

DCN AGM 28 Nov 2020 at 4:00 pm on Zoom

Agenda

- Opening comments by the chairman
- Financial statement
- Membership statement
- Area co-ordinator update from those attending
- Any other business

Chairman's comments

Because there were no cycling facilities in Wimborne when I moved there in 1989, in 1992, I called a public meeting which resulted in the founding of DCN. Support came from all round the county and I believe we have played a large part since then in making a difference. Since I gave up the overall chairmanship a few years ago, I am delighted at how well DCN has remained as a cohesive body, yet with good grass roots for each town and region of the county.

Improvements in cycling facilities have improved a lot, but they are still far behind what they should be and there is more to do. Every member of DCN can play a part in helping to achieve this but sadly only a minority of our members take an active part. That is my main message this year. I will say more about that at the end of this address

First I will briefly go through some of DCN's achievements over the past 12 months.

Individual committee members will comment on them later in the agenda.

A Zoom group meeting this allows 40 minutes when we will get cut off. If we have not finished by then, please take a 10 minute break and then log on again using the same link as before.

Blandford & Sturminster Newton – Dilys Gartside

- Blandford Town Council has accepted her plans for improving Cycling and Walking into and around the town.
- Also in **Blandford**, she's organising a family occasion called Rudolph's YULE Ride on Sat 12 Dec and needs volunteers wearing brown or beige with antlers as REINDEER cyclists to guide small family groups on a 3 mile route into town
- At **Sturminster Newton** a family business is reorganising its premises to include a cafeteria and car park and Dilys is asking them to provide for customers who cycle and walk. She needs you to write and support this opportunity.

East Dorset and BCP – Judy Windwood & Stewart Sinclair

- Dorset and BCP councils, working together, have funding for schemes in east Dorset and BCP from the Transforming Cities Fund. There is an early stage consultation out now on both councils websites. It's really important that DCN members in these areas get involved.
- Local Plans and Transport plans may be due for updating, but it depends on the governments planning white paper.
- Stewart says that The Quay closure, removal of parking on Evening Hill and the closure of Poole Park to through traffic were some of the welcome outcomes of lockdown, and that we don't want to lose them when the trial ends.
- He also says that BCP is currently making a consultation on routes into Poole and Bournemouth centres from Merley and Ferndown. If you live or cycle around there please see respond to the Council on their website.

Weymouth & Portland – Ken & Anne Reed

- **W&P** have a reasonable network of cycle routes and there have been few changes to it this year.
- Dorchester Road cycle lane has been increased from 1.75m to 2m which greatly improved the cycling experience. We want the council to continue reallocating road space to cyclists and pedestrians.
- Pedestrian schemes in the town centre have been dropped, sadly with no plan to continue with them into the future.
- Changes to the sequencing of some light controlled cycle crossings have not made much difference to cycle and pedestrian waiting times.
- DCN is supporting councillors who are seeking a 20mph limit in residential streets.
- DCN has made representations for new housing plans to be cycle and pedestrian friendly with easy connections to the schools and shops without car dependency.
- DCN and the Ramblers Association have objected to a proposed polluting waste incinerator on Portland because it would mean extra traffic, would be bad for cyclists, and damage air quality.

Sherborne – Peter Henshaw

- The pavement on Sherborne Hill is now cleared its proper width, and is safer for cycling.
- The campaign for a Milborne Port-Sherborne cycle/walking route has been revived, with a letter writing campaign to Sherborne Estate, which so far has been unsympathetic. It is supported by a local cycling group.
- Sherborne Town Council is going to review potential walking/cycling routes in the town and I have made suggestions on behalf of DCN.

General DCN concerns

- On behalf of DCN as a whole, Judy has commented on DC's climate change policy which is light on cycling and walking.
- Dilys continues to fight for a countywide 20mph in built up areas.
- DCN will use the Dorchester Road improvement mentioned by Ken Reed as an example of the benefits of wider cycle lanes.
- DCN members can play a part by signing up to the newsletters sent out by BCP and Dorset Councils, and responding to transport issues. This is more likely to influence the councils than if you leave it all your committee.
- DCN will continue to work with BCP and Dorset Councils on issues relevant to our aims, which are to improve cycling infrastructure and to encourage more cycling.

So that's what DCN Coordinators have been busy doing, and I must add a word on the valuable work of treasurer Phil Wilson and membership secretary Gerry Bannister. In addition Peter Henshaw wears 3 hats: as Sherborne DCN coordinator, secretary and newsletter editor. Please give all your committee a round of applause.