

## **Dorset Council May 2022 Report**

### **South Walks House**

Dorset Council and Dorset County Hospital have agreed a 20-year lease for use of South Walks House building in Dorchester, owned by the council. Dorset County Hospital will use South Walks House for a combination of clinical and office purposes, providing a central and easily accessible location and enabling the hospital to maximise the use of clinical space on its main site. This move to bring health to the high street is part of efforts to make access to NHS services more convenient for local people.

The lease covers full use of the building, excluding the library and learning centre which will continue to operate as normal and provide the main Dorset Council customer service point in Dorchester. South Walks House has been successfully used over the past six months by Dorset County Hospital and other NHS partners as an Outpatient Assessment Centre, with rapid access clinics operating out of the ground floor as part of a county-wide effort to tackle NHS waiting lists.

From Dorchester's point of view there will be a huge boost to the town. More high quality, non-seasonal jobs. Many more customers brought into town who will use the shops and facilities. The care jobs aren't roles that can be done from home, many of these staff will be in Dorchester every day, using town facilities, as will the patients. The economic impact will be tremendously positive for the town.

From Dorset's perspective we free up money to do other things. It isn't just the £7m of rent we will receive over the years; our cost reduces too. Much of the building maintenance, insurance costs etc will transfer to the new tenant. Dorset has a huge program of investment into Children's services. We are just about to open a whole new school for Special Educational Needs near Shaftesbury. We are opening a new Children's Home in Weymouth. The savings we are making at SWH are being used to pay for the staff and the running costs of these sorts of facilities.

### **Ukraine Questions and links**

Below are the headings from a much longer report.

What is the Homes for Ukraine programme?

How do residents become a sponsor?

What do sponsors need to consider?

What if a resident is sponsoring a child/young person?

What additional support is available to sponsors?

What other ways can residents help Ukrainians?

What is the council's role?

Residents can help in several ways:

- Donate to a registered charity

- Translation services

- Volunteering

If residents would like to volunteer, they can contact the Volunteer Centre Dorset by email:

[info@volunteeringdorset.org.uk](mailto:info@volunteeringdorset.org.uk) Residents may wish to support a local refugee support group – there's a list of these groups on the Help & Kindness website: <https://www.helpandkindness.co.uk/support-for-ukraine>

Please also look at the useful Q&As on gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>.

### **Illegal Rave at Lulworth**

Many of you will be aware of the illegal rave held in East Lulworth over the Bank Holiday weekend. Police managed to close the event down after some considerable disruption to local residents. As it was on MOD land the MOD arranged a site inspection and the council is providing advice and support as needed. Whilst the event ended relatively quickly, there will be a debrief to take any learnings from this forward.

## **Full Council Meeting disrupted by protesters**

The full Council meeting held at County Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> April was disrupted by two protesters who timed their arrival to frustrate a debate about to be started by the ruling party on climate change but after an opposition motion had been fully debated and defeated. The protesters glued themselves to the front desk in the chamber and it was therefore impossible to continue. We therefore suspended the session and relocated to another room. We will be reviewing security in order to provide assurances for the safety of members and the public.

## **Tour of Britain comes to Dorset**

Dorset's natural beauty – including the Jurassic Coast UNESCO World Heritage Site that runs through the county – will be showcased to the world on the penultimate day of this year's Tour of Britain. Race organisers SweetSpot have released more details of stage seven of the UK's most prestigious cycle race, taking place on Saturday 10 September, including the start and finish locations of West Bay and Ferndown respectively. The race's first-ever Dorset stage promises to be an unforgettable sporting spectacle, starring over 100 of the world's best riders and some of the best backdrops that Britain has to offer.

Stage seven will take the riders from West Bay, known for its striking golden cliffs, to the bustling town of Ferndown via a 180-kilometre (112-mile) route. The course will initially parallel with the West Dorset Heritage coast before passing through Dorchester, West Lulworth and Corfe Castle, before heading inland towards Wareham, Milton Abbas and Wimborne Minster. The noted climbs of Whiteway Hill, near East Lulworth, Bulbarrow Hill and Okeford Hill all feature along the route, which culminates on Ferndown's Victoria Road.

## **Parents' and carers choice of schools**

Parents and carers in the Dorset Council area found out on 19 April which reception, junior or middle school their children will be joining in September 2022. Those offered their first preference has increased to just under 96 per cent from just under 95 per cent last year

- 94.68% have been offered their first preference of reception school
- 98.09% have been offered their first preference of junior school
- 97.40% have been offered their first preference of middle school

Dorset Council School Admissions Team received 4,302 applications. They were able to offer 4,112 families their first choice of school – a total of 95.58 per cent. Over 96 per cent of parents and carers chose to complete their applications online. Anyone without an email address should contact Dorset Council School Admissions Team on 01305 221060.

## **Pressure on services (Covid)**

Our hospital emergency departments and other health and care services continue to be under significant pressure, with high Covid-19 cases continuing to have an impact on staffing levels. Local health and care partners in the county are asking residents and visitors to the area to think about the most appropriate service for them before they seek help. Below are seven ways you can support the NHS:

1. Use NHS services wisely to get the right treatment, in the right place, at the right time.
2. Think NHS 111. If you have an urgent need that cannot wait until you can access your GP visit 111.nhs.uk or call 111.
3. Speak to your GP where you live if you are visiting Dorset.
4. Be prepared. Contact your own pharmacist or GP practice for ongoing or minor health issues.
5. Use digital health services as an on-demand alternative to in person services.
6. Covid-19 restrictions have ended but cases are still very high. Stay at home if you are unwell.
7. Only ever call 999 in a medical emergency – this is when someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk.

