

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2025** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor C Sutton

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Tomes

Swanage Town Council (until 3:45 p.m.)

Councillor S Vile

Swanage Town Council

Outside Representatives: -

Ms K Black

Durlston Country Park

Mr T Clarke

National Trust

Mr P Floyd

Planet Purbeck

Mr L Luke

Planet Purbeck

Mrs J Owens

Sustainable Swanage

Mr F Roberts

Swanage Landers

Also in attendance: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk (until 3 p.m.)

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services and Business

Development Manager (VSBDM)

Ms G Percival

Assets & Compliance Manager

Mr M Snowdon

Assets & Compliance Support Officer

Mr I Alexander

Natural England

Mr C Peck

Principal Transport Planner, Dorset Council

Mr A Young

Purbeck Energy Group

There was one member of the public and one member of the press present at the meeting.

Public Participation Time

The following matter was raised during Public Participation Time: -

- **Agenda item 10)** – A question was raised around the relevance of the Active Travel Plan, currently being developed by Dorset Council, to the needs of Swanage residents. Furthermore, it was queried how the Active Travel Plan would link into the wider Dorset Local Plan, Transport Plan and Swanage Town Council’s Green Seafront Stabilisation Scheme.

1) Apologies

Apologies for the inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor Dorrington 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 25th June 2025**

No matters were raised on this occasion.

4) **Matters arising from the Meeting of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 1st October 2025**

The Chairman of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee provided the following updates:

- The meeting had been attended by four pupils and a teacher from St Mary's School who asked the Committee several questions. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor thanked the pupils for attending and would arrange a visit to the school to discuss some of the topics raised with the students in more detail.
- It was noted that the period for receiving applications for the beach hire concession, to include deckchairs and watercraft, is currently underway.
- Discussions had been held regarding the potential consultation period relating to the by-laws for Swanage Bay.

5) **Environment Action Plan Task & Finish Group - Report**

Further to Minute No. 10 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 25th June 2025, Members noted the contents of the updated version of the Environment Action Plan. The Task & Finish group had met in September 2025 and identified seven items within the Action Plan as significantly important to progress in the next period. It was anticipated that by establishing Priority Actions, officer time would be better utilised on these items.

After a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Vile and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To approve the reclassification of the seven identified actions within section 2 of the Action Plan as Priority Actions.

The Task & Finish Group had also identified several actions contained within the Action Plan that were outside of Town Council control. To aid in streamlining the Action Plan, it was suggested that these actions should be removed.

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

To approve the deletion of the identified actions within section 3 of the Action Plan.

6) **Consideration of energy efficiencies for Council Buildings**

Further to Minute No. 7 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 25th June 2025, Members noted the details contained within the Energy Efficiency Action Plan. Several actions had been identified that would be achievable within the 2025/26 financial period by the Council Operations Department and would be funded from the Council's Environmental Projects Reserve, which is set aside for energy improvements.

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

To approve the actions as set out in Section 1 of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan for completion within the 2025/26 financial period, with the

improvements to be funded from the Environmental Projects Reserve.

7) Motion for the Ocean Action Plan - Update

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 25th June 2025, the Chairman provided a summary of the ‘Motion for the Ocean’ Action Plan. Recent activities were noted, which included the marine bio audit conducted in August, which had received a reasonable level of support from volunteers and members of the public, with numerous submissions made via the website. Other actions included the improvement of beach information signage, as well as the proposed installation of new signs highlighting the marine life located within Swanage Bay, subject to the successful receipt of funding.

8) Sustainable Swanage - Update

The representative of Sustainable Swanage provided an update on recent and future planned activities. Since the last meeting of this committee, Sustainable Swanage had assisted with the recent maritime bio audit of Swanage Bay by maintaining a stall on the seafront to support the event and promote engagement with visitors and residents. In addition to this, further public engagement took place at the following events:

- A forerunner meeting to the bio-audit, generating additional interest and support for Motion for the Ocean titled “Swanage Bay, what’s in it?” which was attended by over 50 people.
- September saw Sustainable Swanage support Planet Purbeck with the Discovery Festival held on Swanage seafront.

Further to the public engagement activities, a summary was provided on the progress of the groups set up and supported by Sustainable Swanage:

- The Repair and Re-use café which was launched at Herston Village Hall in April 2025 has continued to be well attended with repairs being carried out from sewing to small electrical repairs.
- The Recycling group had spent time engaging with local retailers and businesses to establish what their recycling arrangements were since the recent changes in legislation and the increased responsibility of businesses to provide avenues for the recycling of goods that they sell.
- The Greener group held a meeting primarily relating to the Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve, bringing together the Wildflower surveys that had been completed which showed the increase in biodiversity year on year.

Moving forward, Sustainable Swanage intends to investigate the feasibility of establishing a marine group.

9) Swanage Streams Partnership update

The representative for Planet Purbeck provided an update on recent actions and forthcoming activities on the Swanage Streams Partnership. Since its inception in November 2024, several Swanage Streams Partnership events had been conducted including walking tours and presentations to groups such as the Rotary, Lions and the local WI on specific topics. Additional public interest had been achieved at third party events with the presence of the Planet Purbeck stall. In total that had resulted in engagement with 2019 people. Planet Purbeck offered thanks to the Council officers and the staff of the Operations Department for their assistance in tidying sections of the Swan Brook stream and for the efforts to remove rubbish in the lead up to some of the events.

It was also noted that as well as the engagement activities to promote greater public awareness, practical activities had also taken place including the training of five volunteers to carry out six monthly monitoring tasks, looking at the technical aspects of river morphology. 10 volunteers had undergone training to carry out river fly monitoring which is part of a national scheme with 14 monitoring surveys carried out between July and September 2025.

10) Dorset Council's Active Travel Infrastructure Plan - Update

The Principal Transport Planner for Dorset Council gave a presentation providing an overview of the Active Travel Infrastructure Plan, which was a long-term strategy for improvements to routes for walking, cycling, and accessibility for people with disabilities. The primary focus of the plan was to examine the day-to-day travel requirements of residents, including commuting to work and employment areas, school runs, shopping, and travel to other destinations. It was an iterative document, with Purbeck being one of seven areas defined within Dorset. The assessments carried out aimed to identify which routes would generate the greatest benefits from any investments made.

The plan was necessary to secure financial support from Active Travel England and would also support future funding bids to central government. It was noted that during the consultation, which ran from December 2023 to January 2024, very few responses had been received from residents of Swanage and the surrounding areas. However, it was also acknowledged that the Active Travel Infrastructure Plan was not a specification of works to be completed but an assessment of travel habits, heavily used routes, and how these routes could be improved. Within Swanage, the highest priority areas identified were High Street, Shore Road, and Northbrook Road.

11) Herston Community Field Engagement – Update from Planet Purbeck

The representative for Planet Purbeck provided an update on the progress of the Herston Community Field Consultation project and detailed upcoming activities. Planet Purbeck had met with local organisations, such as Greengage Community Garden, to benefit from their local knowledge, as well as seeking advice from third parties with more experience in responding to public green space consultations.

The activities conducted to date were noted, and it was recognised that some of the planned public engagement activities had not proceeded due to their original scheduled dates falling within the purdah period for Local Authority elections. It was also noted that rescheduling these events during the peak summer months had proved difficult, as many other events and activities were already taking place. Members further noted that, with other consultations underway at the time and greenspaces typically receiving less usage during the Autumn and Winter months, any public events held during this period might not have received the same level of support or engagement.

A discussion was held on the merits of carrying out the public engagement events in November versus delaying them until Spring 2026, when the weather would be more favourable, the evenings lighter, and residents easier to engage. Members noted that delaying until Spring 2026 could potentially impact the timescales for certain actions detailed in the Green Space Strategy Action Plan. The Planet Purbeck representative confirmed that a report would be finalised by mid-May 2026. It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Vile and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To approve the rescheduling of the Herston Community Field public engagement consultation events to Spring 2026 with the report being presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

12) Durlston Country Park – Actions to support proposed ‘Durlston and Purbeck Coast National Nature Reserve’

The representative for Durlston Country Park presented an overview of the collaborative work between Durlston Country Park, the National Trust and Dorset Wildlife Trust to extend the Durlston National Nature Reserve (NNR) to encompass Townsend Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and the National Trust land ownership along the coastal slopes in the area. As part of this process, a request was submitted to Swanage Town Council to extend the current lease of the land, south of Swanage Bay View Holiday Park to Dorset Council (Durlston Country Park) for an additional 15-21 years on a similar agreement to manage the land for nature conservation. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Councillor Bonfield, seconded by the Councillor Sutton and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:-

That Council agree an extension to the current lease held by Dorset Council (Durlston Country Park), to be drawn up at the expense of Dorset Council.

Furthermore, a request was submitted to agree to the leased land being included in the proposed Durlston and Purbeck Coast National Nature Reserve. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Councillor Sutton, seconded by the Councillor Vile and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:-

That Council agree to the inclusion of the land in the Council’s ownership to the south of Swanage Bay View Holiday Park within the proposed Durlston and Purbeck Coast National Nature Reserve.

13) Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 Action Plan Update

Further to Minute No. 11 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 25th June 2025, the Assets and Compliance Manager provided an update on the progress to date of the Swanage Greenspace Strategy 2025 Action Plan. It was reported that over 1,100 perennial bulbs had been planted over the past few weeks, and, due to a successful grant application, 105 trees have been obtained from Dorset Wildlife Trust which accompanies the 43 trees purchased by the Council. A number of locations have been identified for planting the trees and delivery is scheduled for November 2025. In addition to this, an application has been submitted to Dorset Community Tree Fund for match funding towards additional tree information signs, proposed to be placed in Day’s Park. If this is successful, other locations will be considered for similar signage including Beach Gardens and Prospect Green.

The progress to date was noted along with the potential delay for the receipt of the engagement reports from Planet Purbeck as discussed in Minute No. 11 of this meeting.

14) Waste Management

a) Update on activities from Beach Buddies

An update was provided by the Chairman on behalf of Beach Buddies which reported that in 2025, there have been a total of 39 beach cleans carried out so far with a total removal of 729kg of litter and debris. This has been made possible by a pool of volunteers with an average of 19 attending each beach clean. It was also reported that the main beach was noticeably cleaner than previously recorded with thanks offered to the Council beach operatives for their work in achieving this.

b) Update on activities from Swanage Landers

The representative of Swanage Landers provided an update on their activities. It was reported that, although they had not formally met for two years, they had continued to provide encouragement and support to volunteers to carry out activities independently. Some of the heavier work had continued to be carried out using the Mechanical Road Sweeper (MRS) with the support of the Town Council's Operations Department. Special thanks were offered to the Town Council beach operatives for the early morning work carried out across the summer months, responding to incidents of extreme littering detected along the seafront and in some of the prominent adjoining greenspaces, which were not officially included within their patrol zones. This essential work had helped cover the shortfall in provision from Dorset Council, following the stepping down of the last remaining road sweeper position for the area in 2024, which had not been replaced, with an assurance that the number of MRS attendances would increase. Initial indications suggested that this increase had taken place, subject to Dorset Council staffing levels and barring any equipment malfunctions.

c) Dorset Council Waste Services Update

The Assets and Compliance Manager reported that the working relationship and communication between the Swanage Council Operations Department and Dorset Council Waste Services had been at a good level. There had been an increase in MRS attendances, with a target of one visit every two weeks, although this had been affected by a recall on the new MRS.

It was also reported that the summer service provided by Dorset Council Waste Services, operating from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week during the 2025 summer season, had been successful. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Assets and Compliance Manager would request from Dorset Council Waste Services the records and figures for the frequency of MRS attendances over the preceding 12 months.

14) Environmental Engagement Budget – update

a) Further to Minute No. 14 of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee meeting held on 25th June 2025, the VSBDM provided an update on the Environmental Community Engagement budget approved for the 2025/26 financial period of £20,000. The figure included allocations for supporting the Swanage Streams Partnership, the Marine bio-audit (for the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan), and both the Herston Field and King George's Field stakeholder engagement projects. It was reported that the current forecast indicated that £13,650 of the budget would be utilised by the end of the 2025/26 financial period.

b) Consideration was given to the proposed budget for 2025-26 which included essential items in order to meet the Council's safety and regulatory obligations and other items required for routine/planned maintenance of assets, at a total budget of £42,500. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To note the forecast spend of the Environmental Community Engagement budget for the current 2025/26 financial period.

It was further **RESOLVED:-**

That the one-off revenue items totalling £42,500, and continuation of the £25,000 per annum contribution to the Environmental Projects earmarked reserve, be taken forward to the meeting of the Finance &

Governance Committee to be held on 17th December 2025 for consideration as part of the budget setting process for 2026/27.

15) Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas

a) Herston Fields – concerns regarding access to Village Green

It was reported that several residents had raised concerns that the area in Herston, that had obtained Village Green status, was no longer open as a Village Green due to fencing that had been established in one field, gates installed in a second field and that some areas that had been ploughed. It was noted that the Town Clerk had approached the Open Spaces Society for guidance on this matter and a response was awaited. An update would be provided to a future meeting.

b) Tree Warden

The Chairman reported that a community event is scheduled to take place in November 2025 with the intention of introducing the Tree Warden scheme and securing three or four volunteers that would work alongside the Grounds & Estates Manager in progressing this project.

c) Solar Together Dorset – Dorset Council

The VSBDM reported that a new scheme had been launched by Dorset Council with the aim of assisting Dorset residents in securing better prices while procuring Solar Panels for their own properties.

16) Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting had been scheduled for 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday 4th March 2026.

The Meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.

Swanage Town Council

Environment Policy Action Plan

Version 14

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
March 2026

Swanage Town Council: Environment Policy Action Plan – V14

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	2030	Tracking our use of carbon	ONGOING – A report is included in the March 2026 Committee detailing progress against this target.	Managing our built environment sustainably
2.	Implement the Tree Warden Scheme	Work with the Tree Council to identify what is required.	Small?	2026	Scheme set up and actions undertaken	NEARING COMPLETION - Sustainable Swanage is holding a ‘Community Tree Meet Up’ on 25 th February in which it is anticipated that the structure and appointment of a range of Tree Wardens will be implemented.	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 now includes a ‘marine’ expert and a new group is being formed to lead on this action plan.	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. It is anticipated that a final proposal will be presented to the Council in March 2026.	Protecting local infrastructure

5.	Develop a sustainable tourism vision.	Work with stakeholders to develop a vision of what a sustainable destination might mean for Swanage.	£0	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 also included in the draft Corporate Plan.	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.	Supporting Sustainable Tourism
7.	Implement the Green Spaces Strategy	Volunteers could be used from Sustainable Swanage depending on type of work required.	Not known	tba	tba	ONGOING - Refer to the Action Plan which is included in the 4 th March 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 the spring of 2025. Those that were unable to take the course during this first round will be offered an online course during the next 6 months.	Managing the Town Council in an environmentally sustainable manner

9.	Consider options for reducing water use and harvesting rainwater.	Report detailing water use and proposals to reduce.	Not Known	2025-26	Reduction in water use as measured by water bills	<p>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.</p> <p>Water butts are being considered for the TIC and Cemetery to use to water plants.</p> <p>Water use increased during 2025, probably due to the dry summer and the number of visitors using toilets etc</p>	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	Unknown at this stage	Ongoing	Sea users are better informed	<p>ONGOING: A noticeboard providing a daily update to water quality and further information has been installed outside the TIC. The main beach signs will be updated in 2026-27 to include additional information about water quality. The Council will continue to run engagement sessions with the public in conjunction with Wessex Water.</p>	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 ? ? in 2025-26	Ongoing	Partnership set up and engagement being delivered	<p>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</p>	Protecting and enhancing the natural environment

						highlighted in the Swanage News article on 14 December 2024. A report will be submitted to March Environment Committee.	
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’	£6,000	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 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 - Two electric points installed and in use at the market site. Further work required for PAG and Sandpit Field – now included in the Green Seafront Scheme.	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 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	OPS1

						management plan and enhanced information signage has been produced. For Herston Community Field, the National trust has been engaged.	
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	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

	which includes tracking carbon use.						
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 Councillor s’ 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

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	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.	TIC1 / OPS1

		further are required					A water refill station has been installed on the seafront; part funded by a grant from 'Sea Changers.'	
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

Swanage Town Council Energy Footprint 2025

1. Introduction

This is the fourth year that the Town Council has produced a summary of its energy use during the previous calendar year. For 2025, an alternative approach to measuring the carbon footprint has been used. Now the conversion factors to convert energy used to carbon impact used will be those produced by the ‘Department of Energy Security and Net Zero’. [Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

Therefore, only the 2025 figures are available. If Councillors wish to see figures adjusted accordingly for previous years, this will need to be requested by the Committee.

2. Summary of data for 2025

Appendix 1 provides the summary report for 2025. The data shows that 307,458 kWh was used by the Council in the calendar year of 2025. This includes all gas and electric, some of which is recharged to other stakeholders. The equivalent sum for 2024 was 342,222 kWh.

The key statistics are as follows (2024 figure in brackets). Appendix 2 provides the data across the previous three years.

- 5,299 litres of petrol and diesel for vehicles and equipment in the Depot (8,226 litres).
- 11,350 m³ of water was used, primarily in the toilets (9,658 m³ water).
- 43 tonnes of waste was disposed through contractors, of which 2.5 tonnes were recycled. Most of the waste generated is from litter bins (47 and 2 tonnes).
- The cost of the energy used was £146,313 (not including waste), (£132,307)
- Total PV energy generated was 29,310 kwh
- A small amount of battery generated energy was used by the PV battery at Beach Gardens – 697 kwh

3. Analysis of figures

Appendix 2 provides a comparison across the last three years. Data is collected from actual bills received from utility companies and suppliers.

The Council’s energy use in 2025 was less than in 2024 and is the lowest since reporting begun in 2022. During 2024, the Council procured an additional electric vehicle which would have increased electric used, although solar panels (PV) were installed on the depot and Beach Gardens buildings during the later part of the year.

The summer of 2025 was a long dry summer which likely led to less use of energy for heating but would have led to additional use of the public toilets both in terms of water use and the electric dryers.

The use of petrol and diesel reduced in 2025, again due to the long dry summer which meant that grass and hedge cutting was not required at the same level as in previous years.

4. Renewable Energy

The Council has procured a fully green electric supplier so all electric used is now considered as carbon neutral.

The Council operates two PV panel arrays on the Depot and Beach Gardens Pavilion, both of which were fully operational in 2025.

The Beach Gardens array includes a battery. 3% of the energy generated was used by the Pavilion, 7% was stored in the battery and 89% was exported to the grid. This made up a total of 10,210 kwh being generated.

The Depot array does not include a system which provides information about energy use other than the total amount generated. Figures have been recorded on a monthly basis since July 2025, with average figures being used for the January to June period. This suggests that 19,099 kwh were generated in 2025.

5. Carbon Footprint

The Carbon footprint for 2025 is calculated as 39.21 tonnes of CO₂. This does not include the renewable energy that the Council generates through PV and is exported to the grid as under current guidance from the 'Department of Energy Security and Net Zero' this is not a permissible approach.

6. Recommendation

That the summary report is noted.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

February 2026

APPENDIX 1: Energy Use Summary Report - 2025							
Type	Category	kWh	Litres M3	Tonnes	£	tCO2	Notes
Electric	Buildings	47,642			£14,199	8.43	1
	Toilets	77,627			£22,394	13.74	
	Car Parks	34,974			£11,122	6.19	
	Miscellaneous	17,843			£10,411	3.16	
	Total electric	178,086			£58,125	31.52	
Gas	Town Hall	92,548			£9,124	16.93	
	TIC	21,405			£2,004	3.92	
	Depot	15,419			£1,604	2.82	
	Total gas	129,372			£12,732	23.67	
	<i>Total of gas and electric</i>	<i>307,458</i>			<i>£70,857</i>	<i>55.19</i>	
Petrol			657.79		£951	1.36	
Diesel			4,640.85		£7,185	11.93	
	Total petrol and diesel		5,298.64		£8,136	13.29	
Water	Main Buildings		112		£7,600		2
	Toilets		8,982		£50,438		
	Beach Gardens		1,444		£6,101		
	Misc		813		£3,180		
	Total water		11,350		£67,319	2.17	
Waste	Dry Recycling			2.13	n/a		
	Food			0.42	n/a		
	Black Bag			40.70	n/a		
	Total waste			43		0.20	3
Grand Total		307,458	16,648	43	£146,313	70.85	
Less	Green Energy	178,086			n/a	-31.52	
	Battery stored energy	698			-£228	-0.12	
Carbon Gap						39.21	
Notes							
1	Town Hall, TIC, New Depot, Beach Gardens Pavilion and Kiosk						
2	TIC, TH and old depot are unmetered supplies						
3	Horticulture waste is re-used internally						

APPENDIX 2: Swanage Town Council: Energy Use Summary

Category	2022	2023	2024	2025	Difference since 2022
Electric kWh	222,227	195,927	200,703	178,086	-44,141
Gas kWh	149,334	125,811	141,519	129,372	-19,962
Petrol and Diesel Litres	6,233	6,711	8,226	5,299	-934
Water litres m3	9,586	8,861	9,658	11,350	1,764
Waste Tonnes	40	43	49	43	3
Tonnes of Carbon (tCO2)	-	-	-	39	-
Cost in £s	£101,993	£124,555	£132,307	£146,313	£44,319
PV Generation (Beach Gardens)	0	0	90	10,210	10,210
PV Generation (Depot)				19,099	19,099
Total PV Generation by STC	0	0	90	29,310	29,310

Swanage Information Centre – Air source heat pump feasibility study

The heating at the Swanage Information Centre (SIC), is delivered by a gas boiler with hot water supplied by an electric point of use system. The heating system was installed in 2016 and although operational there have been recent issues that have required contractor attendance as well as ongoing issues caused by internal corrosion to the radiators.

In order to consider the range of replacement options, the Council submitted an expression of interest to Low Carbon Dorset to understand if there was funded support to investigate replacement of the gas boiler with an air source heat pump. The Council was notified on 9th February 2026 that up to two days of free technical advice has been provided to investigate the feasibility of this option.

It is proposed that the outcome of the feasibility assessment is reported to the next meeting of this committee.

In 2025, the Swanage Information Centre used 21,405 kwh of gas, which accounted for 3.92 tonnes of CO₂. As the Council is on a fully green electric energy contract, a heat pump would deliver the full 3.92 tonnes of CO₂ reduction to the Council's carbon footprint.

Action Required

To note that the Council has successfully been awarded two days of free technical advice by Low Carbon Dorset to investigate the feasibility of installing an air source heat pump at the Swanage Information Centre.

Gail Percival, Assets and Compliance Manager
February 2026

Consideration of the Council's 2030 net zero carbon target

The Town Council currently includes a target within the Environment Action Plan to become net carbon neutral 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

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

What remaining might be done relatively easily?

- Swanage Information Centre heat pump. This is currently being investigated and is anticipated to deliver a CO₂ reduction of 3.92 tonnes.
- 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 3.39 tonnes of CO₂.

It is assumed that these changes could lead to a carbon saving of approximately 7.30 tonnes of CO₂, resulting in a revised carbon footprint of 31.90 tonnes of CO₂.

What additional steps might be taken to close the gap?

- PV panels in Main Beach Car Park
- Buy into PV panels on land owned by other entities
- Carbon Credits
- Heat pumps in the Town Hall (would save 16.93 tonnes of CO₂)
- More efficient gas boiler in the Town Hall (potential of a saving of up to 2-4 tonnes of CO₂ per year with a new efficient boiler)

Action Required

Consider what steps might be practical to close the gap to achieve the stated target with a view to receive a report at the next Committee in order to confirm if the target is achievable by 2030.

Culvin Milmer, Visitor Services Manager
February 2026

Herston Community Field Engagement – Update from Planet Purbeck

At the previous Environment and Green Spaces Committee, Planet Purbeck agreed to provide an update to this meeting about the Herston Community Field Engagement with a view to see work completed by May 2026.

Their update in the form of a proposal is attached as an Appendix and they have provided the following overview.

Planet Purbeck Overview

Planet Purbeck completed initial planning, assessment and early stakeholder consultation work in 2025, including learning from other greenspace consultations and capturing public feedback at community events.

Some engagement activity had to be rescheduled due to purdah and the challenges of summer scheduling, and we're now completing the remaining consultation work in Spring 2026 when the field is more actively used and residents are easier to engage.

Following sign off at the committee on 4th March, we will carry out five targeted engagement sessions during March and April: a pop-up outside a local convenience store, a youth club session, a strategic session with a youth worker to explore better use of space (supported by secured funding), a playgroup session, and on-site weekend engagement at the field itself.

We will analyse inputs and submit a short report to STC by end of April 2026, including participation summary, key themes, and the top three priority improvement options with practical design considerations.

Other considerations

It is noted that the Committee has previously provided approval for this work and the relevant spend.

Action Required

Consider proposal and agree for the work to be carried out by May 2026.

Culvin Milmer, Visitor Services Manager
February 2026

Herston Community Field Engagement



Next Stage Consultation Plan (March–April 2026)

Purpose: What STC will get by end of April:

1. A focused round of springtime engagement with groups that are often under-heard
2. Further input to what Herston/Swanage residents want most
3. A report with **top priorities + practical considerations** for the Field

Why this next stage now:

Spring timing increases footfall, daylight and willingness to talk; and the proposed touchpoints deliberately include local families, young people and “everyday users” who won’t attend formal meetings.

1. What STC can do to help PP (quick & simple asks)

- Confirm any preferred wording for how STC wants the project described publicly
- Share any operational constraints e.g. maintenance, access, any known issues

2. What we’re doing ~ 5 consultation touchpoints

2A. Pop-up outside local village store (Herston area)

Permission already granted by business owner (Cllr Tomes) - specifics tbc

Aim: Capture quick, high-volume “day-to-day resident” views

Method: 2 x 2hr pop-up slots with clipboard
To inc QR code survey + simple map prompt
e.g. “circle what you use / what you’d improve”

What we’ll capture:

- Top 3 improvements residents want (ranked)
- Current use patterns + barriers (safety, access, seating, litter, dog use, etc.)
- Simple demographics (non-compulsory) to understand representativeness

2B. Youth club session

Liaising with Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust - specifics tbc

Aim: Hear directly from young people, in their space, in their language.
Method: 45–60min facilitated session using: “This place should have...” cards
Quick mapping exercise & anonymous dot-voting e.g. usage / improvements

What we’ll capture:

- Features young people would actually use
- Barriers (feeling unwelcome, nothing to do, antisocial behaviour concerns)
- Ideas for shared space that reduce conflict with other users

2C. Strategic session with youth worker (better use of space)

Liaising with Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust - specifics tbc

Aim: Convert youth insight into practical options that fit realities and local context
e.g. safeguarding / supervision
Method: 60–90 min working session: review youth themes, identify realistic interventions,
explore programming ideas for the space (it’s not all about infrastructure)

Outputs:

- Feasible options list (quick wins vs longer-term)
- Advice on how the space could be “activated” safely (times, supervision, partnerships)
- Any referral routes for further engagement if needed
- Planet Purbeck has secured some funding to progress this element: We’ll show how that funding will be used to unlock better outcomes)

2D. Herston community play groups e.g. Seahorses & Explore and Play

Liaising with Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust - specifics tbc

Aim: Understand what would make the field more usable for families with
small children (and safer-feeling).
Method: 30–45 min informal chat + quick survey
“What would make you come here more often?” prompt & map-based feedback

What we’ll capture:

- Accessibility and safety priorities (paths, visibility, seating, bins, buggy-friendly access)
- Ideas that support low-cost family use (picnic, nature play, quiet areas)

2E. At the field itself over a weekend

Aim: Engage actual users while they're using it; observe what's happening in real time.

Method: 2 x sessions (e.g., Sat + Sun) at peak times with short intercept chats
+ QR code survey; optional "walk-and-talk" micro tours

What we'll capture:

- On-site user experience (what works / what doesn't)
- Conflicting needs between user groups (dogs, kids, teens, walkers)
- "If we could change one thing..." responses

3. What we will produce (deliverables)

By **end of April 2026**, Planet Purbeck will submit a concise report to STC including:

1. **Participation summary** - How many engaged, where, and how
2. **Key themes** - What people value, what blocks use, what they want
3. **Top 3 priority improvements** - Evidence-based, with rationale
4. **Design considerations** - Practical suggestions, indicative phasing
5. **Quick wins vs medium-term options** - What can happen fast / what needs planning
6. **Risks & mitigations** - e.g. Conflict between user groups, maintenance implications
7. **Appendices**: - Engagement prompts, anonymised quotes, simple charts

4. Approach & standards (to reassure committee)

- **Low-barrier engagement** - Intercept chats + familiar groups + on-site sessions
- **Balanced input** - Youth + families + general residents + observed site use
- **Transparency** - We'll show how findings link to the final priority options
- **Data handling** - No personal data required; optional demographic questions only to assess representativeness

5. Timeline (March–April 2026)

Following committee sign off on Wed 4th March

Dates flexible at this stage to suit stakeholder availability

w/c 9 March onwards

- Confirm dates with store / youth club / playgroups
- Prepare materials (maps, prompts, QR survey, signposting)

w/c 23 March onwards

- Deliver: store pop-up + youth club session
- Deliver: strategic session with youth worker
- Deliver: young mums group
- Deliver: weekend on-site engagement (2 sessions)

w/c 20 April

- Analysis + write-up
- Submit report to STC by end of **30 April 2026**

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.

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
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Detailed below is a progress update setting out the actions taken to deliver the plan.

Develop an initiative to tackle dog waste and owners not picking up after their pets

The Council has developed an initiative to engage children aged 5-12 to design a poster to encourage people to put litter in the bin and pick up dog poo. Councillors Bonfield and Sutton will be attending local primary schools and encouraging children to submit their designs. Promotional material has been developed, appended to this report, that will be placed on social media. The closing date for submissions is 27th March 2026.

It is proposed that the Council will turn some of the designs into permanent signage that will be placed in local greenspaces.

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

- 105 native tree whips planted in a protected 'nursery area' to enable further growth prior to replanting in a range of locations.
- 43 trees planted in a range of locations.
- 1,120 bulbs planted in a range of locations.
- 90 new shrubs planted along with division of existing.
- Hazel hedging purchased for planting within Godlingston cemetery.

Management plan completed for the Recreation Ground

The management plan for the Recreation Ground has been completed and is available on the Council's website.

Install signage at greenspaces setting out the key features of the location

Interpretative signage has been installed at Day's Park providing information on the trees, plants and wildlife that can be found within the park. This was match funded by the Dorset Community Tree Fund. Additional greenspace signage is proposed to be implemented at Beach Gardens with plans for this currently being developed.

Retain Green Flag award for Beach Gardens

The Council was successful in retaining this award and the application for the 2026/27 Green Flag Award for this location has been submitted.

Explore proposal to enter Godlingston cemetery into Cemetery of the Year award

Members of the Council's Operations Team visited Blandford Town Council, recent winners of the Cemetery of the Year. It is proposed that the Town Council enter Godlingston Cemetery for consideration for the award noting the closing date for submissions is 30th June 2026.

Receive and review Planet Purbeck engagement reports in respect of King George's and Forres Field and Herston Community Field

It has been agreed that Planet Purbeck are no longer in a position to provide the engagement report scheduled for King George's and Forres Field. In lieu of this Councillor Sutton, Sustainable Swanage and the Grounds and Estates Manager will be reviewing options for this area. This will include consideration of accessibility improvements.

Planet Purbeck are continuing with the Herston Community Field engagement and a report is included on the agenda.

Seek opportunities for external funding to deliver green space actions set out within this plan

To date, the Council has received funding from the Dorset Community Tree Fund for signage at Day's Park and 105 native whips free of charge from the Wildlife Trust.

Proposed new additions to the action plan

- Develop a nature corridor in Journey's End adjacent to the Ulwell Stream. This is proposed further to discussions held with Planet Purbeck, Sustainable Swanage and the Grounds and Estates Manager.
- Develop a Swanage Town Council Tree Warden scheme. Community interest for this initiative will be gauged at the Sustainable Swanage 'Big community tree meet-up' event on Wednesday 25th February at 7.30pm in the Focus Centre.

Action Required

To note the progress made to date to deliver the Swanage Greenspace Strategy Action Plan along with the proposed new additional actions.

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
February 2026

HELP KEEP SWANAGE CLEAN!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Everyone has said we want less:

LITTER



GRIM...

and

DOG POO



& YUCK!!!

in our lovely Swanage

WHAT DO WE WANT YOU TO DO?



WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DRAW A SIGN THAT REMINDS PEOPLE TO:

- Put litter in the bin, or
- Pick up dog poo

The best drawings will be turned into **REAL SIGNS** and put up around our town.

WHO CAN ENTER?

- Children aged 5 - 12 years old



WHAT SHOULD YOUR SIGN BE LIKE?

- Use **BIG** pictures
- Use **BRIGHT** colours
- Use a **short**, clear message
- Be **kind** and **friendly**

Your sign should be easy for people to understand when they walk past.

IDEAS TO HELP YOU

You can make people smile 😊 or think! 🤔

EXAMPLES:

- “Please bin your litter”
- “Bag it and bin it!”
- “Thank you for keeping our town clean”
- Draw dogs, bins, parks, or people helping

← (You don't have to use these, they are just ideas.)

HOW TO MAKE YOUR PICTURE

- Draw on A4 paper
- Use crayons, felt tips, pencils, or paint
- Use pictures and a few large words
- Write your name and age and school on the back, not the front
- Hand it to the Town Hall



Consideration of proposed seaweed management project

The Town Council has recently received a request from a local consulting company to offer a free seaweed management project. The project details can be seen below along with a summary of the consultant's background. Luke Robinson has been known to the Council for a while in relation to his company known as Ocean Origin and he has supported Sustainable Swanage and Planet Purbeck.

It is anticipated that this report, which would be brought to the next Committee, might help the Council in terms of its future seaweed management options and planning.

Action Required

Consider the offer of a report following a no-fee seaweed management project.

Culvin Milmer, Visitor Services Manager
February 2026



Project Proposal - Innovative Beach Management - Swanage Town Council (STC).

Summary. Lantern is pleased to present our Innovative Beach Management project. This will identify practical, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible options for managing storm-cast seaweed on Swanage's beaches. It is intended to provide decision support to assist Swanage Town Council reduce ongoing costs while supporting tourism, local business, and sustainability initiatives.

Requirement. Every year, significant volumes of seaweed are cast onto Swanage's beaches by waves and storm surges. This is likely to be exacerbated as climate change increases the frequency and severity of storms, and by rising sea temperature leading to changes in seaweed ecology. Seaweed on the beach is removed by STC to avoid negatively impacting on tourism and local business - both reliant on high-quality sandy beaches.

Changes to National Trust farm tenancy policy now precludes local farmer from spreading seaweed on their fields – the established disposal method. For the past two years, STC has paid contractors to push the seaweed back down the beach and allowed the tide to take it back out to sea.

A range of more effective, sustainable and cost-efficient methods of disposal may be suitable.

Approach. Lantern intends to examine current and forecast STC expenditure on seaweed removal and associated beach maintenance. We will need to contact key stakeholders related to seaweed management on Swanage beach. These will include but are not limited to members of; Swanage Town Council, Sustainable Swanage, The National Trust, local agricultural contractors involved in current seaweed removal and impacted local businesses. We may require STC to make appropriate introductions to these stakeholders.

Our findings and the options presented are advisory in nature and intended to support STC's decision-making and long-term planning.

Timeframe. The project will be completed within three months, with Lantern presenting a summary of findings and recommendations to the June 2026 meeting of Swanage Town Council.

Cost. This project will be delivered at no cost to STC as part of Lantern's commitment to supporting local, community-led sustainability initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to working with you.



Consultant Profile. Luke Robinson

I am leaving the military after 15 years and looking for a new challenge. I have recently qualified as a consultant, but I have spent my career in management and leadership roles with the Army and Royal Marines, helping the MOD to solve complex problems in difficult circumstances. The Company's name, Lantern, is a nod to this – we aim to illuminate challenges and light the way to solutions. The company was incorporated this year, so this project is an opportunity to build experience and contribute to my local community.

I studied Biology at the University of Exeter, and Seaweed Aquaculture at the Scottish Academy of Marine Sciences (SAMS). I now run a small regenerative aquaculture project, called Ocean Origin, that aims to cultivate native kelp and shellfish species at a site in Ringsted Bay. We aim to use seaweed cultivation to reverse biodiversity loss and build climate change resilience into crucial marine ecosystems. We are also looking at novel ways to use kelp to create the carbon-negative biomaterials of the future. This background means I can engage at a meaningful level with conservation groups and academia on the underlying issues relating to this project. My kelp project is closely linked with Prof Rick Stafford and the Marine Sciences Dept at Bournemouth University and has ties to Plymouth Marine Laboratories, connections which can be leveraged in support of this project and to build a community of interest around this issue.

We are a local family, based in Church Knowle. My wife and I are passionate about the environment and love our time on Swanage beach. We have supported the Planet Purbeck initiative, Greenpeace and the Motion for the Ocean events. I have been involved in Swanage and Wareham RFC and am now part of Swanage Sea Rowing Club.

I look forward to working with Culvin, Gail and the team over the coming months.

Environment Committee – 2025-26 and 2026-27 budget

1. Current year: Environmental Improvement Engagement Plan 2025-26 budget

A budget of £20,000 was approved for 2025-26. It is currently forecast that £13,650 of this will be spent by the end of the year. See Appendix 1 for a progress report.

2. Next year: Proposed 2026-27 Budget

A budget of £15,000 has been approved for 2026-27 as attached in Appendix 2.

3. 2026-27 contribution to reserve

For some time, an annual contribution of £25,000 towards an ‘Environmental Projects Reserve’ has been made. At the end of 2025-26, this is forecast to be £67,000. This was originally set aside to fund energy improvements to enable the Council to meet its stated carbon neutral target for 2030.

4. Decisions required

Note the forecast spend for the current year 2025-26 in Appendix 1.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

February 2026

Appendix 1: Environmental Community Engagement Budget 2025-26

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. Also includes management of the website and social media.	6 sessions led by Planet Purbeck as in 2024-25.	£5,000
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.	£6,000
3.	Support the implementation of the Greenspaces Strategy	Various projects to enhance green spaces stemming from the Greenspaces Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and Environment Action Plan	£0
4.	Support engagement projects as they arise from time to time.	Friends of the Downs, Herston Community Field event, Motion for the Ocean etc Herston Community Field Community Engagement – Planet Purbeck	£2,650
5.	Support Sustainable Swanage volunteer co-ordinator	Request from Sustainable Swanage to support enhanced programme of works	?
	Total - £20,000		£13,650?

Appendix 2: Environmental Community Engagement Budget 2026-27

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.	6 sessions led by Planet Purbeck as in 2024-25. The management of the Sustainable Swanage website and the social media page will be undertaken by volunteers from 1 st April 2026.	£4,000
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.	Various projects to enhance green spaces stemming from the Greenspaces Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and Environment Action Plan	£2,000
4.	Support engagement projects as they arise from time to time.	Friends of the Downs, Herston Community Field event, Motion for the Ocean etc	£3,000
	Total - £15,000		£15,000