

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY, 24th JUNE 2026** at 2.15 p.m.

Chairman: -

Councillor C Sutton

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor J Dorrington

Swanage Town Council (from 2.25 p.m.)

Councillor C Tomes

Swanage Town Council (from 2.40 p.m.)

Councillor S Vile

Swanage Town Council

Outside Representatives: -

Ms T Churcher

National Trust

Mr L Luke

Planet Purbeck

Mr P Floyd

Planet Purbeck

Also in attendance: -

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services and Business

Development Manager (VSBDM)

Mr M Snowdon

Assets & Compliance Support Officer

There was one member of the press present at the meeting until 2.30 p.m.

Public Participation Time

The following matter was raised during Public Participation time: -

- A question was raised about whether the Council had plans or arrangements to provide cool spaces during periods of intense heat, offering vulnerable people somewhere to find relief from high temperatures.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Ms K Black (Durlston Country Park), Mr T Clarke (National Trust), Ms J Owens (Sustainable Swanage), and Mr D Pratten (Beach Buddies).

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 4th March 2026

No matters were raised on this occasion.

4) Environment Action Plan – Progress Update

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th March 2026, Members noted the contents of the Environment Action Plan. The VSBDM reported that works on Priority Action 4, to increase the provision of charging facilities in Swanage Town Council car parks, were progressing, working with Dorset Council within the context of the Charging Ahead scheme. It was noted that any

outstanding matters would be discussed by the car parks working party with any significant changes to the proposals being referred to a future Council meeting for determination.

5) Swanage Information Centre – Air source heat pump grant application

Further to Minute No. 6 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th March 2026, Members noted the contents of a briefing paper, which provided information regarding the heating system at Swanage Information Centre and some of the recent problems experienced with the gas boiler and the radiators. Low Carbon Dorset had provided free technical advice and a feasibility assessment, which indicated that an air source heat pump could be installed in this location. It was noted that initial cost estimates to implement this project are circa £18,000 and a Low Carbon Dorset grant had been identified, which if awarded, could fund up to 50% of the installation costs. The balance of £9,000 and any additional costs not directly covered by the grant could be funded from the Council's Environmental Projects reserve, established to support the delivery of the Council's carbon neutral ambitions. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Sutton and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

That officers submit an application to Low Carbon Dorset for grant funding and, if successful, to undertake a competitive procurement exercise for the installation of an air source heat pump and radiators at the Swanage Information Centre, the balance of the cost to be funded from the Environmental Projects reserve.

6) Town Hall Annex – Heating system replacement

Members noted the contents of a briefing paper, which set out the need to replace the 13-year-old gas boiler servicing the Town Hall annex and two options for the way forward, i.e. to replace the system with an air source heat pump or alternatively a new gas boiler. Members noted that previous studies commissioned by the Town Council had indicated that installation of an air source heat pump may not be feasible for the Town Hall at the current time due to the requirement for additional insulation, locating of suitable external space for the air source heat pump system, and a number of consents which would need to be sought due to the Grade II listed status of the building. Having considered these matters, it was proposed by Councillor Vile, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To request officers to undertake a competitive tender exercise for the replacement of the current gas boiler at the Town Hall annex, along with improved heating controls and a replacement electric 'point of use' water heater system serving the kitchen.

7) Dorset Active Travel plan – Proposed cycle route to Studland

Members noted the contents of a briefing paper relating to the Dorset Council Active Travel Plan and the potential for establishing a cycle route along Ulwell Road. It was noted that the proposal aligns with Action Point 6 within the Swanage Environment Action Plan and that any investigation, feasibility studies and project costs would be funded by Dorset Council as the local Highway Authority. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Dorrington and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To submit a request to Dorset Council to investigate the provision of a dedicated uphill cycle lane on Ulwell Road.

8) Sustainable Swanage – Update

Members noted the contents of a briefing paper, detailing the recent activities of Sustainable Swanage, including:

- establishing new volunteer community groups;
- arranging a showing of the National Emergency Briefing film;
- arranging community meetings;
- updating the Sustainable Swanage website.

Further to Minute No. 8 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th March 2026, Members noted the level of progress achieved since the appointment of a temporary Volunteer Co-ordinator and Project Officer by Sustainable Swanage.

9) Swanage Streams Partnership - Update

The representative of Planet Purbeck provided an update on recent actions, which included several ongoing projects in the surrounding area. There had been five events held to date within 2026 with positive attendance numbers and feedback received, evidencing growing levels of engagement, support and the welcoming of new volunteers.

An update was also provided on forthcoming activities which included:

- collaborating with the Council to improve the nature corridor habitat buffer within Journeys End;
- installation of interpretation boards to improve public awareness of the wildlife that benefits from the Ulwell stream habitat;
- a collaborative project between Swanage Streams Partnership and the Andrew Simpson Foundation (Portland) to provide three public educational sessions in August 2026.

10) Herston Community Field Engagement – Update from Planet Purbeck

Further to Minute No. 10 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th March 2026, the representative of Planet Purbeck presented a report summarising the outcome of the recent Herston Community Field Engagement. Members considered the findings of the report and the suggested actions developed from the results of the engagement which were broken down into easy, medium and harder tasks. It was noted that Planet Purbeck would provide up to three days of co-ordination, including on-the-day support, to help strengthen the 2027 Herston Community Picnic.

After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Sutton and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To establish a Herston Community Field Task & Finish Group (comprising Councillors Sutton, Tomes and Vile).

It was further proposed by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Vile and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To instruct officers to work with Planet Purbeck and the Herston Community Field Task & Finish Group to implement some of the easier to achieve actions set out in the report, and to provide a progress report to the next meeting of this committee.

To request Herston Community Field Task & Finish Group to recommend whether a budget should be identified to deliver actions in the 2026/27 or 2027/28 financial periods.

Attention was drawn to Planet Purbeck's success in securing a Dorset Council grant to support youth-led improvement projects at Herston Community Field, subject to obtaining permission from the Town Council. It was proposed by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To approve the further scoping of the youth-led Pheonix Project.

11) Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 - Action plan update

Further to Minute No. 11 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th March 2026, Members noted the contents of a briefing paper detailing the progress that had been made to date in implementing the Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 Action Plan, including:

- an initiative to tackle dog waste and litter with multiple poster submissions having been submitted by local school children aged 5-12 years of age and four winning designs having been used to create 16 signs which have been installed in a range of Swanage greenspaces;
- completion of a management plan for Day's Park, which will be uploaded to the Council's website in due course;
- the design of additional information signage boards for Beach Gardens, which will be installed in the coming months.
- submission of an application to enter the BRAMM Cemetery of the Year awards 2026;
- commencement of works to provide an improved nature corridor in Journey's End adjacent to the Ulwell Stream.

12) Environmental Budgets

Further to Minute No. 13 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th March 2026, Members considered a briefing note which provided a breakdown of the projects that will be supported from the Environmental Community Engagement budget of £15,000 that had been approved for the 2026/2027 financial year. It was reported that the current forecast indicated that the full £15,000 would be utilised by the end of the financial year. The position was noted.

13) Waste Management

a) Update on activities from Beach Buddies

An update was provided by the Chairman on behalf of Beach Buddies which reported that there have been a total of 25 beach cleans carried out in 2026 to date, with an average attendance of 20 volunteers at each meeting and a total removal of 524kg of litter and debris from Swanage Bay. The most common items remained cigarette butts and dog waste, although it was noted that heavier marine debris is sometimes recovered after being washed ashore at North Beach.

It was further reported that Beach Buddies regularly co-ordinate with the Council's operatives to ensure areas that require particular attention are prioritised and frequent feedback is received from visitors who comment favourably upon the cleanliness of the town.

b) Update on activities from Swanage Landers

An update was provided by a representative of Swanage Landers on recent activities which included assisting a local farm in reclaiming the wall by their entrance from significant overgrowth to improve visibility and make the entrance on High Street safer for farm workers, residents and visitors to Swanage as they enter the town.

14) Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas

a) Results of Seaweed Management Project

The VSBDM reported that the results of the Seaweed Management Project would be brought to a future meeting of this committee.

b) Herston Field Village Green update.

It was noted that an update on the Herston Field Village Green would be brought to a future meeting of this committee.

15) Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting had been scheduled for 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday 21st October 2026.

The Meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.

Swanage Town Council

Environment Policy Action Plan

Version 16

The draft Environment Policy agreed by Council in March 2020 provided six distinct policy areas (as listed below) and the actions have been categorised under each of these. Swanage Town Council has 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.

Decisions required

The Committee is asked to consider the various actions below and note progress to date.

Culvin Milmer

Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

October 2026

Swanage Town Council: Environment Policy Action Plan – V16

1. The Town Council's Environment Policy includes the following policy areas

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.
2. **Managing our built environment sustainably:** We are directly responsible for both historic and modern buildings and infrastructure which will be managed sustainably.
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.
4. **Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice:** We shall work with the community and other stakeholders to encourage environmental best practice.
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.
6. **Supporting Sustainable Tourism:** We shall support the town's tourism economy through the promotion of sustainable tourism.

2. Priority Actions

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Policy Area
1.	Review the Carbon Neutral target for 2030	Liaise with other authorities to see what they have undertaken. Consider options to achieve target.	Not Known (£25,000 has been put aside each year to support environmental actions)	2030	Tracking our use of carbon	ONGOING – The Council’s carbon footprint has reduced from circa 100 tons to just under 40 tonnes in 2025. A ‘task and finish group’ was established in 2026 to review this target and the recommendations will be considered at the 21 st October 2026 Committee.	Managing our built environment sustainably
2.	Implement the Tree Warden Scheme	Work with the Tree Council to identify what is required.	None	2026	Scheme set up and actions undertaken	COMPLETED – The Tree Warden Scheme is now operational in Swanage.	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
3.	Implement the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan	Develop the Action Plan and put in place a mechanism to ensure this is delivered.	See Action Plan	See Action Plan	Action Plan approved	ONGOING - Action Plan is approved and is now being implemented. Sustainable Swanage has set up a group called ‘Beyond the Sand’ to help move forward the marine projects. A sign around ‘ocean’ is planned to be installed at Peveril Point during 2026-27	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
4.	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	2026	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 continues with officers. This was approved by STC and DC during 2026 and installations will be	Protecting local infrastructure

						undertaken across three car parks in Swanage, once the legal agreement is signed.	
5.	Develop a sustainable tourism vision.	Work with stakeholders to develop a vision of what a sustainable destination might mean for Swanage.	-	Ongoing	Report to Tourism Committee	ONGOING – Work will be undertaken over the next year to establish how the Town Council can develop such a vision. This is now included in the Corporate Plan as ‘Regenerative Tourism’.	Supporting Sustainable Tourism
6.	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. Work with Dorset Council and other partners	-	Ongoing	Customer feedback and uptake.	ONGOING – This will be done through the support of PTAG and the current discussions on a Purbeck tourism strategy. In addition the Town Council is currently undertaking a review of and repainting of the heritage pedestrian signs in the town. Sustainable Swanage have set up a sub-group to help move some of these actions forward, alongside PTAG.	Supporting Sustainable Tourism
7.	Implement the Green Spaces Strategy	Volunteers could be used from Sustainable Swanage depending on type of work required.	See action plan	Ongoing	See action plan	ONGOING - Refer to the Action Plan which is included in the 21 st October 2026 Committee.	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

3. Standard Actions

No.	Action	How will we do this	Cost	Date required	How will we measure this?	Progress to date	Policy Area
8.	Provide climate crisis training for all STC staff and councillors.	External providers.	£2,000	2025-26	All staff and officers trained	ONGOING – An accredited ‘Carbon Literacy’ course was delivered to a majority of staff and Councillors during	Managing the Town Council in an

						the spring of 2025. Those that were unable to take the course during this first round will be offered an online course.	environmentally sustainable manner
9.	Consider options for reducing water use and harvesting rainwater.	Report detailing water use and proposals to reduce.	-	2026-27	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 plants. Engagement with Wessex Water has been undertaken and a survey was undertaken of water use in public toilets in 2025. Unfortunately, this has provided very few options to improve on what is already being done. Water butts are being considered for the TIC and Cemetery to use to water plants. Water use increased during 2025, probably due to the dry summer and the number of visitors using toilets etc	Managing our built environment sustainably
10.	Consider ways to improve the information provision regarding the water quality of the Swanage bathing beach	Engage with the public	-	Ongoing	Sea users are better informed	ONGOING: A noticeboard providing a daily update to water quality and further information has been installed outside the TIC. The main beach signs have been updated in June 2026 to include additional information about water quality. The Council will continue to run engagement sessions with the public in conjunction with Wessex Water.	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

11.	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 £6k in 2025-26 £6k in 2026-27	Ongoing	Partnership set up and engagement being delivered	ONGOING - The Swanage Streams Partnership was launched in November 2024 to 140 people. Over the year 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. A report is submitted to each Environment Committee.	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
12.	Continue to support Sustainable Swanage and other partners to deliver community based environmental improvements.	Through the implementation of an 'Environmental Community Engagement Action Plan'	See budget report	Ongoing	Successful projects being delivered through Sustainable Swanage or directly by the Town Council	ONGOING - Costs included in 2026-27 budget. An update will be provided to each Environment Committee.	Encouraging, educating and embedding environmental best practice
13.	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 – Sandpit Field and the associated area will be improved as part of the Green Seafront Scheme. PAG will be reviewed once the Green Seafront works are complete.	Supporting Sustainable Tourism

4. Completed actions archive

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	OPS1

						now no more 'quick wins' with regards energy reduction measures	
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	Not known	March 2023	Review undertaken.	DONE - Officers to produce asset list of machines, including power source, during	OPS1

		options for change considered.				2022/23 and take report to Committee at the end of 2023.	
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, beginning with introduction of councillor laptops.	Total not known. Budget for Councillors' laptops agreed.	June 2023	Monitor through Environment Management System	DONE – Laptops have now been procured and training provided to Councillors. Printed copies of Council reports are no longer issued to Councillors.	TH1
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
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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 identify ways to reduce energy consumption.	Review options to procure a consultancy to undertake this work.	£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 panels across the Council's estate. This will be incorporated in further work being undertaken by the Council in 2022-23.	CULVIN
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 the local environment	£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

Sustainable Swanage Volunteer Coordinator Proposal

Sustainable Swanage has now been operating since 2019 and during that time has led on a wide range of community focused environmental improvements across the town.

In March 2022, the Council approved a three-year funding plan for a Project Co-Ordinator hosted by Dorset Coast Forum (the individual had previously undertaken this role since 2019). A key element of this plan required the development of a....*robust governance structure to ensure that the projects and funding can continue after March 2025.*

It was always assumed that the development of such a structure would occur in the final year of the three-year plan (2024-25). Unfortunately, the Project Co-Ordinator left for a new role before the start of the final year, thus this element of the plan was not delivered.

Since that period, Sustainable Swanage has developed in a slightly different way and now the group is keen to become an independent charity. This will enable the group to access grants and other funding, which is generally not open to the Council. A key remit of the charity will be to support the Town Council to deliver the actions identified in the Corporate Plan and Environment Action Plan.

The group would like to request funding from the Town Council to recruit a Volunteer Co-ordinator for two days a week to support its activities. This role will be part of the new charity, and thus the request is for funding to support this of £15,500 for the 2027-28 period. It is assumed that the new recruit would start on 1st April 2027.

The group would also like the Council to consider if they might provide a three-year commitment for the funding, subject to a review of the outcomes achieved by this role before the end of the first year.

Decision required

- a) To consider supporting the Sustainable Swanage aspiration to be set up as an environment charity to support the delivery of the Town Council's actions in its Corporate Plan and Environment Action Plan.
- b) To consider the funding of a part-time coordinator for Sustainable Swanage for 2027-28 of £15,500, subject to Sustainable Swanage being formally constituted as a charity and an agreement of a suitable memorandum of understanding.
- c) To consider a 3-year commitment for funding to 2029-30, subject to a review of the work being undertaken before the end of the first year.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

October 2026

Appendix 1: Part-time volunteer co-ordinator to support the Council's plans

Proposal

Part-time volunteer co-ordinator to support the Council's plans



What? the role

The volunteer co-ordinator will bring local volunteers together to help deliver the Town Council's Environmental Action Plan and Corporate Plan 2026-2030. The role builds on the description agreed for the temporary appointment of a co-ordinator this spring. The main tasks are to:

1. set up and support community groups
2. recruit and support volunteers
3. join up local effort
4. measure and report

The groups will help deliver actions 1, 3, 6, 7 and 11 in the Environmental Action Plan and the Motion for the Ocean, fossil fuels, tree planting and active transport commitments in the Corporate Plan (see the appendix for more details).

Why? the need

We currently do not have the capacity to support the Council adequately

Almost all development work is led by our two co-chairs in their spare time. We can find volunteers for activities, but not for ongoing co-ordination. So, when either co-chair is unavailable, progress stalls: meetings slip, follow-up is patchy and new volunteers drift away. We saw this when our previous project officer left in 2024 and activity fell noticeably.

A paid role gets results

When the previous co-ordinator worked for Sustainable Swanage two days a week, she:

1. helped establish Peveril Point and the Downs as a Local Nature Reserve and a Friends group of around 20 members
2. started the wildflower and butterfly surveys that now show biodiversity rising year on year and recently earned the town [positive press](#)
3. ran a BioBlitz (a day recording local wildlife) for about 40 people and mini-BioBlitzes for over 300 schoolchildren
4. started the original Repair Café, an active travel initiative and food reuse work, including the community pantry

The short co-ordinator appointment this spring showed the same effect. In under three months the co-ordinator laid the groundwork for three new groups and helped deliver the National Emergency Briefing screening: over 180 people came and 91 joined our mailing list.

Without the volunteer co-ordinator role, delivery of the Environmental Action Plan and Corporate Plan actions listed above will fall back to Council staff, adding pressure at an exceptionally busy time.

The Corporate Plan 2026-2030 also commits the Council to “*continue to support Sustainable Swanage*”. The single most impactful action the committee can take is to fund the co-ordinator position.

How? the delivery model

Without legal status, we cannot hold funds or contract anyone

1. *Funding*: as well as Council support, we could attract grants from other sources. But we recently had to turn down a small grant because we have no legal status.
2. *Employment*: the Council-funded co-ordinator role this spring was convoluted. The co-ordinator was employed by Planet Purbeck, reported to a Council officer (using Council time) and took direction from our steering group. Planet Purbeck has been very supportive but cannot continue this arrangement.

Our solution: become a charity and contract a co-ordinator directly

In September our steering group agreed to register Sustainable Swanage as a charity (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation). This will let us:

1. receive funding from the Town Council directly and contract the co-ordinator ourselves
2. apply for charity-only grants and accept donations and Gift Aid, reducing reliance on the Council over time
3. give the role a clear line of accountability to our trustees, with regular reports to this committee

Planet Purbeck recently appointed a self-employed volunteer co-ordinator for its family activities, working 9 hours a week at £23 an hour. It had more than 30 applicants and appointed a strong candidate. We are confident the same approach will work for us (our estimate of £15,500 a year assumes 14 hours a week at the same rate, for 48 weeks).

When? the timetable

Autumn 2026: committee agrees in principle and the cost is included in the 2027-28 budget.

By March 2027: Sustainable Swanage is registered as a charity, and the role is advertised and filled.

1 April 2027 at the latest: the co-ordinator starts, with updates at every committee meeting and a review after the first year.

Who? the person

We will recruit openly against the role description. We are looking for someone who:

1. has experience of recruiting and supporting volunteers and community groups
2. communicates well with residents, partners and councillors
3. is well organised and comfortable working on their own initiative

We ask the committee to fund a part-time volunteer co-ordinator for Sustainable Swanage from the start of the 2027-28 financial year and include the cost in next year's budget. Estimated cost: £15,500 a year (14 hours a week). We also ask the committee to commit in principle to funding the role for three years, subject to a satisfactory review after the first year.

Appendix

Environment Policy Action Plan (version 15, June 2026)

Action	How Sustainable Swanage contributes
1. Review the 2030 carbon neutral target	Specialist input to the task and finish group, which is designed to include outside representatives
3. Implement the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan	Beyond the Sand, our marine group, which the plan says will lead community work on these issues
6. Promote sustainable transport and walking	Our Travel & Transport group, working with PTAG
7. Implement the Greenspace Strategy	Volunteers, who are named in the plan as a resource. Also the six Tree Wardens recruited from our community tree event, plus planting and nature surveys
11. Support the Swanage Streams Partnership	Volunteers for surveys and engagement, alongside the National Trust and Planet Purbeck
12. Support community-based environmental improvements	Our programme of public meetings and events

Corporate Plan 2026-2030

Commitment	How Sustainable Swanage contributes
Continue to support Sustainable Swanage	The basis for the whole partnership
Support local community environmental projects delivered by community groups	All our working groups
Develop the Motion for the Ocean to protect the Blue Flag beach and Marine Protection Zone	Beyond the Sand
Explore options to reduce reliance on fossil fuels	Purbeck Energy Group and community energy projects
Continue the commitment to increase tree planting	Tree Wardens and volunteer planting
Consider ways to increase cycling and walking across the town	Travel & Transport group
Collaborate with local partners on a sustainable tourism strategy for Purbeck (tourism priority)	Bringing partners together, as with Action 5 above
Work with partners to improve community transport, and promote the footpath network (health and wellbeing priority)	Travel & Transport group, support for the community bus, walking routes
Increase opportunities for the public to engage with the Council (governance priority)	Our mailing list, newsletter and public meetings, such as the 180+ people at the National Emergency Briefing screening

Carbon Neutral Route Map - Consideration of the Council's 2030 net zero carbon target

The Town Council currently includes a target within the Environment Action Plan to become carbon neutral by 2030. This report will demonstrate what actions remain to be done to achieve this target and some of the challenges that it presents alongside a proposed route map to achieve very close to carbon neutrality by 2030.

What has been done so far?

- Electric vehicles (4 out of 7)
- Green energy electric procurement
- PV panels on Depot and Beach Gardens (and battery)
- Insulation in Swanage Information Centre and Town Hall
- LED lights throughout estate
- Gradual move away from petrol tools to electric

These changes have resulted in a carbon footprint for 2025 of 39.21 tonnes of CO₂. The equivalent figure in 2022 was 100 tonnes.

What is currently being implemented?

- Swanage Information Centre heat pump. This is currently being implemented during the financial year 2026-27 and is anticipated to deliver a CO₂ reduction of 3.92 tonnes.
- A more efficient gas boiler in the Town Hall Annex installed during the financial year 2026-27 (potential of a saving of around 2 tonnes of CO₂ per year with a new efficient boiler).

It is anticipated that these changes will result in a further CO₂ reduction of 6 tonnes, providing a new total in 2027 of circa 33 tonnes of CO₂ produced by the Council.

What remaining might be done?

- Currently 3 out of 7 vehicles are powered by diesel fuel. One is due to be replaced by an electric vehicle in 2029-30.
- Town Hall Building Management System (BMS) to better manage the use of energy across the building using a computer system and infra-red heating. This is currently being investigated and is assumed to provide a saving on gas heating of 20% which would be equivalent to 3.4 tonnes of CO₂.
- Heat pumps in the Town Hall (would save 16.93 tonnes of CO₂)
- Replacement of the 2018 boiler in the Depot with electric systems and the installation of batteries to support the EV charging could deliver CO₂ savings of around 3 tonnes or more.
- Converting to bio-diesel for the remaining vehicles could save up to 80% on CO₂.

It is assumed that these changes could lead to a carbon saving of approximately 36.47 tonnes of CO₂, resulting in a revised carbon footprint of 2.74 tonnes of CO₂ in 2030.

In the appendix below a 'route map' has been detailed providing a way of effectively achieving carbon neutral by 2030.

What are the challenges

The route map detailed below assumes that the two key works streams (move to bio diesel and replacement of gas boilers at the Town Hall with heat pumps and associated improvements) will take place in 2029. This is partly due to the need for officers to concentrate on the delivery of the Green Seafront works before taking on new initiatives, but it also relates to a need to have some certainty over the future of the Town Hall. With the current, albeit very high-level discussions, around the potential re-use of the building, it would not be prudent to spend significant funds on the building until a clear plan existed. It is therefore recommended that any decision on the replacement of the boilers at the Town Hall with heat pumps is deferred until such a decision is made by the Council. Minor works such as the potential installation of infra-red heaters in the Chamber will continue.

In the appendix a notional cost has been added to each improvement. This table assumes that the £25,000 contribution to the energy reserve continues until 2029 to support these works. It also assumes that grant funding will be found to support the various installations where possible.

The table below assumes a gap of 2.74 tonnes of CO₂ remains. These figures are indicative and should only be used as a guide to show the general direction of the proposed improvements. This gap can be reviewed in 2028 and 2029 and additional measures may be required.

Other considerations

The Council is recommended to consider, at the earliest practical opportunity, the installation of batteries at the depot to store the large amount of energy being generated by the solar panels on the depot roof. This can then be used to charge up the EV vehicle overnight at a significantly reduced cost.

Decisions Required

- a. Agree the attached route map at Appendix 1, subject to a decision by the Town Council regarding the future use of the Town Hall
- b. Consideration to be given to the installation of batteries at the depot to support the EV charging system, at such time that resource is available to manage this project.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

October 2026

Appendix 1 - Route map to 2030

Year	Action	Estimated CO2 reduction
2025 Baseline		39.21
2026-27	Install heat pump at TIC	3.92
	Continuing move to electric tools (over time)	0.80
	New gas boiler at Town Hall Annex (more efficient)	1
	Increasing amount stored in batteries from panels	1.00
2028-29	Replace gas at Depot with electric and increase battery storage capacity	2.82
2029-30	Replace diesel crew cab vehicle with electric (two diesel vehicles remaining)	2.00
	Run all remaining diesel vehicles, tractor and mower on bio-diesel	8.00
2030-31	Install heat pumps at Town Hall and energy monitoring system	15.93
Deficit		2.74

The working assumption is that the deficit will be offset by such things as tree planting (although this is not officially recognised in the UK government carbon accounting rules).

Appendix 2 – Route map to 2030: Year by year CO2 tonnes

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Notes
Electric	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-1	-1	-2	Gradual increase in electric stored in batteries
Gas	23.5	23.5	23.5	19	16	0	TIC heat pump / Town Hall gas boiler / Replace gas at Depot with electric / Heat pumps at Town Hall
Petrol	1.5	1.5	1	1	1	1	Gradual move to electric powered tools
Diesel	12	12	12	12	12	2	Reduce diesel vehicles and move to bio-diesel
Water	2	2	2	2	2	2	No change
Waste	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	No change
Total CO2	39	39	34	33	30	3	
Indicative Cost	-	£10k	-	£15k	£142k	£0k	

Contribution to Reserve	-	£25k	£25k	£25k	£25k	£0k	
Financial Reserve	£67k	£82k	£107k	117k	£0k	£0k	

General notes in relation to Appendix 1

1. CO2 figures are notional and for indicative purposes only to help provide a general trend if the action identified in the report are carried out
2. Costs occur in the year before the full year impact on the CO2 values
3. Costs are notional at this stage – see report above

Dorset COP 2027 – Request from Planet Purbeck for support and funding

Planet Purbeck will be hosting the Dorset COP in November 2027. Dorset COP is a community led climate conference which brings together hundreds of people and organisations from across the county to share experience and accelerate climate and nature action.

Planet Purbeck are seeking financial support for the event from the Town Council and the attached document presents a range of options that the Council may wish to consider.

Decision Required

To consider if the Town Council may wish to provide financial support to Planet Purbeck to support the Dorset COP 2027 and if so, what level of support up to £5,250.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

October 2026

Appendix 1 – Dorset COP 2027: Swanage Host Town Partnership Proposal

FOR CONSIDERATION • ENVIRONMENT & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE • 21 OCTOBER 2026

Dorset COP 2027

Swanage Host Town Partnership Proposal

A menu of tangible support for Swanage Town Council



SWANAGE AS HOST TOWN

Not simply an event taking place in Swanage: an opportunity for Swanage to host Dorset's fifth community-led climate conference and showcase its own practical environmental leadership.

DECISION REQUESTED

Consider supporting one or more of three tangible Host Town programme elements, up to £5,250, for inclusion in the Council's 2027/28 draft estimates.

The opportunity

Dorset COP is Dorset's community-led climate conference. Since 2023 it has brought together hundreds of people and 100+ organisations to connect, share practical experience and accelerate climate and nature action.

Planet Purbeck have secured the opportunity to bring the fifth Dorset COP to Swanage on **Sat 6 Nov 2027**. Centred on The Swanage School, with a bespoke Youth COP during the preceding week. Planet Purbeck will work with Dorset Climate Action Network to host and lead local delivery.

The Swanage School has formally backed the plan as central venue, offered to co-design the educational programme, and offers a versatile venue with it's a main hall, large sport hall space and multiple classrooms for workshops and breakout rooms.

Swanage Town Council has already formally supported hosting COP27 and the school-centred youth model.

Not simply what happens on the day, but what happens afterwards because people were there.

A menu of tangible Host Town support

Rather than a general contribution, these are three clearly defined ways STC could make the Host Town role real. The Council could fund one, two or all three.

Host Town element	What STC support would enable	Ask
1. Venue hire & facilities	Full hire costs of The Swanage School as the principal COP27 venue: Friday evening preparation/access, Saturday full-site use, incl additional AV/technical support where required, keynote speaker costs, and full get-out/clear-down ready for Monday morning.	£2,000
2. Youth COP & local schools	Planet Purbeck to support the Swanage School to co-design and deliver a six-week curriculum-based sustainability programme at the school. Programme culmination will be presented as part of a wider-reaching bespoke Youth COP during w/c 1 Nov 2027. The Youth COP will involve dozens of young people from Swanage, Purbeck and Lytchett Minster schools in delivery and participation.	£1,750
3. Swanage Host Town Showcase	A highly visible Swanage contribution highlighting local projects, businesses and practical local climate action: potentially an STC stand/showcase and/or a Council-led workshop on how Swanage is working with its community to deliver on its environmental ambitions.	£1,500

All three: £5,250: A full Host Town partnership across venue, youth participation and Swanage's own public-facing contribution.

Why Host Town status matters

The Host Town role is more than geographic. It lets Swanage welcome delegates, connect Dorset-wide climate action with local delivery, involve young people directly, and show how a council, schools, businesses and community organisations can work together.

Why this fits Swanage Town Council

Natural environment & climate	STC's Corporate Plan supports local environmental projects and continued partnership with Planet Purbeck and Sustainable Swanage.
Regenerative tourism & economy	A November COP supports off-season visitation and can showcase sustainable tourism, local businesses, culture and the visitor economy.
Young people & local leadership	The Swanage School sees COP27 as a way to deepen real-world environmental learning, empower young people and strengthen links between education, community and local leadership.
Partnership working	STC's own support letter highlights Swanage's strong local network, including Planet Purbeck, Sustainable Swanage, Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and Swanage Town & Community Partnership.

Why Swanage is a strong Host Town

- STC has already formally endorsed hosting Dorset COP 2027 in Swanage and working with partners on an ambitious, collaborative and action-focused event.
- The Swanage School has committed support as a central venue and offered to co-design the educational programme; it also sees synergy with Eco-Schools, sustainability and nature-based wellbeing.
- The school has links with local primaries, creating potential for an even wider youth legacy around COP week.
- The event gives STC a platform not simply to sponsor climate action, but to show how Swanage is working with its community to deliver it.

Leverage and wider funding

Planet Purbeck's Aug 2026 collaborative vision document used an indicative whole-programme budget of £17,750. This will be refreshed after COP26. Planet Purbeck has begun grant applications and will create sponsorship opportunities, using Host Town commitments to help unlock wider external investment. **Any STC contribution would be a catalyst and a clearly identifiable part of the Host Town offer, NOT the whole funding solution.**

What Swanage gets back

- A county-wide flagship climate event hosted in Swanage in the November shoulder season.
- A visible Host Town role for STC, not simply a funding logo.
- Direct involvement of local young people and schools.
- A platform for Swanage's environmental, coastal, tourism, business and community work.
- A legacy model tracking projects, partnerships and actions arising after the event.

Suggested Committee resolution

That the Environment & Green Spaces Committee supports in principle Swanage Town Council acting as a Host Town partner for Dorset COP 2027 and recommends that the Council's 2027/28 draft estimates include funding for one or more of:

- Venue hire & facilities – £2,000
- Youth COP & local schools – £1,750
- Swanage Host Town Showcase – £1,500

The Committee is invited to select its preferred level of support, up to £5,250 for all three elements, subject to final programme, budget and funding agreements.

Strategic references: STC Corporate Plan 2026–2030; STC Dorset COP 2027 letter of support (May 2026); The Swanage School Dorset COP 2027 letter of support (Apr 2026); DCAN x Planet Purbeck Collaborative Vision (Aug 2026).

Herston Community Field – Task & Finish Group Update

Further to Minute No.10 of the meeting of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee held on 24 June 2026, a meeting of the Herston Community Field task and finish Group was held in early September.

This was further to meetings with representatives of Planet Purbeck and the Council's Grounds and Estates Manager and Assets and Compliance Manager held to discuss the recommendations set out within the recent community engagement report delivered by Planet Purbeck. These range from 'acorn actions', low cost and low complexity ideas to engage the community and improve the space, to 'big oak ambitions', larger, longer-term ideas requiring feasibility work and greater financial commitment.

The task and finish group discussed the range of opportunities in depth, acknowledging the commitment by Planet Purbeck to contribute three days of coordination time (or equivalent hours) including on-the-day support, to help strengthen the 2027 Herston Community Picnic. This is additional to the offer by Planet Purbeck to support a youth-led improvement project at the field and their commitment of £1,000 from a youth-focused Dorset Council grant towards this.

It was agreed that a community bulb planting event, scheduled to coincide with the popular Herston Repair Café would be an opportunity to engage the community and start to deliver improvements to the field. Ground preparation and over 1,000 bulbs are being provided by the Council with Planet Purbeck providing support on the day. This event is being held on 24th October, and the poster below provides more information.

In addition, the task and finish group discussed the potential for, and benefits of, the provision of natural play features for younger children in the field and requested that a recommendation be made to the Community Services Committee for a budget allocation of £20,000 to deliver these.

It was also noted that a further meeting of the task and finish group would be arranged later in the year to further consider the engagement report provided by Planet Purbeck.

Decision required

To recommend to the Finance and Governance Committee the allocation of a budget of £20,000 to deliver natural play features for younger children in Herston Community Field.

To consider providing permission to Planet Purbeck to support a youth-led improvement project at Herston Community Field noting their commitment of £1,000 from a youth-focused Dorset Council grant.

Gail Percival
Assets and Compliance Manager

October 2026



A SUSTAINABLE SWANAGE COMMUNITY EVENT

More colour
More nature
Better fields

BULBS, BLOOMS & BETTER FIELDS



Help bring more colour and nature to Herston



SAT 24 OCT
10:30AM - 12:30PM



MEET AT THE ENTRANCE TO
HERSTON COMMUNITY FIELD

You told us Herston Fields needed more colour and nature. Now we're starting to make it happen.

WE'LL BE PLANTING:

Bluebells, snowdrops & summer snowflakes

Around the trees at the bottom of the field

Tulips & alliums

In two new flower beds by the entrance gates

GOOD TO KNOW:

Dig in for ten minutes, an hour or the whole session.

Bulbs provided. Gloves are a good idea. Bring a trowel, dibber or kneeling mat if you have one.

Families welcome. Children must be supervised by an adult.

Herston Repair Café is on in the village hall the same morning, with tea, coffee and cake.



Bluebells



Summer snowflakes



MORE
COLOUR



MORE
NATURE



FAMILIES
WELCOME



BULBS
PROVIDED



TEA, COFFEE
& CAKE NEARBY

SUPPORTED BY
SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL

FREE • ALL WELCOME • JUST TURN UP

King George's and Forres Field Vision

In early 2026, the Heathland Mitigation Coordinator from Dorset Council's Heathland Mitigation Team raised the potential of working with the Council. This is in relation to their work to identify and develop projects that provide attractive alternative and accessible recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. This helps reduce visitor pressure on the internationally designated heathland habitats that surround Swanage beyond the Corfe Ridge. While these protected landscapes are highly valued and should remain accessible for people to enjoy, they are also sensitive environments that can be adversely affected by increasing levels of recreational use and disturbance.

The role of Heathland Mitigation Coordinator is to help mitigate the impacts of housing growth and tourism by improving access to alternative green spaces where people can walk, exercise, play and spend time outdoors. Existing community assets such as King George's Field and Forres Field already play an important role in the daily lives of local residents, supporting activities ranging from dog walking and informal recreation to sports participation and children's play. Recognising their value and potential, the Town Council were approached to explore how these spaces could be enhanced to provide an even wider range of opportunities, encouraging people to spend longer on site and creating links to the wider network of local walking routes.

To learn more and understand the opportunities for future enhancement of King George's and Forres Fields, the Heathland Mitigation Coordinator along with Councillor Sutton, a representative of Sustainable Swanage and the Council's Grounds and Estates Manager undertook a site visit in September 2026. Following this, a vision document that could be used as the basis for further engagement and community conversations on how this area could be enhanced was discussed. This first draft document is shown below.

Developing a shared vision for the future of these fields is an important step in ensuring that any improvements are coordinated, deliver meaningful benefits for the community and make the best use of available resources. A clearly defined vision can also help identify elements that may be eligible for Heathland Mitigation funding, including contributions secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 agreements. By demonstrating how enhancements can provide attractive alternatives to visits to sensitive heathland sites, the project can help unlock funding opportunities while delivering lasting benefits for residents and visitors alike.

The emerging proposals for large-scale infrastructure works by Wessex Water at this location will need to be considered when developing the vision for the area but may also present opportunities.

In developing the vision, it is proposed that engagement is undertaken with the community, with current and potential users of King George's and Forres Fields (including formal and informal wellbeing and sports groups) as well as organisations such as Sustainable Swanage, Swanage Streams Partnership and Planet Purbeck.

Decision required

To consider committing to work in partnership with the Dorset Council Heathland Mitigation Coordinator to develop a vision document for King George's and Forres Field that could be used to take forward enhancements to these areas noting that some enhancements may be eligible for Heathland Mitigation funding, including contributions secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 agreements.

Gail Percival
Assets and Compliance Manager

October 2026

First Draft Vision Document



Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 – Action Plan Update

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 contains an action plan set out below that was informed by the results of a public greenspace survey undertaken by the Council in early 2025. The column on the right shows the most recent progress made whilst more detailed information is provided below the table on some aspects of the action plan.

Swanage Greenspace Strategy Action Plan				
	Timetable 2025/6 and 2026/7			
Action	Environment and Greenspaces Committee October 2025	Environment and Greenspaces Committee March 2026	Environment and Greenspaces Committee June 2026	Environment and Greenspaces Committee October 2026
Develop an initiative to tackle dog waste and owners not picking up after their pets		Proposal to be presented	Action completed: considerations of future initiatives to remain on the plan	Action completed: considerations of future initiatives to remain on the plan
Prioritise locations for accessibility improvements such as footpath enhancements		Locations identified	Ongoing	Ongoing
Seek opportunities for external funding to deliver green space actions set out within this plan	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Install signage at greenspaces setting out the key features of the location	Present proposals		Signage implemented at Day’s Park. Signage at Beach Gardens in design.	Beach Gardens signs due to be installed soon Journey’s End wildlife corridor signage in design
Planting of additional wildflower areas/shrubs/bulbs		Bulb planting completed	Wildflower and shrub planting completed	1,175 bulbs purchased for planting this autumn at Herston Community

				Field and other locations
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			Ongoing	
Continue tree planting in accordance with the Council's Tree Strategy 2022	Numbers and locations identified	Planting completed		Tree list being finalised.
Receive and review Planet Purbeck engagement reports in respect of Herston Community Field	Reports received	Proposals to be presented	Herston Community Field report presented to June 2026 committee.	Herston Community Field Task & Finish group formed and have completed first meeting
Explore proposal to enter Godlingston cemetery into Cemetery of the Year award		Decision taken on entering cemetery for award	Godlingston Cemetery entered into BRAMM Cemetery of the Year Awards	Godlingston Cemetery achieved a gold standard in BRAMM Cemetery of the Year Awards 2026
Retain Green Flag award for Beach Gardens	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Green Flag awarded on 14 th July 2026
Develop a nature corridor in Journey's End adjacent to the Ulwell Stream			In progress – see information below	Action completed – will develop over time
Develop a Swanage Town Council Tree Warden scheme			In progress – see information below	8 volunteer tree wardens. Module one training completed and surveying of trees ongoing
Continue to monitor and revise if appropriate, existing greenspace management plans	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing

Develop a nature corridor in Journey's End adjacent to the Ulwell Stream

The existing wildlife corridor adjacent to the stream has been widened by approximately 2 metres. The corridor will be further expanded in the 2027 growing season. Signage explaining the purpose of the corridor and outlining the benefits to nature is being developed by Planet Purbeck.

Continue tree planting in accordance with the Council's Tree Strategy 2022

Given the continuing and ongoing drought conditions that are being experienced, in-depth consideration has been given to the selection of trees for planting this season. This is in the context that despite continual watering by the Town Council this summer circa 8-10 trees have failed to survive. This has included trees in years 5 and 6 of planting.

Regard has therefore been given to species that are more drought resistant, and the team have reviewed studies such as 'Planting for the Future' by Kew Gardens as well as reviewing the species already planted in Swanage that have better tolerated the drought. This has resulted in a tree list that leans to more non-native tree species and we are currently researching local availability. In addition, we are investigating the purchase of a larger water bowser to undertake watering more efficiently.

Develop a Swanage Town Council Tree Warden scheme

A group of eight volunteer Tree Wardens has been established. Of these, six have completed module one Tree Warden training with Dorset National Landscape and Dorset Council Nature Recovery Officers. Further training sessions are to be undertaken, with module two scheduled to be completed before Christmas.

Tree surveys have commenced on Swanage Town Council land and are continuing. It is proposed that trees with active Tree Protection Orders are prioritised for survey and monitoring.

Action Required

To note the progress made to date to deliver the Swanage Greenspace Strategy Action Plan.

To note that the action plan will be updated and future actions incorporated to ensure both a record of achievement and objectives for future developments.

Gail Percival
Assets and Compliance Manager

October 2026

Environment Committee – 2026-27 budget and proposals for 2027-28**1. Current year: Environmental Improvement Engagement Plan 2026-27 budget**

A budget of £18,000 was approved for 2026-27. It is forecast that £16,000 of this will be spent by the end of the year. See Appendix 1 for a progress report.

2. Next year: Proposed 2027-28 Budget

The table below provides a list of recommended one off expenditure for 2026-27. The items shaded grey/blue are seen as essential to meet the Council's safety and regulatory obligations.

	Proposed Budget	Budget	Detail
1.	Environmental Community Engagement Budget	£27,750	Budget to support the various projects identified in the Environmental Action Plan.
2.	Green Seafront ground monitoring	£5,000	To provide 5 months ground movement and water level monitoring.
3.	Green seafront risk assessments	£2,500	To provide risk inspections and advice regarding ground stability.
4.	Herston Community Park improvements	£20,000	To undertake a range of improvements to the community park.
5.	Greenspaces Signage	£2,000	Information about greenspaces biodiversity and features.
	Total	£57,250	

3. 2027-28 contribution to reserve

For some time, an annual contribution of £25,000 towards an 'Environmental Projects Reserve' has been made. At the end of 2026-27, this is forecast to be £82,000. This was originally set aside to fund energy improvements to enable the Council to meet its stated carbon neutral target for 2030 and in 2026-27 will fund the Council's contribution to the heat pump at the Swanage Information Centre. It is proposed that this contribution of £25,000 is continued into 2027-28.

4. Decisions required

- 4.1 Note the forecast spend for the current year 2026-27 in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Review the proposed budget for 2027-28 and make a recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee meeting to be held on 16th December 2026 or the proposed task and finish group set up to review larger grant awards.
- 4.3 Consider continuation of the £25,000 contribution to the Environmental Projects Reserve for 2027-28 and make a recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee meeting to be held on 16th December 2026.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

October 2026

Appendix 1: Environmental Community Engagement Budget 2026-27

No.	Project	Detail	Forecast
1.	Lead on the education component of Sustainable Swanage, i.e. develop a two-monthly programme of interesting public Open Meetings.	Circa 6 sessions led by Planet Purbeck. The management of the Sustainable Swanage website and the social media page will be undertaken by volunteers from 1st April 2026.	£6,000
2.	Improving water quality – Freshwater and ocean.	Support the 'Swanage Streams Partnership'. The 'Swanage Streams Partnership' is led by the National Trust and works with Planet Purbeck. This contribution will enhance the public engagement work and support cleaner and more environmentally beneficial streams in Swanage. While this budget is notionally set aside for the project, a formal request outlining the outcomes to be achieved will need to be considered by this committee before any approval is made.	£6,000
3.	Support the implementation of the Greenspaces Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and Environment Action Plan, Motion for the Ocean.	Various projects to enhance green spaces stemming from the Greenspaces Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and Environment Action Plan. Much of this cost will be the cost of installing signage detailing the ocean biodiversity as per the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan.	£3,000
4.	Support engagement projects as they arise from time to time.	Various projects.	£1,000
	Total Approved Budget = £18,000		£16,000

Appendix 2: Environmental Community Engagement Proposed Budget 2027-28 (incorporating all budget requests)

No.	Project	Detail	Indicative Budget
1.	Lead on the education component of Sustainable Swanage, i.e. develop a two-monthly programme of interesting public Open Meetings.	Circa 6 sessions led by Planet Purbeck as in 2026-27 and overseen by Sustainable Swanage.	£5,000
2.	Support the implementation of the Greenspaces Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan, Environment Action Plan and Motion for the Ocean	This might include support to a range of projects including the Swanage Streams Partnership etc	£2,000
3.	Sustainable Swanage Volunteer Co-ordinator	As per report for agenda item 5 b).	£15,500
4.	Dorset COP	Support for the Dorset COP 2027 organised by Planet Purbeck, as per report for agenda item 8).	£5,250
	Total		£27,750