

# DORCHESTER NEWS



19 NORTH SQUARE, DORSET, DT1 1JF

☎ 01305 266861    ✉ [admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk)    📘 [dorchestertowncouncil](https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk)

## ELECTIONS – THURSDAY 2 MAY 2024

On Thursday 2 May residents will be invited to elect Councillors to Dorchester Town Council. The Council has a total of twenty seats and all of them are up for election.

If you are passionate about Dorchester, we need you. As a Councillor you will become a voice for your community and effect real change. You will be a community leader and represent the aspirations of the townspeople. Town and parish councillors are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public. By standing for the Council you could make a real difference.

The election process will be run by Dorset Council and details about standing as a candidate, registration and voting can be found at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/elections-on-2-may-2024](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/elections-on-2-may-2024).

Remember you will need photo ID in order to vote. Check online to find your polling station.

Also taking place on the same day include elections to Dorset Council and an election for the next Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset.

## TOWN COUNCIL TURNS FIFTY

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Dorchester Town Council following changes to local government in 1974.



To celebrate this significant birthday, the town council will be providing a free family fun day in Borough Gardens on 29th June and holding a civic reception in the autumn.

## D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

On Thursday June 6th from 7.00pm, we'll be commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day with an event at Salisbury Fields. A choir of local children will perform and serving US soldiers will read accounts of American GIs stationed in Dorchester in World War II before the lighting of the beacon at 9.15pm.

On Saturday June 8th, they'll be actors and historical vehicles stationed around the town bringing to life Dorchester's wartime past.

These events are funded by a grant of £9,933 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

More details soon on [www.discoverdorchester.co.uk](http://www.discoverdorchester.co.uk).

## REMEMBERING THE ROMAN BATHS

It's 47 years since archaeologists revealed part of the extensive remains of the Roman baths underneath what is now the Wollaston Field car park in Dorchester. The baths lay in the centre of the Roman town and comprised an extensive complex of hot and cold baths / plunge pools and hot rooms with mosaics and underfloor heating.

The Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee would like to do more to provide information to the community about the baths both online and on site. To start with, the Committee is keen to hear from any local people who have memories or photographs of the 1977 excavation and which we can include in an online archive. So please do share your memories or photographs by emailing [admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk)



## TOWN EVENTS THIS SPRING

**Dorchester Science Festival**  
8th-17th March, Across Dorchester

**Easter Egg Rolling**  
Easter Monday 1st April, FREE, The Great Field

**Dorchester Spring Show**  
27th & 28th April, Kingston Maurward

**The Poundbury Independent Market**  
12th May & 3rd November, FREE, Poundbury

**Dorchester Walking Festival**  
11th-19th May, Across Dorchester

**Dorchester Vegan Market**  
18th & 19th May / 4th August, FREE, Maumbury Rings

**80th Anniversary D-Day Events**  
6th & 8th June, FREE, Across Dorchester

**Town Council 50th Birthday Fun Day**  
29th June, Borough Gardens

## THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN



The Great British Spring Clean 2024 returns to Dorchester from 15th to 31st March.

Volunteers are encouraged to join our community litter picks to help take care of our beautiful town.

Head down to the Borough Gardens on 8th March and/or 14th March at 10am to take part in our two-hour litter pick! We will be meeting at the Bandstand – all equipment will be provided.

To take part please contact Connie Hollings ([conniehollings@dorchester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:conniehollings@dorchester-tc.gov.uk)). If you would like to organise your own pick, do get in touch, we have lots of equipment we can loan to you.

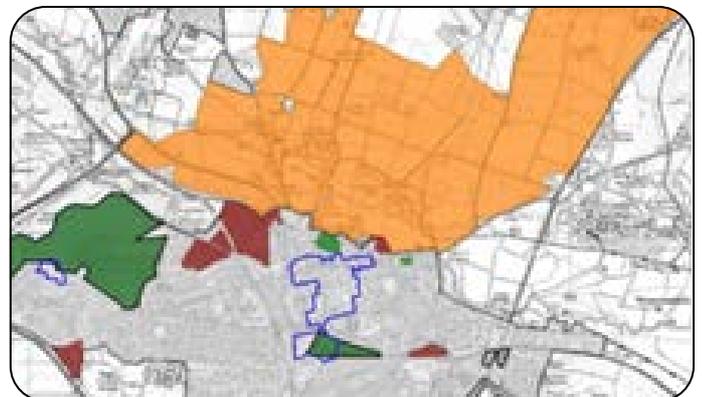
## DORSET COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

You may remember that back in January 2021 Dorset Council consulted on its proposals for a new Local Plan for Dorset. The proposals included earmarking land across the water meadows north of Dorchester (shown in orange on the map) for 3,500 new houses, 25 acres of employment land plus new healthcare facilities and schools.

The Town Council objected to this proposal for the following reasons:

- Because of significant infrastructure requirements the site would not be financially viable
- Increasing the town's population by around 35%, over 7000 new residents, would place enormous pressure on a town infrastructure
- The environment and heritage damage
- No other sites in the wider area had been properly considered

These proposals have not gone away and Dorset Council will, towards the end of the year be publicising its draft Local Plan for comment. The original proposal, the consultation responses and the revised timeline can be found at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan>



## DORCHESTER SCIENCE FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR 2024

After a record-breaking year in 2023, Dorchester Science Festival returns to Dorchester on the 8th to 17th March with a jam-packed program of activities and events.

From science shows to critter handling, there's tons of workshops going on to celebrate British Science Week.

The festival will finish with a bang at Dorset Museum with the hugely popular FREE Family Science Day on Sunday 17th of March, 11am-4pm.

For more information, event details and tickets, head to the Dorchester Science Festival Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DorchesterScienceFestival](https://www.facebook.com/DorchesterScienceFestival) or Instagram at [@dorchscifest](https://www.instagram.com/dorchscifest)



## CYCLING WITHOUT AGE - DORCHESTER



Cycling Without Age (CWA) Dorchester provides free trishaw rides for people of any age and ability; building community relationships, providing special experiences, embracing nature all through sharing a free trishaw ride.

Since April 2023 the group of volunteers have been providing free rides around Dorchester. Residents from seven Dorchester care homes have rides booked every month throughout the year with one passenger being 104 years old. Many other groups and members of the general public have also enjoyed rides, a total of 479 in all between April and December.

The group would like to offer more rides but it needs more volunteers – so if you have any free time, even an hour a month, CWA would love to hear from you. For more information - email [cwadorchester@gmail.com](mailto:cwadorchester@gmail.com).

## SUMMERFEST ON THE GREAT FIELD

Once again, the Lions will be organising Summerfest in 2024 – a free family fun day on The Great Field on Sunday 19th May 2024.

As well as raising money for the Lions, the event provides a platform for local charities to come along and raise money for themselves. Attractions include Townsends Funfair, Jamie Jigsaw, the Critter Clan courtesy of Dorchester Town Council, Punch and Judy, live music, the Nothe Fort Artillery and a soft play area for the under 5s. Stalls will include a coconut shy, skittle alley and the ever-popular wellie whanging!

Pavilion in the Park will be open for refreshments as well as a variety of other food outlets, or bring your own picnic. The event will be opened at 11.00 by the Mayor of Dorchester, Councillor Alistair Chisholm.

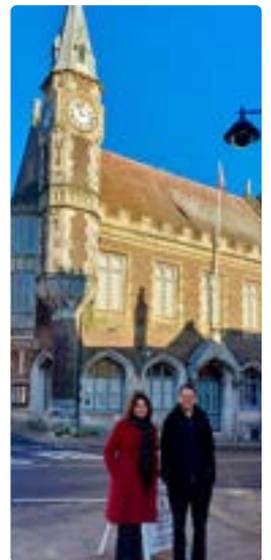


## CONGRATULATIONS!

The Town Council believes that one of its most important assets is its staff. The Council has always set aside funds to ensure that staff are fully trained for the work that they do and that they are developed to their full potential.

The Council was therefore delighted when two of its officers, Nigel Hayes and Gina Wakely, completed their Higher Certificate in Community Governance after two years of study. Both not only passed but passed with distinction with Gina having the honour of being joint first place for the highest average marks

Congratulations to both Gina and Nigel who will now continue following their training path with the aim of achieving a Degree in Community Governance.



---

## DORCHESTER STUDENTS LEARN ALL ABOUT DEMOCRACY!

Dorchester Town Council was pleased to host St. Osmund's School and Dorchester Middle School in November for last year's Democracy Day. Pupils from various year groups spent the day learning about democracy and how it works.

In the morning, they got stuck into fun activities and then took a walking tour to some of Dorchester Town Council's sites including Borough Gardens, Skate Park, and Maumbury Rings.



In the afternoon, the students took part in an activity to celebrate World Children's Day by exploring the Rights of the Child.

Finally, Councillor Alistair Chisholm, Mayor of Dorchester, presented the children with a certificate and a DTC badge each!



## GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Over recent months, the council's Management Committee has awarded more grants to support events and good causes across the town, including:

- £330 to the Durnovaria Silver Band to help purchase new music stands (pictured).
- £700 to the Dorchester Chamber for Business to support the very popular Christmas Cracker event in Dorchester.
- £500 to the Dorset Museum & Art Gallery to help give free access for local families to the Dorchester Science Festival on 17th March 2024.



To find out if your project is eligible and to apply for a grant visit our website.

In addition to these one-off grants, the town council also provides annual funding to the following key local organisations: Citizens Advice (£8,470), Dorchester Youth & Community Centre (£21,200), Keep 106 Radio (£5,000) and Dorchester Arts (£7,000).

### Dorchester Councillors' Residents Surgery



- Want to know what's happening in your community?
- Have a question for a local councillor?
- Want to know who does what?
- Or would you simply like to meet those representing you?

Where: Dorchester Library

When: First Saturday of every month 10.00am – 12.00pm

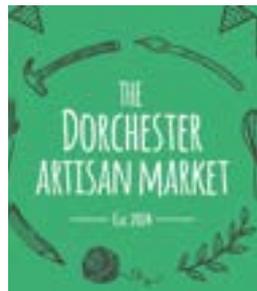
For more information call: 01305 224440

## DORCHESTER ARTISAN MARKET

This summer will see the start of a new monthly Sunday artisan market with stalls and entertainments in Borough Gardens, Bowling Alley Walk, South Street and across in Brewery Square.

Dorset Artisan Markets will be bringing a wonderful collection of over 200 artisan traders to the streets of Dorchester on the fourth Sunday of each month from 28th April through to November.

For more information visit [www.dorsetartisanmarkets.com/dorchester](http://www.dorsetartisanmarkets.com/dorchester)



## TOWN'S PART OF COUNCIL TAX RISES 2%

The Town Council share of the council tax will rise by a below inflationary 2% in April, with a Band D charge of £210.33, an increase of £4.12 for the year, raising £1.72 million from the DT1 taxpayers. DTC have long had a policy of small and steady 2% increases, at or around inflation. This policy has meant the taxpayer is less impacted at times of higher inflation, whilst also not impacting the long-term financial position of the council.

Councillors considered a number of issues when setting the budget for 2024/25, including:

- The costs of the coming local elections in May
- An increase in the Councillor training budget to ensure newly elected Councillors are well trained to carry out their roles to a high standard
- A one-off budget for the purchase of equipment for the new Town Crier
- A £10,000 budget for community grants
- Additional costs associated with maintenance of the Great Field

The full budget can be viewed on our website.

## IMMEDIATE JUSTICE IN DORCHESTER

The Government's Immediate Justice scheme is an unpaid work pilot run by Offender Rehabilitation organisation 'Red Snapper Managed Services' that is aimed at individuals responsible for committing antisocial behaviour related offences.

It was rolled out across Dorset late last year and the busy Christmas period provided the programme with several service users who were keen to carry out the work and give back to their local community. You may have seen them in action litter picking at the Great Field.

Speaking to members of the public observing the scheme in action, Dave, the Immediate Justice Supervisor, has been encouraged by the level of positive support for the scheme.

## COUNCILLOR CONTACTS

Phone and e-mail contact details for Ward councillors for the Town Council and the Dorset Council are available on our website, [www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk)

