

# Dorset County Council August 2016 Report

## **Dorset Waste Partnership**

The post of Director of the Waste Partnership has been advertised and a new person appointed who has taken over from the current post holder who stepped down recently.

## **How much is Dorset's special environment worth?**

The Local Nature Partnership held a forum at Poole Lighthouse recently. The Dorset Environmental Economy Report was launched which estimated that Dorset's outstanding environment is worth an estimated £1.5 billion a year to its economy. The Dorset Environmental Economy report was commissioned by Dorset County Council and its partners to help drive future growth and influence decision-making. A team of experts, led by consultants Ash Futures, used a number of ways to measure the size of Dorset's 'environmental economy', including specific studies of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site (WHS) and Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The central estimate suggests that it supports around 30,000 jobs in Dorset and makes up 8 to 10 per cent of its total economy – roughly the same size as manufacturing (although there is some overlap) in particular, it estimates the Jurassic Coast (part of which is in East Devon) and Dorset AONB influence around £111m and £65m of economic output, respectively. For further information and a link to the document, visit: <http://news.dorsetforyou.com/2016/02/25/1-5-billion-the-value-of-dorsetsenvironmental>

## **Library Service**

Dorset County Council has voted to maintain one home mobile library service van and withdraw three mobile library service vans. This decision follows a consultation with library users and local town and parish councils to look at alternative ways to access the library service.

People who are unable to access a library due to a disability or frailty will continue to have access to books, and other reading material delivered to their homes through a partnership with the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS). The council are also encouraging community transport to help people have access to libraries. We will continue to take the home mobile library service van to residential homes. The consultation identified that social isolation is a concern for some people and the council's Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP) community development team has started working with communities to address the social aspect that the mobile library currently serves. Dorset's library service has joined the "LibrariesWest" consortium which means customers will be able to access libraries, 'coast to coast' from the Bristol Channel to the south coast. In some parts of Dorset the nearest library is in Somerset, and being part of the consortium means they can still access library services.

Full details of the report can be found at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/committees/county>. To see the areas affected visit [www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/mobilelibrary](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/mobilelibrary).

## **Surgery**

Surgeries are held on the first Saturday of every month. These are held at the communal Lounge in Turberville Court in Bere Regis from 09.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. If you cannot make one of these please email me and I will arrange to come round to see you. If you have any questions or queries related to the business of Dorset County Council please come along. If anyone wants to contact me and can not get to the surgery my email address is [peterwharf@hotmail.com](mailto:peterwharf@hotmail.com).

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County Councillor