

Spring 2023

## Dorset Coast Forum

Swanage Newsletter 4th Edition  
Welcome to our Swanage Projects!



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## Public invited to have their say on the draft Swanage Seafront Masterplan

Residents of and visitors to Swanage are being invited to have their say on a future vision for the town's seafront this month when a draft of the Swanage Seafront Masterplan is made publicly available.

The masterplan, which will be available to view online

[www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/swanage-seafront-masterplan](http://www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/swanage-seafront-masterplan) from 19th June to 10th July, has been developed by Dorset Coast Forum and provides an aspirational vision showing the potential of the seafront for the future.

Members of the public are invited to feedback on this vision for the seafront through an online survey and a drop in public engagement event at the **Mowlem Theatre Show bar Thursday 22nd June 4-7pm.**

The masterplan has been drafted over the past few months after an extensive public consultation process last year, which saw over 1000 people fill in a survey, attend engagement



Attendees at the Swanage Town Council Officers Drop In event 19 April 2023, Swanage Town Hall



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events which included a photography exhibition at the Mowlem Theatre, a workshop exploring what creativity can bring to the seafront and various pop-up stalls on the seafront.

The Swanage Seafront Masterplan is a working practical strategy that will provide a vision to inform the potential of the seafront and help make decisions about its future. It covers an area from Swanage Pier to the stream at Ocean Bay and includes the greenspaces, seafront areas and the beach.

The masterplan is guided by **6 themes:** accessibility; health and wellbeing; protecting and enhancing the natural environment; culture and heritage; events and activities; and, sustainable tourism and the local economy. The process was informed by an extensive consultation process which included a public survey, an ideas board where the public could post ideas, meetings with key stakeholders, and pop-up events including a photography exhibition.

The masterplan has been drafted by Dorset Coast Forum, an independent strategic coastal partnership, in partnership with Swanage Town Council.



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# Swanage Seafront Masterplan Timeline

**19 June-10 July Draft Swanage Seafront Masterplan LIVE**

**10 July-24 July Feedback reviewed from 2nd round of public consultation**

**24 July- if only minor edits needed, Masterplan signed off by Swanage Town Council**

**24 July onwards - Strategy is taken forward by Swanage Town Council**

## Swanage Town Coastal Protection Schemes

Whilst the natural beauty of Swanage inspires generations of visitors to enjoy Swanage each summer, many are unaware of the projects underway to protect the town and its residents from flooding and coastal erosion.

DCF Project Officer Sara is our engagement link for Dorset Council's Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management team (FCERM) projects in Swanage. JBA Consultants will shortly be presenting their short list of options for the flood protection scheme which we expect to share through public consultation with the wider community in early autumn once funding is obtained.



Our friends from Allsort'd learning how we protect our beach environments on Outdoor Classroom Day 18 May 2023 with Dan & Sara from DCF

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Durlston Cliffs, Swanage

Please register to follow this project:  
<https://www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/swanage-town-centre-flood-defences>

St George's Primary School and the team at local learning disability group Allsort'd joined us for Outdoor Classroom Day in May which included STEM activities focussing on coastal erosion and beach nourishment. We will be getting involved in the next OCD on the 2 November.

DCF will be supporting community awareness and engagement of other planned FCERM projects in Swanage at North Cliff, Durlston Cliffs and main beach nourishment. Beaches are a natural defence against erosion and coastal flooding but require constant maintenance to replace the beach material that is washed away over time.

Check out our DCF website for further details.



Photo credit: Dorset Council

Example of bulldozers moving sand during beach nourishment



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A group established in Swanage as part of the town's ongoing efforts to become a more sustainable community and protect our precious environment

## Sustainable Swanage – summer events

Full of the joys of spring and summer here and we are excited about all our projects to help boost wildlife, improve habitats locally and to help people connect with nature around them. Our work over the summer is focussed on the Town's greenspaces and surveying wildlife and also promoting sustainable tourism and reducing waste as we enter the busy season.

We have recently hosted two events, the Picnic in the Park event on 1st May at the old St Marks school playing field was a huge success. A recently opened public greenspace, over 250 people joined us in having a lovely day in the park with picnics, games, nature activities, yoga, Zumba and live music. We also hosted Swanage Bike Day on June 11th which saw people trying out ebikes, getting repairs and free advice on their existing bikes and using pedal power to make smoothies on a special 'smoothie bike'.

As this newsletter goes to press, we have just hosted our summer open meeting on the 20th June and we are planning our very first Bioblitz event at the newly designated Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve on **Saturday 24th June.**



Swanage Bike Day



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New signage at The Downs, Swanage Nature Reserve

A Bioblitz is all about engaging people in helping count nature in a specific area, recording as many things as we can in a given time. We are aiming to help people learn new species and be the eyes and ears spotting insects, birds and flowering plants to help look after sites and nature that lives there.

Take a look at our new dedicated Facebook group and Instagram page for news and updates on this and future events @thedownslocalnaturereserve and Facebook [Friends of Peveril Point and the Downs Local Nature Reserve | Facebook](#)

See you all soon. Enjoy the sunshine and nature!



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# Future Events



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Dorset Coast Forum and our project partners will be raising awareness and engaging with the public at these events:

## SWANAGE SEAFRONT MASTERPLAN

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PHASE TWO  
LIVE 19TH JUNE – 10TH JULY

VIEW THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN FROM 19TH JUNE:  
[www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/swanage-seafront-masterplan](http://www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/swanage-seafront-masterplan)

### CONTINUE TO INFORM THE VISION:

- Via online survey
- Join us at our **public drop in event** at the **Mowlem Theatre Show bar** Thursday 22nd June 4-7pm



The Swanage Seafront Masterplan logo was designed by a competition winner at St George's Primary School, Langton Matravers



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**22 June 2023** Swanage Seafront Masterplan public drop in engagement event 4-7pm, Mowlem Theatre Show Bar

**24 June 2023** Big Summer Wildlife Search BioBlitz Hub open 10-3pm Downs Local Nature Reserve – includes 8-9am Birdsong Guided Walk and 11-12pm Wildflower & Butterfly Walk

You can also follow our DCF social media channels!

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**15 July 2023** 'Don't Ditch It' clothing event with Sustainable Swanage – repair and/or swap your clothes 10.30-12.30pm, Mowlem Community Room, Swanage

**28 September 2023** Sustainable Swanage Open Meeting, the theme is local rivers and streams 7pm, Emmanuel Church, Swanage

Congratulations to Mariella of St George's Primary School who was the winner of our Swanage Seafront Masterplan Logo competition! We love it!



**If you are a community group, school or business interested in connecting with DCF and for all the latest information go to our project webpages or contact:**

Coastal Protection:  
[sara.parker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sara.parker@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Seafront Masterplan:  
[james.mitchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:james.mitchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Sustainable Swanage:  
[sarah.spurling@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.spurling@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)



Our DCF Project Officers learning more about the plant life on a recent BioBlitz led by Sarah Spurling