

## ROAD WORKS

Wessex Water will be undertaking road works within the next week this will be in Tolpuddle and will affect Dorchester Road Main Road and Trent Close

## REPAIRING ROADS AND LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT

Dorset Highways works closely with council ecologists and the Environment Agency on a regular basis to ensure road repairs support Dorset's diverse wildlife. An example of this is In Winterborne Stickland, where work is about to start to strengthen the road edge of Water Lane/West Street – with the design of the reconstruction taking into account the local water vole population.

The narrow rural road has a historical issue of the verge falling into the river due to the erosion of the bank over time. The verge is further pushed into the river by vehicles using the grassy edge to pass each other.

Usually, steel gabions or sheet piles would be used to support the road embankment but, to help support the water vole habitat, Dorset Highways will be using a modified recycled material called Cement Bound Granular Macadam (CBGM).

The CBGM will significantly stiffen the edge of the road, which has no formal road foundations to prevent the road edge being pushed into the river by traffic.

To further ensure the protection of the water vole habitat, work will only be carried out in 50m sections over several years. A historic plastic sheet, previously used to prevent the undermining of the verge, will also be removed from the area.

## COVID 19

Case rates remain low in the Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council areas this week. However, nationally we are seeing cases start to increase so we must remain vigilant to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Dorset. The best way to protect yourself and others is to continue to follow the rules on hands, face, space and fresh air, do twice weekly rapid tests and get both doses of the vaccine when it's offered to you.

Summary of the most recent data:

- **7 day case rates per 100,000**
  - BCP: 8.6 (compared to 7.3 in last update on 28<sup>th</sup> May)
  - Dorset: 3.7 (compared to 5 in last update on 28<sup>th</sup> May)
- **Confirmed cases in last 7 days**
  - BCP: 34 (compared to 29 in last update on 28<sup>th</sup> May)
  - Dorset: 14 (compared to 19 in last update on 28<sup>th</sup> May)
- Current COVID-19 patients in hospital beds in Dorset: 4 (compared to 5 in last update on 28<sup>th</sup> May)
- No patients with covid-19 hospitalised.

## Covid-19 Vaccines

The roll-out continues and the total number of those vaccinated (dated 1<sup>st</sup> June)

226,228 (80.6% of population) first doses

208,734 (63.2% of population) second doses

## VOLUNTEERING

During the last 18 months thousands of residents across Dorset, some for the first time put themselves forward to volunteer in a variety of roles. I have been contacted by residents who found this deeply rewarding and wish to continue in some capacity. I suggest contacting The Dorset Volunteer Centre who can put people in touch with organisations in their local area. <https://www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk/>

## DORSET COUNCIL AND FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

Dorset Council is looking at a host of possibilities of how and when they will begin to hold face to face meetings again. Licensing had their first face to face meeting last Wednesday, There is a desire to hold Planning, Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council in the Council Chamber at County Hall, or other suitable venues and discussions around a mixture of face to face and hybrid. In the meantime we continue to hold meetings virtually and it is likely that many of these will continue particularly when large numbers of people from around the County and elsewhere need to meet, this provides a huge positive on the impacts of our carbon footprint as travelling is reduced.

## A SUMMER OF FRESH AIR, FOOD AND FUN FOR DORSET CHILDREN

Children and young people will be getting stuck in over this year's summer holidays with a Dorset Council initiative that hopes to bring lots of fun and excitement.

DC is working with local schools, voluntary organisations and activity providers to develop an exciting programme of activities that will be taking place across Dorset over the summer holidays. This is thanks to funding from the Department of Education's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme.

Summer in Dorset will be 6 weeks of enriching activities, fun-days and holiday clubs for children aged 5 to 16. All sessions and included meals will be free for children who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals.

This follows on from Easter in Dorset, where hundreds of children experienced new activities, enjoyed physical exercise and made new friends at face-to-face and online sessions. Over the Easter holidays Dorset Council also sent out nearly 1,500 holiday bundles, containing ingredients and recipes for two tasty meals and home activity sheets, to those who needed it most.

it's important that as many children who are eligible for free-school meals benefit from the HAF programme as possible. To help achieve this goal Summer in Dorset will:

- increase the number of activities, fun-days and holiday clubs on offer
- ensure that fun sessions are taking place across the whole of Dorset
- work with providers and organisations so that sessions are accessible for children of all abilities
- make sure that activities appeal to all ages

Details are available on the link below

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/summer-in-dorset.aspx>

Or parents and carers can contact by email [summerindorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:summerindorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

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