

210316 Alderholt & Cranborne Ward Dorset Councillor Report for Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council

A single item this month, which may be of relevance to the local community.

Dorset Heathlands Air Quality

A report which sets out a strategy to address the adverse effects of airborne nitrogen on Dorset Heathlands has been accepted by Dorset Council Cabinet, and is part of a combined strategic approach with BCP.

This report sets out an interim approach, a Phase 2 of continuing work, following Phase 1 measures already in place and is designed to deliver benefits ahead of the formal Local Plan due in 2023. It will be followed by Phase 3, from 2025 onwards, which will identify projects aligned to the new Local Plan.

Two categories are being set out, the first to improve the resilience of Heathland within 200m of roads, the second aims to address the air pollution across the entire heathland – i.e. beyond 200m from a road.

By taking a holistic approach in which category 1 measures are delivered in parallel with other category 2 mitigation measures and initiatives, this strategy will drive an improving trend in air quality which is targeted to the sources which make the greatest contribution to current exceedances. This improving trend might then be taken into account by the Councils when considering whether to grant planning permissions.

Measures will include:

- Work with the landowners of heathland sites (including Council owned sites) to implement new and additional management practices within 200 metres of roads;
- Actively encourage modal shift by improving public transport, cycling and walking and through positive communications strategy with public awareness campaigns;
- Ensuring that opportunities to facilitate zero emission vehicles e.g. through national government grants are taken;
- Actively incentivise the switch to zero emission vehicles through the delivery of a vehicle scrappage scheme that provides financial grants to households living within a defined distance of the Dorset Heathlands; and
- Require all new houses to install electric vehicle charging points through the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document (2021).
- Work with landowners and the farming community to change the management of agricultural land around heathlands to non-agricultural or low nitrate use.

Phase 3 - Local plan approach from 2025 onwards will be developed and formalised as policy in the BCP Council Local Plan and the Dorset Council Local Plan to ensure that new development does not have an adverse effect upon heathland.

The Local Plans will be subject to a rigorous Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure the development proposals have no significant adverse effect from new development upon the Dorset Heathlands. The Local Plans could include policies to address:

- The siting of new development by focussing growth in the urban area where there is better access to facilities and services and thereby minimising the need for additional car trips past heathland sites;
- The siting and design of new agricultural buildings that create pollutants, e.g. stocking sheds, slurry pits, etc.;
- The change of use of agricultural land near heathland to lower nitrogen inputs;
- Ensuring that any major development proposals in the countryside near heathland include measures to reduce impacts elsewhere in the wider land ownership;
- Look to identify multiple use benefits in the siting of Heathland Infrastructure Projects (HIPs), Poole Harbour Infrastructure Projects (PHIPs) and nitrogen offsetting projects on sites adjacent to heathland; and
- Help implement the outcomes of the government's Nitrogen Futures project.

Clerk's Report – March 2021

COVID – 19:

The prescription delivery service is the only service operating at the moment.

Playarea

The fixings have been replaced on the gate which now closes in around 6 seconds. (The recommended time is between 4-8 seconds)

Parish Council Website

The PC website has had a major overhaul so that all links now work. Cllr vacancies has been added to 'The Cllr' page to meet legal requirements. On the 'Useful Info' section, up to date links have been added for all businesses & organisations mentioned. I have added links to Dorset Council website re reporting potholes, blocked gullies & flooding. The flooding information sheet has also been added. If no website is available, I have removed the old links. This has taken some time to sort but hopefully going forwards will be easier to maintain and update.

Tree Works in Cranborne

Evans Above have completed the remainder of tree works needed along the footpath of river crane by Hibberds Field.

Cecil Memorial Hall

Parish Council Report – March 2021

As before the hall is still currently closed to all users. With the Road Map set by the government, we are looking to gradually open as follows:

From 12th April – Hall open for after school clubs and toddler groups, following the revised COVID guidelines

From 17th May – Hall to open for indoor adult's sports following COVID guidelines

From 21st June – Hall open to all users including private hires. No guidelines in place.

All the above will be based on the instructions given by the government and will be changed if required. We are looking to hold an informing meeting in July, for people who wish to join the committee, with the main meetings starting in September 2021.

During this additional lockdown, the hall has been in receipt of the Closed Business Lock Payment and also the fixed payments of £667 per 14 days of closure. This is expected to last until 12th April when we are able to re-open, but will await the confirmation from the council.

Tom, the caretaker, has settled in really well. He has made a start on the maintenance work needed including fixing the front gate. He is looking to start the outside area once the Garden Waste bin has been received.

Best Wishes

Rachel Flay

Chairman