

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY, 12th FEBRUARY 2025** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor D Monkhouse

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor T Foster

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Tomes

Swanage Town Council

Outside Representatives: -

Ms K Black

Durlston Country Park

Ms A Brocklesby

National Trust

Ms K Brookes

Dorset Council

Mr P Floyd

Sustainable Swanage

Mr L Luke

Planet Purbeck

Mr A Mears

Wessex Water

Mrs J Owens

Sustainable Swanage

Also in attendance: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services and Business

Development Manager (VSBDM)

Ms G Percival

Assets & Compliance Manager

Mr G Roman

Grounds & Estates Manager

Mr M Snowdon

Assets & Compliance Support Officer

Mr A Young

Purbeck Energy Group

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

Public Participation Time

There were no matters raised.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Coward and Dorrington, Mr D Pratten (Beach Buddies) and Mr F Roberts (Swanage Landers).

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

No declarations were made on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from the Meeting of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee held on 23rd October 2024

A brief update was provided further to Minute Nos 5, 6 and 10.

Minute No. 12 - An update was provided regarding a recent meeting between Dorset Council Waste Services and the Waste Management working party. During the meeting, assurances were given that the town would receive an increased number of visits from the mechanical road sweeper, along with a more responsive approach to addressing any reported issues.

4) Review of the Carbon Neutral target for 2030 - Update

a) Liaison with other Councils

Further to Minute No. 15 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 23rd October 2024, the Chairman reported that both Weymouth and Bridport Town Councils had been contacted to discuss their approaches to Carbon Neutral targets and their confidence in achieving them. Interest had been expressed in collaborative working among coastal towns to advance progress and standardise target reviews.

The Climate Sector Support Officer from Dorset Council outlined her role in supporting schools, town & parish councils, and public sector organisations in tackling climate change, including joint working to implement Dorset Council's environmental goals. A recent survey highlighted the need for greater collaboration and the sharing of knowledge between councils. As a result, a sustainability ambassador programme was being developed to bring together representatives from interested town & parish councils, creating a forum for exchanging ideas and best practices.

b) Carbon Literacy Training

It was reported that as part of the Town Council's commitment to addressing the climate crisis, training was being offered to all staff and councillors. It was noted that the Environmental Action Plan contained a commitment to provide climate crisis training by 2025. In that respect a one-day interactive course on carbon literacy had been sourced. The content would be tailored to the local area, using real-life examples to ensure the training is relevant.

c) Energy efficiency building audit

A representative from the Purbeck Energy Group reported on recent site assessments conducted with the support of councillors, the VSBDM, and the Assets & Compliance Manager. The assessments aimed to identify further steps to improve the energy efficiency of council-owned assets.

While some buildings, due to their age or construction, would be challenging or costly to upgrade, several cost-effective improvements were identified that could provide noticeable benefits. The VSBDM confirmed that these recommendations would be compiled into a report, including a plan and specifications, to support the procurement process. This report would be presented at a forthcoming meeting for consideration.

5) Motion for the Ocean Action Plan - Update

Further to Minute No. 7 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 23rd October 2024, the VSBDM reported progress on the development of the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan. Consultation had taken place with a marine scientist familiar with the local area. It was envisaged that the first phase of the plan would involve third-party specialists preparing reports to enhance understanding of biodiversity in Swanage Bay and serve as a foundation for public consultation. It had been suggested that a 'Bio-Blitz', supported by local groups, could be arranged to help document marine life over a set period.

The Climate Sector Support Officer from Dorset Council noted that the Climate Ambassador Project could offer students from local schools and colleges the chance to participate via work experience and assistance with relevant projects. The National Trust representative suggested local groups and organisations that could support this initiative.

6) Water Quality – Update further to discussion at Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 23rd October 2024 and a subsequent meeting of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee, consideration was given to a briefing note which provided an update on the installation of a noticeboard outside of the Swanage Information Centre, dedicated to the display of water quality data, and a forthcoming public meeting that had been arranged to provide information on water quality testing, how the local water systems function and provide an opportunity for attendees to meet a representative from Wessex Water.

The Chairman provided an update regarding ongoing discussions with Wessex Water about the monitoring of water quality, and the number of spills from the outflows in both Swanage and Durlston bays. It was reported that there are upcoming changes to the regulations concerning combined rainwater and sewage outflows, including the introduction of a Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan which specifies the maximum number of spills that can occur from an overflow in a specified period of time. Attention was drawn to the use of new technology at Bournemouth, where a SONDE device had been deployed to provide real-time data on bathing water quality. Although it was noted that Swanage was unlikely to be seen by external authorities as a priority location for such a device, support was expressed for this technology to be deployed locally and further information would be provided to a future meeting.

The representative from Wessex Water provided context to some of the data detailed in the briefing note for this agenda item and highlighted some of the challenges as a result of surface water flowing into the sewer network. Attention was drawn to Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which sets out the requirement for developers to divert surface rainwater to rivers and streams and prevent the flow of additional surface water into the sewer system. It was noted that this was yet to be implemented by central government, and consideration was given to a recommendation of the Coastal Change & Beach Management Committee that a letter should be sent to relevant authorities in support of this legislation being applied. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Tomes and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Council writes to the relevant authorities, including the local MP, in support of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 being implemented in a timely manner.

7) Sustainable Swanage - Update

The representative of Sustainable Swanage provided an update on recent and forthcoming activities, which included:

- Further to the public meeting held in September 2024, entitled “Repair and Reuse”, the project had now been formally set up with a co-ordinator in place and would be supported by the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust.
- Following the public meeting held in November 2024, regarding the Swanage Streams Partnership, it was proposed that an oral history project would be established to properly record memories of this important environment. Consideration would also be given to curating an exhibition on the history of the watercourses in this area.
- A public meeting to establish a new recycling group would be held in July 2025 concentrating on items not currently recycled by Dorset Council’s household recycling service.

- A public meeting would be held in September 2025, focusing on local produce and reducing food waste. It aims to highlight local groups that redistribute unsold food from cafés, restaurants, and supermarkets to those in need.
- A public meeting would be held in October 2025 to focus on trees in the area and what can be done to prevent their unnecessary removal and promote additional tree planting.
- A public meeting would be held in November 2025 providing updates on the progress of the Swanage Streams Partnership.

Members were encouraged to attend an upcoming meeting on the topic of the local natural environment to be held on 8th April 2025. Updates would be provided by Swanage Town Council's Grounds and Estates Manager and by the "Friends of the Downs" on recent environmental work.

8) Environment Action Plan update on matters not otherwise included on the agenda

The VSBDM reported on the current activities being undertaken in support of delivering the Environmental Action Plan, which included:

- The implementation of the Tree Warden Scheme;
- An audit of Town-Council-managed hedges in the area;
- Supporting Dorset Waste Services to increase the household recycling rates across Swanage;
- Ongoing works to deliver the Charging Ahead scheme and increase the availability of electric vehicle charging facilities in council-owned car parks.

9) Greenspaces Strategy – Greenspaces Questionnaire

Further to Minute No. 10 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 23rd October 2024, the Assets & Compliance Manager provided an update on the recently published public greenspace questionnaire. The survey aimed to look at the various green spaces used by the public, how often they were used and in the identification of key issues which prevented full use or enjoyment of those areas. The survey had now closed and the level of response had been positive. A full report including the proposed next steps would be presented to the next meeting of this committee.

10) Community engagement proposals for Greenspaces

Consideration was given to proposals submitted by Planet Purbeck in respect of the greenspace review and community engagement regarding the use of King George's Field, Queen Elizabeth II (Forres) Field, and Herston Community Field. It was stated that the review aimed to better understand usage and explore improvements for both people and wildlife.

a) King Georges Field and QEII Field user engagement proposal

The representative from Planet Purbeck highlighted the importance of identifying existing features, understanding current usage, and optimising areas not designated for the Environment Agency, Wessex Water, car parking, or football pitches.

b) Herston Community Field Proposal

The representative of Planet Purbeck reported that community engagement regarding Herston Community Field would be undertaken in collaboration with the National Trust due to that organisation utilising the green space for previous events. The two organisations would be working together to fully understand ways that the area can be enhanced and to gain insight into users' aspirations for the future use of the site.

Further to a brief discussion about the cost estimates contained in Planet Purbeck's proposal and the Town Council's available budget, it was proposed by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Moreton and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That Planet Purbeck be commissioned to undertake the King George's Field and Queen Elizabeth II (Forres) Field user engagement consultation, together with the Herston Community Field community engagement consultation, as a single project within the total budget of £7,150.

Thanks were given to Planet Purbeck for compiling a thorough proposal.

11) The Swanage Downs and Peveril Point – 2024 review and plans for 2025

The Grounds and Estates Manager provided an update on the current management plan for this green space which aims to create a balance between public use and wildlife friendly areas. This had been achieved through the utilisation of council resources and with contributions and assistance from volunteer groups, such as the Friends of the Downs. A number of surveys had been conducted over a 26-week period, which had identified 542 butterflies, 9 species of grasses and 42 species of wildflowers.

Community days had been held to inform the public about ongoing work and volunteers and interested residents had received training in tree and wildflower identification, as well as bee, butterfly, and insect recognition.

The 2025 management plan will continue the 2024 approach, including designated area maintenance, autumn cut-and-collect of long grass, and increased tree planting near the wooded section of the Downs.

Thanks were extended to the Grounds & Estates Manager and volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

12) Waste Management

a) Update on activities from Beach Buddies

Members noted the information circulated prior to the meeting in which it was reported that in 2024, 60 beach cleans had been conducted with a total weight of collected litter and debris of 1,068 kg. To date in 2025, 138 kg of litter and debris had been collected over four beach cleans.

The Chairman thanked the Beach Buddies team for their hard work.

b) Update on activities from Swanage Landers

The Swanage Landers representative was unable to attend and therefore an update would be provided at a future meeting.

13) Environmental Engagement Budget

a) 2024–25 Budget – Update

Members noted that the agreed budget allocation for the 2024-25 financial period was £20,000, with £7,150 remaining to deliver the community engagement proposals submitted by Planet Purbeck, approved under Minute No. 10 above.

b) 2025–26 Budget – Proposals

Members received a report detailing an indicative proposed budget allocation of the environmental engagement budget for 2025-26 and noted the contents, which would be further reviewed at a future meeting.

14) Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas

a) Town Council Energy Footprint Report - 2024

The VSBDM reported that this item would be brought to a forthcoming meeting.

b) Consideration of energy efficiencies for Council Buildings

Further to the update provided under Minute No. 4(c), it was noted that this item would be brought back to a future meeting.

c) **Public conveniences – Water efficiency surveys**

The Assets & Compliance Manager reported that the Commercial Team at Wessex Water had assisted in carrying out a water efficiency survey on the Town Council's public conveniences in February 2025. The report would be brought to a forthcoming meeting.

15) **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting had been provisionally scheduled for 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday 25th June 2025.

The Meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.

Swanage Town Council

DRAFT Environment Policy Action Plan

Version 12.1

The draft Environment Policy agreed by Council in March 2020 provided six distinct policy areas and, in the sections below, the actions have been categorised under each of these. Swanage Town Council have taken the approach of producing a short action plan with a small number of key actions that can be developed quickly. This is seen very much as an iterative action plan that can grow and develop as we better understand what is required to meet the challenges of the climate crisis. Completed actions are retained at the bottom of the document.

Recommendation

The Committee are asked to consider the various actions below and note progress to date. Green ones were identified by the Environment Action Working Party as new ones to be included.

Once approved by the Committee the Working Party will develop and implement the necessary actions.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager
February 2025

1. Managing the Town Council in an environmentally sustainable manner

We shall ensure that sustainability is at the heart of how we manage the Town Council and its functions.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Officer
1.	Provide climate crisis training for all STC staff and councillors.	External providers.	Not known	2023	Course undertaken.	ONGOING – A Carbon Literacy course has now been confirmed and will be delivered to all staff and councillors during March 2025	TIC1

2. Managing our built environment sustainably

We are directly responsible for both historic and modern buildings and infrastructure which will be managed sustainably.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Officer
2.	Consider options for reducing water use and harvesting rainwater.	Report detailing water use and proposals to reduce.	Not Known	Oct 25	Reduction in water use as measured by water bills	ONGOING - Water use has been reduced significantly with the move away from annual bedding flowers and more drought resistant types. Engagement with Wessex Water has been undertaken and a survey is anticipated of public toilets during the spring of 2025. This will be reported to the June Environment Committee.	OPS1
3.	Ensure all new Town Council constructions have sustainability embedded in their design.	Included in each specification.	Not known	Ongoing	All construction specifications will include sustainability.	ONGOING	TH1
4.	Review the Carbon Neutral target for 2030	Liaise with other authorities to see what they have undertaken	Not Known	2030	Tracking our use of carbon	ONGOING – An energy efficiency audit has been undertaken during January 2025 which has highlighted a number of useful ways to reduce energy. This will be considered during the first half of 2025. The Town Council are working with DAPTC to develop a parish/town council network	

						for sharing information related to energy use, decarbonisation and carbon neutrality.	
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3. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

We are directly responsible for a wide range of natural environments and shall work to enhance these and look to support initiatives that enhance other natural areas within the town.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Officer
1.	Undertake a 'biodiversity' audit of all sites owned by the Town Council to assess their importance within the natural environment.	Volunteers could be used from Sustainable Swanage depending on type of work required.	Not known	March 2025	A map demonstrating high, medium or low bio-diverse areas which might include proposals for improvements	The Council are undertaking a Greenspaces Strategy which will encompass this. A biodiversity audit was undertaken of King Georges Field during June 2024. A Proposal for a community stakeholder and environment improvements will be considered at the February meeting for King Georges and Herston Community Field	OPS1
2.	Continue to plant trees according to the Swanage Tree Strategy and Policy (approved November 2022) generally with 30 planted each year.	Areas identified and trees planted.	Not known	On-going	Number of trees planted.	ONGOING – For past 3 years at least 30 new trees planted per annum to continue. During 2022, Tree Strategy and Policy were approved by Full Council. Site specific Beach Gardens Tree Strategy also produced in 2023.	OPS1
3.	Work with partners to implement environment actions identified within the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan.	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	Tbc	
4.	Implement the Tree Warden Scheme	Work with the Tree Council to identify what is required	Small?	June 2025	Scheme set up and actions undertaken	The Mayor is leading on the Tree Scheme – Sustainable Swanage are keen to support this.	

5.	Undertake an audit of the Council's hedges	Work with Sustainable Swanage	Small?	June 2025	Audit undertaken	Sustainable Swanage are keen to support this by working with the relevant organisations.	
6.	Implement the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan	Develop the Action Plan and put in place a mechanism to ensure this is delivered.	Unknown at this stage	July 2025 (Action Plan to be approved)	Action Plan approved	Some outline work has begun – an update will be delivered to the February Environment Committee.	
7.	Consider ways to improve the information provision regarding the water quality of the Swanage bathing beach	Engage with the public	Unknown at this stage	?	Sea users are better informed	This is mostly done with the installation of a noticeboard outside the TIC	
8.	Work with partners to gain a better understanding of the impact of the Ulwell Stream Combined Sewer Overflow and engage with Wessex Water regarding a long-term solution to this issue.	Hold engagement with partners and customers and identify Wessex Water plans and all are aware	Unknown at this stage	?	Everyone is better informed	Ongoing: A swimmers meeting with Wessex Water has been arranged for 6 th March 2025 and a dialogue with Wessex Water continues.	
9.	Support the Swanage Streams Partnership to improve the water quality of the three streams in the parish.	Work with National Trust and Planet Purbeck, provide funding and support	£6k in 2024-25 ? in 2025-26	Ongoing	Partnership set up and engagement being delivered	The Swanage Streams Partnership was launched in November 2024 to 140 people. Over the next few months Planet Purbeck will start to deliver a wide range of engagement activities supporting the improvement of the streams. This was highlighted in the Swanage News article on 14 December 2024.	

4. Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice

We shall work with the community and other stakeholders to encourage environmental best practice.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	
1.	Support Dorset Waste Services to increase the household recycling rate across Swanage.	Support the education teams at DWS, including about composting and food waste.	None	Ongoing	Positive feedback from DWS.	ONGOING - Work with Sustainable Swanage and other groups to promote household recycling. (FareShare and Community Pantry)	TIC1
2.	Recommend that all new constructions in Swanage are built according to sustainable criteria.	Include recommendation in all responses.	None	Ongoing	Increase in new builds built according to sustainable criteria.	ONGOING - May be included in the Design Code in the draft Swanage Neighbourhood Plan	TH2
3.	Continue to support Sustainable Swanage and other partners to deliver community based environmental improvements.	Through the implementation of a 'Environmental Community Engagement Action Plan'	£20,000 per annum	Ongoing	Successful projects being delivered through Sustainable Swanage or directly by the Town Council	ONGOING - Costs included in 2025-26 budget. An update will be provided to the Environment Committee in February 2025.	TIC1

5. Protecting local infrastructure

By working with the community and stakeholders we shall strive to protect and enhance local infrastructure to retain a vibrant and sustainable town.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	
1.	Develop Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to increase the number of charging facilities in STC car parks.	Consider options and bring a report to Committee.	Not known	July 2025	Chargers installed.	ONGOING - STC is working with Dorset Council to deliver the Charging Ahead scheme in three car parks in Swanage – various delays have been incurred although work does continue with	TIC1

						officers. This will be presented to the 24 th February Full Council.	
2.	Campaign to ensure essential services are retained in Swanage in accordance with the Swanage Local Plan, to minimise travel requirements.	By working with SPDT Dorset Council, P-TAG, and other relevant organisations, such as DCCG, and supporting community initiatives to maintain services.	None	Ongoing	By recording and reviewing the actions undertaken and reporting to Full Council.	ONGOING – Working in partnership with SPDT on developing the Chapel Lane community services. Working with other groups such as Wellbeing Swanage and will be included within the draft Neighbourhood Plan.	TH1

6. Supporting Sustainable Tourism

We shall support the town's tourism economy through the promotion of sustainable tourism.

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	
1.	Enhance the beach 'toy bank' to include a provision at the Ocean Bay end of the beach.	Identify a solution and implement it.	Not known	July 2025	Enhanced Toy Bank in place.	ONGOING - Beach Toy Bank currently successful at the Information Centre. Will engage with North Beach partners in 2025.	TIC1
2.	Develop a sustainable tourism vision.	Work with stakeholders to develop a vision of what a sustainable destination might mean for Swanage.	£0	November 2025	Report to Tourism Committee.	ONGOING - This has been built into the Marketing Strategy that the Marketing Working Group are developing and includes the launch of the new Visit Swanage website.	TIC1
3.	Promote sustainable transport and walking in and around the town to reduce the need for visitors to use cars.	Look at alternative forms of transport and promote these on website and digital media.	-	Ongoing	Customer feedback and uptake.	ONGOING – This will be done through the support of PTAG and the current discussions on a Purbeck tourism strategy.	TIC1

4.	Enhance electric facilities on event fields and the market site to eliminate the requirement for fossil fuelled generators.	Report produced detailing costs of upgrades to sites.	Not known	Ongoing	Upgrades undertaken	ONGOING - Two electric points installed and in use at the market site. Further work required for PAG and Sandpit Field – to be included in the Phase 2 Seafront Development.	OPS1
5.	Improve cycle routes with a particular focus on cycle racks	Consider routes and implement additional racks	Some?	Summer 2025	Upgrades undertaken	tbc	

Completed Actions 2024-25

1.	Implement energy reduction measures.	Produce report which details various possible measures.	Not known	March 2024	Energy use reduction will be tracked by officers	COMPLETED - LED lights have now been installed across all council buildings. Solar panels have been installed at the depot and garage and will be installed at Beach Gardens Pavilion during October/ November. It is noted that there are now no more 'quick wins' with regards energy reduction measures	OPS1
2.	Identify two further sites to be enhanced by Sustainable Swanage	Work with Sustainable Swanage to develop plans	Not known	March 2024	Action Plan developed and work undertaken at sites	COMPLETED - Northbrook Copse and the former St Mark's Playing Field identified for enhancement. For Northbrook Copse a management plan and enhanced information signage has been produced. For Herston Community Field, the National trust has been engaged.	OPS1
3.	Work with partners to implement actions identified within the Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Identify areas within Strategy that can be developed.	Not known	March 2024	Action Plan developed	REMOVE AND REPLACE WITH ACTION BELOW– Need to develop Action Plan for Committee. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is included in the Purbeck Local Plan and will be reviewed during the current preparation of the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan.	OPS1 / TIC 1

2.	Support businesses in their efforts to be more sustainable	Working with Sustainable Swanage to provide information and support to businesses	None	Ongoing	Positive feedback from businesses.	REMOVE - All new leases between Swanage Town Council and its business partners include a section on environmental considerations. Sustainable Swanage works with businesses to identify effective ways to provide support. With the change of emphasis of Sustainable Swanage, this is no longer a reasonable expectation.	TIC1
3.	Support, where possible, the establishment of a community bus in Swanage.	Review options around a community bus for Swanage	Not yet known	Ongoing	Options exist around improving the route of the Durlston Bus but a community bus serving the whole community could take some time to develop.	REMOVE – This has been the subject of much discussion over the years, but at the current time there does not seem to be a viable solution available. Therefore, this will be removed and subsumed within the ‘sustainable transport’ action below	TIC1

Completed Actions 2023-24

1.	Review vehicle & equipment needs and where possible move to electric machines.	Equipment asset list to be reviewed and options for change considered.	Not known	March 2023	Review undertaken.	DONE - Officers to produce asset list of machines, including power source, during 2022/23 and take report to Committee at the end of 2023.	OPS1
2.	Develop an environmental monitoring system for the Town Council's business which includes tracking carbon use.	System to be set up and managed by officers.	None	March 2023	System set up.	DONE: The Council publishes annually usage for the following: gas, electricity, waste tonnages, petrol, diesel, and water.	OPS1
3.	Develop a system to monitor the Council's waste streams and undertake review.	Identify waste streams and review options for reduction.	Not known	June 2023	Waste tonnages monitored through Management System.	DONE – Linked to 2 above.	OPS1
4.	Reduce the amount of paper documents printed by the Town Council	Review printing volumes and work towards reducing,	Total not known. Budget	June 2023	Monitor through Environment Management System	DONE – Laptops have now been procured and training provided to Councillors. Printed copies	TH1

		beginning with introduction of councillor laptops.	for Councillors' laptops agreed.			of Council reports are no longer issued to Councillors.	
6.	Move to a fully renewable energy contract for the electric supply to the Town Council	Reviewing green options and undertaking a procurement exercise.	-	October 2023	New contract set up.	DONE – Fully renewable energy contract is now in place – Sep 2023.	TH3
2.	Consider options for renewable energy on the Town Council estate.	Undertake research and produce report.	Not known	March 2024	Report produced detailing relevant options.	DONE: Solar Panels are being procured.	OPS1 / TIC1
1.	Review options to reduce or eliminate pesticide/herbicide use.	Current use will be reviewed and alternatives considered.	Not known	March 2023	By monitoring amount used.	DONE - Report provided to February Committee detailing current use and explanation of some available alternatives. Committee agreed to continue current approach and review in the future	OPS1
2.	Reduce quantity of bedding plants and develop more drought resistant plantings.	Planting more drought resistant plants.	Not known	June 2023	Reduction in water use and more hardy plants	DONE - Trial of more drought-resistant plantings is ongoing.	OPS1

Completed Actions 2022-23

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required by	How will we measure this?	Responsible Committee	Progress to date	
1.5	Make climate impact a determinant in all grant giving.	Add section to grant application form.	None	31 st March 2021	Revised application form	Full Council	COMPLETE – Criteria now included within application form.	NIKI
2.1	Undertake an energy audit of all Town Council buildings and	Review options to procure a consultancy to	£2,000	31 st March 2021	A report will be produced once complete	Operations	COMPLETE - A report was procured which provided a range of options for the installation of LED bulbs and solar	CULVIN

	identify ways to reduce energy consumption.	undertake this work.					panels across the Council's estate. This will be incorporated in further work being undertaken by the Council in 2022-23.	
3.5	Develop The Downs as a Local Nature Reserve.	Continue to work with Sustainable Swanage to deliver this.	Not yet known	31 st March 2023	Nature Reserve established	Operations	COMPLETE - Customer survey released in January. Sustainable Swanage Open Meeting in early 2021. A Management Plan is complete.	OPS1
5.1	Support a Rights of Way survey to encourage walking in the area	Identify solution and work with partners or other stakeholders	£250	Summer 2021	Survey completed with areas for improvement identified. STC will present findings to Dorset Council for implementation, if necessary	Operations	COMPLETE – Survey complete, Rights of Way Open Meeting on 21 st June 2022 – setting up volunteer hub to undertake grading of ROWs.	TIC1
6.3	All events held on Town Council land to be single use plastic free	No single use plastic will be permitted	£0	Nov 2021	No single use plastic in use	Tourism	COMPLETE - 1 st November 2021 - Full Council confirmed that all events should now be single use plastic free	TIC1
6.5	Enhance the supply of free drinking water solutions across the town	Produce signage for current drinking water taps to make them more obvious and consider if any further are required	Budgeted in 2020-21	31 st March 2021	Signage implemented	Tourism	COMPLETE - Signs have been added to all drinking water taps to make them more visible. A water refill station has been installed on the seafront; part funded by a grant from 'Sea Changers.'	TIC1 / OPS1
6.6	Work with event organisers to ensure that sustainability is embedded into their events	All event applications to detail what positive and negative impacts their events will have on	£0	Immediate	Event application form updated	Tourism	COMPLETE - All events during 2021 were required to complete an 'Environmental Impact Assessment'. These will be reviewed at year end and a report produced	TIC 1

		the local environment						
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Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 – Presentation of report and action plan

The Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 sets out the Council's vision for the current and future management and development of the diverse range of greenspaces it owns and manages. It provides information on the overall strategic management approach and site specific management plans as well useful information for visitors to these spaces, and an action plan for their future development, informed by the results of a public greenspace survey undertaken in early 2025.

The vision is that this document is added to and enhanced over time, with additional information being provided, for example as new area specific management plans are created, they will be incorporated into the strategy. In this way, the strategy can act as an overarching document within which all relevant plans, information and policies can be found.

Key to the strategy is the action plan, developed as a result of the outcome of the greenspace questionnaire that was completed by numerous members of the community earlier this year.

It is proposed that the action plan shown below is adopted and that progress is monitored by the Environment and Greenspaces Committee, with an annual review and future objective setting being undertaken. The action can also be modified with the agreement of the committee on a rolling basis.

Swanage Greenspace Strategy Action Plan			
	Timetable 2025/6		
Action	Environment and Greenspaces Committee October 2025	Environment and Greenspaces Committee March 2026	Environment and Greenspaces Committee June 2026
Develop an initiative to tackle dog waste and owners not picking up after their pets		Proposal to be presented	Proposal to be implemented
Prioritise locations for accessibility improvements such as footpath enhancements		Locations identified	First round of accessibility improvements implemented
Seek opportunities for external funding to deliver green space actions set out within this plan	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Install signage at greenspaces setting out the key features of the location	Present proposals		Signage implemented
Planting of additional wildflower areas/shrubs/bulbs		Bulb planting completed	Wildflower/shrub planting completed
Complete management plans for Day's Park and the Recreation Ground		Management plan completed for the Recreation Ground	Management plan completed for Day's Park
Review options for additional seating			Proposal to be presented

Continue tree planting in accordance with the Council's Tree Strategy 2022	Numbers/locations identified	Planting completed	
Receive and review Planet Purbeck engagement reports in respect of King George's and Forres Field and Herston Community Field	Reports received	Proposals to be presented	
Explore proposal to enter Godlingston cemetery into Cemetery of the Year award		Decision taken on entering cemetery for award	
Retain Green Flag award for Beach Gardens	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue to monitor and revise if appropriate, existing greenspace management plans	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

Decisions required

To consider adoption of the Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025.

To consider adoption of the Swanage Greenspace Strategy Action Plan and timetable 2025/6.

Gail Percival, Assets and Compliance Manager
June 2025