

Town Management

Outdoor Gym – Langmoor Gardens

Following the council's annual service and inspection of the outdoor gym equipment, several concerns were identified relating to the stability of several pieces of equipment and movement within the surrounding ground.



As a precautionary measure, several items of equipment were temporarily taken out of service, and the gym area was closed while further investigations and remedial works were undertaken.

The contractor, Fresh Air Fitness, subsequently attended site and carried out remedial works to several equipment foundations where movement had been identified.

The contractor has advised that the movement experienced is primarily attributable to exceptionally dry ground conditions, resulting in shrinkage and cracking of the surrounding soil, while maintaining that the original installation complied with the appropriate installation standards.

Following the remedial works and further officer inspections, the outdoor gym has now been fully reopened for public use. However, the contractor has confirmed that a further visit is required to review the previously identified concerns and formally sign off the servicing works.

The contractor has confirmed that their earliest available attendance date is 19 October 2026. Further technical information regarding the installation and remedial works has also been referred to the contractor's product manager for review.

In the meantime, officers will continue to monitor the equipment.

Boundary Issues at 50 King's Way – Fir Tree

Following discussions at both the Town Management and Highways Committee and Full Council, the operations manager and operations supervisor have undertaken a further review of the mature fir tree located within the cemetery adjacent to 50 King's Way.

While the loss of such a mature specimen would be regrettable, officers are of the view that the tree's root system is contributing to damage to the adjacent garden and wall foundations. There are also concerns that, if left unmanaged, the roots may have the potential to impact the cemetery boundary wall adjoining the public steps.

Having assessed the site and reviewed the available information, the operations manager and operations supervisor recommend that the tree be removed to prevent further damage and mitigate future risk.

Officers do not recommend planting a replacement tree within the cemetery due to the limited space available and the potential for similar issues to arise in the future. Instead, suitable opportunities for replacement tree planting elsewhere on Lyme Regis Town Council land will be explored as part of the council's wider environmental objectives.

Officers will contact the owners of 50 King's Way to advise them of the outcome of the assessment and proposed next steps. Works will then be scheduled for completion at the earliest suitable opportunity.

Community Emergency Response Plans (CERPs) Survey.

Following the committee's resolution, the council's response to the Dorset Council and DAPTC Community Emergency Response Plans (CERPs) survey was completed and submitted within the required deadline by former town clerk John Wright. Work on the council's wider emergency planning arrangements continues through the ongoing review of the council's Emergency Planning Procedure

Dorset Council Dog-Related Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation

Following the committee's recommendation, the operations manager, in consultation with Cllrs S. Larcombe, M. Ellis and D. Holland, prepared the council's response to the Dorset Council consultation on the Dog-Related Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). The response was completed and submitted within the consultation deadline. The council is now awaiting the outcome of Dorset Council's review of the consultation responses and any subsequent decisions regarding the Public Space Protection Order.

Steps to Langmoor Gardens – Cobb Road

Following inspections by officers, clear movement and shrinkage have been identified affecting the Cobb Road/Langmoor steps. Officers are of the view that the movement has been exacerbated by the prolonged period of dry weather, resulting in ground shrinkage and associated movement within the structure.



In the interests of public safety, the steps have been closed with immediate effect and barriers and diversion signage have been installed. The steps will remain closed until further notice while officers assess the extent of the movement and identify the most appropriate remedial solution.

As an alternative route, pedestrians are being directed to use the nearby public walkway located a short distance further along the promenade, adjacent to Rockfish, which provides the principal access route between Cobb Road, Langmoor Gardens and Marine Parade.

Officers will continue to monitor the area and investigate potential repair options. A further update will be provided once the extent of the work required and the proposed next steps have been established.

No timescale for the works has yet been established.

Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) Training

The operations manager continues to source a training provider for the council's proposed Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) application.

To date, several training providers have been approached to obtain quotations and assess the availability of suitable training programmes for relevant staff.

A formal quotation has been received from Training for Success (TFS) for the delivery of CSAS training. The quotation provides a range of delivery options, with costs starting from £2,900 (excluding VAT) for a blended learning approach and £3,600 (excluding VAT) for classroom-based delivery. The training would cover the mandatory CSAS elements, including conflict management, effective communication, equality and diversity, health and safety, and risk assessment and personal safety.

A response has also been received from Parkguard, confirming that while the organisation delivers CSAS training, they are unable to provide the service on this occasion due to existing training commitments and the distance between their operational area and Lyme Regis.

The operations manager is currently awaiting a quotation from Tess Group and is continuing to identify and approach additional training providers to ensure a minimum of three quotations are obtained.

Once three quotations have been received and evaluated, a further update will be provided to members, including a comparison of costs, delivery options and recommendations regarding the most suitable provider.

Round Britain eRIB Noticeboard/Plaque

The operations manager continues to liaise with the project team regarding the proposed Round Britain eRIB commemorative noticeboard/plaque.

Following a review of potential locations, it has been identified that the shelter locations originally under consideration may conflict with the separate community mural proposal currently being explored by the council. Further alternative locations are currently being reviewed.

Perimeter wall – Churchyard

An interim faculty application has been submitted and approved by the Diocesan Registrar following the support of the local PCC.

Trial holes and other preparatory work have also now been undertaken and a further geotechnical survey has been undertaken to inform the design of foundations, after which a full faculty application will be submitted, together with applications for Listed Building consent and planning permission.

Tendering will then be undertaken early in the new year with a commencement on site in spring 2027. This has proved to be a really involved and time-consuming project. However, once completed, it should safeguard the condition of the wall for many years to come.

Land Stabilisation Monitoring at Monmouth Beach

There has been some further movement in the area above 'Top Road' at Ware Cliff. Land movement in the area above 'Crows Nest' is continuing to be monitored. Discussions are ongoing with the National Trust about drainage from their 'reservoir' land which may be contributing to the problems and it may be that further investigative work is required. Legal advice has also been sought about responsibilities and potential liabilities.

Significant Fossil at Monmouth Beach

As previously reported, the consent to dig for remaining parts of a significant fossil found at Monmouth Beach was extended from 15 July 2025 to Christmas 2025. The consent, issued by Natural England, contained conditions about what may happen with the extracted fossil, including that it should be offered for local display.

The dig work to recover 'missing' parts of the fossil remains incomplete and a further consent has been granted, valid from 1 March 2026 until December 2026.

Chalet Site at 18 Monmouth Beach

As previously reported, the legal challenge to the council's repossession of this site has not been resolved, although a meeting is being arranged involving solicitors. A claim for an

interest in the site has been submitted to the Land Registry. At present, there are no issues which require immediate member input, although the extent and nature of the challenge suggests this may change. If so, a full report will be brought back to the relevant committee.

Joint works to the Lynch

It has now been agreed that Dorset Council will take the lead on any one-off works of repair and maintenance to the Lynch on the basis the works are entirely without prejudice to any issues of ownership or wider responsibility.

The total available budget is £12k and any works will focus on repairs to the surface/edge and to the removal of overgrowth causing damage to the structure.

It's possible that a consent will be required from the Environment Agency prior to the commencement of works.

No timescale for the works has yet been established.

Disposal of former council offices

The offer received by the initial party has been withdrawn following issues with the associated planning permission and Listed Building consents for the amended vehicular access upon which that offer was conditional. In line with approvals already given by members, the second offer received, which is both higher and unconditional on planning, has been accepted and is now progressing through solicitors.

Park and Ride 2026

The final outturn figures for the 2026 park and ride service have now been received and this, together with the suggested arrangements for 2027, will be the subject of a report for decision to the next meeting of the committee. The total net cost of the 2026 service is slightly higher than in 2025, although this was wholly due to the delayed start; the passenger and net cost figures for both July and August 2026 were better than in 2025.

Strawberry Fields

A further meeting with the land agent acting for the freehold owner took place on 8 September and further discussions will be arranged going forwards. A much more detailed report will be brought to members about valuation, marketing and disposal issues at the appropriate stage, although the timing of this report may have been affected by Dorset Council's decision not to proceed with the completion of the draft local plan and, instead, to 'start again' following the latest government guidance.

Works to the Guildhall

The works are nearing completion, and the latest programme to set out below:

- Carpentry/joinery works scheduled to be complete by Wednesday 30 September.
- Decorations have commenced but there will be a team of three on site from Thursday 1 October.

- Leadwork over window and passage/shopfront cornice scheduled for Monday 5 October.
- All works should be complete by Friday 9 October.
- Ledgers booked to drop scaffold mid w/c 12 October.
- Bagwells to thoroughly clean Guildhall Cottage on completion.

The works, although delayed by issues beyond the control of either the main contractor or the council, will be completed within the approved budget of £50k. A completion report, including final price, will be reported to members after 9 October.

Bell Cliff Steps

Following confirmation of the highway status of Bell Cliff, it had been agreed not to proceed with these works, although the already submitted applications for planning permission and Listed Building Consent continued to run through the approvals process, the costs having already been incurred.

Those permissions and consents have now been received and will still allow the works to proceed in future should that be agreed.

Highways

No updates

Tourism

Tourism microsite

Below are the website user stats for the whole year, compared with previous years:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Average
2022 Total Views		14,656	21,678	26,138	28,348	28,567	32,813	39,935	24,663	23,103	15,008	13,925	268,834	24,439
2023 Total Views	23,306	25,921	41,861	40,016	41,344	55,529	67,358	75,804	48,754	36,638	42,525	27,014	526,070	43,839
2024 Total Views	44,556	39,095	52,261	56,571	59,336	67,245	81,456	96,063	52,927	39,676	26,248	22,436	637,870	53,156
2025 Total Views	29,228	28,287	31,838	36,356	41,436	39,338	41,554	58,001	29,014	23,722	16,749	18,537	394,060	32,838
2026 Total Views	25,187	20,255	27,816	31,794	39,208	35,634	41,142	42,236					263,272	32,909

July was as expected, but August was lower than we would have hoped. Visit Dorset has looked into it and it seems to be mainly down to the webcam page and parking pages. The webcam page has seen a drop of nearly 7,000 visits in August compared to last year and the parking page was down 1,000. This could be due to the problem with the webcam, or something entirely unrelated.

Current features on the website include Autumn in Lyme Regis, with a focus on Oktoberfest and Bonfire Night. Previous features tied in with the Visit England campaign, 'Our Coast has the Most' and 'Summer by the Sea'.

We will be introducing FAQs on the bottom of pages, which will be applicable to the page they're on. This is to capture Google AI and ChatGPT results.

Dorset Destination Management Plan 2026-2035

The Dorset Destination Management Plan 2026-2035 was launched on 9 September at Dorchester Museum and was attended by the deputy town clerk.

The plan sets out a 10-year strategy to establish Dorset as a welcoming, vibrant, year-round visitor destination. In 2025, Visit Dorset and Dorset Council were awarded Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) status for the county of Dorset. A requirement of the newly formed LVEP was to create a Destination Management Plan (DMP) for the county.

The DMP identified seasonality as a major issue and a key ambition of the plan is that Dorset becomes a year-round visitor destination. It aims to support the industry to encourage visitors to come all year round, to all parts of the county and to increase the spend of visitors by encouraging them to stay longer, support local suppliers and come back to Dorset.

The plan also identifies the two key visitor segments for growth as 'nature and culture' and 'active and mindful'. The former are nature lovers with a practical approach to life, who enjoy scenic landscapes, heritage, arts and cultural attractions. The former are physically active, like a challenge and enjoy new experiences.

Visit Dorset is the delivery body for much of the LVEP work and will be responsible for implementing many of the actions within the plan. This work will be guided by the Dorset Tourism Association (DTA), which acts as the LVEP Advisory Board. Visit Dorset will be developing campaigns and marketing initiatives around the two previously mentioned themes, and this will filter down to the Lyme Regis microsite.

More information about Dorset LVEP and a link to the Dorset DMP are available here: [Dorset LVEP](#).

Cobb webcam

The Cobb webcam is currently out of action as works are being carried out on the Cobb buildings, which means the camera had to be temporarily removed. The camera is provided by Love Lyme Regis and streamed on the tourism microsite and owner Rob James has confirmed it should be online again next week.

Mini Ghoulf

The Halloween Mini Ghoulf event returns this year from 23 October to 1 November. This ties in with half term week when the mini golf will be open daily from 9am to 6pm.

There is a £1k budget for mini golf events in 2026-27, which will support the Halloween and Easter themed events, replacing some broken pieces of equipment and adding more fun features. Officers are also considering a Christmas mini golf event, depending on budget allowance.

Sculpture Trail

There is an additional £3k in the 2026-27 budget for the sculpture trail. Officers will advertise the opportunity to submit designs, which members can then choose from.

Initial discussions have also taken place with the Woodroffe School about their A Level art students making another sculpture as part of their coursework.

Further signage is needed on some of the sculptures, including the three newest sculptures, and this will need to come from the same budget.

Reader sculpture

The Reader sculpture was installed and unveiled on a public bench in Langmoor Gardens in July by the artist Vik Westaway, joined by the mayor. You can find it on a bench just behind the Langmoor Room.

There is a competition in the October LymeLiving to name the sculpture, so please share this with people you know.



Community

Town council magazine

The October edition of LymeLiving has been sent to the printers and will be published on Friday 2 October. Cara will contact all those who have agreed to hand deliver the magazines when they are ready to be collected. If you want to add or drop some streets, please let Cara know.

As a result of hand deliveries, 80 of the 299 addresses in Lyme Regis are now being hand delivered, with a further 61 being dropped to care homes and schools, and 30 each to Talking Café and the Welcome Café. This has saved around £400 in postage. HOWEVER,

Royal Mail has announced price increases averaging 25% from 5 October 2026, which will counteract the savings we made through hand delivery.

Officers will continue to monitor the budget and look at ways to reduce costs.

Lyme in Bloom

The awards ceremony for Lyme in Bloom took place on 22 September 2026 at the Guildhall. All the entrants were invited and the winners announced on the night. Trophies were presented to the winners and certificates to all entrants.

The three judges, Lesley Jelleyman, Trisha Boyd and Jenny Harding were each presented with a bunch of flowers for supporting the event.

The winners are as follows:

Courtyard/Patio Gardens

Gold: Tacklebox

Silver: Gosling Close - Joy McLellan

Window boxes/Containers

Gold: Town Mill - Jacky Birch

Silver: Annette Denning - 26 Lym Close

Larger Gardens

Gold: Brook Cottage - Liz & Hilton Davis

Joint silver: Alex Hotel & Garden Pavilion gardens

Smaller gardens

Gold: Suzy Loyd - Talbot Road

Silver: 12 South Avenue - Arthur Hodder

Business

Gold: Tacklebox

Silver: Eat at Millside - Emily Crafford

Hanging Baskets

Gold: Annette Denning - 26 Lym Close

(only 1 entrant)

Sporting Lyme

Sporting Lyme is now coming to a close, wrapping up with the Sporting Lyme Awards ceremony on Saturday 3 October at Lyme Regis Golf Club.

More than 40 nominations were received for 24 different individuals or teams. The entries were judged by John Wright, and Woodroffe School headteacher Dan Watts. Rev Fi Budden had also agreed to judge but was unable to make the meeting to choose the winners.

All the nominees and their plus ones have been invited to the awards ceremony, along with two representatives from each of the organisations who took part in Sporting Lyme.

As space is limited at the golf club, the priority is to have the nominees and organisations present, as well as the mayor and deputy mayor and two members of staff. If there are spaces left, these will be offered to members on a first come first served basis. We hope you support this approach.

Recent Sporting Lyme events have included the inaugural Mayor's Shield race organised by Lyme Regis Sailing Club, and the skate jam organised by the Lyme Regis Skatepark Committee. There are full write-ups about these events in the October LymeLiving and on our socials.

Woodmead Halls term grant

To remind you, on 22 July 2026, the Full Council resolved: 'to make no further term grant payments to the Woodmead Halls until members have assurances and evidence that progress can and will be made; to implement a time limit of six months to resolve the issues and if this deadline is not met, the grant will be withdrawn and any unspent funds must be repaid to the council.'

The Full Council meeting on 9 September 2026 was provided with an update, when it was confirmed the Woodmead Halls trustees had not responded to an email confirming the council's decision and offering them a meeting with the mayor and the council rep Cllr Philip May to determine if there was any support the council could provide.

Officers followed this up with a further email on 10 September 2026, reminding them of the council's decision, reminding them of the offer of a meeting, and reaffirming the council's offer to help with publicity. There has been no response to the email.

The Woodmead Halls trustees have until 11 January 2027 to resolve the issues.

Mark Green
Town clerk
September 2026

Adrianne Mullins
Deputy town clerk

Sam O'Connell
Operations manager