%	15	3.93%
Town and Parish Councils	43	93.48%	3	6.52%
Youth Events	34	87.18%	5	12.82%

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	10	4.7	5



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Houses need to be affordably priced, both in terms of rental and to buy
- New properties to be environmentally friendly – for example through solar panels and insulation
- Quality over quantity – checks to take place to ensure meets appropriate standards
- Planning policy to allow for energy saving changes to existing properties
- Ensure properties are affordable to local residents – both for rentals and owning a property

Organisation Responses

Bridport Local Area Partnership support the aim, and *‘recognise the poor quality of some homes in the rental sector, which – amongst other things – can make them expensive for tenants to heat. It is, of course, important (as a minimum) that all private landlords meet the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard and social registered landlords meet the Decent Homes Standard.’*

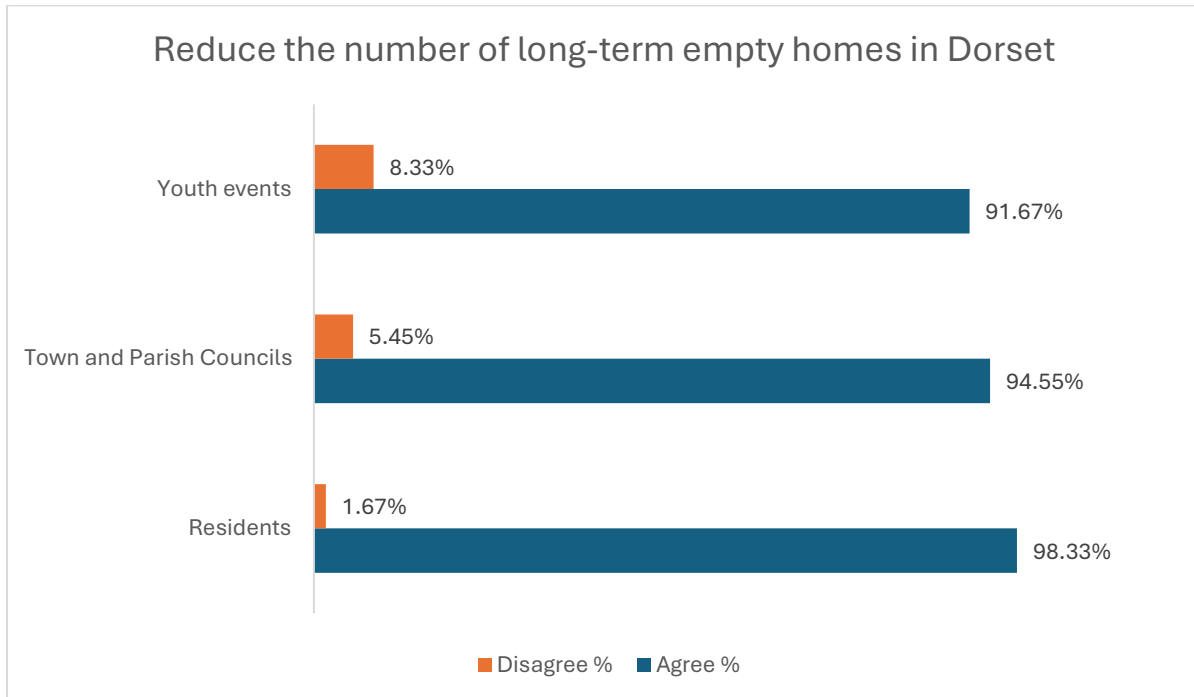
Dorset Women CIC have 4 recommendations for this particular aim, which are:

1. *‘Invest in better monitoring of the quality of housing to ensure all housing is of sufficient sanitary and safety standards to enable women and girls to thrive*
2. *Monitor, and a require improvement to, housing features such as outdoor play areas, community gardens, lighting and other security options that specifically accommodate the ways in which women and girls use space and that ensures their safety*
3. *Ensure easily accessible support services targeted towards women including crisis intervention, advocates, legal services, peer mentors etc.*
4. *Invest in infrastructure that supports women and girls as integral to new or existing housing options: public transport, shops parks and recreation spaces, schools, healthcare and cultural centres’.*

Reduce number of long-term empty homes

Reduce number of long-term empty homes	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	471	98.33%	8	1.67%
Town and Parish Councils	52	94.55%	3	5.45%
Youth Events	33	91.67%	3	8.33%

Reduce number of long-term empty homes	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	17	4.7	6



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Reduce and manage second homes, including Airbnb properties and holiday homes
- Increase Council Tax for second homes
- Empty properties to be utilised
- Not just homes, also commercial/listed buildings
- How are you going to deliver this? Is compulsory purchase an option? Concerns over ability to achieve this
- Less building restrictions on changes to existing buildings

Organisation Responses

Bridport Local Area Partnership support the priority, and would like to see homelessness referenced, saying 'we... would encourage Dorset Council to use its powers to bring such homes back into use, wherever possible. This priority should include reducing empty flats over shops, not least in town centres, and homes lost from the local housing market due to becoming second homes. This latter category has become a significant issue in some coastal locations. Under this theme, we

would also like to see explicit reference to significantly reducing homelessness. Increasing the supply of affordable homes will certainly contribute to that aim, but a broader policy approach is needed to succeed.’

Dorset Women CIC had three recommendations, which are:

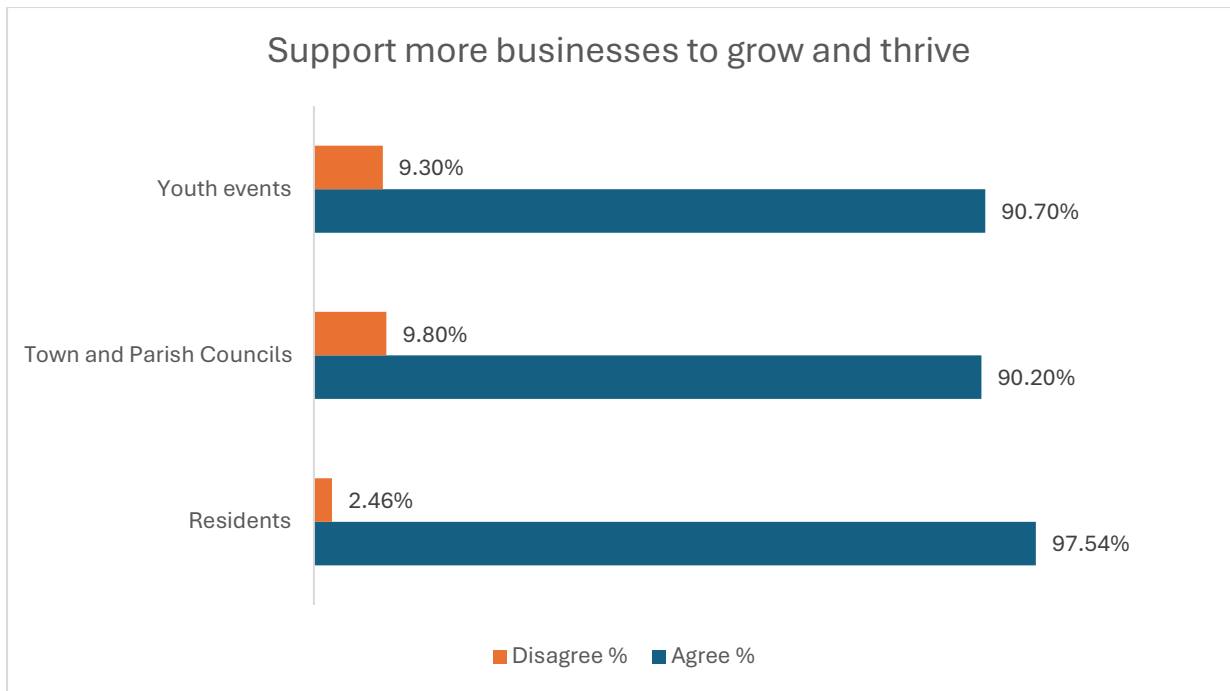
1. *‘Invest in financial incentives to property owners and working in partnership with charities that support vulnerable women, bring vacant properties back into use specifically to provide safe and affordable housing for women based on their gender-specific needs*
2. *Create the role of a dedicated Empty Property Officer role to identify and engage with property owners, providing guidance and support on issues specifically relating to the needs of vulnerable women and their families working in partnership with family hubs and other charities to ensure ongoing support for the property owner and the tenant*
3. *Explore partnerships with housing associations or community land trusts to acquire and repurpose empty properties to increase the availability of affordable housing, particularly for women and girls who face unique challenges in the housing market’*

Grow our economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

Support more businesses to grow and thrive	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	397	97.54%	10	2.46%
Town and Parish Councils	46	90.20%	5	9.80%
Youth Events	39	90.70%	4	9.30%

Support more businesses to grow and thrive	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	14	4.3	11



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Improve public transport
- Reduce parking charges for shoppers
- Support and encourage local and independent businesses through things like lower business rates
- Local and rural businesses can then provide high quality work opportunities
- Training for young people and more generally in relation to local area needs
- Ensuring there are no empty shops

Organisation Responses

The Purbeck and Poole Group of Dorset CPRE said, *‘grow the local economy in ways which promote a sustainable future for our communities and countryside, and in ways appropriate to Dorset’s opportunities and challenges, strengths and needs, including promoting the green/blue economy.’*

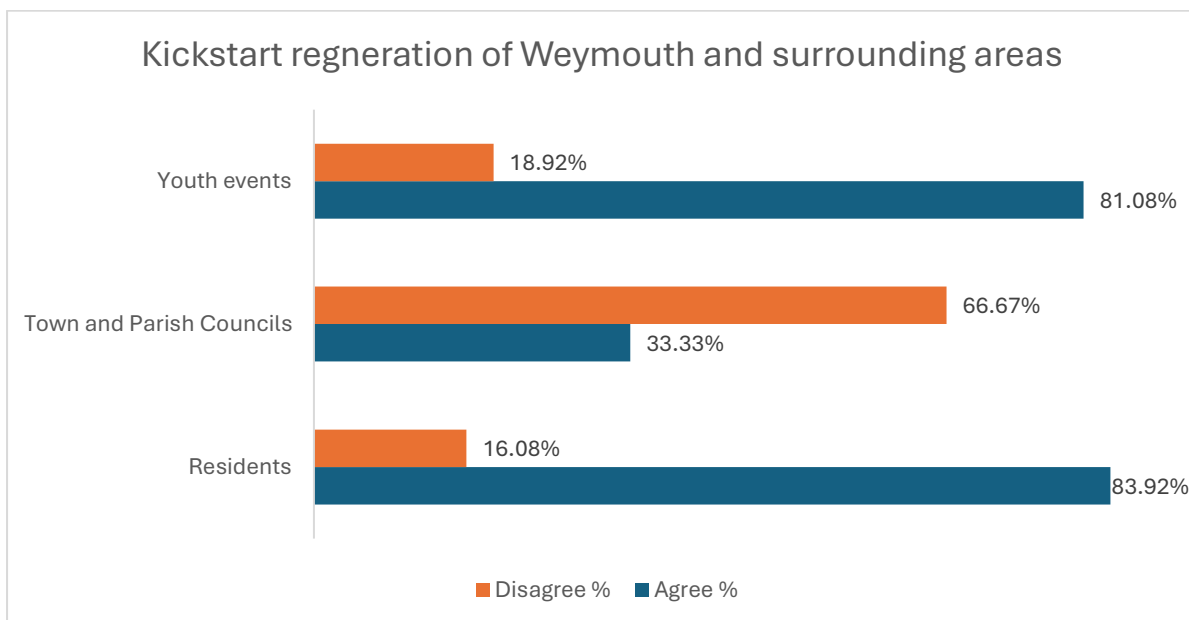
Bridport Local Area Partnership strongly supports this aim, stating: *‘businesses will benefit from having usable public transport provision, improved digital connectivity and affordable homes for their workforce, amongst other things. There is also a need to ensure that those of working age have good access to a range of quality skills or training providers and to apprenticeships, including those living outside the larger towns. These actions could also help to retain more younger people within the county. Furthermore, they should 4 improve support and opportunities for those who are classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training).’*

Dorset Women CIC listed 10 recommendations for this aim, which can be seen in Appendix 1.

Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	261	83.92%	50	16.08%
Town and Parish Councils	14	33.33%	28	66.67%
Youth Events	30	81.08%	7	18.92%

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	9	4.1	9



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Not just Weymouth that needs support – Dorset is bigger than one area. References to North, East, West, Portland and also rural areas needing support

- Whole county should be regenerated, not one area

Organisation Responses

Bridport Local Area Partnership acknowledges that Weymouth has regeneration needs, however, go on to say *‘it is... important that needs elsewhere in the county do not go overlooked. Previous policy interventions in Dorset – such as for economic development and transport – have mainly focused on the east of the county (the commuter belt around Bournemouth and Poole) and/or around the Weymouth area. By contrast, areas such as west Dorset have received little attention and few resources. We note that Dorset Council’s own analysis shows Bridport contains one of the county’s most deprived neighbourhoods, plus another neighbourhood falling just outside this list. Bridport also has physical regeneration needs, not least at its bus station, for which there are (as yet unfunded) plans. Equally, often overlooked and unaddressed is the very real – if less visible – poverty, isolation and lack of economic opportunity evident in some of our rural parishes.’*

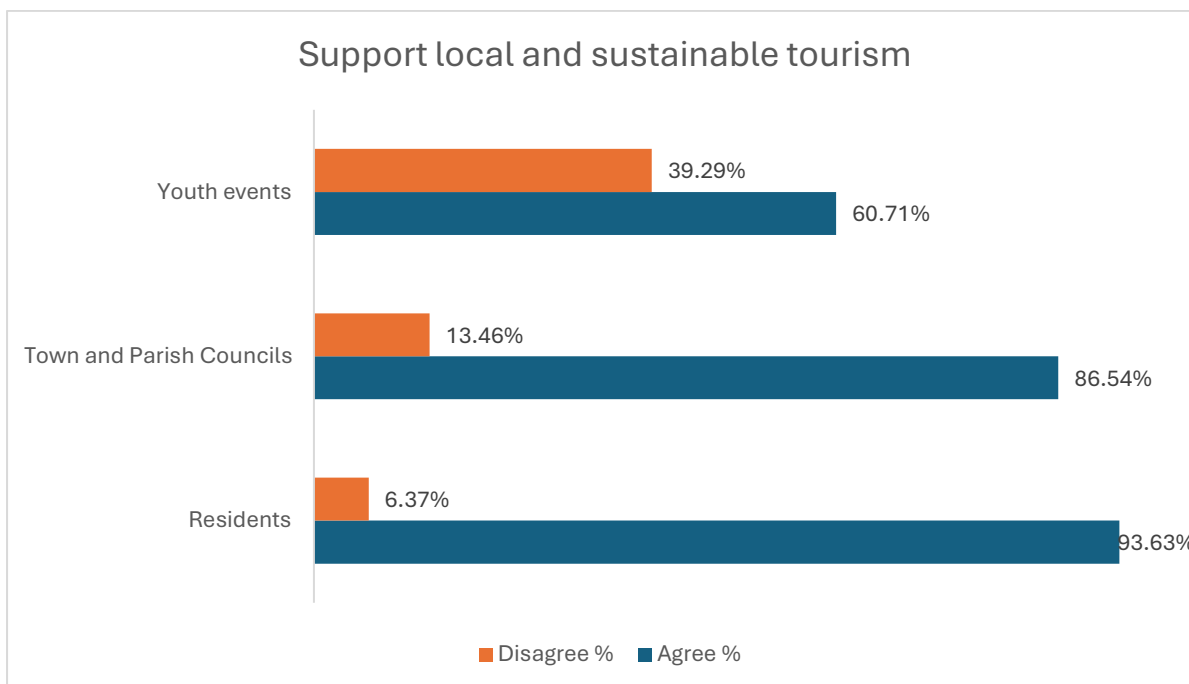
Dorset Women CIC listed 3 recommendations for this aim, which are:

1. *‘Undertake a listening exercise to fully understand the different barriers that men and women face to visiting and working in Weymouth and what would change their attitudes to viewing the town more positively for them and their families*
2. *Invest specifically in women-led business, female entrepreneurship and family focused venues in Weymouth. Studies consistently show that women-owned companies deliver higher returns on investment and better social cohesion*
3. *Work with education providers and business networks to provide access to funding, mentorship programs, and business development training for women in Weymouth and the surrounding areas’*

Support local and sustainable tourism

Support local and sustainable tourism	Agree count	Agree %	Disagree count	Disagree %
Residents	353	93.63%	24	6.37%
Town and Parish Councils	45	86.54%	7	13.46%
Youth Events	17	60.71%	11	39.29%

Support local and sustainable tourism	Number of ratings	Rating out of 5	Number of comments
Dialogue	11	3.7	10



Most frequent comments across all the events and online

- Regular, reliable and connected public transport
- Too much focus on tourism – need a more diversified economy
- Emphasis on supporting local businesses and bringing jobs to the area
- Key word being sustainable. To be appropriate for the area
- Centralised access to ‘what’s on?’ across the county
- Tourism-based businesses seasonal and low paid. Residents should not suffer for benefit of tourists

Organisation Responses

Bridport Local Area Partnership support ambitions to improve sustainability in the tourism sector, and also consider value could be added by initiatives to extend the tourism season. However, *‘whilst fully appreciating the importance of the local tourist economy, we question why that sector specifically is selected as a focus for extra support. It can be argued that, to achieve a more resilient and productive economy, the focus should be on diversifying into other sectors. Residents in areas like west Dorset would benefit from access to a broader range of job opportunities. Employment in tourism is often seasonal and low-paid. We also hear other concerns*

about the high dependence on tourism, including its impact on the local housing market (e.g. more second homes or short term lets) and road congestion’.

Dorset Women CIC listed 2 recommendations for this aim:

1. *‘Work with the biggest hospitality and tourism employers across Dorset to set world class, women-specific and family friendly recruitment and retention 6 policies that invest in women’s career progression, remove the gender pay gap, and ensure equitable opportunities for work.*
2. *Work with the providers of Transport services to ensure that women and girls do not experience disproportionate barriers to safe and efficient travel across the county. Please see our report on Women and Transport.’*

Additional ideas – Dialogue

Dialogue allowed those that took part to pose their own ideas and suggestions for how Dorset Council could meet the priorities. Respondents also had to state why their idea was important. Here we are listing the idea with some additional information left by the respondent. In some cases, this is not all the information, due to the length of the comment. The comments in their entirety can be found in the appendix.

From those ideas, users could rate them out of 5, which gives an average rating across all the ideas. Here we will rank the highest rated ideas across the 4 proposed priorities. As with the ideas Dorset Council posed, users could comment on these new ideas too. These can also be found in the appendix.

Communities for all

The idea	Rating out of 5	Based on:
Build an access road from Woolsbridge Road/axis 31 business parks to the A31	5	10 votes
Make Horton Road in Ashley Heath safer for everyone	5	9 votes
Rural areas need public transport links to local towns. Adjacent to the bus stops should also be secure bicycle racks, so if you have to cycle to your nearest bus stop you have somewhere safe to leave your bike.	5	5 votes
Increase GP and Dentist provision across the county	5	4 votes
Make sure it is COMPULSORY for all new build schemes to provide these services. We are struggling right across Dorset for		

both and with the amount of houses being built, it will only get worse.		
<p>Pedestrian crossings along Horton Road</p> <p>1 pedestrian crossing on Horton Road by Waldorf and Sheiling schools and St Ives House care home.</p> <p>1 pedestrian crossing on Horton Road by Moors Valley entrance</p>	5	4 votes
<p>Local bus service in Lyme Regis</p> <p>With the news that the vital Lyme Regis town bus service is under threat once again as Dorset Council have ended the contract with the bus operator, this is a concern.</p>	5	3 votes
<p>Re-establish a universal access Youth service</p> <p>Work in partnership with public health to re-establish a universal access Youth service that embeds the 5 Steps to Wellbeing, offering young people a wide range of activities including art, drama, music, sport, cultural experiences, leadership and social skills.</p>	5	2 votes
<p>Parkrun!</p> <p>Dorset needs more park runs. This is to encourage exercise and reduce travel getting to the few around.</p>	5	2 votes
<p>Support the Arts and Cultural sector</p> <p>Support the arts and cultural sector to ensure that all communities have access to high quality arts activity.</p>	5	2 votes
<p>High speed fibre Wi-Fi in Dorset</p> <p>Many locations in Dorset have very poor Wi-Fi, including residential areas with no access to fibre. Starlink is our only option to get decent speeds and that is £80 a month.</p>	4.9	10 votes
<p>change speed limit on A35</p> <p>change the speed limit on the A35 (particularly coming into and out of Bridport) but presumably other areas as well where there are houses on the road - reduce it from 40 to 30 miles per hour as in other residential areas</p>	4.2	5 votes
<p>Improve road safety and provide safer routes to school for young people living in villages and rural areas</p> <p>Many of the current travel initiatives and projects going on around the County focus on sustainable travel in and between</p>	3.6	3

build up areas, e.g. Wimborne/Ferndown where the infrastructure has been upgraded to allow residents to walk and cycle around that area more safely. Unfortunately, there seems to be a presumption that villages and more rural areas are already safe for children/young people to cycle and walk around, due to the perceived 'quietness' of these areas.		
Cycle lanes To encourage more people to cycle to improve general health and wellbeing.	3.2	5
Urgent Need for Saturday Bus Services in Sturminster Newton To express the concerns regarding the lack of Saturday bus services in Sturminster Newton. This change has significantly impacted many residents, particularly those who rely on public transport due to disabilities, lack of personal vehicles, or the need to the need to commute to work on Saturdays.	3	1
Listen and Take Notice of Local Residents The recent decision of Dorset Council to approve a Battery Energy Storage System in Chickerell went against the significant majority of the town's residents who had been vociferous in not wanting the BESS to be built within the town. Chickerell Town Council had also recommended rejection of the plan.	0	0
Enforce parking rules in residential roads In my specific street, there are too many cars of residents than there is capacity of roadside parking (let alone for visitors, too).	0	0

Respond to the climate crisis

The idea	Rating out of 5	Based on:
Making buses a realistic alternative to cars. Greater use of buses can be an important element in reducing car usage and carbon emissions. The new Labour government says it will introduce a Bill giving leaders of local authorities - such as Dorset Council - more control over bus services. This presents Dorset with a great opportunity to play an important part in tackling the climate crisis.	5	9 votes

<p>Back the Nature Declaration with specific aims, measurable targets, and time limits</p> <p>Dorset Council recently declared a Nature Emergency: congratulations on an inspiring start! Please back up this declaration with specific aims, measurable targets, and time limits.</p>	5	8 votes
<p>Timetable to reduce/stop glyphosate use and other chemicals</p> <p>We ask the council to commit to a timetable for reducing and stopping the use of glyphosate (Roundup) and other pesticides (i.e. chemicals targeted at plant or animal 'pests') and chemicals harmful to nature (and to humans) on our roads, pavements and countryside.</p>	5	6 votes
<p>Keep protection of Dorset's environment as the 'Golden Thread'</p> <p>The character and quality of Dorset's natural and cultural environment of its coast and countryside are key attributes that sustain business, attract visitors, and provide a high quality of place for residents to live. Protecting and sustaining the whole of the environment of the County, not just the Heritage Coast and National Landscapes, should run as a 'Golden Thread' through the Council's Plan.</p>	5	5 votes
<p>Nature and climate crisis</p> <p>The title should be 'respond to the nature and climate crisis'</p>	5	4 votes
<p>Community Power generation</p> <p>Could we take inspiration from the Walthamstow Power Station Group who are creating power generation at within streets so that no one misses out. ABOUT POWER — POWER and initiatives closer to home like Energy Local Bridport – Dorset Community Energy where power generation is done at a much more local level that local people can buy into and benefit from.</p>	5	2 votes
<p>Dorset National and Marine Park</p> <p>We encourage the Council to consider the case for the proposed Dorset National & Marine Park (DNMP) which would be a close partner, asset and agency for the Dorset Council. It would bring additional resources and expertise, and work in close partnership with the Council, communities, businesses and other stakeholders to help deliver the Council's strategy for everyone in Dorset.</p>	5	2 votes
<p>Citizen assembly</p>	5	1 vote

A citizen assembly is one way to empower the community to help prioritise and deliver solutions for the climate and ecological crises.		
<p>Funding for low carbon projects</p> <p>Financial companies such as Ethex (https://www.ethex.org.uk/) and Abundance (https://www.abundanceinvestment.com/) are providing platforms to invest in community projects around the UK. It is notable that Dorset Council does not appear to be taking this opportunity for investment by the wider community into projects that will make a difference.</p>	5	1 vote
<p>Community engagement is key</p> <p>Dorset Council needs to meaningfully engage with community groups who are committed to tackling the climate and ecological crisis.</p>	5	1 vote
<p>Recycle a wider range of items at the kerbside</p> <p>Increase what can be recycled at the kerbside - such as aluminium foil.</p>	4.8	9 votes
<p>Modeshift stars + Sustrans</p> <p>There is a company called Modeshift stars which is all about encouraging walking, cycling and public transport. At the moment Dorset does not have a licence but if they did the programme could support in numerous ways.</p>	3.6	3 votes
<p>Develop safe cycling lanes</p> <p>Many towns & routes need to be developing safe cycle lanes to enable commuting and pleasure cycling a 'norm'.</p>	3.5	6 votes
<p>Protect our greenbelt, farms and National Landscape</p> <p>Dorset Council should strongly reject the new government National Planning Policy Framework proposals for an uplift in the housing-land supply targets.</p>	2.5	2 votes
<p>Affordability</p> <p>All climate actions must be properly costed so that they can be prioritised and budgeted for. We must only move forward as fast as our budget allows. A proper cost and payback analysis must be done to ensure we aren't caught trying to save the world, only our part of it.</p>	1.3	3 votes
Do survey on climate change	0	0

<p>Feel Dorset will have some smart people to contribute re Climate change. Feel a survey should be promoted where people can put ideas per area. Survey could cover full Dorset ideas and some to Dorset's main local areas. If there has been one I have not seen it</p>		
<p>Battery Energy Storage Systems</p> <p>The recent decision of Dorset Council to approve a Battery Energy Storage System in Chickerell went against the significant majority of the town's residents, many of whom had been vociferous in not wanting the BESS to be built within the town. Chickerell Town Council had also recommended rejection of the plan.</p>	0	0
<p>NEED TO PROMOTE COORDINATED PLANNING</p> <p>Whilst Dorset Council has a strategic priority to care for and enhance the exceptional environment, biodiversity and cultural heritage of Dorset it should ensure any risk to that priority is minimized by ensuring satisfactory evidence is available to the public that demonstrates all organisations (i.e. Dorset LEP, utility services and other infrastructure authorities [e.g. The NHS] and environmental agencies [e.g. Dorset LNP] plus of course parish / town councils) do understand and accept the planning and constraints of each other.</p>	0	0
<p>Create a Dorset Climate Ready Partnership</p> <p>Dorset should create a Climate Ready Partnership to bring together communities, companies and local government from across the county to devise and implement ways of making us more resilient to the growing impacts of climate change.</p>	0	0

Provide high quality housing

The idea	Rating out of 5	Based on:
<p>Dorset Council should build their own council/social housing</p> <p>Social/council housing for Bridport</p> <p>The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan's Housing Need Assessment 2019 identified the number and type of housing needed to meet the needs of local people, particularly Bridport's young people and families. However, the prevailing national and</p>	5	7 votes

local models of housing provision have consistently failed to meet the needs of local people in Bridport.		
<p>Air B&B</p> <p>Require all 'Air B&B' and holiday lets to be registered with the DC so that Council Tax and waste collection can be appropriate. DC could then make data available to HMRC so that appropriate tax is paid by the owners. This would hopefully make some short-term lets less financially attractive and thus return the properties to long-term letting, or to the market.</p>	5	3 votes
<p>Disabled priority</p> <p>Disabled households should have a priority over others waiting for housing on the housing register. Needs for disabled people are urgent and Dorset council do not care about individuals and their needs this needs to change.</p>	5	1 vote
<p>Accessible homes for disabled people (under 55)</p> <p>There seems to be a shortage of accessible Social Rented properties for disabled people who are younger than Sheltered age (usually 55 years plus).</p>	4.6	3 votes
<p>Empty homes</p> <p>It must be possible to use the last Census to identify empty properties.</p>	4.4	9 votes
<p>Housing banding system</p> <p>Housing banding system needs to be look at on a more individual case. Medical info and waits should be taken in to account.</p>	4.3	3 votes
<p>Primary Residence qualification</p> <p>Require purchasers of new houses to certify that they are primary residences.</p>	4	7 votes
<p>Increase the percentage</p> <p>Please increase the amount of affordable homes on a development.</p> <p>Make it legal requirement for 45% on all development projects.</p>	4	4 votes
<p>Community land trust housing projects</p> <p>Dorset council should be pushing every town and parish council to proactively look at building community land trust housing</p>	4	3 votes

<p>clarify what is affordable</p> <p>The word affordable is thrown around as if we all know what it means. If there is a requirement for a new build project to provide a percentage of affordable housing for local people this has to be within a local affordability framework, led by the Council.</p>	4	2 votes
<p>Housing for all ages</p> <p>Ensure that all housing built can be lived in by any person including those with disabilities, which include the elderly (we all get old and less able)</p>	0	0 votes
<p>Affordable housing, Kings Stag</p> <p>Kings Stag is in need of a higher proportion of younger residents, preferably with young children. There are many infill sites where clusters of affordable houses could be built but the Parish Council would always block it.</p>	0	0 votes

Grow our economy

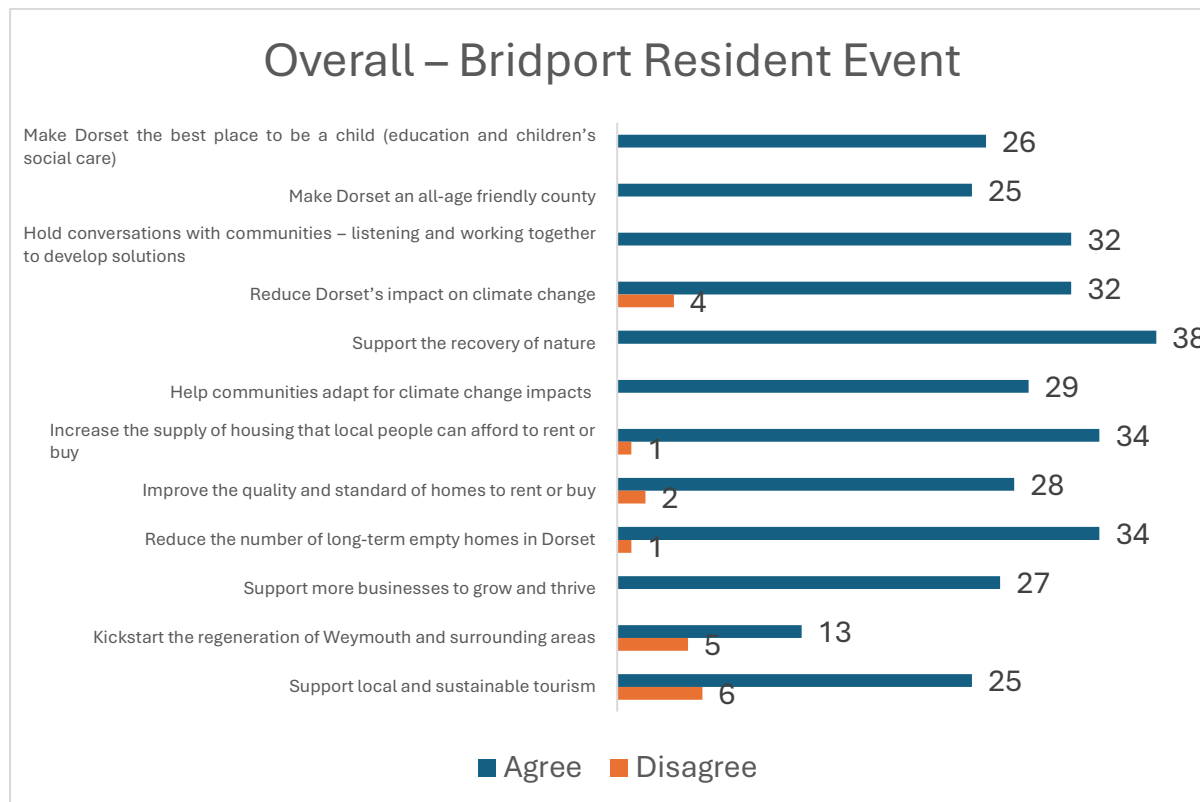
The idea	Rating out of 5	Based on:
<p>Useable bus services for North Dorset</p> <p>Bus services in North Dorset need a serious review. We have to get a bus to Blandford Forum and change buses just to go to Dorchester, our county town. There is only one bus a day in one direction that connects without leaving us stranded in Blandford for over an hour. Why can we not have services that connect please?</p>	5	6 votes
<p>Cycle and Pedestrian Path from Burton Bradstock to Bridport</p> <p>a new pathway for cyclists and pedestrians connecting Burton Bradstock to Bridport</p>	5	1 vote
<p>Rethink town centres</p> <p>reshape, re use town centres - people want an experience and to shop - need to embrace both. More diversity of uses so that there are offices, shops, things for young and old to do/visit. Make them less barren, more nature, redesigned linking the different places together. Bring in more colour, uniqueness and cultural activities, things to see - connect things up to make the experience a good experience for both locals and visitors</p>	4.4	10 votes

<p>Back to basics</p> <p>Overcrowding, highway maintenance, parking enforcement, rural buses, care in the community, access to doctors and dentists, reducing council tax burden, improve efficiency and reduce number of council employees.....</p>	4.4	10 votes
<p>Check funding for charities that say they cover all of Dorset</p> <p>I am finding that a lot of charitable organisations that are supposed to help people and say they are county wide [redacted] in fact only benefit those in certain areas such as Dorchester or even Bournemouth.</p>	4.3	3 votes
<p>Stop trying to grow</p> <p>Let's delete the 'Grow our economy' challenge. It's like trying to eat more to get thin or spend more to save money.</p> <p>As long ago as 1972 a famous Club of Rome report called 'The Limits to Growth' pointed out that you cannot have unlimited growth on a planet with finite resources.</p>	4.2	4 votes
<p>Better childcare provision/after school clubs to allow women to work</p> <p>It is well documented in Dorset census data that there are many (thousands) of highly qualified women who are out of work because of their caring responsibilities - if Dorset is able to provide better access to childcare - more after school clubs, more nurseries, better holiday camps - then those women who do want to keep working will be able to.</p>	4	1 vote
<p>Car Parking Charges</p> <p>Keeping car parking charges reasonable in tourist areas to encourage visitors and support local trade. Very interesting to see if the reduced charges at West Bay have an impact.</p>	3.8	14 votes
<p>Dorset resident card</p> <p>Stealing this idea from Swindon but for years they had a Swindon card anyone who was living in Swindon and registered to vote had the card. I think if you were of a certain salary band you had to pay though.</p> <p>The card however gave you discount on normal facilities that could sometimes be busy with tourists this meant that as locals we kept using the pools, gyms etc.</p>	3.4	11 votes

<p>A strategy to make Dorset a centre for the clean economy by 2030</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1 vote</p>
<p>Dogs unrestricted area</p> <p>We have evidence since 2016 how dog owners enjoy walking on Weymouth Beach, during unrestricted times the beach is full of dog walkers who live locally, visit for the day or holiday.</p>	<p>2.2</p>	<p>9 votes</p>
<p>Include all of Dorset in events etc.</p> <p>Whenever I see bulletins, events etc, they all seem to be centred around mid/South Dorset. It seems that us in the East of the county are forgotten or excluded.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0 votes</p>
<p>Skills and Guidance</p> <p>Every School to have a NEET prevention programme from year 9 to help tackle social inequality.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0 votes</p>

Results by event location

Bridport



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Bridport Summary

Bridport generated mostly high numbers of agreement. There was some disagreement from a few regarding the key ideas, primarily for 'reducing Dorset's impact on climate change', 'kickstarting the regeneration in Weymouth and surrounding areas' and 'supporting tourism'. It is important to highlight this event had a smaller sample size and it was not always possible to draw out themes for every idea due to low number of comments.

In addition to the comments about the key ideas, residents also mentioned local public transport to help combat social isolation and provide residents options to travel to and from places of work or education.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – tackling child abuse and keeping children safe was theme most remarked on.

- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – it was noted that there is agreement for this idea however, Bridport has a high aging population and that more provision is required for younger people. Comments stated there is too much focus on older people
- Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions - (not enough comments available to theme - Appendix 3)

Respond to the climate emergency

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – climate needs to be the key and top priority, everything else filtering below it.
- Support recovery of nature – regenerative farming should be supported. There should not be a conflict of food and nature.
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – support and encourage energy saving items such as solar panels and heat pumps.

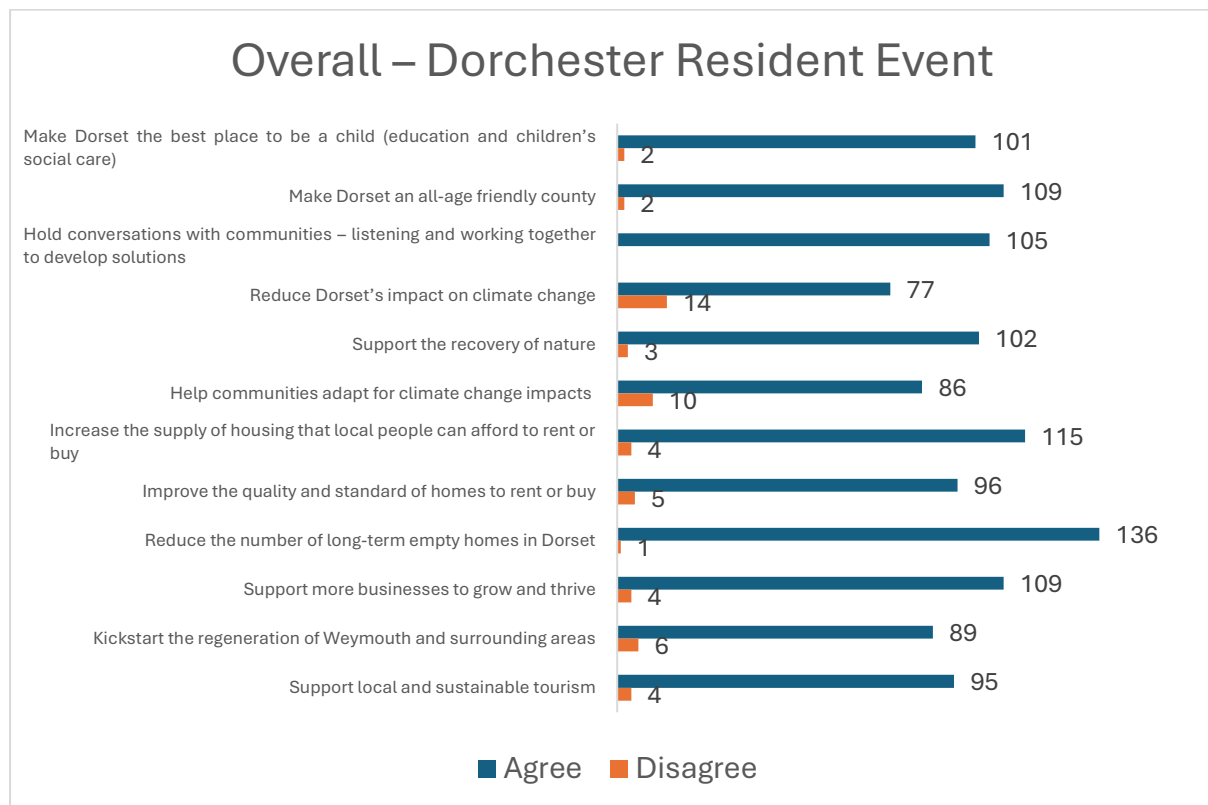
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – increase social housing
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – homes should be built to and conform to a higher standard. Homes should be environmentally friendly and energy efficient. For example, utilising a higher standard of fabric first insulation and solar panels
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – better management of second homes

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – better public transport is needed for residents. Currently long waiting times to go to neighbouring towns like Dorchester. Shopping streets also need to be pedestrianised. It is also noted that the area has either poor or no connectivity.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – focus on regeneration should not be limited to Weymouth, other towns also have areas of deprivation and need.
- Support local and sustainable tourism – local transport and parking needs to be improved which will be helpful to visitors and locals. General maintenance of roads and pavements also need to be considered. It is also noted there needs to be more focus on a diverse economy and supporting local businesses and less focus on tourism

Dorchester



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Dorchester Summary

Dorchester generated mostly high numbers of agreement. The key idea 'reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset' garnering the highest figure. There was some disagreement for a few of the key ideas, the highest for 'reducing Dorset's impact on climate change' and 'help communities adapt for climate change impact'. Dorchester had the highest number of stickers compared to any of the other events, however some comments were still minimal on a few categories which did not allow availability to draw out themes

In addition to the comments about the key ideas, other were some comments relate to lack of available public transport, tackling crime and disagreement with multiple housing developments.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – commentary about how children are the future, and we need to support them. Mental health support for all ages including affordable support for young people. Play and outdoor spaces and activities for young children.

- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – participants mention having more focus on in person information and support and less reliance on digital offers. There are also too many retirement homes and more affordable housing for young people is needed. However, some also commented on young and old synergy improves community and family values.
- Hold conversations with communities – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change –fitting solar panel as a standard for new builds and access to grants for existing homes. Focusing on other modes of transport to reduce car usage, e.g. cycles, bus and car share
- Support recovery of nature – plant more wildflowers
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

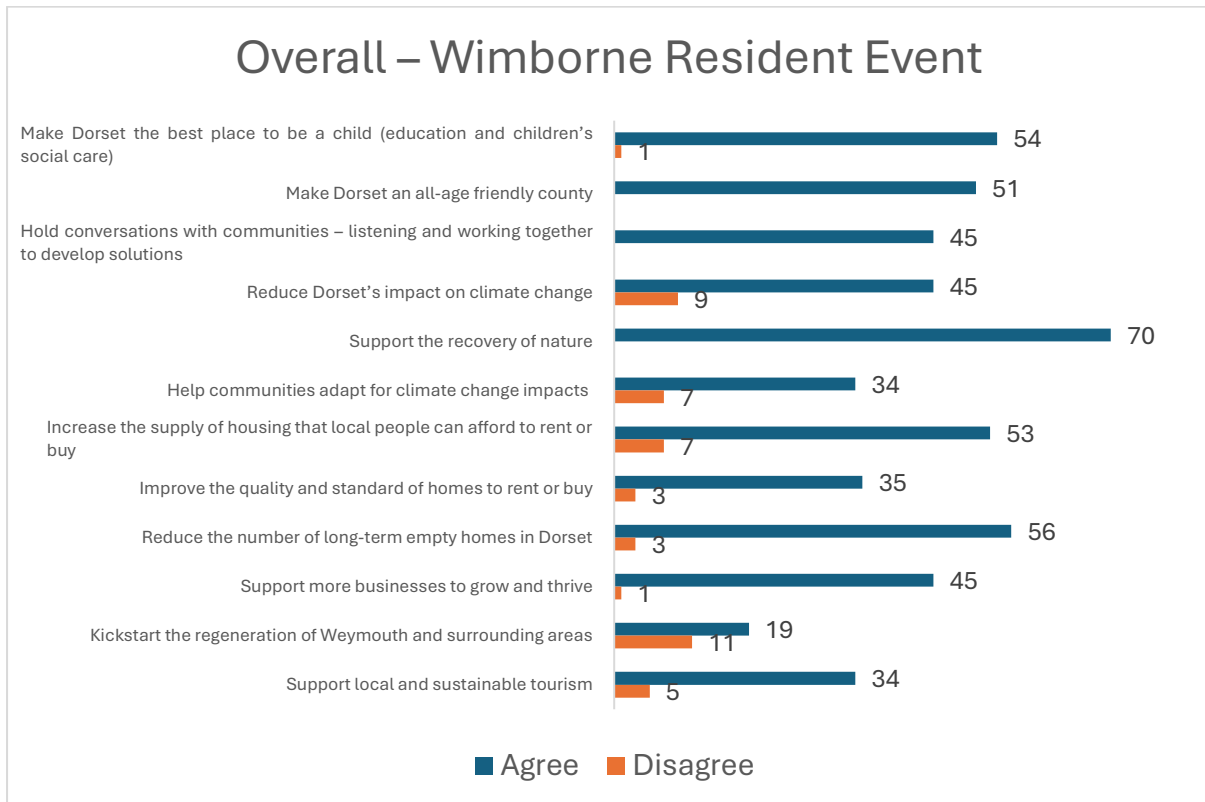
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – more one/two-bedroom starter homes for young people
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – Fit solar panels to new build homes and commercial properties, better parking availability and increase homes for single people and young couples
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – Reduce and control over second homes

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – More shops in Dorchester and reduce rent/rates for businesses. Reduction of car parking charges.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas - (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Support local and sustainable tourism – More ways to attract tourist – Example included ospreys nesting to attract tourism

Wimborne



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Wimborne Summary

Similar to the other events, Wimborne also generated mostly high numbers of agreement. 'Support the recovery of nature' figure was the highest figure of agreement. 'Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth...' had the highest number of disagreeing and the lowest figure for agreement, demonstrating this priority was divisive for the residents of Wimborne. 'Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change', 'Help communities to adapt to climate change impacts' and 'increase the supply of housing...' also had slightly higher figures of disagreement compared to the other idea.

In addition to the comments about the key ideas, many comments showed appreciation for hosting an in-person event. However, some localised issues were also raised with many in support of reopening the QE leisure centre as well comments regarding lack of pharmacies in Wimborne. There were also comments disagreeing with multiple housing developments and the need for more public transport.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – More youth facilities/ services needed
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Hold conversations with communities – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change –better public transport and conservation of green belt/green spaces
- Support recovery of nature – plant trees/flowers in areas around the town and maintain community gardens and wildlife areas
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

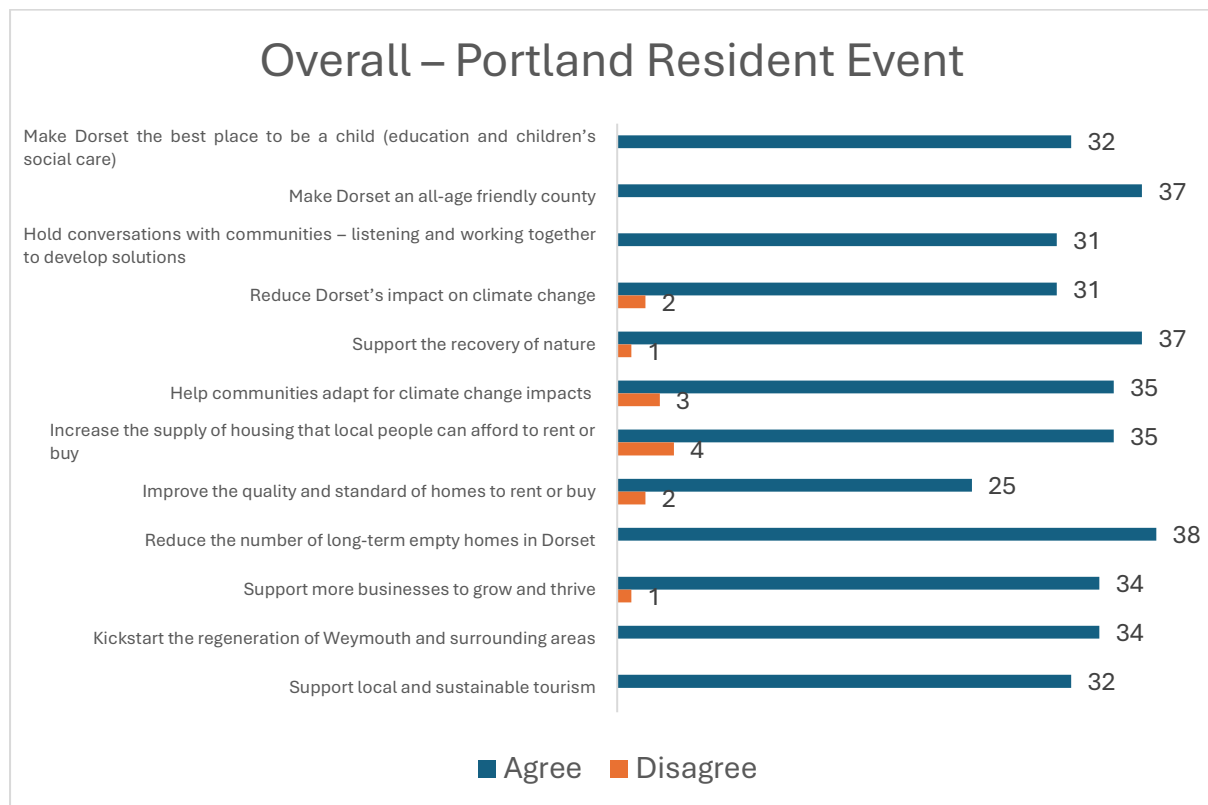
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – stop overdevelopment development with restrictions for green belt. There is not enough infrastructure in place to support the number of homes in Wimborne. Encourage more affordable homes, particularly for young people and families. Some comments on increasing social housing. Clarity needed on the term affordable and how this will be achieved.
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – agreement over the idea, however it needs to be quantity over quality. Idea also needed to be more specific.
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – agree with the idea but not to the detriment of other towns within Dorset Council area. Other comments urge spending in other areas.
- Support local and sustainable tourism – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Portland



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Portland Summary

Portland also had a high level of agreement for the ideas. 'Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset' providing the highest agreement, demonstrating this idea is an important priority for this community. The comments support this with disagreement for current amount of second homes and holiday lets with some reflecting how the focus should be for housing for local people.

Additional local issues for Portland include the rejection of the proposed incinerator as well as cheaper car parking, the need for public transport and better infrastructure including pharmacies, roads and NHS services.

It is worth noting that the attendance numbers were lower than expected for the Portland event. This can be attributed to the incredibly poor weather – rain, wind and showers with small breaks of sun throughout the event.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – more safe areas for children to play, including indoor areas

- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – support needed for working aged people. Comments also about Dorset having an ageing population.
- Hold conversations with communities – emphasis on conversations being meaningful

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – focus needs to be on renewable resources with examples of solar, wave and wind power. Portland residents also commented about stopping the incinerator.
- Support recovery of nature – planting more trees on Portland and protecting nature e.g. sea bird nest and creating nature reserves. However, some comments refer to maintaining grass verges and stop allowing them to grow.
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – looking at different energy schemes such as wind or solar.

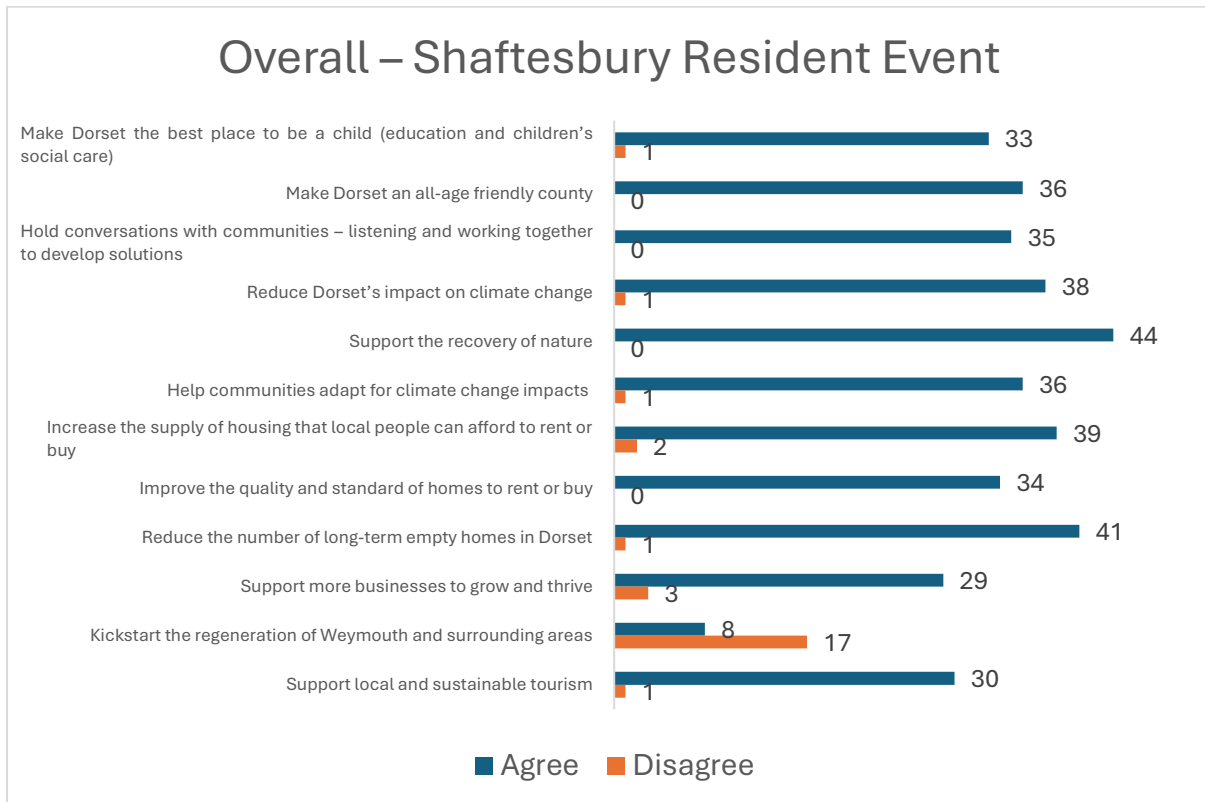
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – solving rental issues such as no-fault evictions and soaring rent. Focusing on affordable rents, particularly for locals. Increase availability of social housing. Stop second homes and increase infrastructure.
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – help with retro fitting homes and making them eco-friendly with solar panels, heat pumps etc. Some comments disagreeing with expensive ferry bridge development.
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – disagreement for second homes and holiday lets. Emphasis on doing something with empty properties and making use of that housing.

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – support local business through rent reductions and advice. Help to bring more job to the area.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – regenerate by supporting youth, clubs but also specific youth branch support. Concerns that Portland missing funds and also needing help
- Support local and sustainable tourism – support for the Eden project is needed. Improve infrastructure for local sustainable tourism. E.g. electric charging points

Shaftesbury



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Shaftesbury Summary

Shaftesbury showed high levels of agreement across the ideas with the exception of 'kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas' which received the highest disagreement. It was also the highest level of disagreement for this idea across all events

Additional local issues for Shaftesbury include lack of transport in the area and feeling a sense of exclusion being in North Dorset. There was also disappointment that cabinet members could not attend due to meeting clash. Other issues including the need for lower speed limits, pedestrianising the high street and more cycle paths.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – more transport for young people
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – more youth clubs, services and provisions. Better transport availability.
- Hold conversations with communities – Concerns about lack of engagement and "divides" across our local community. Higher engagement turnout required.

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – some disagreement that climate change is due to people. Other comments suggest forms of renewable energy.
- Support recovery of nature –planting wildflower verges and green corridors as well as eliminating the use of glyphosate. Additionally stop placement of solar panels on field and place on roofs instead.
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – use alternative energy solution. Some comments about possibility of electric bus use.

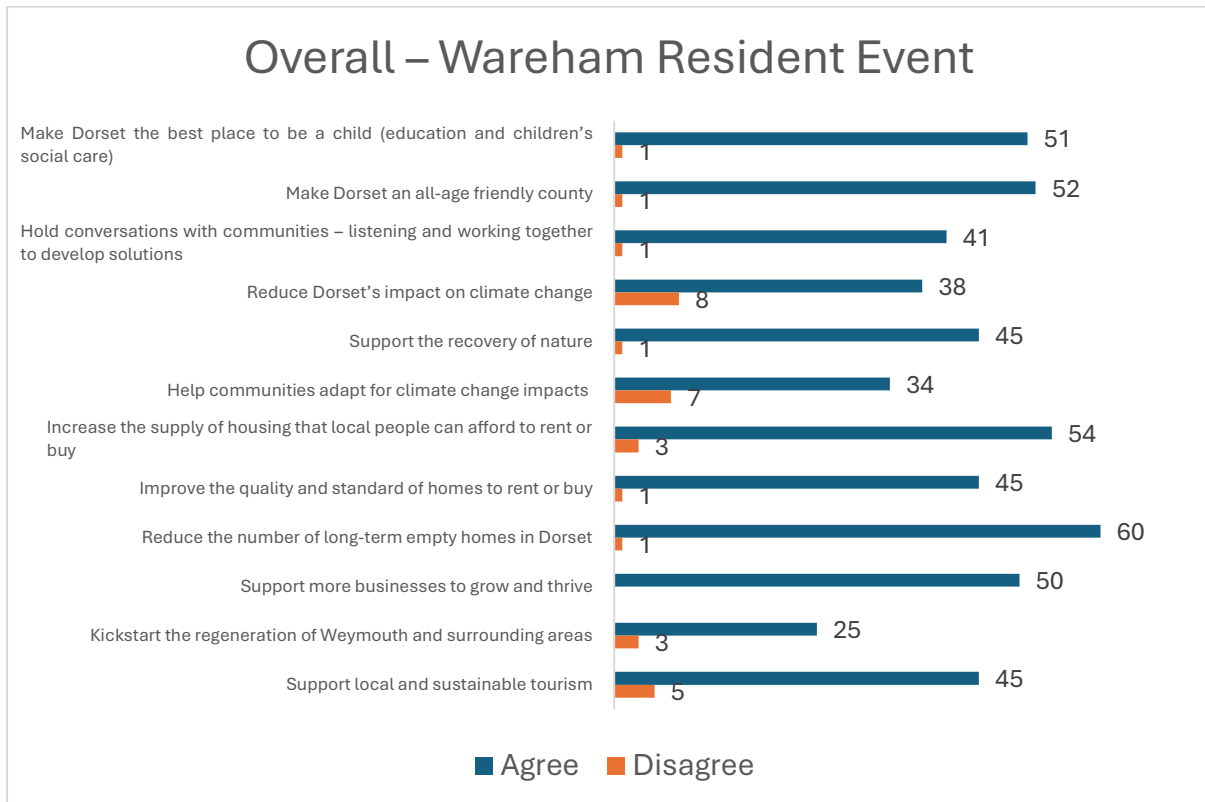
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – reiteration that affordable housing is needed. New housing needs to support local community and be accessible to local needs. There also needs to be infrastructure in place to support new housing.
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – Better management and reduction number of second homes and Airbnb's.

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – support local sustainable businesses including small and new businesses. Some comments referring to stop growth as there aren't enough resources.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – residents feel as though North Dorset is overlooked. Some comments mention other areas aside from Weymouth also need focus.
- Support local and sustainable tourism – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Wareham



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Wareham Summary

Wareham showed high levels of agreement across the ideas with 'reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset' being the highest selected. The ideas have some disagreement which with the most being 'reduce Dorset's impact on climate change' and 'help communities adapt for climate change impacts' which received 8 and 7 disagreement votes respectively.

Wareham also has some conflicting local issues. Some are hoping for the rejection of the Lidl planning application however this might be due to the location, whilst others comment that a supermarket is needed in Wareham to avoid trip Poole and further afield for food.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – better provision and activities available to young people
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – improved public transport and supporting elderly with Dorset

- Hold conversations with communities – residents would like to feel they are being listened to – current issues regarding refusing Lidl planning application and preserving the railway crossing.

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – some ideas presented were better recycling, wind turbines and increasing cycle paths. However, a couple of comments disregarding the idea that climate change is real.
- Support recovery of nature – comments mentioned they were in support of recovery of nature however maintaining the paths and verges was needed. Other comments to support recovery were procurement of food including regenerative farming. Other ideas presented to recover nature were cleaning rivers and helping wildlife.
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – find ways to combat flooding, create more cycle paths encouraging active travel and reduce speed limits.

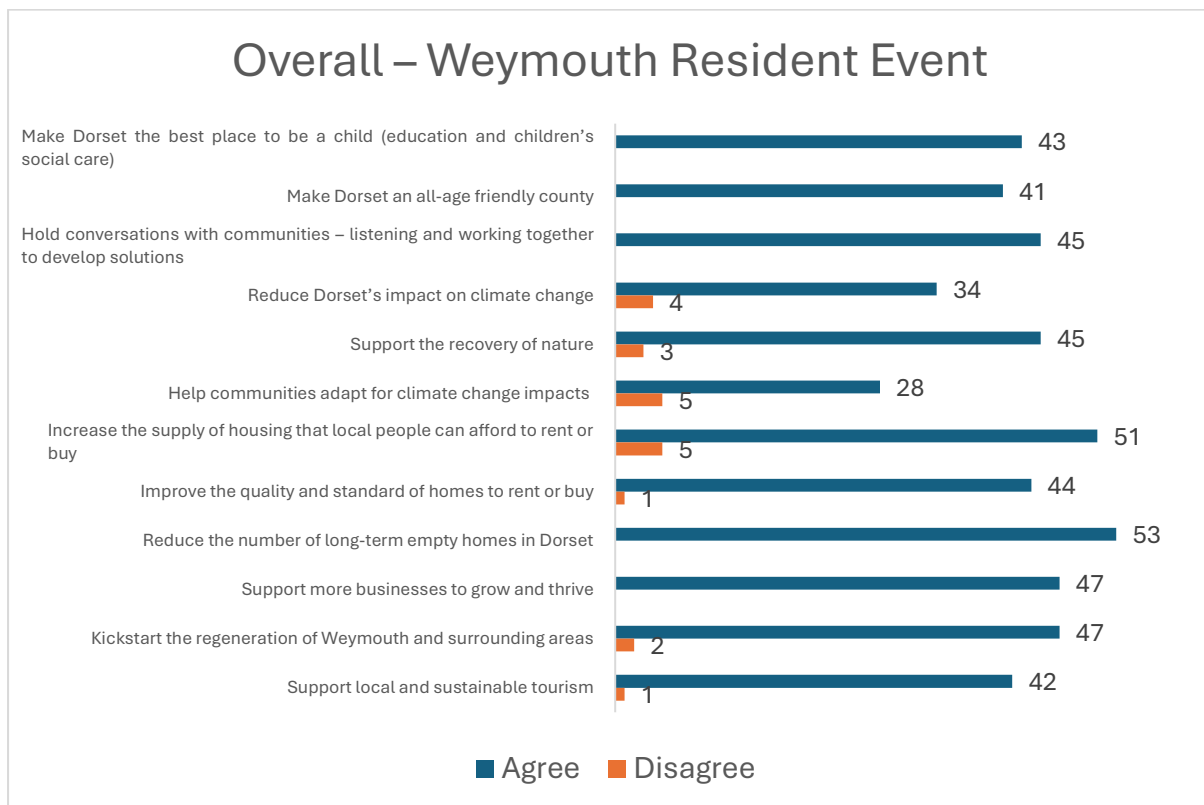
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – use existing properties and brownfield sites to increase housing and do not build on green belt/spaces. Affordable housing is needed and local should be prioritised. Comments regarding how second homes are an issue.
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – housing needs to be well insulated.
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – reduce second homes and increase the council tax.

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – supermarket needed in Wareham. Local jobs for local people.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Support local and sustainable tourism – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Weymouth



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Weymouth Summary

General high levels of agreement across the key areas with the highest for 'reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset'

Some issues for Weymouth reflected in additional comments were related to residents needed more support to get council housing. Car parking was also a topical issue for Weymouth residents.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – more funded childcare and activities for children.
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Hold conversations with communities – residents would like to feel they are being listened to – better safety through community policing

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – using various renewable energy - solar panels, offshore windfarms.
- Support recovery of nature – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – Better recycling collection process

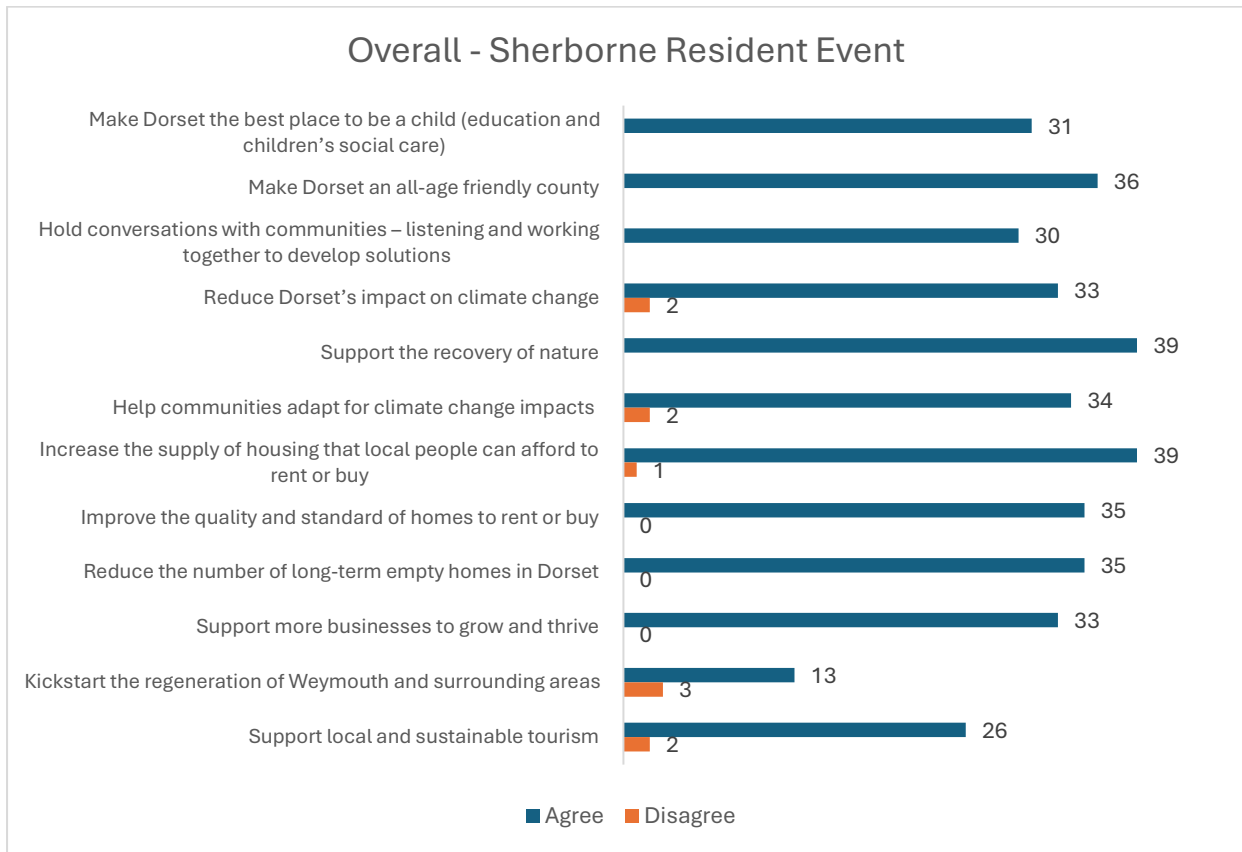
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – allocation process for social housing needs re-evaluating. Consider having social housing which isn't run by private landlords and manage and control private landlords for fairness to renters. Development in Weymouth needs to be evenly spread across the area.
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – affordable rent needed.
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – more encouragement for entrepreneurs and start-up businesses. Better management and solutions for empty shops and spaces.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – improve maintenance and infrastructure of town.
- Support local and sustainable tourism – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Sherborne



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Sherborne Summary

Sherborne also had high agreement across the ideas with the highest for 'support the recovery of nature' and 'increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy'. Disagreement figures were low in comparison.

There were additional comments made which highlighted the broad and vague nature of the ideas. Other issues included the need for more public transport and the Council tax was too high and seen as an unfair system. Many mentioned their gratitude for the in-person event and some also mentioned the importance of not digitalising everything.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – support for youth clubs needed to give young people a chance to have something to look forward towards as well as support for men, e.g. community drop-ins. Some commentary also includes focus on older people particularly due to withdrawal of support such as winter fuel allowance,

- Hold conversations with communities – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – consider solar panels and other forms of renewable energy. There is also concern over the execution of the idea reducing Dorset's impact on climate change.
- Support recovery of nature – Solar farms need to have consideration for wildlife.
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – help and encouragement for solar panel installation.

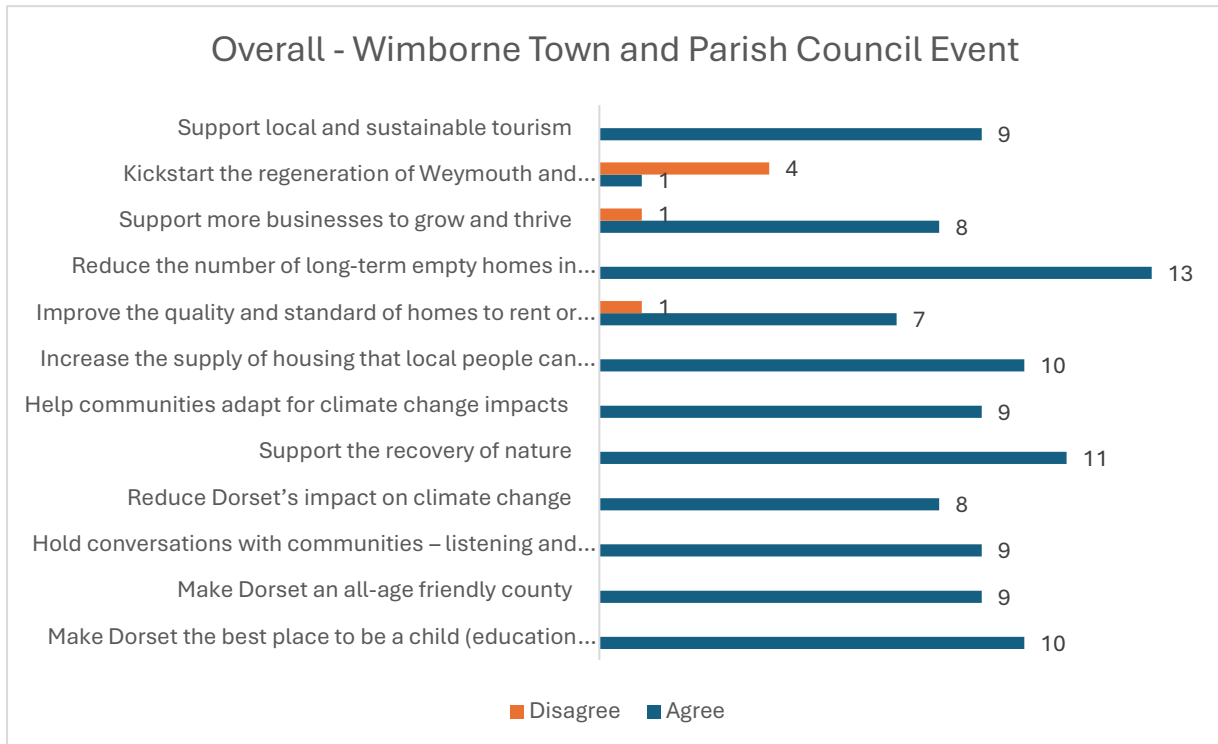
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – infrastructure needs improvement to support existing and new housing. Some comments about people from Yeovil being housed in Sherborne despite available empty homes in Yeovil.
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – some comments indication that quality standard should not be the first priority for housing.
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – better control over Airbnb's/holiday lets. Conversion of old school and other farm cottages into accommodation and brought back to use.

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – some comments about how residents are not affected as they do not reside in Weymouth and other who feel rural areas are undervalued and do not receive the same benefits compared to urban areas.
- Support local and sustainable tourism – support for tourist information hubs.

Town and Parish Individual Event – Wimborne



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Wimborne Town and Parish Council Summary

The Wimborne Town and Parish Council event, similarly to the resident events, also generated mostly high numbers of agreement.

The 'Reduce the number of long-term empty homes...' aim had the highest figure of agreement. 'Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth...' had considerably the highest disagreement, with 4 out of the 5 respondents who took part in this section disagreeing. Much like the resident event in Wimborne, this demonstrates this priority was divisive for Wimborne and the surrounding areas.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – More youth facilities/ services needed
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Hold conversations with communities – Better communication between Dorset Council and smaller parishes and more areas generally

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Support recovery of nature – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – A couple Town and Parish Councils also have this as an aim – how can they work with Dorset Council on this?

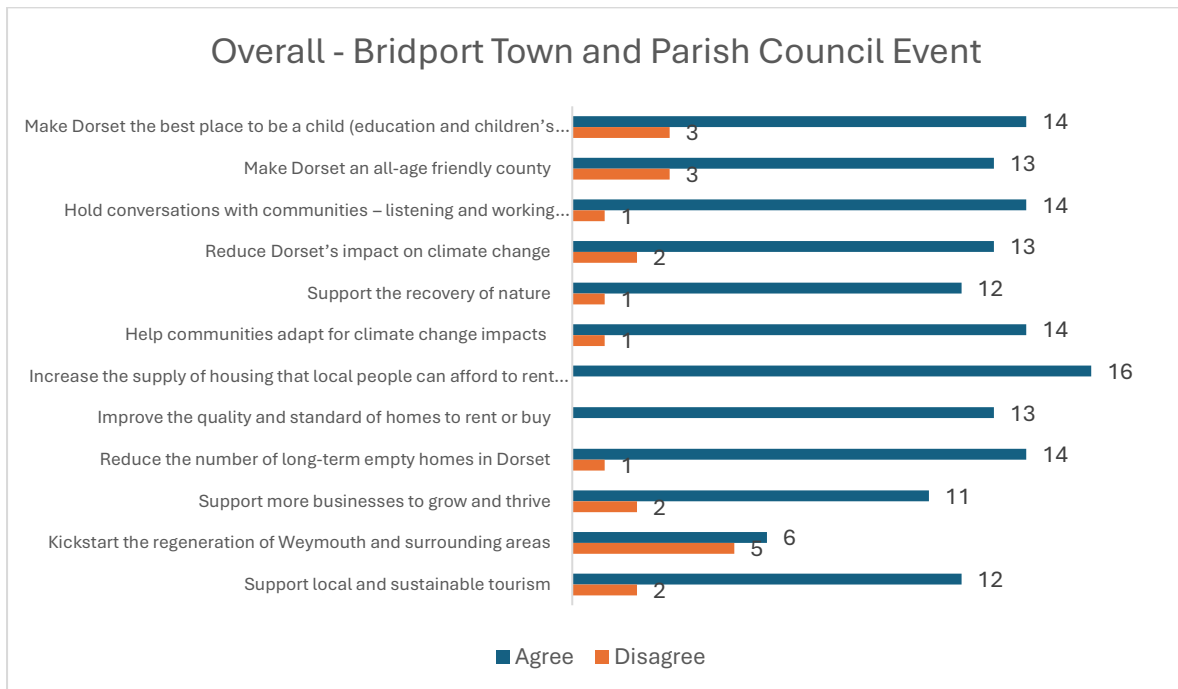
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – How is affordable defined? Increase of supply needs to be social housing
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – Support for businesses and start-ups, particularly in the East.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – Too much concentration on Weymouth, not enough focus on the East and rural areas
- Support local and sustainable tourism – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)

Town and Parish Council Event - Bridport



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Bridport Town and Parish Council Summary

General agreement across all the ideas and low levels of disagreement except for 'kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas'. Much like other events, comments indicate concern over the focus of just one town when there are pockets of deprivation across the Dorset Council area, many in rural villages.

Some additional comments were made at the event with many concerned about the vague nature of the key ideas. Comments also emphasized that there needs to be more support for rural communities and better rural public transport. A couple of comments of stressed that all key areas need acting upon as soon as possible.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – support for children with SEN. Concern over the poor state of mental health and social care within the Bridport community.
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – effort needed to make village life more affordable for families and young. Generally, more support for young people. There are also comments with concern over how this could be achieved.
- Hold conversations with communities – focus and listen to the local needs of rural communities. Comments regarding the need to consider people's thoughts and the need for a proper consultation.

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – consider green energy. Improve local transport. Concern over how this idea will be executed,
- Support recovery of nature – support for local farming and encouraging buying locally. Some comments show concern over the impact this idea will have on the rural economy.
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – more focus on flood risk management and mitigating draining issues like ensuring drains clearance. Some comments around adjusting the key idea to focus on 'invest in supporting communities to adapt to climate change impacts'.

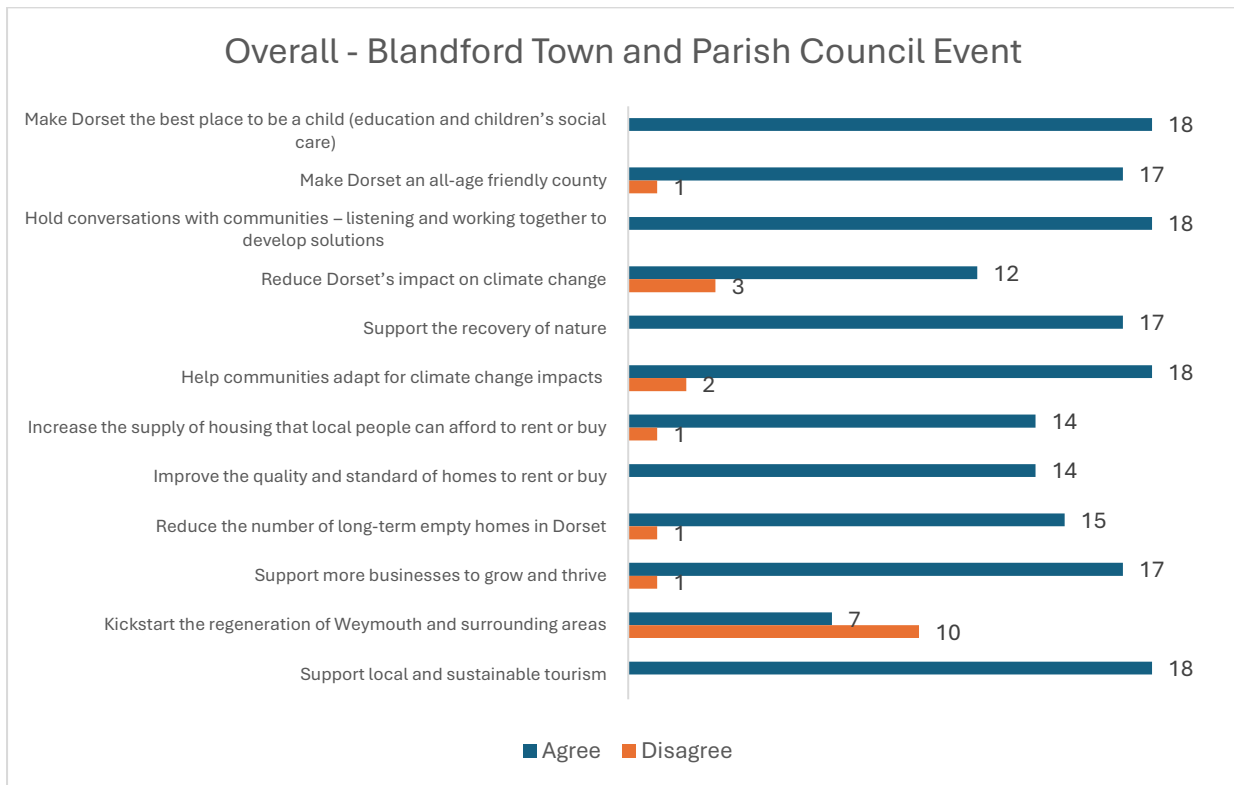
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – keep small village sustainable by doing more to help keep young people in the area. More affordable housing as well as social housing, particularly for young people. More 2-bedroom properties to allow older people to downsize and stay in the local area.
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – make energy saving changes e.g. solar panels
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – consider compulsory purchase of empty homes and reduce the number of second homes.

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – encourage small local businesses. Comments regarding the concern of ambiguity of the idea.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – concerns over why the focus is only on Weymouth.
- Support local and sustainable tourism – focus on sustainability and avoiding over tourism

Town and Parish Council Event – Blandford



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Blandford Town and Parish Council Summary

Similarly to Bridport Town and Parish Council event, there was agreement across all the ideas and low levels of disagreement except for 'kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth...'. There was also a similar consensus that Weymouth should not be the only area that benefits from the finding and regeneration.

Additional comments around lack of public transport were highlighted by Blandford Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – improvement needed for schools, particularly secondary schools. Repurpose existing assets e.g. technology centre and put cadet forces in schools
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – better public transport to improve accessibility and mitigate isolation. Concern over impact of retirees moving to the Dorset Council area. Focus should also be on younger people in addition to older residents. Some comments also state there needs to be solutions to address the needs of older people and the impact it has on social care budget.

- Hold conversations with communities – improve and formalise communication flow with small parishes, do not limit communication to only large town and parishes. Engage and consult more with local communities and parishes. Improved communication and clarity on processes for neighbourhood plans.

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – better rural public transport services and speed limits implemented in smaller villages. Some comments indicate parishes would like to provide consent before windfarms are constructed.
- Support recovery of nature – protect Dorset landscapes, support nature by finding ways to reduce litter and enable hedges to be listed. Stop building on green belt and actively look for brownfield sites to develop.
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – no additional development in flooding communities. Small communities need help, support and education on what they can do to make a difference. Some comments also mentioned developing mill sites on rivers using water turbines to produce power.

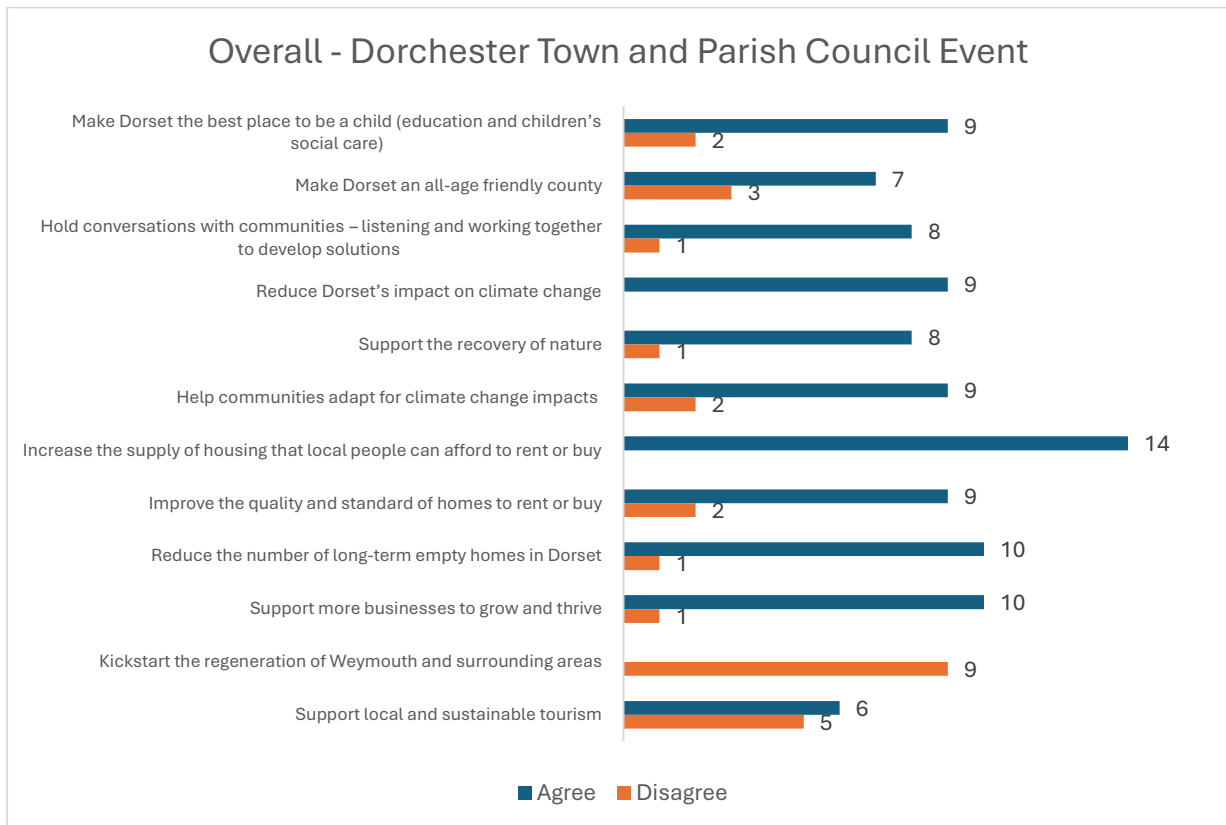
Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – increase smaller properties for older people or those who want to downsize. Utilising Dorset Council's empty properties. Stopping planning developments of unaffordable housing. Comments on clarity of what is affordable housing. Enhancing the role of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to drive the development of affordable high-quality homes.
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – help improve communication between housing associations and residents and local councils. Comments of agreement as North Dorset is exposed without it
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – reduction of empty shops as well as empty homes. Fewer building restrictions for changes to existing buildings. Objection to wholesale building on greenbelt.

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – encourage small businesses to regenerate and grow by reducing business rates.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – Concern over north Dorset not benefiting from this and Dorset Council is too south centric
- Support local and sustainable tourism – better and more central access to source information on Dorset area.

Town and Parish Council Event – Dorchester



Note: figures in chart are agree/disagreement count due to small sample sizes

Dorchester Town and Parish Council Summary

General agreement across most of the key areas, however high levels of disagreement in comparison to overall responses for 'make Dorset an all age friendly county' and 'support local and sustainable tourism. Dorchester Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks fully disagreed with 'kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth..'

Additional comments highlighted were to ensure DAPTC are communicating with Town and Parish Councils and the restriction of second home in the Dorset Council area.

Communities for all

- Make Dorset the best place to be a child – better school transport and more investment in youth activities
- Make Dorset an all-age friendly county – increased focus on community. Some comments regarding Dorset already being seen as an all-age friendly county.

- Hold conversations with communities – Dorset Council needs to listen more to communities and town and parish councils. Improve working relationship with town and parish councils – they are an untapped resource. Some comments about difficulty speaking to Dorset Council officers – improve communication.

Respond to the climate crisis

- Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change – Dorset Council to encourage solar panel usage with developers.
- Support recovery of nature – some comments inviting to see how this is achieved in local areas of Dorset
- Help communities adapt for climate change impacts – communication and education on this topic and how it can make an impact.

Provide high quality housing

- Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy – restrict second homes in the County. Control developer pricing to make housing affordable
- Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy – (not enough comments available to theme – Appendix 3)
- Reduce number of long-term empty homes – reduce the number of second homes and holiday lets

Grow our economy

- Support more businesses to grow and thrive – find ways to support more businesses to help Dorset's economy.
- Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas – general discouragement of focus being solely on Weymouth.
- Support local and sustainable tourism – focus on tourism without any sustainability could be to the detriment of local areas.

Recommendations

Based on the data evidence and resident feedback from the 'A Big Conversation' engagement programme which aimed to seek views on the overarching themes under each of the 4 proposed priorities of the new Dorset Council Plan. It is recommended that the Cabinet:

1. Adopt all the overarching proposed themes from the Communities for all priority.
 - Make Dorset the best place to be a child
 - Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
 - Hold conversations with communities
2. Adopt all the overarching proposed themes from the Respond to the climate crisis priority.
 - Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change
 - Support recovery of nature
 - Help communities adapt for climate change impacts
3. Adopt all the overarching proposed themes from the Provide high quality housing priority.
 - Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy
 - Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
 - Reduce number of long-term empty homes
4. Adopt two of the three overarching proposed themes from the Grow our economy priority
 - Support more businesses to grow and thrive
 - Support local and sustainable tourism
5. Review the resident feedback and give further consideration to the overarching proposed theme Kickstart regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding area, from the Grow our economy priority - in accordance feedback received.

A Big Conversation **Appendix**

Produced by Consultation and Engagement Team
for Dorset Council

September 2024

Appendix 1

Organisation responses

Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP)

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
We support this priority and highlight a need to address the growing number of children living in households in poverty. We welcome the recent opening of a Family Hub in Bridport (on the site of the former Children's Centre) and believe this initiative could be developed further, including to ensure its support is accessible to those living in outlying rural parishes. We also note that Special Educational Needs (SEND) services are under severe and growing pressure ¹ .
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
This phrase is rather vague about its intent or focus. If the priority is about meeting the service needs of and providing opportunities for residents of differing ages, then we support it. It could, however, usefully be broadened out to refer to all residents, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, etc. We note that improving public transport networks would benefit those who don't drive or don't have access to a car, including many young people, older people who no longer drive and others on low incomes. Providing more people with adequate digital skills would also help to deliver fair access to services, including Council and NHS services.
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions
We strongly support this priority. Dorset is a sizeable and varied county. There is considerable variation in local circumstance and community needs, so policies and services should be designed with sufficient flexibility (rather than imposing a single approach). We understand that Dorset Council is exploring the scope for 'area forums' or similar. In principle, this would be a very welcome development, which could enable two-way communication and help improve or tailor local delivery. As an existing and established area partnership, BLAP would be pleased to meet with Councillors or Officers to discuss its ways of working and experience, and indeed the scope for a pilot or trialling of approaches.
Climate
Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

We support this priority and commend relevant plans or actions already developed by a number of the Partnership's member town and parish councils. The need to produce an up-to-date and Dorset-wide Local Plan should be used as an opportunity to make more headway on this agenda. As noted above, the scope to improve provision of public transport (and active transport) also presents an opportunity for Dorset Council.

Support the recovery of nature

We support this priority. Dorset Council should partner with key organisations such as Dorset Wildlife Trust, support landscape recovery projects such as West Dorset Wilding and encourage the many community groups which are active on this agenda. There is some real momentum behind this issue in the west of Dorset. That said, we recognise the need to retain a realistic balance among potentially competing land uses, such as nature recovery and food production.

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

We support this priority. There has been growing concern in the wider Bridport area about river and groundwater flooding, and about quickening coastal erosion. Dorset Council should prioritise its work with other relevant agencies, such as the Environment Agency, and should aim to better resource maintenance of drainage networks. It should also partner with Parish and Town Councils, to help them help their communities at times of stress e.g. by providing sufficient sandbags.

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

We strongly support this priority. There is a severe shortage of affordable housing in the Bridport area, with many local households priced out of the market. Analysis for the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan found that the core need was for Social Rent housing, with so-called Affordable Rent beyond the means of most of those in need. With that in mind, we note current Government proposals to reform the National Planning Policy Framework, which will expect local planning authorities to consider Social Rent housing (specifically) when carrying out housing needs assessment and setting affordable housing policies. We hope that this policy change can be reflected quickly in an up-to-date Dorset Local Plan.

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

We support this priority and recognise the poor quality of some homes in the rental sector, which – amongst other things – can make them expensive for tenants to heat. It is, of course, important (as a minimum) that all private landlords meet the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard and social registered landlords meet the Decent Homes Standard.

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

We, again, support this priority and would encourage Dorset Council to use its powers to bring such homes back into use, wherever possible. This priority should include reducing empty flats over shops, not least in town centres, and homes lost from the local housing market due to becoming second homes. This latter category has become a significant issue in some coastal locations.

Under this theme, we would also like to see explicit reference to significantly reducing homelessness. Increasing the supply of affordable homes will certainly contribute to that aim, but a broader policy approach is needed to succeed.

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

We strongly support this priority. Businesses will benefit from having usable public transport provision, improved digital connectivity and affordable homes for their workforce, amongst other things. There is also a need to ensure that those of working age have good access to a range of quality skills or training providers and to apprenticeships, including those living outside the larger towns. These actions could also help to retain more younger people within the county. Furthermore, they should improve support and opportunities for those who are classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training).

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

We acknowledge that Weymouth has sizeable regeneration needs. It is, however, important that needs elsewhere in the county do not go overlooked. Previous policy interventions in Dorset – such as for economic development and transport – have mainly focussed on the east of the county (the commuter belt around Bournemouth and Poole) and/or around the Weymouth area. By contrast, areas such as west Dorset have received little attention and few resources. We note that Dorset Council's own analysis shows Bridport contains one of the county's most deprived neighbourhoods, plus another neighbourhood falling just outside this list². Bridport also has physical regeneration needs, not least at its bus station, for which there are (as yet unfunded) plans. Equally, often overlooked and unaddressed is the very real – if less visible – poverty, isolation and lack of economic opportunity evident in some of our rural parishes.

Support local and sustainable tourism

We support ambitions to improve sustainability in the tourism sector. We also consider that value could be added, for example, by initiatives that extend the tourist season. However, whilst fully appreciating the importance of the local tourist economy, we question why that sector specifically is selected as a focus for extra

support. It can be argued that, to achieve a more resilient and productive economy, the focus should be on diversifying into other sectors. Residents in areas like west Dorset would benefit from access to a broader range of job opportunities. Employment in tourism is often seasonal and low-paid. We also hear other concerns about the high dependence on tourism, including its impact on the local housing market (e.g. more second homes or short term lets) and road congestion.

Additional Comments

Transport: A key issue which is not referenced in those priorities is transport. This is without doubt a priority issue for residents and businesses across the wider Bridport area, not least because of the paucity (and in some places complete absence) of public transport. This has wide-ranging and negative social, economic and environmental consequences. There are also various concerns regarding the road network, where responsibilities lie with Dorset Council and National Highways or its contractors. We consider that accessible and affordable transport should either be listed as an additional priority or be explicitly cited under relevant priorities, such as those on communities for all, grow our economy and respond to the climate crisis.

Finally, we hope the Strategic Plan 2024-29, which Dorset Council is now developing, will recognise the essentially rural nature of much of the county and will reflect this fact across its priorities, policies and services. We similarly consider that a useful and timely cross-cutting theme, when putting some detail on the priorities, would be addressing poverty and disadvantage.

It is hoped that further consultation opportunities will be provided as Dorset Council's priorities start to be reflected within new or revised strategies and plans for the various service or policy areas. In the meantime, we would welcome some feedback how the Strategic Plan is now to be progressed.

CPRE – The Countryside Charity Dorset

Communities

protect and value the environment, green spaces and local cultural heritage which are vital for communities' mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Climate

value and enhance our countryside so that it can provide high quality food products and good jobs, support and enhance nature, manage water resources and quality, capture

carbon in soils, woods and hedges, and support public health and wellbeing.

Housing

Dorset needs the right houses in the right places, of appropriate tenure to meet local needs (including more truly affordable homes) and high quality (for example including solar panels, good insulation), in the interests of sustainable communities, environment, economy and climate. Dorset Council has responsibility, in consultation with local people, to devise a Local Plan which is appropriate for Dorset, a Local Plan which: supports sustainable communities and meets their needs. promotes the local economy; addresses the climate and nature emergencies. and protects, enhances, and respects the significance and value of Dorset's environment and heritage.

Economy

grow the local economy in ways which promote a sustainable future for our communities and countryside, and in ways appropriate to Dorset's opportunities and challenges, strengths and needs, including promoting the green/blue economy.

Dorset Women CIC

Communities

Women and girls are often disproportionately affected by various social, economic, and environmental issues. Consulting with them helps to identify and address these disparities and ensure that policies are equitable.

Dorset Women has co-designed the Dorset Women's Charter with women leaders from across a wide range of sectors across the county. The Charter sets out what

women should be able to expect living, working, studying or visiting Dorset under 10 headings representing different aspects of their lives.

For Dorset to be a community for all, we believe there is a need to

- Rid society of sex and gender-related discrimination and bias that create a negative and unequal experience for some people.
- Use data and evidence to maintain the 10 standards in the Dorset Women's Charter.
- Create a shift in attitudes toward sex, gender, gender identity and expression from negative to positive.

Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)

To make Dorset the best place to be a child we recommend that Dorset Council:

•Adopt and promote the Dorset Women's Charter and work collaboratively with the voluntary and private sectors to achieve the standards set out in:

Standard 1 Identity and Inclusion

Standard 2 Society, Leadership and Politics

Standard 5 Raising Children, Childcare and Caring Roles; and

Standard 7 Education

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

Women and girls of different ages face unique challenges. The Council should engage with community leaders and organisations to identify and address these issues through targeted initiatives

To make Dorset an all-age friendly county we recommend that Dorset Council:

Adopt and promote the Dorset Women's Charter and, in particular, work collaboratively with the voluntary and private sectors to achieve the standards set out in:

Standard 1 Identity and Inclusion

Standard 2 Society, Identity and Inclusion

Standard 6 Safety and Justice

Standard 8 Economics and Employment

Standard 9 Arts Culture and Leisure; and

Standard 10 Physical Activity, Sport and Leisure

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

Women and girls should be actively involved in community decision-making processes. The Council should adopt inclusive engagement strategies that ensure their voices are heard and their needs are addressed. To hold conversations with communities to develop solutions together we recommend that Dorset Council

- Hold consultation events in person and online ensuring in-person sessions take place in the evenings and weekends as well as during the day.
- Mainstream the use of sex-disaggregated data. That way, we can all be certain that decisions are made and policies developed that reduce sex or gender-based discrimination. Without looking at the data through a sex/gender lens, decisions and policies may inadvertently compound discrimination or bias. We know, for example, that big infrastructure things like housing, transport and public spaces are all gendered issues and need gender-specific planning and decision-making.
- Carry out robust Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) that make specific mention of women and women who may have religious or cultural reasons for needing a single sex space. This may or may not link with the need for interpretation of information for unaccompanied (some women, if not in a single sex space would need to be accompanied and therefore not able to speak freely) women for whom English is not their first language and/or who do not have the means to engage with the consultation online.
- Where events take place in public spaces, staff and officers equip themselves with information for the public about where they can find nearby facilities to change or breastfeed babies and children, changing spaces for disabled adults, or find period products. Without this information, some women may be reluctant to 'linger' to discuss important subjects or answer questions.

•Where events take place in public spaces, staff and officers ensure that a chair is available for pregnant women or parents/carers with babies in arms in order that they can stay long enough to discuss issues that may be important to them.

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•That staff and officers make easy and simple activities available for children to allow their parents or carers to enter into conversation and discuss subjects important to them.

Climate

Women have historically played a crucial role in environmental stewardship and resource management, particularly in rural communities. Their unique perspectives, knowledge, and experiences can be leveraged to develop effective climate mitigation strategies.

Women's contributions to addressing climate change are essential. By empowering women and leveraging their unique perspectives, we can develop more effective and equitable climate solutions. It is imperative that we recognize and support women's leadership in climate action to build a sustainable future for all.

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture: Research shows that globally, and with adequate investment, women farmers effectively adopt sustainable agricultural practices such as agroforestry, permaculture, and organic farming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve soil health. Initiatives like the Women Farmers Eco-Network in India have demonstrated the effectiveness of women-led sustainable agriculture in mitigating climate change.

Encouraging Energy Efficiency: Women can play a significant role in promoting energy-efficient practices in households and communities. Campaigns like the Women Leading the Way on Climate initiative in the UK have highlighted the importance of women's involvement in energy conservation and renewable energy adoption.

Advocating for Policy Change: Women can be powerful advocates for climate-friendly policies at local, national, and international levels. Organizations like the Green Women's Network in the UK have successfully lobbied for policies that address climate change and promote gender equality.

Community-Based Conservation: Women-led community-based conservation initiatives can help protect biodiversity and restore degraded ecosystems. Evidence shows that women are effective in leading and sustaining community-based initiatives and leading societal change.

Building Climate Resilience: Women participate more than their male counterparts in community-based climate adaptation planning, identifying vulnerabilities and developing strategies to reduce risks. The Women's Climate Leadership Network in the UK has been working to build climate resilience in communities across the country.

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

The Council must acknowledge the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and girls whilst, at the same time, recognising that Women can be extraordinary leaders of change with influence in family units, communities and workplaces.

The Council should support initiatives that address these gendered impacts and maximise these strengths. Therefore, to reduce Dorset's impact on climate change we recommend that Dorset Council considers the following:

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- Work with specific employers to implement policies and programs that encourage women's participation in the energy sector, including renewable energy development and energy efficiency initiatives.
- Strengthen women's advocacy networks to support the growth and development of activity focused on climate change, such as the Green Women's Network.

Support the recovery of nature

Research shows that empowering women in nature recovery initiatives can promote gender equality and social justice, fostering more inclusive and equitable climate action. To support the recovery of nature we recommend that Dorset Council:

- Support Community-Based Conservation Initiatives Led by Women: Provide funding, training, and resources to women-led community-based conservation projects in order to support initiatives led by women.

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

We encourage the Council to ensure that women are represented in leadership positions within climate change initiatives. This will help to ensure that gender-specific needs and perspectives are considered in decision-making processes. To help communities adapt for climate change impacts we recommend Dorset Council:

- Increase Women's Representation in Climate Leadership Roles: Promote women's leadership in decision-making bodies and governance structures related

to climate change in order to inspire young women and girls to engage in initiatives and use their influence in families and workplaces.

- Work with education providers to develop educational programs that equip women and girls with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate effectively in climate action, particularly in relation to climate change engineering and other STEM related subjects.

Housing

Inadequate, inaccessible or unaffordable housing perpetuates gender inequalities in our society and contributes to the cycle of poverty.

Women and Girls disproportionately experience inadequate, inaccessible and unaffordable housing compared to their male counterparts, and poverty affects them in different ways. Women and Girls who experience intersectional characteristics e.g., age, disability, or ethnicity are affected the most.

Because women earn less than men, and have less capital, women are particularly impacted by housing affordability. They are less likely to own their own homes and therefore more likely to live in rented accommodation or social housing.

Private rental is unaffordable (defined as costing more than one-third of income) on women's median earnings in every region in England (including Dorset), whereas men can afford every region except London. Average rents use up 43% of a woman's median earnings but 28% of a man's. Dorset is an expensive place to live and among the least affordable for house prices, The average house price is 10 times the average salary of people who live here.

Poor housing, difficult accessibility to housing, or unaffordability of housing, for women and girls directly affects their safety, well-being, and overall quality of life. Poor housing conditions can lead to a range of negative consequences, such as increased vulnerability to violence and abuse, physical and mental health issues, and limited access to education and employment opportunities.

Women are more likely to be in lower paid work than men or working in the home raising children or other caring responsibilities. Women are more likely to be single parents than men and less likely to be able to afford their own home. Women are also more likely to live in overcrowded accommodation because they are disproportionately affected by unaffordability of housing. They are more likely to be facing homelessness for reasons of domestic violence.

Women and girls experience greater threat to their safety than men and boys. Poor housing is a contributory factor to a threat to a woman's safety. Poor housing is often located in communities and neighbourhoods with poor lighting. Inadequate lighting and poorly lit areas in and around housing creates an unsafe environment

for women and girls and increases the risk of assault, harassment and violent crime.

Women living in poor housing are more likely to face barriers in accessing support services, such as helplines or shelters, which can further compromise their safety in times of need. Homeless women have additional challenges to overcome because of menstruation, pregnancy and reproductive health risks. Homeless women with children experience particularly complex challenges in finding shelters, education and healthcare.

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

Dorset needs more affordable housing designed for, and marketed specifically towards, women taking into consideration the greater likelihood of lower-than-national-average income, higher than average house prices, greater likelihood of the need for rented accommodation and the persistent gender pay gap. Therefore, we recommend that Dorset Council:

- Mainstream the use of sex-disaggregated data about housing in order to understand the gendered issues related to provision of housing and housing-related support needs.
- Invest in new social and affordable housing with very specific intentions and focus on meeting the needs of women and girls.
- Provision of, or investment in, ring-fenced funding for women-only accommodation across a range of sectors that recognises the specific needs of women and girls.

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

Poor housing contributes to an increased threat to the safety of women and girls. Dorset's Housing Strategy needs to include consideration of the physical safety of women in residential properties and the surrounding neighbourhoods as well as the increased likelihood of women to experience domestic violence. Therefore, we recommend that Dorset Council:

- Invest in better monitoring of the quality of housing to ensure all housing is of sufficient sanitary and safety standards to enable women and girls to thrive.
- Monitor, and a require improvement to, housing features such as outdoor play areas, community gardens, lighting and other security options that specifically accommodate the ways in which women and girls use space and that ensures their safety.
- Ensure easily accessible support services targeted towards women including crisis intervention, advocates, legal services, peer mentors etc.

•Invest in infrastructure that supports women and girls as integral to new or existing housing options: public transport, shops parks and recreation spaces, schools, healthcare and cultural centres.

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•Invest in, and ring-fence funding for, women-only housing refuge and associated support options working closely with specialist providers.

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

Re-purposing long-term empty homes in Dorset could effectively address the barriers that many women face in securing secure, safe and affordable housing. Therefore, we recommend that Dorset Council:

•Invest in financial incentives to property owners and working in partnership with charities that support vulnerable women, bring vacant properties back into use specifically to provide safe and affordable housing for women based on their gender-specific needs.

•Create the role of a dedicated Empty Property Officer role to identify and engage with property owners, providing guidance and support on issues specifically relating to the needs of vulnerable women and their families working in partnership with family hubs and other charities to ensure ongoing support for the property owner and the tenant.

•Explore partnerships with housing associations or community land trusts to acquire and repurpose empty properties to increase the availability of affordable housing, particularly for women and girls who face unique challenges in the housing market.

Economy

Healthcare: Three times more women than men work in healthcare and four times more in social care. Over three quarters of the NHS workforce are women. 88% of nurses are women. And yet, the proportion of women compared to men decreases as pay and seniority increases.

Creative Industry: In the creative industries, women account for one third of the workforce and 60% work in part time positions. 42% of men working in the in professional occupations, compared with 25% of women.

Financial Services: The average female representation in financial services is 35%. Women hold only 31% of senior management roles in the 5 largest banks. Only 21% of board seats are held by women.

Hospitality and Tourism: Nationally, 65% of part time roles in hospitality and tourism are held by women, rising to 82% in contract and food service

management and 72% in hotels. Only 20% of women hold management positions. 27% in board positions in major hotel chains and only 8% in very senior or CEO roles.

Agriculture and Farming: Women make up 28% of the farming workforce in England and Wales rising to 55% if you include unpaid and family labour. But only 16% are 'farm holders' i.e. landowners or managers.

Engineering and STEM: Women still remain the minority in engineering and other STEM related occupations comprising only 16.5% of those working in engineering roles.

Economic Inactivity: 16.7% of men aged between 16 and 64 in Dorset are economically inactive compared with 19.5% of women. 5.12% of women are economically inactive because they are looking after their home or family compared with 0.87% of men. 2336 of these women have professional qualifications or a degree, compared with 368 men.

Part Time Working: 21% of women in Dorset work part time compare with 10% of men.

Inequality in Roles: There are twice as many men than women in management, directors and senior official occupations and three times more men than women in administrative and secretarial occupations.

Differences in Occupations: There are five times more men than women in skilled trades and four times more women than men in caring, leisure and other service occupations. There are twice as many women than men in sales and customer service operations and four times more men than women in processing, plant and machine operative roles.

The same number of men and women work in elementary occupations with more women in cleaning and caring roles and more men in refuse collection and street vending. Twice as many men as women work in agriculture, energy and water, three times as many in manufacturing and transport and eight times as many in manufacturing. There are twice as many women employed in public administration, education and health than any other industry and, within the industry there are double the number of women than men.

The Gender Pay Gap: The gender pay gap persists in Dorset with the 10 biggest organisations averaging a gender pay gap of nearly 15% in 2023.

Discrepancy in Wealth Opportunity: There are consistently fewer women in senior roles, board and CEO positions in Dorset across all industries but notably in industries where there are statistically more women than men in the workforce e.g. healthcare, hospitality and tourism.

Significantly more women work part time than their male counterparts. Women are four times more likely than men to work part time to take up caring responsibilities. More women than men are economically inactive despite slightly more women than men holding degrees or other professional qualifications. Some industries have particular difficulties recruiting and retaining a female workforce even where evidence shows that they would benefit from doing so: Financial services, digital and creative industries, engineering and related STEM occupations.

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

To support more businesses to grow and thrive we recommend Dorset Council consider the following:

- Mainstream gender-specific and sex-disaggregated economic and census data to further understand the barriers to employment faced by both men and women, recognising that different people experience different barriers and that a 'one size fits all' approach can perpetuate discrimination.
- Work with employers and businesses to incentivise, recruit and retain women by devising and implementing policies and schemes that address the barriers to employment faced by women paying particular attention to young women and women from minority backgrounds.
- Work with education providers to expand opportunities for girls in a wider range of employment options, particularly to those industries in Dorset who have the fewest female employees and those in STEM related or financial industries.
- Work with employers and businesses to improve the development of and investment in women leaders who can mentor inspire and lead future generations of young women and girls into new career pathways.
- Set a requirement to remove the gender pay gap perpetuated by the biggest employers in Dorset and those with the greatest pay gap in senior roles.
- Work in partnership across public sector departments with providers of childcare and early years services to ensure all families have access to affordable, reliable childcare and family support services allowing all parents and carers of children have equitable opportunity to work.
- Invest in training and resources for employers of all sizes to develop family-friendly and flexible working policies and cultures that maximise the opportunities for all parents and carers to work, remain in and thrive at work.
- Work with employers and business networks to invest in initiatives that incentivise economically inactive women with high-level qualifications to return to work.

•Identify and promote Dorset’s ‘Best Places to Work’ that support women, many of whom are not working, or working in roles below their skills and qualifications but who could be part of a much-needed workforce.

•Widely promote women’s stories and stories about the wider community and business benefits of different ways of working.

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

To kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas for women and girls we recommend that Dorset Council consider the following:

•Undertake a listening exercise to fully understand the different barriers that men and women face to visiting and working in Weymouth and what would change their attitudes to viewing the town more positively for them and their families.

•Invest specifically in women-led business, female entrepreneurship and family focused venues in Weymouth. Studies consistently show that women-owned companies deliver higher returns on investment and better social cohesion.

•Work with education providers and business networks to provide access to funding, mentorship programs, and business development training for women in Weymouth and the surrounding areas.

Support local and sustainable tourism

To support local and sustainable tourism we recommend Dorset Council consider the following:

•Work with the biggest hospitality and tourism employers across Dorset to set world class, women-specific and family friendly recruitment and retention policies that invest in women’s career progression, remove the gender pay gap, and ensure equitable opportunities for work.

•Work with the providers of Transport services to ensure that women and girls do not experience disproportionate barriers to safe and efficient travel across the county. Please see our report on Women and Transport.

Langton Matravers Parish Council

Housing

Clerk to feedback in regard to providing high quality housing:

To improve our housing situation, Dorset Council should enhance the role of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) in Dorset and encourage CLTs to drive the development of affordable high-quality homes.

Promote CLTs and Increase Recognition: Raise awareness about CLTs in Dorset by clearly defining their role, benefits, and contributions to affordable housing. Educate the community on how CLTs operate and their impact on housing development.

Develop Infrastructure for Affordable Housing: Establish a robust framework that supports the creation and expansion of affordable housing projects. This includes recognising the need for a structured approach to integrating CLTs into the housing development process.

Support and Empower CLTs: Provide CLTs with promotional support, toolkits, and facilitation services to help them get started and succeed. This includes offering guidance on forming CLTs, accessing funding, and navigating regulatory requirements.

Encourage Networking and Collaboration: Foster a strong network of CLTs by encouraging collaboration and sharing of best practices. Facilitate connections between new and existing CLTs to build a supportive community.

Customise Housing Solutions: Ensure that housing developments are tailored to meet local needs. Use CLTs to address specific community requirements; for example, one community may require family homes but another nearby may require smaller housing.

Incorporate Sustainability: Focus on creating housing that supports a sustainable cost of living. Integrate environmental considerations into housing projects to ensure long-term affordability and eco-friendliness.

Toolkit Development: Provide a comprehensive toolkit from Dorset Council (DC) to assist in setting up and managing CLTs. This should include resources on best practices, funding opportunities, and regulatory guidance.

Appendix 2

Dialogue - Ideas and Comments

Only ideas with comments are listed below. Full list of ideas is available in the main body of the report.

Communities for all
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
I could not agree more, and it should be a priority. One of the most damaging things that happened in the last ten years was the run down and closing of the county run Youth Services which I believe has had a major effect upon individuals growing up and a rise in anti-social behaviour and other problems. I know they were not a "catch all" service, but they supported and helped children and young adults learn how to make sensible decisions, where to get informed advice and help when needed. There are some great local initiatives such as Streetlight in Wimborne, but I believe we need much more to work alongside such projects.
Totally agree with this statement but what needs to happen to achieve this? Youth services are most definitely a major part of this process. Dorset could do more to improve access to its existing outdoor education centres, ensure that every child in Dorset spends at least one day at the beach, for example.
The closure of QE Leisure Centre has reduced the facilities for youngsters to get active and learn to swim. This is so important for mental health and physical well-being. We have an obesity crisis in the UK how is closing the leisure centre going to impact our young people in their future lives?
It's a great slogan but it's unrealistic. Dorset is becoming older every year. Only the elderly can afford to move here. Children in rural Dorset have nothing and are unrepresented. Councillors are (understandably) mostly retired and often have grown up elsewhere. Children don't pay Council Tax and can't vote. Levels of need and deprivation are increasing so those become the necessary priorities for services dedicated to children. The other children continue to see the investment in their futures diminished.
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
Important to support young people as well as our ageing population in Dorset.
Developing an Age Friendly area will have huge benefits for our older population, whilst also maximising the economic and social contribution of older people to our area. This really is a "win win".
Too much narrative on 'old people' and those living in deprived areas, yet Dorset supports a diverse range of people, has a great environment and needs a much better and positive narrative so that more people feel proud to live/work in Dorset - one of the best places in the UK.
I live in a small village with no public transport. Everything is accessed by car. If running daily buses is too expensive then there needs to be an alternative: local vetted car sharing app / a shopping once week bus / a going out bus for

teenagers, etc. A transportation service that will help people of all ages to be less physically isolated.

This idea needs to be more specific.

The closure of QE Leisure Centre has impacted all age groups in the area. Keeping everyone active is so important for physical and mental well-being. reducing the impact on the NHS

This priority as it stands is meaningless. How do you make a County friendly? Whoever came up with this jargon must surely have had some idea of what they meant!

This should be about how the Council can support people of any age to achieve their desired potential, be treated with respect and receive the services they need to live as positive a life as possible. That's a huge challenge!!

Local bus service in Lyme Regis

I totally understand your frustration with your concerns regarding your public service and Dorset Council should take the necessary steps to support your concerns. I like to say we are in somewhat the same situation in Sturminster Newton where we don't have public service on particular days. I hope you get a positive outcome.

High speed fibre Wi-Fi in Dorset

Have proper connectivity in Dorchester - where the council is and promotes and wins awards for digital connectivity yet can't use our phone/wifi in Dorchester - be great if this could be sorted

The wifi particularly in Rodwell is awful so this definitely needs addressing

Broadband Internet connection is only via copper so max in about 30mbps in Ashley Heath (BH24 2EJ). Working at home nowadays with video calling etc we would benefit significantly with faster fibre to the property. Wessex internet have just installed fibre down the Castleman railway right behind our house but we were told it runs from Ringwood to West moors only.

Ashley Heath has shockingly poor broadband speeds. Fiber to the home or have 5G installed to accommodate better speeds as well as better mobile coverage.

high speed access is so important for every priority area in the Council's plan. It is poor, patchy and in some cases non-existent in even some of the more built up areas of the County. Despite promises for so long and minibuses with advertising saying that Dorset is achieving this, it really is not. it is the only way for the Council to move forward with whatever long term plans it makes

Change speed limit on A35

Reduce speed across all areas. Make a concerted effort to tackle antisocial driving, particularly youths on mopeds speeding, excessively revving and riding in convoy. Greater partnership with police to address this and the appalling death/accident rates across the county. Tackling this will reveal county drug lines also.

I agree that all residential areas should have a speed limit of 30 or less. The A350 in Shaftesbury also with houses on the road has a speed limit of 40. Families living in a new housing estate required to cross to walk to school without a pedestrian crossing or traffic control.

Keep as is.

Re-establish a universal access Youth service

Fully agree with this proposal and one that should be considered vital for our communities future health and dare I say it wealth.

very important proposal, which is fundamental to the well-being of young people, enhancing their opportunities and encouraging them to become confident individuals meeting their own potentials. If you do not start early on working with young people to develop all the skills mentioned above, there will be a longer-term problem for our wider society.

Build an access route from Woolsbridge Road/axis 31 business park to the A31

As a resident I can only agree that this plan is long overdue. Having lived in Ashley Heath for 27years I have seen the continued increase in the footprint of Woolsbridge Industrial Estate. This has also increased the amount of HGV and worker traffic along Horton Road which is 24hrs/day now.

Horton Road is not capable of supporting the size, quantity and weight of this traffic. Evidence is available to support this and a purpose made route to the A31 would alleviate the threats on Horton Road and will increase the commercial viability of the trading estate. There is also a bonus for military use from the West Moors Fuel Depot which would take bulk fuel transportation away from transiting through the residential area of Ashley Heath.

I would support an access road to the new industrial estate, Horton Road was never designed for 44 ton HGV's The speed these travel and the closeness to pedestrians is frightening. The wing mirrors overhang the pavements and could cause serious damage to cyclists and Pedestrians alike. The Highway Code 2022 cannot be implemented on this road as the road doesn't have the capacity for the HGV's to pass a cyclist at the recommended distances. HGV's often hit branches leaving debris on the road. They have also widened the road in places by churning the soft ground as they do not fit on the tarmac road, The transportation of oversized caravans and portacabins from the Woolsbridge Ind Est to the A31 causes havoc a number of times per week, ensuring other road users break the law by mounting the pavement to avoid being hit by these vehicles. The weight of these vehicles cause turbulence that is damaging to homes and the wellbeing and safety of the community should be paramount in all decisions made

This is imperative as you'll be able to confirm via local action, reports to the police, yourselves and the Parish Council. Many of the commercial users from the estates have little care for the other road users or local residents.

I second everything that Bluebellwalk has said - an access road from Axis 31 to A31 is desperately needed.

Urgently needed.

This road is extremely dangerous and the heavy increase in HGVs since I moved here 8 years ago now vibrates in my house constantly.
Shocking speeds by motorists making entry onto the road a gamble!

Pedestrian crossings along Horton Road

I support this suggestion, there is currently only 1 safe crossing on the Horton Road which is approx. 2 miles long

Much needed.

Make Horton Road in Ashley Heath safer for everyone

Absolutely agree!

A link road from the industrial estates to the A31 would really help reduce the weight load on the road and allow easier access for HGVs and wide loads

I support this comment, the road is a very busy road and was not designed for the current volume of traffic. The pavements are not suitable for ALL users, meaning local residents with mobility issues would not be able to use the pavements safely. The Highway Code 2022 regarding cyclists cannot be adhered to on this road.

Perhaps extend the Clearways signage to include Horton Rd from AHR to entrance to Moors Valley Park.

Horton Road is currently dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike. The 40 mile an hour speed limit is very frequently ignored, and drivers race along at truly frightening speeds. Huge lorries drive down the middle of the road and when prefab buildings are being transported, other drivers are forced off the road onto verges. Pedestrians are buffeted by air displacement and forced into fences. People living in close proximity suffer ground and building vibration, increasingly worrying air pollution from exhaust fumes and horrendous road noise from the huge lorries using the route day and night. We can no longer enjoy our gardens - the noise is deafening - and even the apples on our trees are affected, coated with thick, black grime. I can't remember the last time I had a full night's sleep. Our quality of life has been seriously affected. Changing the speed limit to 30 miles an hour will reduce the noise and vibrations and allow vehicles to stop safely and more easily when necessary. Alongside a speed change, a link road from the industrial estates to the A31 would cure a lot of the aforementioned problems and leave the Horton Road so much safer for cars and pedestrians alike, whilst allowing the local residents to breathe more freely, sleep properly and stop worrying about the fabric of their homes.

Horton Road has no road classification. It was never (I believe) designed for more than rural traffic and is unable to support the volume and weight of current traffic. I have been a resident in Ashley Heath for over 27yrs and have seen the amount of traffic multiply to an unsupportable level. The road infrastructure is unable to withstand this 24/7 traffic. Evidence of continued repairs to drains, manhole covers and kerbs are available which is a wholly the result of this magnitude of traffic. The speed accentuates the damage caused. As my property backs onto Horton Road, I can vouch that the vibration from heavy goods vehicles hitting suppressed road furniture at speed is significant and disturbs sleep and causes stress. On the question of speed, there is no argument that stands up to maintain the current

40mph. It is currently abused with cars and HGVs exceeding this. 30mph will adhere to current government sustainability drive and will help reduce the threat of accidents.

Totally agree with all the comments noted above. Like the comments from Colquhoun01 we too have lived in the area for nearly 35 years and whilst we accept change will happen, the amount of traffic, both travelling at speed and the weight of the traffic using this unclassified road is now becoming unacceptable. Other areas within the Council boundaries jurisdiction are having their speed limits reduced - why not ours. How many more accidents need to happen before the comments of the residents are noted and not ignored.

Cycle lanes

I have stopped cycling because I feel the local roads are too dangerous. I would definitely use my bike more (rather than my car for local journeys) if there were more cycle lanes.

Getting to the new cycle lanes is dangerous, the roads and paths all need repairing or resurfacing as over the last 10 years it has been left to deteriorate and not upkept. Poorly patched when anything is done. Yes good to have new paths and parts of the road resurfaced, wonder when both sides of the roads will be finished as looks unkept and rough in places. The roads all need work and not just shoving in a few long cycle lanes and half the road is left rough. Finish the job properly and not half job as we seem to be getting as you walk and drive both sides of the roads.

Cycling should be encouraged, both for the health of the population and for the environment.

Improve road safety and provide safer routes to school for young people living in villages and rural areas

Not just the main routes, all roads need of repair as well as footpaths lumpy, bumpy and potholes. We all use them as well; the Wimborne Road is being done but where it has been done the other side of the road is left rough and bumpy and the parade of shops look rundown and unkept.

Increase GP and Dentist provision across the county

I totally agree. Chickerell is a prime example of where services can no longer meet residents demand. There has been significant housing development over the past 10 years, but, to date, primary care services have actually declined when they should have increased. This makes life extremely difficult to people who are not internet savvy or who do not have access to their own transport. For some, this could mean two lengthy bus trips to see a GP in Wyke Regis. Increasingly residents are encouraged to contact GP through online services. For many this is not possible, as they do not have access to a computer.

GP and dental care together with schools are key, important part of infrastructure services. When all the new housing is full, these need to be planned alongside the developments to meet current and future need.

Urgent Need for Saturday Bus Services in Sturminster Newton

I think the busses should be replaced on Saturday as people like me need to get to different places not like Sturminster Newton

Respond to the climate crisis

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

We need to remember that tourism is one of the main industries in Dorset and whilst there is obviously a need to reduce carbon emissions, this should not take precedence over conserving our beautiful landscape. Well screened solar (up to 100 acres) is acceptable but care must be taken not to despoil views with large scale wind turbines. The four legs of the white elephant near Wareham (when will they start working?) have already ruined views from National Landscapes in Purbeck and North Dorset and a proposed new turbine near Bere Regis which would be as high as the London Eye and taller than Salisbury Cathedral will be very visible from downland footpaths and roads from Winterborne Whitechurch to Cheselbourne and beyond. We do have an alternative in Dorset which is offshore wind and again, whilst this is visually disturbing, it does not diminish landscapes in the same way as onshore wind. If carbon neutrality is deemed to supersede everything else, then Dorset can forget tourism inland because studies have proven that holiday makers do not want to see giant turbines in hitherto unspoiled views.

This is crucial.

It must be a requirement that all new builds are built to the highest standard, all with solar panels and as green as possible. For too long developers in Swanage have got away with throwing up any old rubbish, particularly for social housing; this must stop!!

Have our decision-makers got the courage to be sensible and insist on sustainable long-life and low-energy housing: matters advocated by the RIBA many decades ago.

Support the recovery of nature

Really important - we need to act now before it is too late.

Promote and support the nature recovery Dorset so that everyone in Dorset can join together to do something and show they care and are willing to help recover nature

If walking trails, finger posts and paths way had a bit of investment into them that could help encourage people get out and about enjoying nature and seeing what there is to enjoy.

Having defined footpaths means people should keep to them and not destroy more wildlife.

Having little adventure trails for kids to follow and collect things helps. Or encouraging geocaching!

Difficult to disagree.

Recovery of nature is vital to sustain mankind.

Climate and Ecological breakdown is beginning to affect us all - taking steps to reduce global heating and restore Nature may help humanity (or it may not) While it is within our gift to try and can take steps to reduce our impact and adapt to an uncertain future, I believe we should do so. There will be no future for our descendants otherwise.

Nature recovery should be top of the list and inform all decision making, including economic decisions. Protecting and increasing habitat. Giving access to nature to help people reconnect with it and appreciate the value it has. Consider more allotments and growing spaces - helps nature and human wellbeing.

We are taught to measure twice and cut once - well in the natural environment I think we should endeavour to think multiple times before we ever make that one cut of a tree. Although Dorset looks green, in Wimborne the tree canopy is below the expected level so cutting trees within or near a town should be avoided at all costs, or we, Mankind, all pay.

Totally agree, we need to protect habitats that are still remaining - whether they are private gardens, verges, hedges or larger expanses of different habitats. We also need to help create new ones by planting (appropriate) trees, not using chemicals, encouraging bee friendly gardening, and generally raising awareness about the value of natural places for everyone, including nature itself.

If a Dorset National Park were created then a grant worth millions of pounds each year would help establish:

1) an identity that residents can feel proud of and visitors be aware of the benefits and responsibilities while enjoying it.

2) develop a tourism policy to steady the load throughout the year and throughout the county.

3) support alternative transport options: park & ride, cycle routes, walking routes

4) staff to support and funding to encourage farmers and landowners to farm regeneratively providing more room for wildlife in food producing areas.

5) encourage access to and education in the landscape for the better health and wellbeing of residents.

Find better solutions for Solar energy in Dorset. You are responsible for planning so stop using green field sites. Be a county that innovates.

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

Well, if someone would figure out how to help people on limited incomes in stone-built buildings in conservation areas, that would be a start.

Dorset Council should not put net zero above all other considerations. We already have 4 giant turbines near Wareham which are a terrible blot on the landscape from the Bulbarrow and Cheselbourne areas of the National Landscape and the Purbeck hills. There is now a proposal to install a 135m turbine at Bere Regis which will be taller than Salisbury Cathedral and will tower over the landscape. The main industry in Dorset is tourism and this is not just on the coastline. Studies

prove that visitors do not appreciate giant turbines disrupting the landscape. Well screened solar is preferable but the ancient Dorset landscape can easily be ruined if more giant turbines are approved.

Go hydrogen, Mining for the minerals for the batteries is harmful to the environment the land gets destroyed.

Higher rainfall is increasing flooding and kerbside drains can't cope.
I live in a new build where planning permission was dependent on the inclusion of an attenuation tank for surface drainage but it's not working as the main is blocking with leaves, rubbish etc.
I realise that potholes are a priority, but lack of good drainage makes those worse too- another cause of roads becoming unusable.

Recycle a wider range of items at the curbside

This is laudable but impractical for many households unless everything recyclable is put in one bin. There may be no space especially outside flats or in our more picturesque areas. People may be infirm. As for asking our many tourists to reliably multi-sort after a good party...!?

Marks and Spencer's in Hampshire and Aldi have plastic recycling bins why can all supermarkets not have that as then every time you go shopping take a small bag of plastic and no need for curb side bins.

It would be great to be able to include plastic bags, Tetra Pak cartons and tablet blister packs.

Lots of plastic currently not recycled. Plastic recycling drops off points in shops should be expanded. Tetra pack recycling needed.

There needs to be more focus on the impact of what happens when recycling is not done properly, and how often waste destined for recycling is contaminated, that may encourage people to recycle better. also, we need to focus on reducing waste in the first place.... putting value on refill and reuse, and repair over recycling.

Is it possible that all recycling (glass, plastics, cans and paper) could go in the same bins/containers?

Birmingham had bins like Dorset but had an inner bit in bin at top to separate paper. This could help recycle more stuff.

Affordability

Too parochial. Some developing countries will be devastated by the climate crisis.

We cannot afford to continue delaying. Soon, it will be too late.

Making buses a realistic alternative to cars.

Spot on. More buses make economic sense, not only by allowing those who don't drive to spend money locally but by also taking cars off the road (less congestion, pollution, wear and tear, accidents, policing needed etc). It's well known that motoring taxes don't cover the damage to society.

Park and ride schemes reduce traffic in towns and are cheap for locals and tourists.

If lower prices buses would be more used. We use train and they are unreliable making car necessary. Feel Beryl bikes are good, but it's missed opportunity not having a locked bike area in Poundbury near popular great field to reduce some bus use. Shame you can't book bus and see time online like train line as my

experience of buses they can run late. My son regularly uses car to my house when buses cover both areas. He is a person using train line. I think if he could connect up online, he would use the bus more.

Yes, yes, yes. A service only every 2 hours to Dorchester from Bridport makes even a return trip take up most of a day when I can drive there and back in about an hour! Using a bus to get to an appointment (and back) is impossible. No bus services past 6pm-ish is poor for community involvement and cohesion. It's fine if you love in Weymouth!

Nature and climate crisis

It's important to have both, particularly since the warmer temperature affect Nature - plants and animals.

Giving planning permission for large areas of this beautiful county's green countryside to be covered by massive solar farms in madness. They will be there for 40 years and then go to landfill sites. There are better solutions.

Develop safe cycling lanes

Fix residential roads and paths as these have been neglected for years, also finish the roads off properly as re-surfaced one side and parts are left rough on the Wimborne Road and the small parade of shops looks rundown and unkept. I have fallen off riding to get to the new cycle path due to the poor unkept roads.

Pointless. Cyclists won't use them (at least not the lycra louts) because they don't want to be slowed down. They're quite happy to slow cars down but can't be held up by slower moving cyclists. A complete waste of money.

Cycling on country roads means you take your life in your hands. For example, the Piddle Valley. No footpath, no cycleway and no refuge because of the hedges lining the road - especially when motorists don't abide by the 30mph limit. There is a bridleway that runs parallel to the road, but it is often impassable in winter. Make this an all-weather surface and children can walk, cycle, scoot to school. adults can cycle into town or walk to the pub or village shop.

NCN routes which are also public roads (e.g. Rte 25 between Wimborne and Blandford) should be speed limited to 40 mph (or less). Some car drivers seem to delight in racing past at 60+mph on country lanes with much less than the required 1.5 metres clearance.

Timetable to reduce/stop glyphosate use and other chemicals

Please stop using glyphosates. It's vital we stop 🦋. Never thought I'd miss wasps, but I've not seen one this year! My sister in Sussex says there's no decline there. We need these buzzing pests to pollinate. The tragic decline in butterflies and bees 🐝 is also alarming too.

I agree. Let's tune into nature more not assume we can control it. We are nature; nature is us.

Stop using them everywhere and ask contractors to stop using them too!

We cannot continue using pesticides and glyphosate and assume we aren't going to further push nature into decline.

Pollinating insects are particularly important, and many are harmed by glyphosate.

Back the Nature Declaration with specific aims, measurable targets, and time limits

The most important thing DC can do

This needs to be prioritised.

Protect our greenbelt, farms and National Landscape

When allowing planning permissions more open spaces more trees and restrictions on brick paving and paving for residents to ensure open live green spaces. Also, commitment to maintain green areas.

feel the empty properties in Dorchester need investigation before housing impacts green fields around Dorchester. We need to maintain green space parks in Dorchester as I worry planning could take them away. I notice so much unused land by railway from Dorchester South to Poole. Feel this space should be used for housing.

Keep protection of Dorset's environment as the 'Golden Thread'

Excellent idea!

Dorset National and Marine Park

Dorset National and Marine Park would work in partnership with Dorset Council and other interested parties and bring added experience and resources to help protect our environment and Dorset's exceptional natural beauty. It would also assist in realising more affordable homes.

Do survey on climate change

The County Council declared a climate emergency a few years ago and conducted an in-depth survey canvassing ideas from local people. There is little or no evidence that any action was taken.

How about making it compulsory for all new structures to have solar panels fitted?
How about getting rid of all street lighting?

Provide high quality housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

This is definitely needed. Too many people aren't able to get on the housing ladder at all.

1. Thoroughly examine brownfield options first.
2. With GP surgeries and schools under immense pressure, these facilities must be added to any new development.
3. Developers must be forced to plant trees, leave open space.
4. No building on water meadows.

First priority must be to house residents of the county, especially those who have been on the housing list for years. The amount of time a person has been living in the area must take precedence over new residence moving into the area.

Before considering building new quality homes. Dorset council should be more proactive in ensuring existing developments are built to a high quality and should be totally finished before commencing new phases or sites. This should especially apply to the quality of road surface finishing, quality of speed humps and ramps, quality of road drains.

In addition Dorset council should be proactively taking on verge and green space

maintenance, at present there is a huge delay. Dorset council should ensure any road design should be fit for purpose in regards to layout, signs, parking restrictions, bollards and vehicle restrictions. Little attention has been given to this to date and should be considered before proceeding with any future developments

Yes we need more affordable housing, especially for social rent.

There are two main models of provision: either make new house owners pay for it via S106 agreements or raise the capital and use the new powers of compulsory purchase.

The first method is not meeting the need. The second worked well in the past and a modern version can work well again. No-one ever baulks at borrowing to own a house if they can - nor should the Council baulk when it can help people in this way.

We need an ambitious programme to build hundreds of social rent homes for local people, not in big estates but tucked into existing communities all over the area.

Difficult to disagree.

Completely agree that we need more housing but would want to see DC's Housing Strategy which looks at how this will be done. Will DC set up a housing corporation? How will it fund registered providers to provide social rent not 'affordable' rent? How will it ensure high standards of sustainability and build standards?

Providing social housing via d council will be self-financing. Hb

Benefit is paid to d council which in turn reinvest to build more social housing. If it works for private landlords, why can't it work for the council

If a Dorset National Park were established in Dorset, then all of the DC area would be able to be incorporated in a Local Plan free from Central Government targets and administered by a joint DC/ DNP planning team with a focus on the generation of truly affordable housing where neighbourhood plans highlight. The DNP grant would also enable the financial pressure to be lifted from DC for the planning responsibilities. The environmental remit of the DNP would also prioritize the need for infrastructure to match developments and the environmental impact mitigated by the designs of any developments and the environmental build quality.

Something needs to be done.

More affordable housing is definitely needed, especially for the young people/families of Dorset.

I think at the minute, the with the rent to buy housing schemes, it is disgusting the amount they expect young people to pay a month, and on top of that, they get reviewed in how much money they have been saving monthly to be able to have a deposit to buy the property in 5 years, how an earth is anyone supposed to pay rent and save monthly with the cost of living now days it's crazy.

The housing needs to be council housing. Developers and private landlords cannot be expected to fill the social housing gap.

Only allow new builds on brownfield sites and make solar panels compulsory on all new structure, with few exceptions

Whilst there is a need for "affordable" housing there is also a need to find land where they can be built.

Other than on public land (not including recreational land which should be protected) this is difficult as landowners understandably seek to achieve the best return.

There is an ongoing and long delayed Dorset Local Plan.

In the 2015 West Dorset Local Plan allocated land in Bridport, probably in response to a "call for land", at BRID3. LAND TO THE EAST OF BREDY VETERINARY CENTRE, OFF JESSOPP AVENUE

i) Land to the east of Bredy Veterinary Centre, off Jessopp Avenue (as shown on the

policies map) is allocated for housing.

I believe that this could have produced some 40 houses of which at 35% i.e. 14 could have been "affordable" which would have met a local need.

The land remains vacant, but the landowner has in theory achieved an increase in its valuation by simply doing nothing.

I imagine that there are other similar cases so if land is offered for development any allocation should be limited in years and if nothing is done the allocation should either be withdrawn or be subject to compulsory purchase to ensure the development takes place.

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

To ensure good quality and well-built homes, delivered to high architectural standards, then the Council needs to encourage small and medium regional builders. The nationals will, quite simply, not deliver homes of the right quality.

Difficult to disagree.

All homes should meet standards appropriate to be classed as a home. Housing standards officers should spot check random homes....social and private rented

Building standards in the UK appear to be very poor compared to some countries and as a consequence builders both large and small are not incentivised to up their game. I have seen some very small building firms who take a pride in what they do, these are few and far and they find it difficult then to achieve a decent margin.

Dorset Council should insist that new homes are built to the highest environmental standards. It is bordering on scandalous to build homes without eg solar panels.

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

Of course.

Any property that has been empty for 6-12 months should be investigated!
Potential to provide social housing is huge. Don't sell on. Keep as social rented at affordable rent.

Long-term empty properties should be compulsorily purchased and rented out for social housing. Accommodation above high street shops are empty in most of our towns.

I suspect that this is a very slow process in terms of establishing ownership and negotiating a purchase. It would be nice if there was some legal route to compel owners to keep property in use. However, the time might be right for lobbying govt for change on compulsory purchase of empty properties and in line with their desire for a million new homes to come on stream.

Empty properties should be monitored and put back into use by some legislation. Properties over commercial premises should be utilised

Establishing why a property is empty and compulsory purchase could be a costly process. Incentives to get the owners to agree to sell might work better.

Accessible homes for disabled people (under 55)

Difficult to disagree.

I thought all new homes built had to meet the needs for disabled folk???

This is close to my heart as a member of my family is in this position. The present 'bidding' system just doesn't work. There needs to be an acknowledgment that there are young families who need accessible homes. What about the houses that were supposedly going to be built on the old dump site in Bridport?

Empty homes

No house should be left to remain empty and become uninhabitable. This is morally wrong when homes are so desperately needed for those who cannot afford to buy or rent privately.

There are two issues I believe. Holiday homes that are left vacant unless used by owners/families and homes that sit unused due to personal reasons. It would be good to know what effect the doubling of council has had on second properties.

In the village I live in a housing association has allowed a house to be empty for over two years and now it is to be sold due to the so called cost to bring it back to a liveable state.
How can a house be left for two years then be sold losing a vital rentable house to be lost from a small village.
These houses are so vital to a small community
Dorset council should be enforcing the housing companies to ensure the above stops happening

There should be no empty homes. If they have been empty for 6 months, with no evidence of habitation, council should take them on as social housing.

Doubling council tax is a drop in the ocean. If people can afford 2nd homes, higher council tax will not affect them, in fact most will use accountants to dodge this anyway. We cannot allow holiday homes, or indeed ANY homes in Swanage to remain empty for 90% of the year (typically holiday homes are used for approximately a month a year and remain empty for 11 months) when we have such a housing shortage. Likewise Air BnB and redundant B&Bs that have one or two adults rattling around in 7 or 8 bedroomed houses, need occupying.

Community land trust housing projects

For more CLT homes, we need more sites. Use the Council's power to bring activate stalled sites and encourage landowners to release land for local housing.

Air B&B

Air band b needs to be restricted and should be registered as business use. Single business rate relief should not apply to this or any holiday let property.

Holiday lets are completely different to Airbnb. It really needs to be regulated properly. I am absolutely not anti holiday let as they are a vital life blood for many destinations in Dorset. However, many air bnbs are ancillary to the main property. As they not on separate deeds from the main property, there are no additional fees, council tax implications or taxes implied.

Air bnb's are probably going to be abolished so it's not really relevant, but without holiday lets towns like Swanage would not be able to accommodate the amount of guests as there aren't enough bnb's/ hotels and without places to stay the number of holiday makers will decrease and small seaside towns will not survive.

I think councils should be providing more affordable homes in new build developments and making sure houses aren't left empty and unoccupied.

Airbnb set up for folk to use spare bedrooms to supplement their income but is now just another holiday rental company so should be treated as such for tax. Whilst the area needs holiday makers it needs to be balanced with rentals for key workers.

Primary Residence qualification

Any new housing should have a covenant to restrict any second, rental properties and should only be used as the residence of the buyer. They should also ve restricted as a second home as buyers may state it is their primary home when they have a home with no restriction.

Housing associations should be restricted on the sale of their properties unless they replace. Under current government policy they can sell any home of non traditional construction or low Epc reted , this covers nearly all prefab houses on Portland. Many shabby houses are also being sold without new homes being built. No wonder we have a social housing issue

Unfortunately, some housing stock aimed at low cost is disproportionate.

For example.

Lyme Regis.

1. Properties with covenants on them prohibiting sale to non-residents or ties to Lyme Regis stagnantly are unsold and remain difficult or impossible to sell due to the very nature of the saleability to only those within the criteria.

To the detrimental of suitable housing stock.

2. New build housing stock in the past 10 yrs and forward built for low cost for rent in Lyme Regis and surrounding area are not bound by covenants and therefore can be sold on the open market at some point in the near future at market value.

3. Point 2 therefore makes it impossible for local people to purchase properties in point 1.

It therefore seems reasonable that if properties in point 1 are not sold within 6 months at the lower price to locals meeting the covenant criteria, the covenant should be overturned and removed completely and sold as normal housing stock to all.

This would be a far more approachable format and would stop disrepair and in some cases put many properties previously removed from saleable housing stock that has been left empty for some considerable time.

Olliesmum13 makes an excellent point

Buy to let houses have been and will be key to provide enough rental properties.

Dorset Council should build their own council/social housing

Brilliant thoughts and ideas which are well overdue and need to be adopted by all local councils. Stroud council never sold off their housing stock. Go have a chat with them.

I visit the industrial estate near the keep in Dorchester and have noted a number of unused and derelict buildings that are ripe for conversion into dwellings. Why the, reluctance to use compulsory purchase orders. This is evidenced by the failure to act over the 3 cups hotel in Lyme Regis

It is a shame that we seem to be going to have yet another old people's home built in our town. I very much like the idea of this being turned into flats and houses for young people instead.

A while ago, I commented on an idea about the land on the other side of the road (what was the dump and the Fisherman's Arms). There was a proposal to build houses here for disabled, local people and key workers. Is that going ahead?

Something definitely needs to happen between DCC and Magna. It's un Eltham this doesn't happen.

DCC have said that they will compulsory purchase homes left empty for more than two years. There must be quite a few of these around.

Increase the percentage

Affordable homes should be provided by the council, not private developers.

The previous idea which states that 'affordability' needs to be defined before we go any further comes in to play here. Large new estates need to include 'affordable' homes which might be shared ownership or what used to be called council houses so that local people can be housed.

Disabled priority

Need to look at criteria for this. How will you judge if someone is disabled or not.

E.g. lots of children have autism but are undiagnosed ..this doesn't stop them having needs and they shouldn't be penalized because they are not diagnoses. How you will police this is difficult. It can take two years for a child to be seen by a psychiatrist to get assessed.

Housing banding system

Housing bands need to consider all individual needs.

People with health needs/ disabilities: -

- not all disabilities will be linked to regular medical professionals but it doesn't make their needs any less.

- availability of suitable properties e.g. ground floor accommodation. Most councils earmark elder people's properties which tend to be small bungalows. This isn't always suitable as today people are working to 68..so elderly properties may not be suitable for the working person.

You need 1 and 2 bed properties availability for the elderly e.g. cater for a carer now or in future, if family live away. Also bear in mind it costs a lot to move house which a lot of elderly/ disabled won't have so get it right at the start.

We need a better system to allocate homes, downsizing is not seen as a priority so you have people in family homes desperate to downsize to a one bed property some will also be being bed taxed, but the current system says they are adequately housed despite under occupying.

There are needs to me more human interaction and common sense applied not a computer algorithm

Grow our economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

1] Improve bus services to help all getting to and from work.

2) Improve broadband reliability. Technically we have 4G and have been offered 5G but it's usually 3G and often less.

3j (Quick win) set up 'Dorset hospitality' 2-day workshops to help the post-pandemic young more swiftly add to the friendly professionalism of the vital tourist industry. The owners are often very busy and have an experience gap in their casual labour recruits. Give the workshop credence in the local star ratings and everyone wins as the businesses and county are not being compared unfavourably to overseas destinations. Just don't homogenise the recruits - all that is needed is learning café and restaurants need a bit more interaction than dishing food on knees in front of a screen. Local is good when it is also industry competent.

Agree with the comments above, talking to our many small hospitality owners, finding and retaining staff is one of their biggest problems, at one time Weymouth College students chose hospitality as a chosen career. Post COVID many of our younger students find interacting with people difficult, preferring to communicate via mobile phones. Having an introduction to hospitality would give them the opportunity to understand the role.

My grandson can't wait to reach his 16th birthday to follow his siblings and work weekends and after school, his confidence just needs a bit of a boost.

Having internet we can rely on would help locals and visitors use their phones to scan codes to find information, many people suggest Google which is a useful tool, but may miss local events, information and advice. One area which unfortunately has always been neglected since I moved here in 1992 is from the clock to the stone groyne where little has been invested to encourage people to use and visit this area. The public address system ends at the Pier Bandstand, we have beach huts which remain empty, in Swanage these are rented out daily and weekly, perfect for families and friends to use

Young people do need more help with interacting and social skills. It would help boost business and tourism. We have a tourist industry here and people need encouraging into jobs and feeling valued once in them. In Austria hospitality is taken very seriously as a career path and the roles within it are valued whereas here work such as waiting tables is not seen as a career. Good waiting staff are worth their weight in gold. As are chefs, receptionists, pool attendants etc.

This idea is so 'wide 'in concept it is meaningless as it stands. It needs detail added...eg relief from business rates for startups; developing opportunities for business mentoring etc.

Startup grants and training sessions to inform potential new businesses. Love the idea of training young people into hospitality.....

A great deal of detail is missing. Of course, this seems a good idea but there needs to be a clear plan and time frame and of course, it's dependent on funding. There also needs to be a clear definition of sustainable as it's too easy to go down the tourism route only to have crowded roads, unsustainable pop-up campsites and cafes, a lack of affordable homes and damage to the precious ecology of the area that attracts people here in the first place. We need small scale, nimble modern businesses, not ones based on servicing holiday homes. We need to treasure our farming heritage and our relationship with the sea. Importantly, we must not grab short term solutions but build steadily to improve the sovereign wealth of the county in terms of an educated, engaged and curious younger population who have prospects in the county, elsewhere in the country and in the wide big World Out There. And we should be bold enough to do things in a distinctive Dorset way rather than try to copy other places. Everywhere is different.

More: Larger businesses need to be clean businesses in the right location. (No incinerators, please.)

Better training at all levels and grants given to businesses to invest in training themselves. Better public transport.

Yes please - support - the Council must have (or not) experts in supporting businesses. I am not such so let's have these experts' ideas, please.

Give grants to businesses to install low carbon technologies. Helps the business to lower their carbon footprint and lowers their energy costs, enabling them to spend their money on expanding and additional staff, including upskilling. Covers two of the priorities - grow the economy and respond to the climate crisis.

as long as this is inclusive of all areas and provides equal opportunity for businesses small and large. Better transport and communication (ie FTP) might assist start ups.

Special attention should be given to help Farming and to support the continued

use of the land for food security and mixed farming to meet local need.
A local fish Market might help fishermen or to revive development in this area.

How, about reduce business rates on retail shops, particularly small businesses, to refill empty shops?

How, about getting a sensible approach to planning decisions. The example of the bakery in Bridport, rendered financially unviable, because of the refusal to allow solar panels on the hidden roof, which overlooked a squalid street scene is a perfect example of official conspiracy in the face of common sense

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

I attended the Weymouth and Portland Chamber of Commerce meeting in July, the plans discussed for Weymouth area are exciting many will need the planning office to look at planning applications. We know the delays to Peninsula the Quay, plans for the recently acquired land, we have a local developer who cares passionately about his hometown. Many buildings left neglected in the town centre are owned by pension investments. We need a mix of shops and living accommodation returning some of the buildings to their original purpose as homes. I'm sure many towns in Dorset would benefit from these changes

While the national chains and franchises close stores in Weymouth there are always entrepreneurs willing to start up with innovative unique ideas and stores that gives Weymouth an individual character and charm. These creative people are taking all the risk and even very good ideas can fail. We should promote and foster these new businesses with lower rates and investment to increase the quirky and the unusual alongside local alternatives to national chains so that Weymouth is less dependent on distant boardroom decisions that are driven by shareholder value. It will make the shopping area a tourist destination in its own right while supporting smaller local business and local employment.

What is the justification for focusing on Weymouth rather than eg N Dorset which often feels like a forgotten hinterland.

It feels wrong to make one specific part of Dorset a major priority, we also need help in East Dorset

Don't see how one could disagree.

Weymouth looks OK when I walk down the high street and it is lucky as it has public transport too. I agree with the comment about North Dorset as we have nothing up here. I am eligible for two kinds of support group (for being a carer and for autism etc) and there is nothing here they are all in Dorchester or Weymouth.

What about rural regeneration? What are the ideas the Council has that they can control? Do let us know.

I agree Weymouth is in need of regeneration. Its economy has seen significant decline and it cannot rely solely on summer tourists. Improvement is needed to make it a destination people choose to come to all year round and in so doing, this would encourage private investment The Council has a once in a generation opportunity to develop the town with land available behind the Pavilion, Westwey Road and the former Municipal Offices site. Development should be inclusive and of benefit to local people as well as tourists, with an acknowledgement in design, particularly around the harbour, to Weymouth's rich history.

it's interesting that there is a focus on just one area of the County when there is so much deprivation in other areas too. How has the Council reached the decision that Weymouth is more important? Although I don't live in North Dorset, I believe that there are pockets that need regeneration, and they can be the forgotten population because they are smaller.

Support local and sustainable tourism

I am not sure that tourism is the most important sector in Dorset to support. Could the council support industries that offer more skilled and higher paid jobs?

I have no wish to damage the existing tourism sector, but I also don't agree it should be the focus for growth in Dorset. As noted above, jobs in the sector tend to be low paid and often seasonal. It's also a mistake for an area to rely too heavily on any one sector, including tourism. This doesn't benefit our younger people joining the jobs market. Rather, we need a more diversified economy, with higher skilled and better paid jobs in services, manufacturing and so on, including growth sectors such as tech.

agree, tourism is a low priority, and the source of many problems. Focus on high value economy as others have said.

Our beach is award winning brings income to Weymouth throughout the year.

Holiday makers keep our town alive, our beach is free to use, the perfect location for the whole family to enjoy. I talk to holiday makers many who came as children and return with their family, some visiting for the first time are so impressed they tell family and friends.

We have small business owners who welcome those on holiday they like the opportunity to visit our beach, town and harbour, our parks offer a space to enjoy nature children can use our play parks our visitor centres offer family tickets.

I agree that tourism is not the only sector that needs support and giving young people more skilled opportunities is very important.

For me, "sustainable tourism" means not only sustainable environmentally but also financially and for local communities. This means that the support is for tourism that can be successful year-round which will bring more security for employment and more income for the town overall.

Stop tourism fuelling greed and taking properties out of the rental sector as they all become tourist accommodation. Even my horse suffered when the place we were renting is now tourist lets where his stable was. People need to live here, do you want us all to move away ? Then who will clean up after the tourists ?

Tourism is a low priority in my immediate area

Yes, but tourism is low hanging fruit and can jeopardise the ecology here and also the housing market as we know too well. It is highly weather dependent. Temporary campsites must be properly controlled as many owners do not adhere to the restrictions and it leads to pressure for parking, excess noise in villages etc. The same applies to festivals - one person gets very rich by causing a great deal of aggravation for others including disturbance to wildlife.

Air bnb and similar need controlling - they are businesses and should be business rated, linked to HMRC, and subject to similar regulations as hotels and other accommodation e.g. fire regs, A licensing system would help here.

So would significantly increasing the council tax on unused/little used properties.

Tourism is an essential part of our economy and can also have an impact on rural areas, such as our own in Burton Bradstock Parish where the population swells significantly during the months from Easter to October. this should be considered in the allocation of services to our community as well as sustainable transport and road safety.

Car Parking Charges

Living in Weymouth I've spoken to visitors who expressed they find parking charges in location close to the beach expensive, it reduces the amount of money they spend in local businesses, how long they stay. The park and ride needs reviewing with the current bus service providers insisting people walk to a bus stop many have items for their family, the bus stops at the Kings Statue, increasing the service to the Pavillion as an end stop would increase footfall to the harbour this would relieve the amount of traffic which at three pm results in gridlock as cars leave Pavillion carpark

This is not a way to promote tourism by itself but it is a sure fire way to kill it if prices are too high.

So it is an important part of the plan and we need more initiatives alongside to encourage more visitors to come, come back, and spend longer, in tourist areas.

Car parking charges are silly in a lot of places. My sick elderly aunt and uncle live in Swanage and the tourists park in their road which means I am driven to use the car park and have to pay silly money just to see my housebound relatives which is grossly unfair. Locals need to use car parks all year round and we do just avoid the expensive ones or go out of town to shop which is a shame but we live here and while some places are ok for parking charges others are just plain silly. Yeovil has free parking in most car parks on Sunday so we go there instead.

Weymouth parking charges are too expensive, daughter chose not to get a summer job when home from uni in town due to the cost of parking each day. I too avoid staying in for long due to the parking charges whereas I used to stay 2-3 hours (and spend more) now i always do 1 hour.

Parking charges need to be considered county wide. Many rural towns have parking charges that discourage people accessing the high streets because they don't want to pay a extortionate price for casually accessing local areas. A county wide strategy is required that balances local needs against raising funds from tourism. Perhaps a permit system for locals so they are penalized for accessing their own local areas. There is a balance to be had between the direct revenue generated by parking charges versus the economic impact they have by discouraging movement of people

We have moved from Hampshire and are surprised by the car parking charges and amount of them! In Southampton in areas where there are local businesses the car parks are free for one hour and then start at around 50p. Where the chain stores are you pay for parking start at £3.00.

Going for walks as well we are using books that recommend walks and car parks all charge! Sure way to stop tourism and walking.

Low car park charges should be in place everywhere, not just for tourists

Difficult to see how one could disagree.

Parking charges are already reasonable in Dorset compared to similar locations where demand is high and land is expensive. The high cost of other forms of transport, which help ease congestion and leave more parking spaces for those who have to drive is more of an issue. E.g. the train from Yeovil to Weymouth for a family of 4 is £30. The £2 fare on buses helps but it's still £8 for two adults to bus into town and back - if they're lucky enough to have a bus service.

Cheaper parking will encourage locals and tourists to stay longer. Or at least give locals reduced rates. Pricing should be the same countywide.

Parking brings in a good income however it has been set unfairly to penalise tourists and in turn deters locals from certain towns. Weymouth in particular is suffering from locals parking and although tourists will pay you have killed the local trade as locals will go elsewhere. In the long run you need locals to keep all year trade. A local permit may be sensible to keep tourist parking, but encourage locals who shop local , keep business going and increase income to the traders.

I think there should be free parking for blue badge holders who use car parks, this imo, will stop 'holders' parking wherever they want, sometimes blocking entrances.

Think there should be a permit to park in any Dorset Council car park. Think elderly may use and generate income beyond their local area to help the economy. Also feel libraries should become community hubs to promote Beryl bikes, library service, art and craft etc. some options could allow local communities to see skillset available locally.

I live in a small Dorset town where the residents drive *everywhere* - even to the shop within sight of their house. With no other tools to limit car use, car parking charges are the only leverage. How about the same charges for 1 hour as for 4 hours to discourage all those short journeys? And use the money to improve public transport (I speak as a volunteer bus driver - which should be a paid job for someone)

Back to basics

And halt new development until they have somewhere to go to school, doctor, dentist and indeed park their cars. New development in Stalbridge and yet Stabridge doctors closed and the practice that has to take them struggles with extra patients. No NHS dentist for a very long way, the Sturminster one is going private by stealth and no NHS logo on their sign anymore. No room in primary schools so why bring all these extra households here? New people welcome on principal, but the reality is no infrastructure.

Sufficient infrastructure should be a non-negotiable requirement before major new housing developments are progressed

Not clear. What is the idea relating to overcrowding.

Roundabouts and verges look awful. Please tend these and plant flowers as was years ago. Weymouth look horrendous for a holiday maker. Bring back the fairy lights on the front. Do not hike parking fees in the summer. Weymouth is a Victorian seaside town, please celebrate that and keep it that way. No lasers that don't work, no gym equipment that will go rusty. Embrace the history and work with it

Look at basic needs when considering development....is it beneficial to locals, will it attract tourists in the case of holiday destinations, is it sustainable, are there enough amenities (schools, Doctors, dentists, buses, parking). Make what is around look and feel great before adding in extra development.

New developments often are just housing estates devoid of social infrastructure - we need sufficient roads, sewerage, water supplies, social buildings like pubs, halls, independent retailers, sports facilities, religious buildings etc. Who will provide them? The Council need to be much firmer in granting and monitoring planning applications.

Victoria Road in Ferndown has pavements which are far too wide, there should be parking bays along part of the road. There is a large car park at one end (Tesco) which is great but people with walking difficulties have a struggle to get down to the post office etc. If we have to go to the post office we now go to the next village, West Moors where they do have parking bays outside most of the shops.

Dogs unrestricted area

Provide adequate bins, signs and poo bags

The 'idea' is not clear. Text difficult to understand.

Dogs seem to be allowed everywhere now. I think a restricted area is still a good idea. This could cause problems with those not cleaning up after their dogs, aggressive dogs with children. Keep a restricted area and use road signs with a dog in it

I think the suggestion to move between clock tower and pier bandstand would be a great option. allowing longer hours during some of the summer months is a good idea. This will encourage more dog owners. However, I think the 6 weeks of the school holidays shouldn't be included. The beach is used by young families late into the evening during those weeks. There should be some of the beach a dog free zone. As we have to consider that not everyone wants to be able to be around dogs. There are 11 million dog owners but there are a lot who don't have dogs. So, I think it is important to find the right balance for everyone.

I support restricted dog areas. Dog owners tend to assume everyone else is happy to see their dog, be jumped on by their dog and are generally not tolerant of others, like me and my family, who do not wish to have to constantly encounter out of control dogs. The amount of uncollected dog excrement - everywhere - beaches, pavements, foot paths, recreation areas etc is far more off putting to visitors than the lack of an unrestricted area for dogs.

Please keep restrictions for dogs on beaches and even consider introducing them elsewhere too.

People are more important than dogs

Sorry, everybody but with safety of human beings in mind, I say NO dogs on any beach 365 days of the year. A large minority of owners do not clean up after their dogs. Many, indeed, can often be seen chatting, with their backs to where the dog is, so they can "pretend" to have not seen the fouling. On a beach surely preventing pee is just as important as cleaning up poo. So I stand by my comment.

Useable bus services for North Dorset

Good public transport in North Dorset is essential to generate economic growth and reduce rural poverty. Without the ability to travel to amenities, services or jobs people become trapped in a poverty loop or have a reduced quality of life. While individuals bus routes maybe unprofitable, they need to be considered in the wider context of the good they provide in terms of knock-on benefits. For example, a young person who finishes school and can't afford a car will need good links to get

a desirable job otherwise they are limited to what is available in the immediate vicinity. Likewise elderly people who cannot drive may need transport to access services (medical etc) or use amenities that are good for their physical and mental health (clubs, restaurants etc). It is a basic tenant of economics that transport links promote economic growth, north Dorset is no exception

My daughter is in despair as she has no transport and wants a job. Employers here use teens and pay cash in hand for all the simple jobs that would normally start someone off in life. I cannot get a job unless I drive for about an hour because I am overqualified for anything here.

Public transport requires financial input from local and national government. Unless this happens, we will not have a public transport network in Dorset. Compare South Cornwall with its frequent bus services to lots of villages. How do they do it? Scope for Council research.

The lack of public transport is a serious disincentive to economic growth. It is also a hindrance to reducing climate emissions, since anybody buying property in one of the numerous new housing estates will have no alternative to using a car for any length of journey.

Rethink town centres

It is well known that high streets are in decline across the country. They have become empty spaces only full of charity shops and fast food places. There is a dearth of independent local businesses in the vast majority of towns. To boost local economies and pride these high streets need to attract footfall with quality shops and spaces. Some towns in the southwest have more vibrant town centres than others with nice local shops and restaurants. The success of these areas is usually dependent on the number of such complimentary businesses in a location. Without a minimum critical mass of attractive shops any single business is doomed to failure as they will not receive the right amount of footfall. The council should take case studies of successful high streets (Shaftsbury?) and determine the factors that make it a success. Select towns across the Dorset area should then have strategies formulated for attracting the right number and quality of businesses for that area based on its local needs. Priority should be given to local businesses with financial support and advice being provided by the council. This will help regenerate towns and local satisfaction

Make Weymouth appealing. It needs to look cared for. Colourful hanging baskets, flowers that are tended too. Street acts, music, magicians etc ..

Towns that have a good selection of independent small businesses seem to attract more footfall. There are some good examples of this in Devon.

In the 60's and 70's Weymouth town centre had living accommodation above a lot of the shops. These spaces now seem to be taken up by storage space for some of the shops - with a rather tatty visual experience from outside. Restoring some of the residential space to floors above commercial space would bring life back to the town centres and provide some affordable housing for younger people.

I agree that high streets need to be experiences rather than functional. I have two young kids and we tend to head to Yeovil often because it's good for kids - little traffic, interesting shops and galleries, a good selection of places to eat and drink, and importantly - baby changing that men can access (only 3 of Dorset Council's

35+ baby change facilities are accessible to men because they're in the women's toilets).

Poor old Gillingham is a disjointed mess. The railway station is cut off from the town and no thought has gone into making the town centre user friendly which is astounding considering the vast amount of development that has and is still taking place there. Car parking is mysteriously obscure and seems not to relate to the need to make a centre where people can park and walk about to different shops. It just all seems very badly thought out for such a highly populated town.

Town centres need to change. Empty units promote gloom and if you look to the upper floors they are empty or run down. Promote rental accommodation in town centres in these upper floors, suitable for younger people maybe. The pavements and streets need cleaning...jet washed. Greenery too. Encourage pop up shops for new business folk.

We know the issues- declining shops, empty properties (both business and residential). But what are the ideas to get more retail, more town centre residential properties and less betting and charity shops. Can a council influence these things? If so how? Are there good examples in other towns to follow? I don't know - perhaps DC could find out?

Where there are empty (and sometimes very untidy) shops, businesses should be offered incentives (lower rates) to open up. The amount of barbers, estate agents, charity shops is ridiculous.

Dorset Council needs to have the power to ensure landlords maintain their business properties to a high standard whether they are empty or in use. There are retail areas in central Weymouth that are so run down and shoddy and this gives such a poor impression to visitors and locals alike. Weymouth deserves to be a vibrant, attractive place which ultimately attracts more small business and people to the area.

Dorset resident card

Poor cost benefit

Make it for cheaper parking for those of us trying to live everyday lives in places where parking is ramped up for the tourists.

Cheaper parking would be great....across Dorset

A resident's card might assist people to access more of the services that the Council offers. Research would be needed to see if commercial businesses would accept such a card.

Make parking free in all Dorset carparks for rate payers.

Check funding for charities that say they cover all of Dorset

It's not exactly clear in this post about which type of charities help with economic growth in Dorset.

How exactly would checking the geographical limits of a charity assist economic growth?

Stop trying to grow

Growing the economy of local communities and thereby making Dorset a place where our young people want to stay and work (whether that is in the rural communities or in one of our towns) and the idea presented above are not mutually exclusive.

I think that the growth of Dorset's (rural and town) communities should focus on developing pathways for our young people to have rewarding local careers that help strengthen their community. Why can we not pay those born and bred in Dorset a market forces supplement to stay and add value through a local trade or industry (either rural or market town based careers)?

Instead, some leave the area and too many go onto benefits street or drift through a career in the gig economy.

These are people that would have family and friends in Dorset and as such are likely to be highly motivated to see Dorset succeed not just for fulfilment of their own ambitions and life outcomes but also for the future benefit and security of the people and communities they love. Developing Dorset career pathways would help to build a resilient intergenerational legacy of taking pride in working and living in Dorset part of which would be about ensuring it remained a beautiful (and rewarding) place to live, work and visit (yup we will always need those grockles - as annoying as the traffic can be sometimes).

So rather than huge growth from external business (who bring with them their own growth agendas) I would like to see Dorset community focused qualitative growth in our local economy with a balance of investment in local communities from both Dorset based stakeholders and external business.

Forget any significant funding from central government, it will never happen no matter which party is in charge because the central coffers are empty and whenever they are refilled Dorset always seems to be one of the last areas to receive any funding.

As Dorset residents and communities we need to realise and accept that we are on our own. It will be necessary for us to stand on our own two feet and become more resilient to tackle the challenges and costs associated with e.g. an ageing demographic.

Hopefully our communities can come together to harness the unique strengths of this county - because let's face it (and admittedly I am biased) Dorset is clearly the most stunningly beautiful English county and we need to maintain that USP rather than ruin it with too much growth - or the wrong type of growth.

Thank you for adding this, I hope our council will take on board what you have said and use it as a platform to go on to do their own research in this area.

Growth and sustainability are mutually exclusive.

Cycle and Pedestrian Path from Burton Bradstock to Bridport

Not sure where but a brilliant idea

A strategy to make Dorset a centre for the clean economy by 2030

If this were all about renewables and cutting fossil fuel use, I would give it 5 stars. A growth model for an economy is unsustainable. "Eco-tourism" is a nonsense - it's just consumerism in a green cloak.

Let's expand renewables because we need to get rid of fossil fuels. Let's get serious about walking, cycling and public transport. Let's stop putting cars first.

Let's have 'no-idling' legislation (as in London boroughs) to improve air quality - and, yes, it's a problem, come to my house and see!

Better childcare provision/after school clubs to allow women to work

Please stop framing this entirely about women!!! Fathers are parents, too

Appendix 3

Resident Events - Comments

Key: * (Illegible)

Bridport Resident Event

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
best place to be a child is in a wood
tackle child abuse x3
every school should have an edible garden showing where food comes from.
Mountjoy not big enough.
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
agree but need to look at younger people. More provision for younger people. Too much focus on older. X3
Bridport is a rights respecting town- all ages. Must support younger people.
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions
Dorset council, BTC x Local charities already talk to each other
Climate
Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change
develop a Dorset retrofit scheme using natural materials (similar to PPR in Manchester)
make grants available for solar panelling to churches and businesses.
climate should be top of bill. Everything else should follow after. X2
everything living is made of carbon and H2O. The % of CO2 in atmosphere is 0.04%. If it drops to 0.02% all plants will die and so will we. The science needs to be questioned
not taking into account outcome of electric cars
Support the recovery of nature

regenerative farming also supports nature recovery. Should not be a conflict of food and nature x3
be ambitious in targets, joined up thinking for county and regional projects, askers meadows nature reserve - potential being wasted.
Bridport food matters is working with BTC food security plan. Community food resilience needs local regenerative farming and food distribution
support regenerative farming, properly police green grants and subsidies
Help communities adapt for climate change impacts
Sewage dumping in the water from Wessex Water
*Adapt the planning dept. to say yes by default/encourage householders to install solar panels.
heat pumps, double glazing and insulate their homes including listed buildings
adapt to food growing/production - mitigate climate change e.g. tunnels and river management
look after soil
educate public on seasonal food
council be more open to use of solar panels in commercial properties
financial support to homeowners to install energy saving items like heat pumps and panels
Housing
Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy
housing quality not good
this is one of the most important things to focus on or Dorset will become a "waiting room"
affordable to heat.no need to retrofit in 10 years' time. Decide on need. What building decide? Solar panels as standard.
Building bungalows for social housing to enable 3-bedroom properties also to enable disabled people/families a suitable home without having costly conversions done/
super tax on air BnB/Holiday lets. Local people don't have enough housing
more social housing
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

House prices and rent levels need to be lowered - provide social rents, not "affordable" rents.

Infrastructure needs to improve to accommodate influx of housing

rethink housing plans. Everything should feed into climate change. Can they be made from timber? Materials should be sustainable, high quality should mean sustainable.

improving build checks on all new housing and not relying on companies doing their own checks.

all homes should be built to a higher standard of fabric-first insulation (minimum). X3

more rent control

what is affordable?

decent insulation built correctly, solar panels must, better developers

all new housing should conform to highest standards. Environmentally/energy wise. Affordable new-builds are important alongside environmentally friendly housing.

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

Reduce second homes used a couple months a year. Stop advertising local homes in London as an 'ideal second home'

manage second homes - not allowed to be left empty - charge money x2

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

local economy looking circular, poor public transport x2

public transport and buses. Pedestrianise shopping streets x3

missing connectivity

grow a sustainable economy

be on top of buses. Bridport has 2 hr wait and Dorchester x3

good quality jobs not just in care industry. Focus on young people

free business support

better public transport. Bridport in particular has poor connections with buses

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

focus on other towns, Dorchester looking tired x2

why is it always weymouth- why not the poorer parts of Bridport and Lyme
I don't disagree with regenerating weymouth but there are many other areas of deprivation, we need help too. X2
Support local and sustainable tourism
Tourists won't come if can't park (or need a mortgage to park)
half-hourly service on X51/X53 would generate increased usage and be helpful for tourists and locals X2
Clear weeds from roads and pavements. It's one of biggest complaints I get as a councillor.
Park and ride
more diverse economy. Too focused on tourism more on supporting local businesses x3
regular, reliable public transport. Joined up. All day every day. X2
keep all footpaths clear in good state of repair
lack of parking unable to drive up and get space- west bay harbour can't use slip bay
golden cap sign 'make your den'
yes-businesses need help to decarbonise and reduce environmental impact. Reduce waste, encourage travel, transport and operate sustainably.

Additional Comments
Ensuring early and late shift workers get to their jobs
Getting villagers into town at least twice a week. Enabling 'spontaneous' travel options
More rural West Dorset public transport options and not just urban East Dorset areas.
More stakeholder interaction/consultation with public and user groups, not just transport companies
Social care taught at college level - salaries need to rise
More transport. Cheap fares and in centres to get cars off the roads
Better enforcements of roads. More pro-active

Parking-shoppers 2-hour permit. Very helpful for bigger pieces etc. Last year this doubled in price, can't afford over £70 for using once or twice a month. Please reduce this.

Dorchester Resident Event

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
more play spaces
mental health support for all ages
better secondary schools in weymouth. Bring back weymouth carnival. More activities for children
mental health support as a SWAST employee there is little to no affordable support for young people x3
children are our future they will look after us so let's support them to do that x3
ensuring young people can see the opportunities that are available within their county. Making them feel special/celebrated
more poles and outdoor spaces for kids
need to support children and schools so they grow up healthy and educated and use skills to help local economy
improving funding for local schools
more help for young people to manage social media
help to manage young people away from anti-social behaviour
cut out middle school system and have primary and secondary school
define best. Does child mean under 18 and what about special needs
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
make Dorset council less reliant on computers and dialogue forms, stop pushing people to be more reliant on a digital offer. More in person info and advice support needed. X3
too many retirement homes, not enough housing for working young people x5
more money to support family and older people to age well
huge value in bringing different ages together to enable better understanding and support systems within county

young and old synergy improves community and family values x2
more affordable housing for young people x2
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions
would like citizen councils not linked to politics to make decisions for local communities
our school have been involved in LAG project. Fantastic collaboration from a community perspective.
Climate
Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change
fit solar panels as standard to new builds and have access to grants for existing homes x3
better integration of travel modems. Bus, bike, train to make car-free more attractive
industrial sale renewables. Technologies on land
plans for battery storage in Chickerell are too close to homes and not enough consultation has gone into it. It's a risk to life.
stop the polluting of rivers.
prioritise schemes which make green travel easier. Make Car travel more inconvenient. E.g. more pedestrian crossings, cycle lanes, decent bike parking, car-share priority spaces. Cars have been no1 far too long.
Support the recovery of nature
stop building houses on the grass land around crossways
green is life
housing regs need to be followed. Conservation efforts not rushed in order to fulfil housing demands
more wildflower planting
allow sponsorship of roundabouts and small areas of verge/grass/wasteland. Instead of usual crappy sponsorship signs, employ a community group to cultivate them for nature. Local people could volunteer to help keep them nice and we would end up with pockets of nature.
mcphadler parish solar panel site. Money into Dorset but not into area. Money taken out but not given back
plant fruit trees and wildflowers next to any

stop strimming the Rodwell trail especially while everything still in flower. It looked beautiful and was good for biodiversity

no development on water meadows

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

wind farms needed. Subsidise solar and residential properties

work to allow Poundbury residents to have solar panels

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

more one on two-bedroom houses for young people x2

Dorchester Prison - housing plans should include 3 bed homes, better access in and out

crossways don't have access to facilities to support the new housing, roads GPs shops etc

no houses on north Dorchester

funding to help families and households

not just homes but a whole communities

should provide studio flats/1bedroom starter homes for young, to enable them to get on housing ladder x2

young people's starter housing especially

to have up to date proposal for the north Dorset level. All I can find is standard I want balance

housing for young first-time buyers and rents.

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

quality over quantity

focus on brownfield or repurposing empty shops rather than greenfield and empty homes

should be more 1/2 bedroom homes for single people and young couples x2

parking! X2

solar panels not just 1/2 on all new builds or estates - shared renewable energy scheme

fit solar panels to all new build homes and commercials x7

I'd love government, local government to put more time into keeping families together, too many lone households

better sewerage to support new homes in Dorchester

build new houses wider doors and sockets are good for wheelchair users.

good quality housing

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

introduce limits to reduce air-bnb or 2nd homes investment properties so local people aren't priced out

reduce 2nd homes - council list of holiday homes

subdivide the mansion of Ilchester which are mainly empty

more control over 2nd homes

time to get rid of 2nd homes

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

Dorchester and weymouth need more shops. Dorch is poor county town it is run down.

levy a local tax/business rate on land loss on empty commercial shop units-regen high st

reduce car park charges for people going to town to shop x7

encourage alternative use of empty premise

better education and job opportunities for younger people

find out what Bridport do to keep their shopping centre vibrant same for Dorchester parking charges are too high.

find ways to reduce town centre rents of new businesses and community enterprise

for businesses to thrive they desperately need action taken on shop lifting. It's out of control

reduce rent rates for independent businesses/create initiatives or pop-up shops. Pedestrianise as much as possible. More trees and green spaces in town centre and seating.

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

lower parking prices to encourage more people in area

not just Weymouth!

Support local and sustainable tourism

2nd hand/used batch gear borrowing station on the beach - borrow buckets and spades for free, drop off when done. People buy loads of this and leave it behind

out platform up in Radipole lake for ospreys to nest. This will hugely increase tourism to view

in general-recognise link between supporting visuals attracting tourists

Additional Comments

rural transport is missing from priorities

knife crime x3

incinerator in Portland will be problematic and will bring crime to island

more recycling banks Lytchett Matravers

launch a programme of prevention measures in relation to health. E.g. teaching cooking skills, promoting healthy eating and exercise, stop leasing units to kebab shops, incentivise eating more fruit instead of junk

*please look at motonitome parking in Dorset, signage is contradictory and restrictive. We have VW T6 4.9m this is an issue we are no longer than a car.

concern about infrastructure services including hospital/medical as a result of new builds in Dorch.

improve public transport to small villages

improve highway system. Some of the most dangerous roads in England

support weymouth artists and crafts. During Dorset art weeks why were our street shops signs taken down?

local plan in prep as transport plan is in prep why not combine together relate land use with transport

protect LGBT rights in area

local needs to be considered. Event should not be used as blanket agreement for housing projects. Local needs to be prioritised

could we think about adding greenery, seating areas for kids along pedestrian shopping street in Dorch.

public transport in rural areas (later trains and buses also)

why do all this and not ask about public transport?

questions are needed. Ask us more direct questions like do you agree with the Dorchester housing development
roads are in a terrible state. County roads are used by HGVs causing accidents. Should look at transport and traffic regulations
where are the migrants on the barge going to go?
easier to find tourists info- most towns have this in central spot
regenerate to Poole town/not a nice place to shop/run down/ toilets dirty.
flats in Poole/Barclays house. Old NatWest/will be overpopulated/no GP/Dentist/schools/hospital/road structure not adequate
south walks house v county hall- how could this be built (SWH) and not used as a council building? The cost of running CH must far outweigh SWH
how can Mappowder parish benefit from funds given by DC for solar panels? As no direct funding has gone there. Please contact David Horrell (Mappowder Parish)
Affordable public transport to all towns in evenings
affordable working accommodation for arts and crafts e.g. when Brewer's quay sold to develop should have replaced the lost craft units
all council meetings should be outcome focused and attended only by participants with direct interest
stop cyclists and 3-wheel buggy bikes and scooters cycling through south street pedestrian area of Dorchester
number of green v strong red dots for your ideas. However, ratio could also suggest you're not taking enough challenge.
went to meeting 10 yrs ago to stop speeding and people marking in Monmouth rd. nothing ever done and massive potholes.
politicians to stop lying to us
make the streets safer

Wimborne Resident Event

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)

how? No holiday clubs and you took the leisure centre away. No summer swim classes.

revitalise diagnostic services for SEN children- speed up provision of ECHP

urgently need youth facility now

renew work of outreach youth workers- rekindle the youth service

need more schools

more post 16 availability for more vulnerable children failed by school.

yes, but low

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

balance out age demographic cater for all ages

parent and child parking spaces in DC car parks

we are not all old, young or families

more sports for all ages and abilities

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

don't only reply on internet. Find better way to communicate with elderly

prioritise health of commuters

how practical will it be?

somewhere for everyone

how are you going to do this?

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

too much spent on E-vehicles should be spent on other things

de-paving of large car parks and replace with green space

need for public transport to connect east west and north. Currently only south to Poole/ Bournemouth. What about Salisbury, Ringwood

better bus routes please. Wimborne to Blandford

carbon footprint for DC's highways team needs to be reduced

eating away green space with housing causing flooding with concrete and lack of gardens

must not allow any building on green belt- green belt reduced climate change impact
yes, but low
DC should bring in higher regs on energy sustainability of new builds also help residents more to improve energy efficiency
lots of ways everyone can help if encouraged. Save water/reduce water use/keep green spaces
work with water authority to keep river clean/stop sewage
reduce plastic tat being sold in Wimborne be more mindful on how this is being recycled
control litter and cleanliness in towns
Support the recovery of nature
love regeneration projects on Wimborne SANG's and Pamphill - need more
without determined effort to stop removal of habitats this aim will be impossible
bring more green into town- incorporate nature
verges with wildflowers
avoid destruction of community gardens and wildlife areas x2
plant more trees in town
Help communities adapt for climate change impacts
think people should help themselves
nothing about adaptation systems in Dorset for new builds. Dorset should advise residents on methods they can use to adapt their homes for climate change and brig in together regs for new builds
talk to people- individuals can help in many ways
better public transport
how can this be achieved
Housing
Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy
increase affordable social housing/young unable to buy due to expenses
no more housing after existing developments. Must have infrastructure to support
don't build on green belt

more activities and sports- sustainable
stop overdevelopment in Wimborne nothing has been done to improve the infrastructure. No doctors or pharmacy
need infrastructure
too many large executive homes. Encourage small affordable homes for families
Wimborne needs more infrastructure
affordable yes but homes being build aren't for young people. A 2-bed starter home is not affordable for first time buyers
what is affordable? If I buy, I will just sell it on for more market forces.
agree but Wimborne is already too built
housing development at parley is a disgrace. No properties sold. Redact the planning permission for 2nd phase
we are surrounded by too many new builds but no infrastructure improvements. Spread housing more evenly across county
keep green belt x3
agree but huge issue. How are you going to do this? People can't afford high rent
agree but what does affordable look like?
more housing but no infrastructure is no good. Doctors, pharmacy?
shared ownership not enough criteria meaning you have to sell. Puts people at risk of homelessness
affordable housing will be attained how? Graduate salaries are low, and houses are unaffordable
new housing the additional infrastructure. Doctors, pharmacy and shops.
more affordable housing
impact of housing on environment
enforce sustainable energy options for new builds
use buildings already there. use empty houses
better infrastructure in place before building homes
absolutely no to overdevelopment, especially where there is no improvement in infrastructure
better affordability for young people. More affordable homes. Good mix of age ranges in Wimborne

planners to ensure all new builds are sustainable
2 tier system for buying. Qualifications and local connections
not enough social housing. It's all profit for big developers
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
design/layout should be community enhancing and integrating (no silos)
ensure eco energy saving standards. Energy bulls should be individual
need to be more specific x2
agree but quality before quantity x2
Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset
CAVEAT Conversations of buildings intended for businesses aren't necessarily liveable
reuse not build more
adopt for living
Economy
Support more businesses to grow and thrive
stop expensive parking in town centre. Can I pay from leaving? Will be better for businesses
need good transport links to attract businesses to area
need to ensure local skill base meets local business needs. Focus on training young people
we should be supporting businesses that contribute to circular economy. Not businesses that contribute to pollution
traffic congestion in and around Wimborne impacts economy. Pavements overrun with cyclists needs more signs
increase police presence
allow businesses to use outside space to increase businesses and create a more continental lifestyle which will attract younger people into area.
Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas
but not to the detriment of regenerating other towns such as Swanage x2
regen across all Dorset

weymouth has so much money spent on it. Spend money elsewhere preferably in east

Support local and sustainable tourism

promote BYO refill bus usage app

without a senior's overview division in the new strategy planning incrementally renews DC's control and traffic/ecology and resident profile

address high quality/paying businesses/jobs. Retain qualified locals.

Additional Comments

Thank you for coming and doing these events and continue to do so x18

need a pharmacy! x15

street signs in bad condition

bus service 13A recently cut, it was helpful

why are the council ignoring the green belt for development? Once it's gone it's too late?

Reopen QE Leisure Centre x60

spend money on roads in east of Dorset

make single carriageway from Ferndown to Ringwood a dual carriageway

stop building homes on green spaces

nothing will work until we tackle infrastructure

part of planning application process should include aspects of infrastructure and add additional ones like medical centres etc

cost of living?

Sturminster Marshall neighbourhood plan info?

plan roadworks better.

only build homes in response to associated roads

build interesting new builds and not just estates

planning regs not adhered to. Enforcement needs to be better.

narrow road, drainage on roads causes hazards. Need infrastructure

junction between Colvehayes road crossing and yellow lane. Risk for emergency services
cemetery road junction blind lane. Dangerous.
joined up thinking for road closures and planning
special needs diagnosis needs to be faster
more activities and transport for rural areas like Sturminster Marshall
better support for volunteer community libraries
DC is centric to west of county and ignores east (Ferndown)
green belt planning concerns. BP garage, Leigh Road, eye bridge, Canford school. Why can houses be built here?
more info on candidates for Wimborne town council website
new builds on green belt need solar panels
need better transport linkages to Merley

Portland Resident Event

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
need to be more focused specific to deprived areas
more indoor activities for children
more support for children with SEN
Portland has more children than other Dorset areas
children should have safe areas to play
older people should be safe too
too vague can't disagree
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
for me this depends entirely on what form the conversations take
generational integration
working age friendly support and policies

we have to be age friendly because of ageing population and birth rates
ICA works for people of Portland needs more support
ICA focusing on younger people, need something working age
upskill those working in tourism
Dorset is likely to be first county with majority age over 65. find ways to support
care home on Portland so people don't need to leave island
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions
not keen on incinerator
youth clubs
parking fees defer people from weymouth Dorchester and Portland
when voice is heard, they must be listened to and not ignored
visual, measurable outcomes
as long as it's meaningful and feedback to residents on outcome
more different ways to engage with working age to build trust. Social media to drive people to proper feedback
needs to be meaningful
need communities in Portland
Climate
Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change
do not even think about hydrogen tech! biogas for HGVs proper renewables. Wind solar and wave should be priority
upgrade and accept renewables. Look at tidal and wave for Portland. More electric vehicle infrastructure
more public transport, less reliant on cars
keep seagulls and all animals protected, lots of poisoning of dogs
need renewable resources ideally wind power
needs to be cost effective. Contracts awarded to appropriate companies and efficient and ensure long term plan
brave decision has to be made. Include business in finance decisions. Innovations

need to know how and without losing green spaces
Dorset is on cutting edge of climate change. Biodiversity
stop incinerator
no incinerator
no barge
too much speed in Fortuneswell. Reduce speed limit to 20mph
no incinerator
no hydrogen storage
no incinerator
waste of time west bay should have offshore wind turbines
climate changes are down to mother nature, not an excuse to change us. Where is the proof?
more solar panels in Portland to make use of sunny island
accountability
reduce waste and disposability
Support the recovery of nature
have a plan to remove glyphosates and polluting chemicals from land and highways- educate residents about eliminating glyphosates.
more street trees. Replace those that have died on Oakley hill
more awareness of nesting places in new build
grass verges left to grow but affect visibility and blocks footpaths
ban use of apophysate
rebuilding farm reduced production
keep mowing verges on housing estates
plant more trees
glycolates issue needs addressing
more trees for Portland
protect sea bird nests on cliffs and islands
make more nature reserves on island.

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

good dump refuse

look at community energy scheme - wind. Also look at micro grids.

stop building on Portland to protect nature

not easy to do practically

solar panels should be encouraged on businesses and homes

do not need incinerator

communities doing what they can already no vanity projects

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

control soaring rents for locals who can't afford to buy

must be suitably designed housing with parking

social housing for locals only

rent need to be affordable and adequate infrastructure

housing association need more support to build more affordable homes to rent or buy

housing priority for affordability for key workers

need affordable housing

support homelessness

more affordable and social housing - and plans to actually happen

social housing more accessible better storage for mobility scooters and buggies

development infrastructure has to come with homes

locals for local housing only. Stop 'buy for rent'

infrastructure to support homes

private rent is too much - more affordable rent needed for working people

better control over no fault evictions

keep HA homes for low-income families available and not sold off

develop empty properties. Make vacant housing stock pay its way no more luxury development

it's not affordable for renting and buying
incinerator needs to be stopped. Its unhealthy and will generate more heavy traffic.
Portland doesn't have system in place to support increase population
more affordable social housing not private housing x2
can't keep building on Portland
planners to allow solar panels on listed buildings
too many second homes on island
Portland needs infrastructure upgraded to support increase in homes
rental sector needs to return to offer more long-term rents
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
locality to take preference for local social housing
include retrofitting insulation
stop doing luxury housing and only affordable homes. I.e. ferry bridge development
ferry bridge development - £1.3m ridiculous
all obsessed with large properties. Small often perfect
home improvement helps empty retrofits. Help for heat pumps and solar panels on listed buildings
rents need to be affordable
properties to be built eco friendly
find balance between provision of rent and ownership to encourage rental
Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset
concern getting reliable respective tenants
rent homes out if empty
monitor 'buy to rent' support younger people to stay in Dorset and get mortgages
this should be priority bring online empty properties to use full homes. Prices on second homes should go up
do something with homes that are left
reduce holiday homes

second homes have impact on housing stock for locals
Economy
Support more businesses to grow and thrive
no incinerator in Portland
support green tech and green tourism should be a priority
local jobs for local people. Skilled specialist engineering- skills taught at local college/university to support
reduce commercial shop and businesses rents to support local businesses to stay on Portland
more industrial jobs
new businesses encouraged. Support young people
car parking charges too high, lower would support more tourism
no advice or support for large businesses
support local shops with rents - rent caps
Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas
positive about regeneration but concerned about increase of costs
Portland needs investment as well
youth support youth clubs to support development- somewhere to hang out activities to book forward
regeneration should be highest environmental standards solar panels.
knowledge branch support branch somewhere youth can go to for help
helping youth on Dorset Portland better quality
former wardroom sat empty- use it for redevelopment
Portland is an individual community we missed out on levelling up fund
Support local and sustainable tourism
solar panels and electric charging points all over at every car park. Promote green spaces and sustainable businesses.
barge and incinerator do not give good image
need tourism in Portland to bring money to island

outdoor festival inspiring kids to connect to nature and doing adventure holiday. Building resistance, being creative and improving mental health

use local assets to bring in tourism as Dorset has lots of natural environment USPs

Portland should be to sustain more local businesses for population e.g. business rates and high rents

improve infrastructure and local tourism. Sustainable tourism. Support Eden project

more attractions

cruise ship on Portland go to weymouth no coaches go to Portland

support Jurassic Eden project to support tourism in Portland

Additional Comments

another pharmacy bottom of island

better medical NHS provision

adult social care needs to be better. Treatment of family members who need caring for

over development in area which infrastructure cannot support

more pharmacies bottom island

no barge or incinerator

improve rail links and better infrastructure. Esp all saint church hot spot for traffic

government will override incinerator decision

need doctors

more public transport from Verwood

need beryl bikes in Verwood and improve off road underway

Portland port doesn't care about residents

traffic congestion

Portland harbour best wild swimming in UK

more GPs, dentists

parking is bad

reduce parking fees
no allocated parking for locals/residents
make local area more presentable look after the area (not just potholes)
lack of facilities like charging points for cars, public toilets at Chesil beach and cash machines
cost effective public transport
pick up dog poo
keep paths clear and accessible
Portland hospital to be rest bite centre and work for residents
control local housing
no capacity for more development
against building tunnels
more local police presence

Shaftesbury Resident Event

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
Need transport options accessible to young people - active travel, local shuttle bus etc.
Needs more SEN places - places for children with EHCPs! Need more ASD base places
More green spaces and native trails
Why no family hubs in Gillingham?
The brain is made up of cholesterol. Stop poisoning people by saying to reduce their cholesterol. It is good for you
Ensure every child can swim 25m by end of primary school
More groups and activities for kids and teenagers
Better transport on the weekends. No buses!
Youth and mental health groups

Stating drugs are bad and causes dementia/Alzheimer's
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
More youth clubs' activities where kids can be occupied
More youth activities and youth clubs
Reliable bus service from town centre to Gillingham station and return. Timetable to work with SW Trains
Dorset is already all-age friendly
Create local economy that offers work/career opportunities for young people
Improve provision for young people in rural areas like Shaftesbury
Support healthy aging, e.g. wellness, aquafit, swimming
Transport is non-existent
More community activities for all ages
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions
Very concerned about lack of engagement and "divides" across our local community - what do others think/need? Get turnout over 80% x2
Public transport networks in North Dorset are poor. Really difficult for people on low incomes to commute, shop etc.
Focus on real debate/discussion. Real issues rather and allowing collective narratives and work towards workable outcomes for local communities
*How? If online, there is too much online in the country [can't make out the word]
*Stop blocking the building of the [can't make out the word] Pitts Lane Community Centre
Climate
Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change
Solar panels on all properties
Improve bus network. Saturday buses for Shaftesbury
Stop the chemicals in the air which causes rain
Support for green energy for new builds i.e. in planning
If this involves pedestrianising the high street Shaftesbury, then okay
Traffic in Shaftesbury in poorly controlled. Road surfaces are very bad

Procurement policies food etc.
*Reduce car mileage within Shaftesbury by not reducing the [not sure] access is a Pound Lane
*Cycle paths [not sure] school [...] to Gillingham
Blaming humans and carbon on climate change isn't right
Climate emergency/ net zero agenda serves global corporate issues, not ours, focus on adapting to national climate change more
Climate change is not man made. It is a hoax
4, 5, 6 this is the number one priority for any Council! Should be at the top
Support the recovery of nature
Wildflower verges, green corridors. Cut and collect mowing machines. Elimination of glyosphate x2
Cancel Dinah's Hollow. 80+ trees to be cut down
Stop solar panels in fields. Put on new homes. Do not grow grass on verges where wildlife now live and get killed in the process
Support regenerative agriculture and organic/bio-dynamic methods. Get rid of industrial farming
Solar in fields is a really poor idea, especially when rooftop solar is so woefully under done in Dorset
Protect views from Shaftesbury
Stop the chemicals on plants/fruit and veg
Help communities adapt for climate change impacts
*Explore alternative energy generation. - Nicola Tella's tree energy generation? - cars to run on H2o. These technologies already exist and are [not sure]
Recognise that climate change is an [not sure] process, not driven by CO2. Focus on helping people adapt to changing conditions with genuinely clean and sustainable energy, not renewables and electric cars
*Stop use of now breathable insulation on all old and stone properties. It rots the timber. Construct [not sure] behind it
Smaller buses electric. Smaller cars electric. Roof solar everywhere
Buses - electric powered
Active travel, especially between Shaftesbury and Gillingham. Like a safe cycle route

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

*Already too much development which isn't [not sure] or communities. All developments should be accessible to local needs

All with roof/wall solar

Insufficient studio homes for the young and the elderly. Affordable

But must be good quality and affordable

Improve the infrastructure before you build more houses

Most important for people to stay in DC

New housing needs to support community and links to pre-existing community. There's a deficit in Shaftesbury

Right Homes in right place with easy access to services

Hold house builders to account over infrastructure and highways promises they more often than not don't fulfil. Be made to include solar e.g.

All new houses should be only be sold to local people

More low rise flats

Using spaces above shops for housing

Too many houses being built in rural areas. Not always in good positions (flood plains) and not good quality

Allow Councils to build houses for rent

New housing looks great, but need infrastructure to support it

Need to have infrastructure to support any new housing

But actually affordable to young families

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

Developers need to build in responsibility for wastewater/sewage. Also to build with active travel not vehicles only for access

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

Stop second home ownership unless its rented out affordably

Control the number of Airbnb

Adapt a policy that manages 2nd homes/Airbnb. Recognise the tension between visitor economy and house/rental prices

Derelict houses are a problem

Too many second homes

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

Eco and sustainable businesses and local

Support small, independent and family run business to grow and thrive in Dorset. Not big money-grabbing corporations. Support sustainable business

They must be sustainable businesses

Provide more light industrial units

*Focus on local businesses, including local farmers to create [can't make out the word] sustainable economies rather than corporate global agendas enthralling (not sure) this

Supporting all businesses including new businesses (less than 6 months old). In 2022 there was no help

We cannot go on growing. We will use up all the earth's resources x2

Support more small businesses e.g. market stalls

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

North Dorset feels overlooked - Dorset Council needs to address that

Although we have Cllrs in North Dorset we are overlooked - no cabinet members. Dorset Council is not representative

The education level of the Weymouth and Portland area needs huge improvements. More funding is needed for schools, clubs and groups

There are other areas too - lots of rural poverty = hidden

Too much focus on Weymouth, not enough in the north

What about North Dorset? Dorset extends beyond Blandford

Balance between south and north. Weymouth yes, but there are other areas suffering

Support local and sustainable tourism

Make sure our beauty spots are looking good. Not sad and overgrown

Tourists are not given enough time in the car parks to really see the town properly

More tourism can lead to more incomes/2nd homes/Airbnb and raise prices for locals on relatively low incomes

Needs careful management

Additional Comments

Need a community centre approved on the Maltings

Local needs to be prioritised

Transport. Gillingham no bus to Shaftesbury Saturday and Sunday

North Dorset is the poor relation in many ways. No transport/buses

Cllr Jack. Funding for Shaftesbury community. Sale of Shaftesbury Market for consultation of pedestrian high street

No summer activities in the local area of Shaftesbury and unable to access due to limited transport. So not much for children to do

Cycle lanes not used - waste of money. Difficult for emergency services to get through

Where are the cabinet members?

Improve bus services. I work with Wiltshire too - Salisbury connection

Public transport in North Dorset not good. Makes accessing things like libraries difficult

Becoming dumping ground for exploitative solar farm developers

What a joy to have pedestrians only on Thurs AM. Your present stand would not be possible without it

Promoting bus service so more people use it

Would like to meet Nick Ireland for a personal conversation and disappointed that no-one from cabinet here and very disappointed as should be arranged when they could attend

Housing density too great - excludes green infrastructure open space and space for street trees, and meaningful SUDS (often merely ditches fed by pipes)
All questions cannot be answered negative
Speed limits between Shaftesbury and Gillingham should be 40max
Small scale enclosed farming landscape
Developers to be held to account - legal (planning) obligations. Re-adoption of roads, footpaths and open spaces. Facilities - community centre etc.
Improve bus service from Shaftesbury to Gillingham. Especially on Saturday
Recycling in the area is good
Towns for people, not for cars
Where are the Chair and portfolio holders?
Improve bus service to villages all week and weekend
High visibility from Shaftesbury Greens and Plateau - ignored
Improved public transport - buses - for Shaftesbury and surrounding villages
The best thing the council has ever done is Coombe House. Thought a fabulous facility
Cost of nursery too high and hadn't heard of some of the local activities [not sure].
NHS needs support. Missed/forgotten patients affect lives
Please adopt proposals suggested by Cycling UK in Institute of Fiscal Studies report on investment in Active Travel
Actual decent public transport for Shaftesbury (weekends). Cycle path Shaftesbury to Gillingham
More cycle paths. Road near Salisbury not allowing access and Shaftesbury is behind. Better provision to get off the road at Lidl
Local active travel infrastructure in Shaftesbury is poor compared to other areas. Not safe and poor provision
Public transport is too limited. Not enough weekend coverage. Only goes Shaftesbury - Blandford. Nothing else
Between the Saxon Estate and tenants lodge the fencing is damaged and child escaped from the playground (next to Salisbury main road)

Shaftesbury bin collections in town centre too early (6amish). Nighttime hours (sleep issues) thank you
No mobile phone reception at Campton Abbas
Close Shaftesbury high street to general traffic 24/7
Improve the high street due to congestion, limited parking, no control over parking on double yellow lines
Raise Council tax to afford everything
We maintain St James Common and don't maintain the trees as one of ours fell on a lorry. Council was warned about it but did nothing) Should maintain trees first
Travellers friendly increasing please (sites)
20mph zones
Does not hold developers to account i.e. play areas or community centres not built. Also, building more homes without infrastructure. Families on low incomes not taught to feed kids on a budget
Highways at DC to clear drains and roadside overhanging vegetation, debris, [not sure] etc. which accelerate downhill runoff and local flooding
Shaftesbury always forgotten. Major roadworks at same time as festival
Please pedestrianise Shaftesbury High Street
Disappointed cabinet members not here
Shaftesbury to Gillingham buses on a Saturday
Road from Gillingham to Shaftesbury needs to be coordinated and planned to happen all together
Lost records. £2 million agreed Gullies contract Ponds in Castle Hill linked to highway bus gate
Concern over access to North Dorset. When C13 is closed, the A350 is intolerable
North Dorset perceived as being forgotten by DC.
Iwerne Minster derelict properties which can help with housing
SEN support is limited in the area. Eldest child can't find school Shaftesbury due to start primary school. Non verbal - attended Shaftesbury children centre and local school (Abby) said couldn't manage and sent him home

Park and ride for Shaftesbury
Medium term use to be a weight limit on Dinah's Hollow and diverting lorries is impacting as they now need to go up spread Eagle Hill and feels we are causing more problems
I live in a 2-bedroom house with 5 people. I'm overcrowded and have special needs' child and yet my application has been ignored and only [not sure] a 3-bedroom house
Improve buses. Public transport to aid climate change. Sha to Gillingham. Help residents
Common perception that eastern development is a dumping ground for problem families and individuals
New housing at capacity for Shaftesbury. Dense isolated sites. No solar orientation apparent in new developments for energy-saving
Finding public transport
Need action, not empty promises
Danny Older did a great report but we didn't listen to it

Wareham Resident Event

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
flexi-schooling and creativity in education
speed limits in east creach
opportunities for children to connect with the nature in this beautiful county
better access to mental health services for young
better and more affordable activities
better provision for learning differences- more support for rural jobs and heritage activities for young
young need more provision outside of school to develop skills and be empowered to thrive have hope for the future and participate

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

better bus service so young have access to job opportunities

look after isolated people

young need better access to public transport

Dorset has high population. Teenagers also need activities to reduce antisocial behaviour

important to remember elderly people

support ageing population to heat their homes

more council-run care homes and not private- people shouldn't make money from sick elderly.

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

ensure surface railway crossing in Wareham is preserved.

listen to locals refuse Lidl application. Infrastructure is not suitable at that junction.

keep level crossing in Carey

this is fine but looking at the age group here today not exactly young generation

refuse outright Lidl application Sandford already has dire traffic problems 6 months of year

wonderful, but even when I have been there, I don't always feel the ideas have been heard

refuse planning application for Lidl at Sandford-in the green belt. Or forever be regarded as a falling local planning authority.

save railway crossing

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

support all wind turbine applications

but not with turbines

make it easier to recycle items that are not collected from homes

start recycling better
more cycle paths
there are far more important things to be spending money on than so called climate change
stop building on flood risk areas
require all suitable new builds to be built with solar panels and heat pumps, help residents retrofit existing properties as above and improve insulation, more EV chargers
reduce time needed to commission wind turbines
more and better cycle routes around
there is no climate crisis it is made up, prove it and I will disprove it
Support the recovery of nature
but allow the public to access our countryside by bike and foot
cut grass verges for safety reasons
Support the recovery of nature but regularly maintain footpaths and verges. I have made several complaints about this in Stoborough
*Change primary purpose of country farms to combatting the climate and ecological emergencies, sign DC up to the ... association food for life initiative for public procurement of food.
*More support for regenerative agriculture... and make gardening organic for food security
setting free the beavers
*Clean up our [redacted] in the rivers no fish just weed and great load of [redacted]
verges overgrown
Help communities adapt for climate change impacts
don't build on flood plains.
improve footpaths and reduce speed limits
flooding is going to be an issue until rising sea levels
greener energy and home insulation - support to help people adhere this locally

joined up cycleways through Sandford/Holton Heath. Reduce speed limits on roads

stop building on green belt land

don't see anything about encouraging active travel? More cycle routes

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

more housing for elderly perhaps they'll move out of their big houses

use hundreds of empty properties especially in Dorchester and Wareham some have been empty for 20+ years! Churches, above shops etc. no longer used would resonate and benefit the whole area

increase building with locally sourced materials

allow building of small, tiny houses on agricultural land and in woodland to support young people wanting to work in rural economy

need to turn around empty council properties more quickly. Some left empty for 8+ months

homes for local families at affordable rent

support local community-based housing developments (CLTs)

tax 2nd and 3rd homes

but not on green belt

better supermarkets that can supply the town all year round

it is real issue for people to get on the housing ladder. Second homeowners should be discouraged

allow infill development especially for self-built (small scale development to full housing on infill and brownfield instead of large scale) within existing settlement boundaries

rental market very challenging especially for families

develop brownfield sites. Don't extend villages/towns into green sites

locals should be priority to keep families together

don't build anymore houses use the number of derelict abandoned homes to renovate and provide affordable homes for locals to rent or buy

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

if sort 8/9 7 is less important

well insulated

houses need to be fairly priced

infrastructure and amenities for those without cars etc. housing for socially needy people make and develop social housing

more grants to improve aging badly insulated housing stock

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

addressing bullying in property market

police cannot do anything as not physical

increase council tax on second homes

reduce 2nd homes and holiday lets

reduce second homes

support development of premises and promote swaps

2nd home increase council tax

empty, unused properties in Wareham need to be utilised. More people means business development

stop second homes, large tax increase for 2nd homes. Priority for local people

2nd homes- don't need 2nd homes get rid of Airbnb

Re empty retirement properties and Council Tax.

My mother lived in her retirement flat until she died in May last year. since last summer we have been trying to sell the flat through 2 estate agents.

There is no interest, apparently a national situation. The price is not too high-The service charge is high - it covers a manager, electricity in communal areas and the laundry, insurance etc. We can do nothing about the service charge. Another consideration is that a buyer would need to extend the lease 18,000 - 12,000. I believe the government was considering measures to make this cheaper.

We had a 6 'months' grace period from when probate was granted when no council tax was due but with the empty homes surcharge this will be £355:

Together with service charge, ground rent, electricity standing charge, we will be

paying out £763 a month. We are fortunate in having savings but for many sons and daughters who will generally be of retirement age this will be difficult/impossible, I think we will be selling to an investment company who might give us 55% of the "value".

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

stop trying to build housing on industrial estates in Wareham

better supermarket that can supply Wareham all year round

support small businesses and local entrepreneurship

desperately needed Lidl or Aldi which is easy to access

Lidl's needed desperately

local jobs for local people

well paid skilled roles for local people

support local heritage craft sector within the rural community see heritage craft association

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

weymouth- 2012 Olympic signs and outdates. A bit weird it being 12 years ago

please do something about weymouth

Support local and sustainable tourism

DC needs to adjust planning policy to make farm diversification for non-agricultural use easier

more information boards

Dorset is dependent on tourism - needs to be sustainable and minimum impact on nature

sort roads- not good enough

TIC- bring back tourist information centre, more leaflets in library

Additional Comments

provide more cycle paths particularly between Sandford school and Holton Heath traffic lights

Worget road resurface has been appalling.

separate more clearly residential and holiday park homes

wind turbine puddle town road has not moved to council responsibility

why not ask what we want, not suggest what you want?

planning applications - more transparency more information available to people

railway crossing at Wareham station- please give us more info about progress and organise large protest is necessary

veterans- help with housing make process easier

traffic in nutcrack lane

no more 5g masts- they are killing people

cashless society disenfranchises the old who still use cash. Ban cashless society

new publicity enticing for a week, showing all we have to offer not just one attraction such as Durdle door. More focus on festivals at beginning and end of season to prolong season- April-sept/oct.

Liaising with local organisation evidence of satisfactory liaison with organisations

ensure services are accessible. British sign language users applies to residents with disabilities

overdevelopments in rural areas leads to loss of identity i.e. crossways has massive housing development being built. Hurst farm will bring 80-ton lorries on narrow roads and 3 small bridges. Loss of wildlife and this area will be catastrophic

ban pavement parking

housing delivery test- no housing delivered

SEN in DC. Been waiting 5 weeks for school. Every time I chase council, they say don't expect reply in holiday. When contacted school they say it's down to council. Women at council have been on annual leave 3 times in 5 weeks. I also had CME officer contact me

parking machines too complicated

Weymouth Resident Event

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
more availability for funded childcare to support families of young children
change the way schools are funded to account for drop in updates e.g. not per pupil
schools - more SEN support for ALL kids
services for under 5s/families - support youth clubs and activities
indoor healthy social activities for children! Healthy active things to do for kids- yoga any exercise - funded childcare
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
I would love to see an all-weather activity venue for families. Something like the Jurassic fun centre at burton Bradstock. Bowling, swimming etc
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions
clear education for residents to help stop misinformation regarding immigration/refugees/racism
please reinforce local roads 20mph are not adhered to. One-way streets are not used.
impossible to get through to weymouth library as all calls go through to a customer care employee who knows nothing about weymouth. It took 15 mins to speak to someone
better highway compounds
better night safety- risk to women
WTC events good. Guidance on busking needed
more community policing in weymouth
solve parking prices- need lowering to encourage people into town
Climate
Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

retrofit advice for people who might be able to afford
help people who can't
every new house should be built with solar panels force the developers
yes, but sensible cost decisions
Dorset council should actively support the development of an offshore windfarm which would decarbonise the electricity supply of the whole county
close the esplanade road
connect pavilion with oasis café by cycle path
pesticide-free hedgehogs. No balloons (birthdays etc) legacy humour
no pesticides - promote nature
Support the recovery of nature
great idea but please don't use as an excuse to run down residential areas and green spaces- GNI important
need grass cutting to make area look tidy
Help communities adapt for climate change impacts
segregation bins for recycling in weymouth
kerbside tin foil recycling point
reduce speed limit down to 20 in residential areas
Housing
Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy
act more quickly when a local family receives section Q1. should not have to wait for eviction before help
stop the landlords putting up rents
build more social housing stock- not private which only benefits landlords
Dorset council should become a home builder and social landlord x2
there are many local people without any housing that have been kicked out through no fault of their own. There needs to be more help for their families
council housing people appropriate housing. Learning disabilities

allocation of social housing needs to be looked at x2
aster and other social landlords shouldn't be selling off properties (so others can make a profit) x2
stop building accommodation for the 'retirement' us young people need places too!
stop building in small areas, leave them alone. But do improve standards
compared with other areas, weymouth property is acceptably priced
Portland - no more development on this island. Access problems and sewage
spread housing currently all In Preston area of weymouth
developments need to be spread throughout areas. Not focused on 1 or 2 locations
affordable houses for people with a local connection only under £250,000
it will devalue my home
build park homes and use shipping containers instead of building traditional bricks n mortar homes. It's 1/3 of the price.
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
rental properties - decent quality and affordable in desperate need
strict accountability for private landlords. Excess rents, damp properties, repairs not done
Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset
under occupation is a more pressing problem
Airbnb and holiday lets should be regulated
Economy
Support more businesses to grow and thrive
training for young apprenticeship and retraining proper skills - trades
encouraging entrepreneurs
allow empty shops to be used as pop-up spaces for charities or art creative groups or small businesses.
we need to interest more in start-up businesses x2

lack of road infrastructure
shops closed or empty- privately owned high-lease and high rates
cost of parking in summer
Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas
some buildings look faded, tidy up tired looking areas
the quay- economy generally good. Town centre must change. Residential in TC
reduce car parking charges
improve infrastructure and industry will thrive. Feed the soil
Support local and sustainable tourism
encourage sharing paths with cyclists and pedestrians
locals to be recognised and included during busy summer months
get rid of plastic tat shops on the esplanade
car park prices in weymouth excessive and not competitive with other local towns

Additional Comments
speed control 30mph limit (flashing) for Easton Portland
easier to get on the housing priority list
very alarmed at state of pavements weeds etc
Dorchester road lights apparently BT metal cover broken and can't get another van parked on top 24/7 for over 6 weeks
not helping support locals getting a house with disabilities with council
lower rents for businesses to encourage more tourism
we love weymouth carnival!
car parking in weymouth should be cheaper
we need parking prices in weymouth to be comparable to Dorchester etc
currently only copper broadband Moreton DT2

benefits- concern on benefit fraud and incentive to work

been told regeneration will happen and it never was

bowling green Redlands not reopened. Promised it would be.

Sherborne Resident Event

Communities

Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)

Reduce and implementation of EHCPs - consider all applications rather than rejecting and requiring families to appeal

Dorset IS the best place to be a child, grow up but the housing/economic crisis impacts across anyone.

invest in youth clubs (which need to attract younger children) but also need support for older teenagers

social care was fantastic accommodation too, however constant moving means no stability, treated as statistic, need to look at long term picture, will it cause stability issues?

transport to school post 16 (obliged to go) huge cost to use bus services 1k per year.

bad question, not just Dorset

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

too broad

youth clubs- space for young to spend time, something for them to look forward to x2

consider transport for access to youth groups, hub in Sherborne for SEN?

support for men (e.g. men's clubs, community group drop-ins)

need to invest in communities, build communities, social cohesion, people living together in harmony

concerned on impact of withdrawal of winter fuel allowance

population is ageing focus needs to be on older people, could lose winter fuel payments, bus pass, 25% council tax discount and reducing savings on trains

more support for young men with mental health issues, far too high suicidal men with nowhere to turn as support not high enough

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

already doing now

thank you for coming out, speaking to communities, need more of this

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

agree, but how? X2

solar panels on houses, schools, commercial properties, agriculture

everybody needs to do their bit, important from young to old

need to think globally about food security

agree, but the way to get it is problematic, without destroying landscape- concerned about solar farms

use wind energy, we are on island

climate change is most important priority

I support road gully clearance around Dorset

infrastructure taking over town in green space

every newbuild should have solar. Commercial and industrial.

why are we spending money on something that doesn't exist

stop digging pavements to remove slabs for tarmac, waste of resources and time. Dig once, not 4 times

more public transport

Support the recovery of nature

solar farm (Wyke) fencing must be large enough for wildlife to pass through (i.e., 6-inch mesh)

increase powers of regulatory bodies to fine water companies for illegal sewage discharges (tighter definitions of what constitutes illegal discharges).
Nationalisation/partial nationalisation of water companies to limit monopolistic behaviours and prevent unreasonable payouts to shareholders

stop mowing verges within inch of life - blackberry lane

solar farms and fencing claim enough for wildlife but not as wildlife as they claim to be

river pollution from pesticides. Not just Swanage

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

support properties to install solar

encourage developers to get solar installed on existing properties, subsidising them

better management for areas around riverbed for floods (e.g. work with farmers more trees etc)

coastal pathway safety near areas of landslide risk

it's a con

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

houses need infrastructure

please have sense of urgency about housing CRISIS it shouldn't be so complicated

*Need more doctors, dentist, NHS, schools etc if building houses consider impact Shephards Lane...? speeding drivers have on locals

more houses with shared ownership

percentage of development should be to those with local connections, build communities, not homes

housing association need to ensure social housing tenants look after their homes

affordable housing

houses need infrastructure

infrastructure before building

*Help and support for the newbuilds selling and building...?

no places to rent locally

limit on family numbers to move in a home

will cost council fortune, impossible financially

* ...street has no infrastructure. Have to drive to childcare as no footpath

people from Yeovil (somerset) being housed In Sherborne yet lots of empty homes in Yeovil x2

any new housing developments should have 20% affordable vs high end pricing

should be based on average income in area also distance to infrastructure

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

really important but also stop housing associations selling off houses and others making profit, they should do up, sell and invest profit

please have sense of urgency about housing CRISIS it shouldn't be so complicated

never allow permission to build in Dorset

better quality homes, new builds better quality standard

all now houses should have solar

more accessible bungalows for elderly

improving quality is difficult

don't have money to compulsory purchase. Increasing quality increases price

don't have money to compulsory purchase. Increasing quality increases price

doesn't need to be high quality, focus should be on room sizes

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

designated building to support families in needed - not Airbnb's

planning permission needed to convert homes into Airbnb's

control/limit holiday lets/Airbnb

impact of second home and Airbnb price younger people out of area- need to build more housing for younger people

turn old school (Sherborne) into accommodation and commercial properties x2

farm cottages left empty for over 10 years - 7 in this area- could be brought back to use

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

buses need to improve frequency and coverage e.g. ridgeway. Older/non-drivers need this

need to invest in higher paying jobs, not min wage economy

parking charges too high in high streets

more availability of public transport

encourage local businesses to use local suppliers

places for business advice for new businesses at accessible times

more concern about not wasting money, there to provide service, not encouraging growth that's not your role

better business rates to support independent businesses. Also for start-ups

should not be charged to use tip. Encourages fly-tipping

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

weymouth/Portland used for those seeking asylum and is segregating towns

need to support Portland MORE

weymouth doesn't affect me

weymouth isn't priority as I live in SHERBORNE

what about the north Dorset

rural areas undervalued in terms of infrastructure and roads, pay council tax, don't get same benefits as urban areas x2

Support local and sustainable tourism

bring back tourist info centres, should never have closed

proper support for tourist information hub x4

specifically in Sherborne, used to be regular coach parties visiting

more public transport

if no TIC, then use signs to showcase history, town map, photos, hot spots etc

Additional Comments

broadband to be improves in all Dorset areas

what does this all mean? All vague and don't mean anything to people

gully and drain maintenance need to be priority

Chickerell battery development, what is going ahead?

highway and greenspace problems

points are too broad, hard to disagree with

lack of weekend public transport in gillingham especially

Sherborne recycling centre is brilliant, staff are so helpful :)

libraries- opening hours reduced by 5 and half hours per week. Need at least one open until 6:30 weekdays plus Saturdays

slow telephone/email responses from council. Just trying to inform council about my new home and need to start paying council tax. They won't allow me to pay as names differ on bank accounts

keep parking apps same in different towns/counties. Hate having to download many apps. Keep machine parking due to accessibility or for areas with no signal

buses cutting back. Locals worried. No bus to Yeovil. No connection to hospital, no taxi!

disagree with solar farm in Bradford abbas should not take up farm space

free car parking on Sundays

no point in taking note, we will be ignored

better road enforcement

council tax isn't fair system. Not balanced

housing development on Bradford Road should be stopped

council tax too high in Sherborne

get back to basics
premises facilities for mental health provision especially for men
I hope this is taken forward
how are we engaging/promoting to people not online x2
stop digitalisation of everything. Consultations shouldn't need logins
thanks for coming x5

Town and Parish Council Events Comments

Wimborne Town and Parish Event

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
it's not a competition between counties to be the best
support for youth services also needs to be included
youth service needs to be re-installed with county-wide service of professionals
including youth services
restore funding for youth clubs and have a youth support officer to assist all youth clubs
can Dorset council make it easier to run and support youth clubs?
easing pressure on school places is needed
agree but also youth facilities need support as well
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
I am not sure this is realistic as different age groups have different priorities
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions
by 'communities' will you 'talk to' neighbouring unitary authorities especially BCP?

better communication between Dorset council and smaller parish councils

conversations should be held in all areas not just larger towns

use town and parish councils to help with the conversation i.e. through our newsletter

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

reintroduce integrated public transport

towns and parishes should be involved in decision making that affects their roles

agreed but verges must be cut. Does not help wildlife as just brambles

Support the recovery of nature

should parish and town councils have the same work towards the same priorities

keep green spaces free from development

get the water companies to pay for clean-up rivers and coast and not consumers use the dividends

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

more detail about technology that helps with climate change and public education

Wimborne TC also have this as a current priority- please can we work together

what about water companies, sewage and water quality

have you considered the Frome model?

Sturminster Marshall PC has adopted a climate change action plan but are finding it difficult to process with some of our aims. Could Dorset Council help with this?

planner/developers should only allow environmentally friendly development

Dorset has such a diverse community this is not realistic

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

Sturminster Marshall PC is trying to encourage this through our neighbourhood plan but this is a very long process

how is this affordable, single 30+ age group usually left out

social housing needs to be built not sold off

agree but affordable developers agree that not able to build as not enough profit despite housing agreed planning

how are you going to quantify this? Wimborne TC 's current strategic plan advocate for this

this needs to be social housing. No real definition of affordable housing

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

what do you mean by improving the quality and standard

this is a central government responsibility

in all housing developments it is essential to provide adequate parking for cars etc- otherwise far too many neighbour disputes. We are not going to stop using cars

more care on design of new housing and not just small boxes. Community building needs more. Seen some in recent new builds

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

how would this work, compulsory purchase? Sounds impractical

could Dorset council work with the national trust and other estate owners to reduce empty properties

needs a definition of 'long term' a good idea but how will you monitor it?

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

Wimborne town council leaves business support to the local bid

revaluate local biz rates to more flexible for new companies and shops

help provide advice for startup businesses

we need high quality work opportunities for school leavers and graduates

Dorset council does not support any businesses in west moors - east Dorset seems forgotten

infrastructure is key. Roads will need improvement to support growing businesses

including those in east Dorset?

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

weymouth-yes needs a plan that helps long-term - 20+ years jobs, housing etc

too much concentration on weymouth, not enough on rural Dorset. We don't even have reliable internet in countryside

Dorset is bigger than weymouth!

Wimborne doesn't care about weymouth. What about regeneration in Wimborne

everything is centred around weymouth the east gets forgotten

very 'weymouth-centric' so far!

Support local and sustainable tourism

not much in Verwood

improving road signage and grass cutting and general highway maintenance would help

ensure all signposts are clearly visible so tourists feel safe

public requires more thought and investment bring back the railways

keep local tourist info branches open

Wimborne agrees and the same priority is reflected in town council's current priorities - we need to work together

many of our attractions are struggling post covid and need more help to survive - particularly museums

Additional Comments

Nothing on equality?

West Parley proving no response

excellent service communication, poor planning

GP services are at bursting point. Additional housing must be accompanied by additional healthcare services.

support parish councils in developing neighbourhood plans to clarify priorities and concerns

Need to give long term funding for Dorset that's not going to change.

QE Leisure Centre needs to re-open. Good for health and environment and tourism

sure start needs to be re-introduced to the level that it was pre 2010. This saves money and long term and prevents so much pain and suffering

Bridport Town and Parish Event

Communities

Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)

big worry is lack of discipline in our secondary sectors and the increase in antisocial behaviour with limiting policing

working with vulnerable adults at the community kitchen has highlighted the poor state of mental health and support and social care in the community in Bridport x2

support local schools transport and infrastructure

not sure how you can disagree

to keep children with mental health issues and SEN in Dorset. Not miles away from home

engage with DFE about the SEN school at Asprey site and Portland

couldn't argue with but I think it would be difficult

what is point of this statement? Why best? How can you agree or disagree without more info?

best? Do you mean in the county? The world? These pointless priorities achieve nothing

rounded citizens need more than a good education and social care more needed to add meaning

I have no idea what this might mean

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

we need to make village life affordable for families and young people. Somehow stop the impact of house prices. X3

meaningless statement what does it mean?

of course, but how?

more facilities for younger people in Dorset as has an ageing population

younger should be educated to support economy

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

cannot agree strongly enough however I would like to think that

listen and take on board needs of local communities especially rural low numbers

focus on rural communities for a big conversation

strongly agree for small parishes

this sounds like 'we'll talk to you but don't expect proper consultation'

vital to understand the need more clearly

consultation need to be what they say. If you want to consider people's thoughts and attitudes then do that and listen especially to parish councils

of course, but how

yes, need proper consultations i.e. an open discussion an explanation of issues- a public debate

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

lacks necessary ambition. Should be SMART targets

especially with help for households to save energy and switch to greener energy

not sure how you would disagree but how?

new builds to incorporate solar panels

better rural buses. Greener energy provisor x2

public transport energy schemes- buy local

financial impact on services has to be considered and gains of actions measured against other harm. Meaningless to say 'reduce' - how?

Support the recovery of nature

depends on what this means- farming needs support to be sustainable
how could you disagree, but how?
support local farmers in food production - encourage buying locally x2
careful consideration of impact on rural economy and cost to those entrusted to deliver
not if there is a negative impact on the rural economy
bland and meaningless platitude
Help communities adapt for climate change impacts
flood risk
again, local and sustainable- use of own land for growing schemes
flash flooding is main risk in our parish/ward. Need for flood plans for every village affected
not sure you could disagree. But how?
especially regarding increased flood risk- more access for communities to achieve resilience with access to the environment agency to help mitigate land drainage issues and river management.
huge impacts could be made here by ensuring drains are cleaned and those covered by soil/bank slippage. Huge problem in Dorset x2
should be 'invest in supporting communities to adapt to climate change impacts' x2
Housing
Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy
building more 2-bedroom properties for older people to downsize and still wants to stay in area x2
there isn't enough housing for young people
need affordable rural housing
social rent provision for young adults' priority in Bridport
build council houses
most important thing we can do to keep small villages sustainable. Especially needed for young and families or children leaving home x2

essential that young/locals stay in their area rather urgent I think
this aim needs a serious conversation about letting the market decide which is how we currently operate x2
hard to disagree but how?
ladder or affordable tents or shared ownership
suggest DC to build social housing above town centre. Probably through making the sites available to housing associates and affordable via high insulation standards and solar panels. X2
less 2nd home ownership or empty homes
to provide the opportunity for young families and people to stay in their community - should be sustainable 1st step housing
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
hard to disagree but how?
but still affordable for locals. New builds should include solar panels.
important but lesser priority than 7
ensure planning policy allows for carbon reduction and energy saving changes to listed buildings
*This depends on harbours?? Approach and whether funding will be available to purchase and renovate
Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset
empty properties should be compulsory purchased or empty council social repossessed
hard to disagree but how?
easier conversion/adaptation of listed buildings and protection of listed buildings from continued decline
reduce number of second homes. Double council tax. Compulsory purchase of empty properties
number of homeless adults increasing - we need emergency shelter for them which can provide safe sleeping place to a more permanent home.
agree but how are you going to deliver

of course, but only where economically viable

this aim also needs a focus on bigger issue of 2nd homes

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

reform VA to support small businesses

businesses at a local level particularly Bridport is great example of small business

encourage more small local businesses as in Bridport. Lower business rates?

not sure how you would disagree

what is meaning of this statement. Of course it depends on what, how?

all the economic questions are too complex for a simple yes or no response

must reflect a drive towards a net zero economy

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

poverty in weymouth is the worst in the county

and bridport?

address pockets of poverty in all areas. Often move hidden in rural locations

support and engage with Eden project in Portland

weymouth has basis for good infrastructure

weymouth seems to do alright whilst all areas need to thrive there needs to be focus on the rural economy

more pressing needs in other parts of county where basic services are deteriorating

why weymouth?

I don't see an argument for singling out Weymouth when many parts could do with regeneration

should be 'establish a regeneration plan and ALL Dorset towns'

Support local and sustainable tourism

but on emphasis on SUSTAINABLE and appropriate to the area

sustainable to help keep affordable options
needs to be appropriate for area reform VAT to support small businesses
please do not turn Dorset into Cotswolds. Play place for 2nd homes, toy towns and cottage box villages some tourism is good. Over tourism is bad
I do not see need to do any more to support tourism in any parish
make rural 5g available in bad spots especially towards digital telephone lines
DC need for structures and facilities to connect strategy to local towns and parishes

Additional Comments
broad headings which are hard to disagree with. Most important in my opinion is affordable housing which should alleviate pressures on residents x2
Rural communities in bride valley need to have access to the bodies that can help to mitigate flooding off the land
it is difficult not to agree with these wide-ranging ambitions. But I would like to see more emphasis on local services such as keeping verges tidy
ISSUE: huge and growing problem of traffic, villages unable to cope. Needs a whole-road strategy rather than village-by-village piece approach currently adopted x2
RIGHTS OF WAY: state for transport has promised resources for walking/cycling.
many leaseholders in our parish. Very strong lobby from landowners. Needs to be longer into effect with local emphasis on rural properties
rural public transport need review to make villages more accessible x2
don't forget Lyme, possibly Dorset. More popular resort
a big question should be supporting rural communities especially addressing rural isolation not everything happens in towns
I disagree with asking such a no-brainer which is what most of these questions are. DC already know the answer, just get on and act
all points worth supporting but need acting on ASAP x2

DC need strategy for managing constraints such as planning and development of local plan. Reductions in social housing funding.

immediate priority for DC to sort basics such as customer contact, emails. There is lack of communication from property services team.

DC should give priority to transfer of non-strategic functions within associated budgets to town and parish councils

should consider all rural areas. Tourism often means that support is needed for areas with inflated populations say April to October.

Blandford Town and Parish Event

Communities

Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)

It's hard to object to these objectives. I'm not so sure that this is a priority compared to other points

make more use of assets already here - e.g. technology centre. Put cadet forces in schools. Improve secondary schools x2

support and protect schooling

more support to town and parish councils to provide open spaces and play areas.

improve schools particularly secondary schools x2

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

elderly sometimes feeling isolated community, bus services would be welcomed x2

encourage all age x2

improve public transport x4

social care is huge cost for council taxpayers. Whilst I support statement, in principle, do we want elderly encourage/people from other parts of country to move here? X3

let's not lose sight of young people, 18-30 is loneliest demographic. Everything written here about elderly also applies to young adults

innovative solutions to address the needs of older people and the impact on the adult health and social care budget x2

high proportions of new homes go to retirees from elsewhere

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

for small parishes it currently feels like 'line of sight' communication is a bit broken. Would be good to formalise comms flow x3

not use the 'one size fits all' solution more talking to communities x2

at present, insufficient consultation with communities especially small parishes x2

*Clarity on neighbourhood plans and whether they have any....? Some have been ignored in planning for example x3

stop talking to town and large parish councils and talk to all town and parish councils. All residents are equal x3

more interaction with planning team with parish councils

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

there's a debate on whether there is a climate crisis but if there's anything that Dorset does, is irrelevant and waste of time

no- not if it means wind farms without consent of parishes x2

rural bus services are way to getting out of cars- no additional development without 7 days 7/11 services x2

opening trailways. A single resident In Toller Porcorum has brought many land parcels to open trailway to Maiden Newton- DC are involved and need to help TP and others do things.

need to be careful in permitting vast areas of solar farms at detriment of ecology and environment.

encourage cycling by making roads suffer

make rural bus services more logical to ask where passengers really want to go to. No bus from Blandford to Wimborne, it's nearest neighbourhood. X2

road sweepers really necessary. Bus lanes!

reduce speed limit in villages and have tougher penalties for speeding so it's safe for pedestrians to walk. X2

stop building on agricultural land

protect local food security

provide public transport from villages into towns. Residents are car dependent

Support the recovery of nature

not all of these objectives are mutually supporting nature. Does not go hand in hand with improving supply of affordable housing.

stop allowing building on green belt x3

we need to stand up for Dorset and protect our unique and precious landscapes - especially important x3

enable hedges to be listed. It's too early for people to take hedges down to put up a fence x2

yes, support nature but amount of litter across countryside does not help with this. Litter is danger to wildlife and causes harm x2

support organisations like RSPB

protect national landscape- save barns many are being developed outside village envelopes

they are expansive and often no public benefit

actively look for Brownfield sites to develop on x2

solar farms and wind farms conflict with this

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

*Grows economy. Rules, regs, processes. Infrastructures, panels, water, sewage, data, transports?

big problem is increased number of eco-solutions

great in theory but how can this be in practice

no additional development in flooding communities x2

encourage elderly to install solar with council scheme they can trust and install

*Faster notice of green grants notification application window before it's too late.

small communities need help and support to know what to do to make a difference. Often don't have, larger scale projects available or funds. X2

develop mill sites on rivers to take water turbines to produce power x3

networking support for new councillors

not all eco solutions work on existing houses. Only green thing about electric vehicles are the emissions- running the other side of the world can't recycle batteries etc.

not a priority compared to others

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

affordable housing doesn't seem to be what claims to be x3

3,4,5 bed houses aren't affordable for older folk who want to downsize. 2 bed bungalows needed for older population x2

stop agreeing to planning developments for luxury homes that local people can't afford x2

yes, by using your own, DC- own empty properties will win x2

work with parish and town councils to ensure local people have access to local homes

where is road employment and health education, social care, infrastructure and accompany these developments? X2

social should be prioritised- grew market has no local government

what is affordable housing? Aimed at young but housing for older residents could release larger homes

how can it be guaranteed that homes go to 'local people'? How is a local person defined? Good theory but how is this implemented in practice?

more small homes (1-2 bed) are needed for those starting out or downsizing

avoiding overdevelopment in rural areas where there is no infrastructure to support it

stop developers from getting large plans through planning under the pretence of providing social housing which is then withdrawn once planning is granted.

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

inspections should be done by councils

require developers to produce houses that are in effect over code or offer sites for gravel hill type developments

ensure housing association improve maintenance of existing properties

incentivise landlords to provide quality and affordable rentals by making it affordable to be a landlord

housing association are hard to work with. Poor communication for both their residents and local councils x2

previous government said that new homes should be made beautiful. This government has gone away with this. Not sure how this is going to be affordable

critical that plans are agreed. Big issues with officers pivoting measures after planning consent. Poor developments that were unwanted by buyers made even worse.

Need this - north Dorset totally exposed without it x2

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

empty shops, not just empty homes

less building restrictions on changes to existing buildings x4

totally agree, two long term empty homes in our parish already.

I don't know much about empty homes, but very large empty shops in our town. Owned by offshore companies that have been empty for years. If they don't have an occupant for them within 3 years they should be forced to sell.

DC owns many properties that could easily be sold to housing associations, or people could be open for businesses to use. Thinking of boarding schoolhouse on Barton Hill, Shaftesbury.

where is objection. To provide wholesale building on greenbelt and other areas with no employment x2

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

pro-actively approach Blandford council to convert corn exchange square to renegotiate.

encourage independent shops and tourist-based businesses to regenerate town centres

agree, we need to nourish our small businesses. Business rates are too high x2

business rates are high. Lower them? Encourage small businesses and independent shops here by incentivising them to regenerate force of town centres x2

*of course, we want more businesses to grow and thrive. You need to engage with town councils 2nd local chambers of commerce...? In big organisations to understand what is needed. DC has lots of unused assets. Also, car parking rates need to lower

use empty buildings for hot desking/community work hubs

encourage independent businesses to set up in small rural areas to help employment

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

to help weymouth and area be more self sufficient

*publicise smaller regeneration areas as residents offer communities feel valued as much as weymouth residents

were from north Dorset and would like the whole county to be benefiting x4

we have areas with public no transport at weekends in north Dorset. Please review infrastructure in north Dorset

DC has habit of focussing on large urban areas. Most of county is rural and in desperate need of support and transport

whole county should benefit from regeneration. North Dorset appears to not be. This is an issue

what's weymouth got to do with the north? It already consumes vast amounts of DC's money and portfolio holders come from weymouth- so no wonder you've asked this question. Dorset is too south centric. X2

apart from area around the old harbour, weymouth town centre is a dump. One reason for this is 'out of town' shopping developments which have been encouraged by council

Support local and sustainable tourism

upload events/facilities on DC website

develop 'better' tourism - higher spenders...
100%- this conflicts with weymouth plans and wind and solar farms. This is not what visitors came to see
encourage shops to reopen in Bournemouth this was once very desirable place to visit
develop and encourage Dorset based traditional skills, crafts at events
make most of assets already here- ancient technology centre - Cranborne
yes, north Dorset has lots of underrepresented tourism areas
who wants to visit Dorset to pay extortionate car parking fees. Also helping to bring back town centres
parking! More access to park and ride. Sustainable travel between car park and tourism spots
central access to what's on. Information in Dorset instead of hybrid sites x2

Additional Comments
climate crisis has to infuse everything you do. Difficulty to stay with it. It is the priority above all else.
use town and parish councillors for local knowledge, they have lots
transport!! Urban areas already well served but rural communities are not. Buses in summer for tourists that stop with school holidays area slap in the face. Beryl bike schemes everywhere.
move north Dorset to CIC - SIOG awful
make it easier to move around the county and cross-county, without answers so many of the issues and plans there are on wall posters
protect listed buildings, estate agents nationally are advertising period buildings with emphasis on NOT LISTED as a selling point. If people don't want to live in listed buildings, then they will fall into disrepair. Make it easier for people to live in them by reducing costs (priority applications, insurance premiums.
if Dorset want more support for developments outside neighbourhood plans, needs to be community benefits- Dorset needs to back parish and town councils to realise these developments are NOT excuses...??

Dorchester Town and Parish Event

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
need to know that there is support for all children especially those with SEN
I think Dorset already has best place for children
make it good enough not 'the best' at the expensive priorities
lots of children slip through the net because of no services
we have fantastic outdoor resources-we should be encouraging youths to use these by leading kayak/abseiling/orienteering sessions developing skills to develop creativity and resilience and combat mental health problems
new combined school for Lytchett and Upton
ensure more funding for children to travel to expeditions/more transport
to make best to be a child to live there needs to be a strong policy regarding discouraging second homes and holiday lets. They give hope value to land and property meaning that families are unable to live or stay in village etc
school transport improves. More physical exercise. More investment in schools or activities
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
make easily accessible public paths in rural areas
can only happen if there are genuinely affordable housing. 60% of market value not 80% of local market value
bring back buses
everyone has valuable contribution to community from experience and pride in heritage. People need to learn and embrace our differences and work with them for overall good of community
increased focus on community. Clubs and organisations to enable people to get to appointments/school/work/college
bring back buses
Dorset already is age friendly

we thought it already was

more places to go for elderly to keep warm in winter

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

Dorset councillors need a greater understanding of matters raised up to parish and town councils so we get listened to

our community talked but DC didn't listen. Was this changed?

central call answering services could be beneficial but call handlers/email response team need to be better educated in the council workings and need to listen carefully to enquirer as responses are frequently not related to question asked

work smarter with town and parish councils to help shape communities

more of this and less top-down

restrict proliferation of retirements homes. They are attracting out of county retirees who tend to be more of a burden on services. Many retirement properties are half-empty after a few years of being build. They're not targeted to all incomes.

communication with town and parish councils is dire. Previous Conservative party council went out of their way to exclude this from conversations. Town councils get meetings with DC fortnightly. That info isn't shared, and parish councils get nothing. We can't even get direct numbers for officers.

doesn't work

please listen and engage properly rather than avoid what's happening

town and parish council are an untapped resource. Work with us- a win/win

some officers are very good. DC other areas it has been impossible to speak to someone or difficult to get an answer to ask queries

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

encourage 'simple fixes' such as solar or energy-generating structures on new build developments. Glossy brochures asking for developers to consider climate change doesn't work. Strict adherence is required to be implemented

why do all new builds not automatically have solar panels? Policies from DC should underpin changes

buying organic or marshland to off-set nitrogen phosphate does not achieve desired result

sort out sewage into rivers

agree but how is this going to work

bring back buses

more supply communication

people need to know how systems in place will benefit environment. Lathery results from negative media coverage of expensive schemes which have no impact - stats need to counteract more info and be interesting enough to reach householder

Support the recovery of nature

education should start with youth. Schools should be encouraged to promote beneficial schemes/clubs and holiday activities in a similar style to duke of Edinburgh schemes/cadets...

come to Lytchett and Upton and see how we do it

come to Charlton down and see how we do it

DC have apparently agreed to build large buildings on greenfield land

Dorset is already good for nature, we can improve and support but not spend money

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

people don't believe that things they do make a real impact. What plans are there to change this person by person?

allow solar panels in conservation areas and listed building

work hand in hand with DC to deliver messaging on this topic

make subtle communication

talk doesn't change anything

for our environment, council actually needs to consider short- and long-term impact on housing development. I.e. loss of food production and high-water consumption

there is no joined up thinking. Reduction of land to build means more surface water and flooding as old infrastructure can't cope.

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

I don't think we have yet identified impact of climate change. Many of current schemes are not necessarily going to be of long-term benefit. Concentrate on immediate crisis in community first

ensure build ratio is merged with needs especially in Charminster

when government definition of what is 'affordable' housing is actively changed to mean genuinely affordable at 60% of local market value then this point can be addressed until its not achievable

toss 2nd home or Airbnb to fund social housing to community infrastructure

restrict second homes and holiday lets that contribute little to economy or community. Purbeck local plan introduced primary residence policy that had huge support. Many villages have lost younger generations as they are priced out and developers actively market properties as potential holiday homes

don't add charge to house prices, to just increases house prices out of reach to many

pride in community is better when people feel they belong in community. Communities can benefit from people who feel safe putting down roots

will DC introduce primary residence covenants on new developments?

will DC insist on a minimum of 40% affordable in prosperity

don't forget sewage before you build houses

where is land available?

recognise importance of private landlords and increasing the supply by landlord friendly policies

control developers profit to keep prices down

make developers stick to their plans of supplying proper percentage of cheaper housing which they don't

more shared ownership to help young people get on ladder

coherent county wide plan for housing your local people

urgent
needs to be in sustainable location ie. Bus routes, shops and schools
upgrade and install decent sewage systems
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
not all traditional homes can be improved to EPC this will reduce availability
improve AFFORDABILITY of homes to rent or buy. There is crisis of little affordable housing genuinely affordable. That impacts outcomes for local people. Eg. Higher housing costs equals less money put into local economy
agree but what stops buy to let investors remain genuinely affordable?
ban 2nd homes on new properties
improve quality of houses and empower residents to create own home improvements
stop selling council house stock. (housing association) and magna to maintain its stock
better quality for rental homes
Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset
reduce 2nd homes and holiday lets in Dorset. Airbnb's have huge negative impact on communities while contributing very little to local economy
council urgently needs second home policy and percentage allowance of holiday lets. Most European countries have achieved this. Good for future sustainability for villages.
why don't council buy them and turn into housing stock or housing association
tax and have their food delivered to the house by national supermarkets. And don't take part in this village life sustainability is compromised
every house should contribute to their council tax and community costs as it potentially benefits equally from these services
introduce primary residence covenants on all new build properties
more effort to ensure there are no empty homes in Dorset
Economy
Support more businesses to grow and thrive

more healthy businesses equal more jobs
don't be greedy with business rates
more planning and funding to ensure we have no empty shops
more businesses and better businesses will help Dorset's economy
balance has to be struck to help small businesses employ people. Statutory benefits have huge impact on survival or failure of small employer
support more businesses but reduce second homes. They contribute little to economy and community. Villages have large families and other locals which means village is unsustainable in winter months. E.g. pub and shop closes
Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas
strange message for rest of county
*Weymouth took all section 106 money from Bincombe? development
surely other priorities in place also benefit weymouth equally. Should be as appealing as any other town
what about other areas
weymouth costs enough. What about others
I always thought Dorchester is the county town
Support local and sustainable tourism
right businesses in the right place
national park status will increase planning costs on businesses
tourism-based business is seasonal and low paid. Concentrate on skilled jobs that give employment all year round and job security
THIS
can't they support themselves other businesses do
tourism appears to be detriment of locality. An organic tourist flow sustainably need and availability will not deplete local resources. If residents suffer for benefit of tourists, then county will not maintain healthy population
what about supporting local transport infrastructure. That simply helps tourism too

Additional Comments
we have benefit solutions to speeding traffic for many years and have adopted DC's suggestions. BUT we still have problems throughout parish but no solutions
reduce 2nd homes to free homes
im encouraged to hear that council want to engage with parishes but don't rely on DAPTC to share information. But have officers sent out to parishes
ensure DAPTC is communicating to ALL parish councils fully
sewage down rivers and fresh water supplies electricity need sorting before more houses
restrict 2nd homes

Youth & Other Events

Wareham Youth - EchoFest

Additional Comments
What about public transport? How do young people get to where there are safe places and activities and education - particularly further education
better transport for children especially for post 16 provisions. Better police presence to make communities feel safe. More support for individuals with SEND and their families, especially in rural Dorset.
public rural transport
Fix the speeding on the roads in Moreton
We need a gym and a library in Bovington
make a museum in Wareham because of its history
make an interesting entertainment centre in Wareham

Verwood – Youth Club

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)

Making best place to be a child is valuable
Need more regulations in place (on child safeguarding) - more teacher training
More youth groups and funding
No higher education in Verwood (high school)
Young people avoid rough areas at night. Provisions needed to make area safer.
Need more street lighting to make areas safer.
More for teenagers, not just for children and adults
No secondary schools or activities in Verwood
Tackle boredom for adolescents - teens in areas have vandalised property
Focus on tackling homelessness
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
All ages agree but less of a priority
Monitor crime (young people stealing trolleys) - decrease 'boredom' for young people
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions
Increase police presence. Lowers crime rates. More patrolling. More funding for police.
More facilities needed in Verwood (e.g. leisure)
More shops in Dorset (like West Quay)
Climate
Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change
provide more bins in town centres
Area in Ferndown (homes) have no or not enough bins - they leave their rubbish I bags - which can then spill out everywhere
Lots of litter in West Moors. Need more public bins
Add water refill stations across Dorset (Verwood)
Support the recovery of nature

Nature recovery good in Verwood but would benefit areas like Poole
regulate disposable vapes provision. E.g. more bins around to control litter
Gey schools/colleges to teach children to recycle etc
Help communities adapt for climate change impacts
Electric cars too expensive
Funding/ incentivise farm shops/ small businesses to be mor eco friendly
Not enough electric charging points. Make them more affordable.
Housing
Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy
Family couldn't afford to move house
Standard of housing for young is bad
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
Low quality housing has inadequate gardens
Too many houses being built - inadequate planning, preserve areas
Living conditions need better planning/regulations
Need quality housing
Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset
Few empty homes, but don't allow them to be turned into Airbnb's
Economy
Support more businesses to grow and thrive
No highly skilled jobs in Verwood
Lower business rates
Give small/ local businesses resources and startups to grow. To help grow local economy.
Add fast food restaurant in Verwood 9eg. (Mc Donald's)
Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

No overcrowding from tourists in Weymouth
Need more funding in Weymouth. Weymouth looks sad.
Make improvements to deprived/derelict locations, but not anti-homeless architecture. Don't push poor away!
Support local and sustainable tourism
Nothing for tourists in Verwood (which doesn't help local economy)
Don't want too many tourists
Tourism gentrifies areas.
Tourism causes congestion in residential areas, makes living there an inconvenience. Especially in smaller villages. Affects smaller towns and villages more than bigger town and cities)

Additional Comments
My local recycling centre is in Hampshire, so I have to pay. Wimborne is too far so people fly tip
I want to leave Dorset when I am older because there is nothing to do and no skilled jobs
Need more public transport at all times of day - overcrowded school buses

Ferndown – Youth Club

Communities
Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)
Skatepark in Ferndown and bike jumps to stop using roads and pavements X3
increase safety by having phone charging stations around
need better activities/infrastructure and resources for teenagers, not just small children
Make Dorset an all-age friendly county
Canford bottom roundabout - elderly (and all people) get very confused

Free use basketball court and gym equipment in Ferndown (like West Moors)
diving board in leisure centre, more facilities in East Dorset, not just Poole & Bournemouth
Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions
Cleaner toilets
More electric car charging points
Climate
Reduce Dorset’s impact on climate change
Water refill stations
More bins in Ferndown/East Dorset. Not enough bins to collect litter X3
More electric car charging points where people like to go (eg KFC, McDonald's)
Support the recovery of nature
Plant more trees for shade
Create flower garden, help recover of nature and habitats - also good for pollinators
Bird boxes around fields and trees
Plant more trees where heathland has burnt it down
Help communities adapt for climate change impacts
Housing
Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy
bad infrastructure - can't sign on to dentist/school/doctor
Parley homes too expensive - no one is buying, and they have to stop building - more people would live there if it was a little bit cheaper!
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
West Parley Park, bad quality after rebuilt
Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

Make homeless shelters from empty properties - this will make streets cleaner and may help relieve pressures on social services

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

Need more shops in Ferndown (shopping centre)

Need more shopping centres close by (East Dorset) - would help me get a job.

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

Weymouth looks sad

Support local and sustainable tourism

More tourists mean more money

More public toilets with longer opening hours

Additional Comments

Public transport is good in Ferndown

Need bus stop/station in Parlet - area is popular

SPACE

Additional Comments

Needs more detail

A box for suggestions on where to improve e.g. stop build new houses with naturally no gardens and crowded just to meet a criteria

Far too vague, needs to be more specific to individual local issues/planning decisions

Libraries

Langton Matravers Library

Communities

Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

Too ambiguous - is our impact negative or positive?

Only acceptable if low cost

Support the recovery of nature

Only acceptable if low cost

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

Only acceptable if low cost

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

Too many people stuck in rented due to high price and insufficient shared ownership etc.

We are very much in a housing crisis. People who have been living here for a lifetime can not afford to stay in the local area

I agree

Too many people homeless, or high rent and no-one is helping them. Council needs to step up and help locals and rehome the homeless

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

I agree

Too many people homeless, or high rent and no-one is helping them. Council needs to step up and help locals and rehome the homeless

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

I agree

Too many people homeless, or high rent and no-one is helping them. Council needs to step up and help locals and rehome the homeless

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

Too specific an area - probably much of Dorset is unaffected by Weymouth/Portland

Support local and sustainable tourism

Beaminster Library

Communities

Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

Support the recovery of nature

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

If housing is increased, make sure there are enough school places/Drs/dentists/pharmacies etc. to cope

Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy

There should be no mouldy/substandard housing

Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset

2nd homeowners should pay the same Council Tax as all the rest

Economy

Support more businesses to grow and thrive

Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas

Support local and sustainable tourism

Speaking up – Learning Disability Group

Communities

Make Dorset the best place to be a child (education and children's social care)

its harder to be a child now - better support using phones

Make Dorset an all-age friendly county

winter fuel allowance going, pension credit going. Worrying

Hold conversations with communities – listening and working together to develop solutions

listen to people more

Climate

Reduce Dorset's impact on climate change

would be helpful to have more information on this - before deciding how

more important that people are safe

Support the recovery of nature

more opportunity to clean?

Help communities adapt for climate change impacts

more accessible spaces for people to look after nature

Housing

Increase the supply of housing that local people can afford to rent or buy

think about where you're putting your houses - and infrastructure

more choices for flats
when I have support, you can't take away human contact more housing opportunities for people to live independently
Improve the quality and standard of homes to rent or buy
solving dampness. Helping to find the right people when querying about housing quality. Rate landlords
reducing 2nd homes
Reduce the number of long-term empty homes in Dorset
more worried about empty shops
Economy
Support more businesses to grow and thrive
more shared use space, more help to run small businesses
reduce rates for shops, more support for small businesses
Kickstart the regeneration of Weymouth and surrounding areas
didn't the Olympics do that? More equal support across whole county
Support local and sustainable tourism
bring back park and ride
need more shops to entice tourists, not just charity and coffee shops

Additional Resident Feedback

Additional comments from resident via phone and email
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •If you don't grow the economy, you can't do the other things •Increase supply of housing is a pipedream •Should be making more houses affordable

- Every village have terrace housing with solar panels. Communal gardens
- Off street parking
- One terrace, six houses. Affordable for regular people on lower incomes
- Or produced on a housing association like shared ownership
- Community Land Trusts effective in North Dorset
- Scandinavian model of pre-built houses
Insulated with wool (to help local farmers) or newspapers as they can't be recycled
- Buildings classic building companies produce too expensive
- Encourage developers. Tax incentives to promote the above for affordable housing
- Small pockets of housing outside of towns which don't disturb natural design
- Tuk Tuk industry in Dorset. Low-key, cost effective. Run on re-used cooking oil to be collected from hospitality and cooking industries
- Manufacturing building in Dorset to produce them. Trained through apprenticeship schemes for young people. Repair stations across the county too
- Used in towns across the county to reduce traffic on roads. Revive low-key affordable travel in towns of Dorset

- Woolsbridge south of Verwood that imports Tuk Tuks. Tried to sell them to Royal Mail to use in place of the vans. Also in Oxford

- Social Enterprise with proper support and resources. One for manufacturing and distribution. The other in each town for a cab service. Bringing Universities into design process

- Need people with vision to think laterally

- Economic bus route to go through Verwood, Bournemouth, Ringwood, Wimborne on the hour

- Viable economic plan to introduce this

- Surrounded by triple SIs so can't build further houses. Very little space to build more and saturated

- Growing with little infrastructure and no transport to take people to town, or outside of it

- How do you get from point A to B if you can't drive?

- Two practices in Verwood. Thousands of new residents, where are they to get treatment? There isn't enough space

- Concern Lib Dem Cllrs do not understand the issues of Verwood

- Older People's Partnership 20 years ago. Council-funded project to reach out to older people

- Cabinet need to understand the complexities of the issues. One size doesn't fit all. Take inspiration from best practice across Europe

- Will be issues down the line with Verwood schools. As populations in Ferndown and Wimborne rise, there will be no space for Verwood students (which doesn't have a high school)

- ACTF4 Sharing. Collect donations and collect items people would like to give away. Then transport them to those that need them. Network of public, private and social teams

- Health bus in Bournemouth. Great initiatives locally, but not in Dorset Council area?

- STARF - multi-agency, cross-cultural initiative to support local community at point of need

- Can it be extended? Would go towards their creditability? Why should people put themselves out?

- Engage with the business community too?

Some further thoughts:

Is DC interested in involving the widest range of stakeholders in working together to achieve the greatest and effective impact in achieving its aims and objectives? If so, I suggest that it is essential that a wider range of stakeholders are engaged in the strategic project.

Therefore, have you already included:

Dorset business, who could work with you to achieve successful outcomes?

Dorset Chamber via a Conversation event that they would arrange for you and invite businesses of all sizes to give their support.

Dorset Business Mentoring – again, they could arrange a meeting for you, to engage with the smaller businesses who could help with delivery.

Third Sector: a very important contributor to their local communities, via:

Dorset Volunteer Centre – in contact with very many small organisations.

Dorset Community Action – very involved with supporting the third sector in Dorset

Dorset Village Halls Association – attend their AGM, soonish.

All these could arrange meetings for you, your team would just need to turn up and engage!!!

All these further engagements, because your team would just to attend, could be a very cost-effective way of engaging with the wider community. You would not need to hire venues.

I can promise you, that, if your team does NOT engage with these groups, DC will NOT be able to achieve their objectives in the short or long term, and certainly not in a cost-effective manner.

Yes, this might be challenging to arrange all of this, but perfectly possible with tact, energy, and strong motives. It would give a strong message to all communities in Dorset that you are serious about public engagement. My suggest would result not only in engagement, but commitment to achieving the objectives, for the benefit of everyone, will grow the local economy and build or/and strengthen community cohesion.

Great potential benefits: better economy, more money in circulation, great contentment of individuals/families/communities, less drain on health and social

care, lower offending, reduced pressure on police and other emergency services, etc.

This project has enormous potential for good for Dorset and can be a Beacon for the whole country!!!!!!