

Sustainable Swanage's request
Funding for a Volunteer Co-ordinator position



Summary

Sustainable Swanage's capacity to support Swanage Town Council (STC) in delivering its environmental plan has been severely curtailed by the departure of Sarah Spurling. We are therefore requesting that the committee approve funds to appoint a replacement volunteer co-ordinator. This would initially be a temporary contractor and would use unallocated funds in the 2025-26 budget. This proposal is aligned with action 12: STC environmental plan.

What will the volunteer co-ordinator do?

The primary purpose of the appointment is to bring together volunteers from the town to deliver the objectives of the committee.

To this end, at a recent Sustainable Swanage workshop we identified the need to set up three volunteer groups. These will cover

1. the marine eco-system (action 3: STC plan) and
2. sustainable / active transport (action 6: STC plan),
3. waste and recycling (which would enhance previous efforts, action 12: STC plan).

The volunteer co-ordinator will lead on setting up of these groups and ensure they are able to function effectively. This would include defining purpose and governance; liaising with stakeholders; recruiting an organising committee; and organising a founding meeting (see appendix 1 for more detail).

Why is this beneficial?

The work of these groups will deliver significant benefits to the town. They will preserve and enhance the natural environment; encourage greater health and well-being; reduce harmful emissions and strengthen community engagement with STC (see appendix 1 for more detail).

How will the work be undertaken?

If the committee approves the funding, the work will start immediately. The volunteer co-ordinator will be employed via Planet Purbeck (tbc) and report to Culvin Milmer (with support from the Sustainable Swanage steering group).

Sustainable Swanage's request
Funding for a Volunteer Co-ordinator position



Who will undertake it?

We are fortunate to have an outstanding candidate for the role. [Isabel Zanconato](#) is a Chartered Environmentalist who has been working in the sustainability sector for the last 9 years. She is also a Swanage resident with an extensive local network. So, she is perfectly placed to deliver significant improvements to the town quickly.

What will this cost?

Given Isabel's availability, we think 14 days in March should be allocated to setting up the groups.

Additionally, we recommend that a further 3 days be allocated to progressing the sustainable tourism vision (action 5: STC plan). This would involve producing a report for the Environmental Committee which includes recommendations for what should be in the plan, who should be involved and how should it be implemented.

This work will be charged at £250 per day, so £4,250 in total.

The next financial year

We expect that Isabel will make good progress, but it is likely that the volunteer groups will need further support throughout the next financial year. So, we suggest that funds from the 2026-27 budget are allocated for ongoing support and the completion of the Sustainable Tourism plan.

Sustainable Swanage’s request
Funding for a Volunteer Co-ordinator position



Appendix 1

What would the volunteer groups do?

We have identified a range of activities for the volunteer groups to consider. These are based upon feedback from representatives from Purbeck Energy Group, Planet Purbeck, the Repair Café, the Purbeck Society P-TAG, Beach Buddies and the wider town population (via the Planet Purbeck 2025 survey).

<p>WASTE & Recycling Group</p>	<p>The group’s remit should encompass provision for hard-to recycle items (following Wareham’s <u>example</u>), creating a <u>Library of Things</u>, setting up a Olio food swap scheme, water bottle refill stations, liaising with local businesses, clothing swops and community education (including dog poo).</p> <p>Benefit: This work will reduce landfill waste and carbon emissions. It will also help residents cope with the cost-of-living crisis. Lastly, it will strengthen community ties (particularly, by creating a Library of Things).</p>
<p>Community Active TRAVEL Group</p>	<p>The group’s remit should involve, inter alia, working with P-TAG to identify and advocate for more cycling (marked bike routes, bike racks with CCTV and bike rental) and community bus routes (including car parks and Durlston).</p> <p>Benefit: Active travel will have a positive impact on the town’s environment (e.g. less polluting emissions) and resident and visitor health.</p>
<p>Community MARINE Group</p>	<p>The group will support the Marine Protected Area, implement the Motion for the Ocean plan, promote ocean literacy and address community concerns about jet skis.</p> <p>Benefit: Swanage Bay is one of the town’s greatest assets, both for residents and tourists. It is therefore critical it is protected from environmental and biodiversity degradation.</p>

Sustainable Swanage’s request
Funding for a Volunteer Co-ordinator position



Appendix 2

Job description

		Actions:
1.	Programme Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally establish both groups with clear governance & terms of reference Recruit and support core volunteer teams Facilitate initial action planning sessions Align group activity directly to the STC Environment Policy
2.	Volunteer Management & Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain regular group meetings Support project leads Manage recruitment and onboarding Prevent volunteer fatigue and ensure continuity Act as central point of coordination between groups and STC
3.	Partnership & Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with existing community organisations Avoid duplication of effort Identify opportunities for collaboration
4.	Monitoring & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proportionate impact measurement framework Establish baseline indicators Track waste diversion and participation Monitor transport-related outcomes Record volunteer hours and engagement
5.	Reporting & Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular progress updates to STC Share public updates via digital platforms Highlight success stories and case studies
6.	Funding & Resource Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify relevant external grants Support funding applications Explore business sponsorship opportunities