

AGM (Zoom Meeting) Saturday 27th February 2021 2.00pm – 4.00 pm.

Chair's Report

Above all else Sustainable Dorset is a charity that, with the support of its Champions, interacts with community groups to foster sustainable living. It does so through projects, events, its website and other organisations including local government. In recent years that objective has taken on the dimension of its support for a zero carbon Dorset as well. The Dorset Green Living Project initiated last year was but one example of the thrust of its work. Regrettably, with the spread of COVID 19 pandemic and the concomitant lock downs, much of its direct community work has been limited over the last 12 months.

TRUSTEES MEETINGS

The trustees have met regularly throughout the year via Zoom. In summary the business of meetings covered:

- In accordance with the resolution of 2020 AGM the registered change of name of the charity from Dorset Agenda 21 to Sustainable Dorset was ratified by the Charity Commission in November 2020 and reported to Companies House. The transfer of Sustainable Dorset's bank account from the Coop Bank to Triodos Bank, dependant on the name change, remains in abeyance for the present.
- The increase in membership fees of unwaged to £10 and waged to £20 are to be implemented as soon as feasible.
- It was agreed that we should husband our financial resources and so maintain our unrestricted funds in order that we were best placed to make grant applications once the restrictions of the pandemic were eased.
- It was agreed that we should use the services of a professional bid writer to assist in preparing future new grant applications.
- Identified the need to secure core funding to cover administrative cost including the website
- It would be desirable to have dedicated funding to support a person with IT expertise to manage the website and deal with communications such as answering E-mail enquiries and issuing a periodic online newsletter.

TRUSTEES

Kate Forrester resigned from the Board of Trustees in the spring of 2020. Kate had been a member of the board since 2012. She was an accomplished bid writer assisting us in securing several successful applications for funding, notably as one of the team who secured the "Community Living Sustainably" Big Lottery Fund (BLF) grant. Kate also most effectively line managed the DA21 Greener Choices and Local Food projects encompassed by the BLF funding. We thank Kate for the wisdom of her contributions in discussions and effective work she carried out in the community during her 8 years of service on the Board.

We welcome Jenny Morrisetti who was co-opted to the Board of Trustees in June 2020. Jenny has been for several years, and remains, one of our Champions. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience on all matters of sustainability.

We would welcome applications from anyone interested in becoming a trustee. To apply please contact Pam Rosling (pamrosling@yahoo.co.uk).

Sustainability Champions

Our Champions have still been active in spite of lockdowns, although most of the action has taken place online. Tracee Cossey has been advising on Greening Martinstown and together with Harriet Stewart-Jones and Soo Chapman has become involved with Dorset Climate Action Network (DorsetCAN). Soo is to be congratulated for her ceaseless campaigning on environmental issues.

Theresa McManus continues her involvement with Transition Bournemouth through online discussion groups. Jenny Morisetti as part of Marnhull Green Ladies, completed the Green Living Project and continues to give advice on energy efficiency retrofitting. She has also spoken at school assemblies, in person and via zoom, on Sustainable Living and has just acted as a subject matter expert for a five week course on The Green Economy delivered to Italian students by a Bournemouth language school.

Dorset Green Living Project

At the beginning of 2020, the Transition Together manual initially prepared by Emily Bullock for the BLF Greener Choices Project had been extensively redrafted and expanded by the project coordinator, Rachel Lamb, and Pam Rosling and was being utilised by the 12 or so Groups engaged so far to work on aspects of the project whose aim was to demonstrate ways by which the carbon footprint of households could be reduced. With the onset of the COVID pandemic in early March much of the group activity was effectively curtailed. Unfortunately, the use of Zoom as a vehicle for communication was only used by a few groups. Progress that has been made on achieving the objectives of the project is covered in Rachel's report. This will be made available on our website.

A major legacy of the project will be the Dorset Green Living Guide available, both online and hard copy free of charge, to those who wish to make green lifestyle changes to their lives.

The project was scheduled to finish in August 2020 but the funders, BLF, kindly extended the finish to December 2020.

Website

Our trustee Michael Hancock has overseen the management of our website during the COVID pandemic. Costs of running it this year are significantly less than last year, probably symptomatic of reduced activity of sustainability community groups. However, the development of DorsetCAN clearly demonstrates that there is a keen demand in Dorset from its householders for addressing the issues of climate change and reduction in its carbon footprint. We welcome that they are being energetically pursued by the movement.

We think that, given additional resources, we could contribute effectively to the reach of these developments by use of our website to carry information on Zero Carbon Dorset and DorsetCAN.

Grant applications and Donations

We were unsuccessful in our application to 5 different funds for grants to support the Sustainable Streets project. This was to be a follow on of the Green Living Project.

We were incredibly grateful to receive a donation of £200 from the local solicitors Dutton Gregory and thank them for their generosity.