

Motion for the Ocean Action Plan – Progress Update

1. The Motion for the Ocean Action Plan

At the Environment and Greenspaces Committee on 25th June 2025, the ‘Motion for the Ocean Action Plan’ was approved. This is attached as appendix 1 below with a column depicting progress to date for each action.

More information about the Motion for the Ocean project can be found on the [Ocean Conservation Trust](#) website.

2. Swanage Marine Bio-Blitz

This was undertaken during August 2025 and details can be found in Appendix 2 below.

3. Recommendation

That the Motion for the Ocean Action Plan, attached at Appendix 1, is noted

Culvin Milmer

Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

October 2025

Appendix 1 - Motion for the Ocean Action Plan (V.1 June 2025)

No.	Action	How will we do this?	Cost	Date required	How do we measure success?	Progress to date – October 2025
1.	Review Wessex Water and the EA efforts to reduce the sewage discharges near the bathing beach in Swanage.	Ensure Wessex Water attend the relevant Town Council committees on a regular basis to update about progress regarding water quality in the two bays. Challenge and support as required to reduce the number of discharges into the bays.	-	Ongoing	Discharges reduced	The current Wessex Water representative to STC has retired and we wait for a new representative to be appointed.
2.	Collate a maritime bio audit and investigate a citizen science project to map the flora and fauna in the two bays.	Undertake a citizen bio audit during August 2025 to highlight what exists in the two bays. Review at the end of the project to assess how to build on this in future years.	Minimal	August 2025	Good engagement with residents and visitors	The Swanage Marine Bio-Blitz took pace during August and a good number of entries of Swanage marine life were uploaded to the website. This will be repeated in 2026.
3.	Explore the installation of public information signs to highlight the diverse marine life in Swanage & Durlston Bay, once the mapping of the bay has been completed.	After Citizen Science Project.	£2,000 (will need budget approval)	Following completion of Item 2 – assume 2026	Good engagement with residents and visitors	These are being planned for 2026-27, subject to successful receipt of funding.
4.	Investigate creating a website/social media platform 'Beyond the Sand' where divers and boat users can upload videos and photos of	This may just be a webpage on an existing website to start with, but working with other organisations such as Planet Purbeck may enable identification	?	Following completion of Item 2	Web platform in place	This will be considered during 2026-27.

	the marine life around Swanage.	of grants and support to develop this project				
5.	Convene a group of interested parties to discuss issues related to Swanage & Durlston Bay.	Suggest that this might be an annual event to raise awareness of ocean recovery. This could be managed through Sustainable Swanage.	Minimal	Ongoing	Good engagement with residents and visitors	Sustainable Swanage held an evening event about Motion for the Ocean on 15 th July 2025 with about 50 odd attendees. This will be repeated during 2026.
6.	Consider ways to improve the information provision regarding the water quality of Swanage bathing beach.	The beach signs are in need of revision due to a variety of reasons. This opportunity should be taken to ensure that clear messages about ocean recovery and water quality are presented.	£10,000 (subject to funding)	May 2026	Signs installed	A dedicated information board regarding water quality has been installed outside the Information Centre. Funding for improved beach signs to include more water quality information is being sought.
7.	Support the Swanage Streams Partnership to improve the water quality of the streams feeding the two bays (source to sea).	Continue supporting the project led by the National Trust in partnership with Planet Purbeck.	£6,000	April 2026	Engagement projects in place and improved water quality and biodiversity of the streams.	£6,000 was allocated to support the project for 2025-26. This will be reviewed during 2025-26
8.	Write to MP and Government about key issues as identified in the Ocean for the Moton Declaration.	Letter to be written	-	2025-26	Letter written	This will be undertaken during 2026-27.

Appendix 2 – Swanage Marine Bio-Audit 2025

The Town Council, with support from Sustainable Swanage ran a bio-audit in August 2025. This was aimed at both visitors and residents. People were asked to record marine species using the inaturalist website.

The Swanage specific web page on the inaturalist website can be found here: [Swanage Marine Bio Blitz 2025 · iNaturalist](#)

The bio-audit page remains open so people can continue to upload their pictures and to date 282 observations have been made, across the Swanage marine and countryside areas. The actual event included a stall run by Sustainable Swanage to promote the audit as well as social media and print media promotion, including within Swanage News [Swanage bioblitz to discover what's in our sea – Swanage News](#)

While it was perhaps difficult to obtain strong engagement during this busy summer week, a lot was learned, and it is planned to run a bigger and better event next year.

A sample of observations made are copied below, along with the poster that was used to promote the event.

The audit will remain open for the time being and continue to collect observations.



A sample of the observations made in Swanage on the inaturalist website - 2025



**Colonial
Seasquirt:**

Swanage Pier,
10th August 2025
www.iNaturalist.org:
Credit – Rhias



**European Green
Crab:**

Swanage
Beach, 19th August
2025
www.iNaturalist.org:
Credit - [helenswanagenews](#)



**Genus
Furcellaria:**

Swanage Beach,
19th August 2025
www.iNaturalist.org:
Credit –
[helenswanagenews](#)



**Velvet Swimming
Crab:**

Swanage Pier,
10th August 2025
www.iNaturalist.org:
Credit - rhias



Sea Stickleback:

Swanage Pier,
8th August 2025

www.iNaturalist.org:

Credit - rhias



Ostrich-Plume Hydroids:

Swanage Pier, 10th August 2025

www.iNaturalist.org:

Credit - rhias



Gutweed:

Swanage Beach,
23rd August 2025

www.iNaturalist.org:

Credit - rutht



Purple Topshell:

Swanage Beach 19th
August 2025

www.iNaturalist.org:

Credit – helenswanagenews



Lightbulb Sea Squirt:

Swanage Pier,
10th August 2025

www.iNaturalist.org:

Credit – rhias



Snakelocks Shrimp: Swanage
Pier, 10th August 2025

www.iNaturalist.org:

Credit – rhias



Blue Mussels:

North Beach, 23rd
August 2025

www.iNaturalist.org:

Credit -heidibomb



From Planet Purbeck - Luke M Luke
To Culvin Milmer / Environment Committee - STC
Date 6th Oct 2025

Planet Purbeck Update - Herston Community Field Consultation

This update is structured in 7 parts

1. Purpose of update
2. Summary of works completed to date
3. Outstanding Activities
4. Revised Timeline
5. Notes on Timeline Adjustment
6. Next Steps
7. Appendices

1. Purpose of Update

This update provides a summary of progress to date on the Herston Community Field Consultation project, outlines any factors that have affected delivery & confirms a revised completion date of 14th November 2025.

2. Summary of Works Completed to Date

Phase 1 – Planning

- We liaised with The Parks Foundation (in BCP) for advice on this kind of project
- Similarly, we liaised with another contact with public green space consultation experience
- We liaised with Greengage about community growing & managing a greenspace project

Phase 2 – Assessment

- Collaboration meeting held with Gail & Culvin STC to seek deeper understanding of the technicalities of the project & practicalities around any proposed enhancement works
- We digested the preliminary ecological survey prepared for King George's Field / Forres Field. Whilst not site specific to Herston, we sought recorded local ecological information for a public green space & are interested in how the structured findings within this survey might relate to the Herston site



Phase 3 – Stakeholder Consultation (In Progress)

- We digested the responses of the STC general greenspace use consultation carried out in Spring 2025
 - We drafted & shared a community survey with Gail & Culvin for feedback (*Appendix A*)
 - With their feedback incorporated we shared headline information, a map of the site & the community survey at 3 public events (Event info = *Appendices B - D*)
1. **8th Apr** - Growing A Greener Swanage (Sustainable Swanage) = 20+ comments
 2. **12th Apr** - Skatepark Community Open Day = 20+ comments
 3. **5th May** - Herston Community Picnic =50+ comments captured

Phase 4 – Objectives & Design Considerations

- Not yet commenced – these will follow our consultation outputs

3. Outstanding Activities

By 31st Oct

Completing the community input element of this project in the coming weeks - capturing results no later than 31st Oct.

We'll undertake this work in 2 ways:

1. **Online** - We'll be launching an online survey very similar to *Appendix A*
Circulating this via social media & via email to targeted groups within Herston
2. **In Person** - We'll spend time in community spaces e.g.
 - St Marks Primary
 - A Herston Village Hall group e.g. the Youth Group
 - Local convenience store
 - Take aways

By 7th Nov

- Analyse responses & identify top 3 improvement options
- Submit an interim update STC for comment

By 14th Nov

Draft & submit final design considerations & report – by 14th Nov



4. Revised Timeline

Phase	Description	Revised Completion
1	Planning	Complete
2	Assessment	Complete
3	Consultation	By end of Oct 2025
4	Final Report & Design Suggestions	By 14th Nov 2025

5. Notes on Timeline Adjustment

July

Further public consultation events were anticipated for early summer 2025 but we were advised to not conduct any events during the period of purdah for the Town Council elections (until July 25th)

August

We avoided conducting any public consultation during a period when Swanage residents are either exceptionally busy or taking time away

September

Planet Purbeck were hampered by capacity challenges & illness - leading to further events for this project not being possible

Our early progress was positive, with key groundwork completed. However, the original schedule has been extended to ensure full & vital participation of local residents.

This short extension will ensure a more representative consultation & a stronger final report.

6. Next Steps

- Confirm revised timeline & deliverables with STC
- Proceed with scheduled consultation activities
- Provide interim update in early November ahead of final submission

Appendix A

ENHANCING SWANAGE'S GREENSPACES

Share your views with Swanage Town Council
How can the following spaces be improved for wildlife AND people?

Which area/s are you commenting on? Please tick

☐ King George's & Forbes Field
 ☐ Herston Community Field
 ☐ Both

*If you've ticked 'Both' - Noting **KGF** or **HCF** against specific comments will be really helpful*

1. Do you use the space?

☐ YES - Move to 2a
 ☐ NO - Move to 2b

2a. If YES: For what & how often?

2b. If NO: Why not - what are the barriers?

3. If improvements are made - What THREE 'best features' MUST stay?

4. What improvements for wildlife & people would you like to see?
Think about wellbeing, community use, beautiful spaces for the park's wild residents + us humans who visit! Go for it...

A bit about you: This simply helps us demonstrate we've spoken to a wide audience

5. Age

☐ Under 12
 ☐ 12 - 17
 ☐ 18 - 24
 ☐ 25 - 39
 ☐ 40 - 54
 ☐ 55 - 69
 ☐ 70+

6. Gender

☐ Female
 ☐ Male
 ☐ Non-binary
 ☐ Prefer not to say

7. Occupation

8. Do you have any other comments, hopes, fears or bright ideas to share?

9. Email address
Entirely optional as this survey is confidential. It's just in case we (Planet Purbeck) wish to follow up on your great ideas!

>

PLANET PURBECK

Appendix B



GROWING A GREENER SWANAGE

TUE 8 APRIL
DOORS 6:45PM
TALKS + Q&A
7 - 8:30
THE MOWLEM



HEAR ABOUT

SWANAGE'S GREENSPACES
CREATION OF A 'TREE TEAM'
THE GREAT BIG DORSET HEDGE
SHARE IDEAS FOR KING GEORGE'S
& HERSTON COMMUNITY FIELD
OUR WILDLIFE & MUCH MORE...

A SUSTAINABLE SWANAGE
COMMUNITY EVENT
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



**JUST TURN UP
ALL WELCOME**



A SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL INITIATIVE
WWW.SUSTAINABLESWANAGE.UK



Appendix C



**SKATE - SCOOT - BMX
WORKSHOPS & DEMOS**

SKATE JAM

IN MEMORY OF WILL PADDY #WillDoes 

**12:00 - 17:00 SATURDAY 12TH APRIL
SWANAGE SKATEPARK**

FREE ENTRY

EVENT FUNDED BY:



Registered Charity No: 1162862

Appendix D



Herston Community Picnic

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 11am - 3pm

bring & share food, play games & enjoy your local outdoor space!

FREE EVENT!

Cafe for Hot Drinks, Homemade Cakes

Activities Include:
 Wild flower planting
 Nature Trail
 Willow Weaving
 Face Painting
 Children's Art and Craft
 Outdoor Games
 Garden Games
 Circus Skills
 SEN Tent
 Hot Drinks
 Homemade Cakes

Make homes for nature & enjoy fun activities in your local park space

Music from:
 Rob Mills - Allsort'd
 St Marks Band
 plus local community singers and bands

Coming together to plant wildflowers. Free Plants & Gardening Tips from Greengage

Herston Community Field and Herston Village Hall, 12 Jubilee Rd, Swanage BH19 2SF

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust including: Greengage Community Garden
 Herston Village Hall - Community Pantry - Well-being Swanage - National Trust
 Swanage Town Council Greening Team - Durlston Country Park - St Marks Church Choir
 Swanage SEN Group - Allsort'd - Planet Purbeck - Jane Woods & Wellbeing Workshops

Herston Village Hall Committee
Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
National Trust