

# Beacon Ward Report to Parishes

## Dorset Council

### Cllr Jane Somper

January/February 2024

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## Revenue Support Fund

Dorset Council Organisational Revenue Support Fund for Culture has awarded £486,000 to 28 organisations over the next three years.

A total of 41 applications were received from arts and heritage organisations and accredited museums. A total of £217,000 has been awarded to arts and heritage and £269,000 to accredited museums.

This funding has been spread across the Dorset Council area to ensure residents and communities have cultural benefit around the county. All the organisations awarded with this money are based in and deliver their programmes within the council's boundaries.

Here is a link to see what organisation have received this funding

[Organisational Revenue Support Fund grants awarded - Dorset Council](#)

## Winter Gritting - Floods

I and the highways team in this area have been responding to calls for advice and assistance during recent weeks on flooding and icy roads. Highways had 70 staff during working hours, and 12 overnight alongside the gritting crews (additional 19 operatives). Tackling flood water and water on the roads while the temperatures drop requires care coordination by the teams to ensure gritting activity is done within early hours.

With the amount of call outs received in the short space of time, this did cause delays to highways response but all reporting is now up-to-date and areas of priority concern in Beacon Ward are being addressed.

## Community Asset Transfer

Dorset Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy is being presented to Overview Committee and seeks to recognise and maximise the benefit of devolution of assets to local communities, particularly to Town and Parish Councils.

This policy supports the delivery of this devolution by providing clear guidance and support for applicants. Dorset Council aims to increase local control over assets, enabling assets to further meet the needs of local communities and enhance local neighbourhood plans. The proposal for changes aims to make the process simpler

for applicants and ensure the process is transparent introducing a refreshed and more agile two-stage process, (Expression of Interest (EOI) and Business Case), to allow applicants to assess against a set of pre-set criteria if an asset is potentially suitable for Community Asset Transfer in advance of writing a full business case.

## Transport Survey

Residents, businesses and visitors are being invited to share their views on what they consider to be the big transport opportunities and issues across the whole of Dorset.

Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council are running a survey from 22 January to 3 March 2024 to gather feedback and experiences.

People are being asked what they think are the key opportunities and issues to help the councils develop a new joint Local Transport Plan to travel easily around the county, whilst protecting its special landscape.

This will help shape the changes needed for a safer, more efficient and sustainable network for years to come.

Please encourage residents to respond to the survey

Link to survey [Local Transport Plan Opportunities and Issues - Page 1 of 16 - Dorset Council - Citizen Space](#)

## Grants For Community Tree Planting

A new grant scheme aimed at supporting local communities to plant and care for trees in their area is now open for applications.

Funded by Dorset Council and managed by the Dorset National Landscape team, the fund is open to community organisations in the Dorset Council area. This includes parish and town councils, as well as schools and other established community groups interested in planting and caring for trees in their patch.

Trees play a crucial role in our natural world, from providing homes for wildlife to tackling climate change. However, planting the wrong tree in the wrong place can have a negative impact on local wildlife, communities, and landscape.

So, unlike traditional tree planting schemes, the fund goes beyond just providing grants for trees. It also offers support for the planning and design phases of planting projects. This extra support can help make sure trees and hedges planted in and by communities have a positive impact on Dorset's natural environment for years to come.

Link to grant information [Dorset Community Tree Fund | Dorset National Landscape \(dorset-nl.org.uk\)](#)

## Reporting Any Highways Related Problem

Highways problems can be reported on the link below. You will receive a reference number so the report can be tracked. You can also upload photographs of the issue concerned and pin-point on the interactive map. Some of the reporting you can do as follows; pothole, blocked drain, flooding, abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping [Report a problem on a road or pavement - Dorset Council](#)

My contact details for case ward work [CllrJane.Somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CllrJane.Somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)