



LymeForward Coordinator's report and Forward Plans October 12th 2017

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This report covers the period since the AGM on 3rd July, which received LymeForward's Annual Report and Accounts. It includes descriptions of what is being done on our agreed priorities (Health & Wellbeing, Coastal Community Team / Economy), a summary of future plans, and a report from Philip Sankey on transport matters.

1. Staff support

The Directors have been able to make a temporary 6 month appointment of a Partnership Assistant, at 2 days per week, which began on 2nd October 2017. They are pleased that Heather Prior, well-known to many members, has agreed to take on this role. It has a dual focus: to assist the Coordinator with administrative duties; and to help develop, encourage and sustain local health and wellbeing support groups and their volunteer leaders, as well as managing the Foodbank. The purpose is to take some pressure of time and focus off the Coordinator, enabling him to concentrate on the continuing and new requirements of the Grant Agreement with the Town Council and on the major tasks of the CCT, both overseeing already-funded projects and developing new opportunities beyond those being examined in the context of Round 5 of the Coastal Communities Fund.

2. Funder requirements

For Lyme Regis Town Council, the Coordinator has held regular meetings with the Town Clerk to harmonise actions as necessary on public consultations and fund-raising opportunities, and has fulfilled requests to handle specific work in relation to 'Lyme Voice' and the 'Gateway Card'. Representatives of the Directors, with the Coordinator, have met six-monthly with the Town Clerk and the appointed Councillors to review the Grant Agreement, governance and finances. By the time of this Partnership Meeting, they will have given LymeForward's required Annual Report and Forward Plans to the Council's Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee.

For West Dorset District Council, LymeForward has reported coverage of local priorities and targets as defined in the Service Level Agreement.

3. Health and Wellbeing Group

The Health & Wellbeing Group has consolidated to a core membership of 11 volunteers, many with good professional experience in different parts of the health service. One is a Board member for Dorset County Hospital; another is a Board member for Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust, which provides community services to all of Dorset except for this area, for which Virgin holds the contract.

Its priority is the CCG's Primary Care Commissioning Strategy, covering the future arrangements for providing both GP/medical services and Community Health Services in the LymeForward 'patch'. The CCG will be re-commissioning both these elements for 31 January 2019, with vital implications for the area.

The group has therefore been:

- Working closely with the CCG Primary Care team and locality Primary Care Programme Officer so that, as far as lies within our power, the CCG's specifications for tendering will take account of local circumstances and priorities, and that its strategy will be publicised.

- Making a careful quantitative and qualitative study of the services currently provided, aiming to understand fully the nature of the provision, its strengths, weaknesses and gaps; the policies and budgets of providers; and the identity of those who make decisions about service provision. Each group member has responsibility for an aspect of provision (for example, primary care, community services, mental health, social services, care at home, local welfare support groups, transport, Dorset Public Health and its Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, etc); information is being gathered through face-to-face meetings with service providers and from public domain sources, and shared across the group. These actions are providing hard-edged baseline data, one of the elements against which any new service proposals must be tested.
- Analysing the difficulties in reaching medical appointments, chemists, social support and the like that face those (particularly if with limited mobility) unable to access or afford transport. The Town Council's restoration of the 71 town service is very welcome; in itself this cannot be a complete solution to the problems with access to medical and social care for many people – a point being made forcibly to the CCG.
- In touch with the Patient Participation Groups for each local GP Practice.
- Building a relationship with Dorset Healthwatch, the official patient voice for the county.
- Maintaining contact with similar developments across the border in East Devon (which, in some important respects, appear well in advance of the Dorset situation).

Throughout, key volunteers and professionals have helped the Coordinator to develop Lyme-based support groups and other mechanisms helpful to those with particular needs. These include operating the Food Bank and addressing other needs raised by its users, Community Lunches, Cookery Classes for single men, local parent liaison meetings, the 'Altogether' support group for those with mental health conditions, and the 'Meet and Remember' group that meets weekly in the Library for those with dementia.

4. Coastal Community Team / Economy

The CCT is now chaired by Tony Colston, with member representatives from Lyme, Charmouth and Uplyme; additional members are being sought with wider business experience and contacts. The CCT focuses on both the delivery of several projects as well as the development of a number of longer term initiatives.

Current projects under Round 4 of the Coastal Communities Fund are:

- *Lyme Trail*

The project to upgrade the path between Lyme and Uplyme along the River Lim is progressing. Contractual and delivery arrangements are in place with the Dorset Coast Forum, which has overall responsibility while delegating detailed implementation and management to LymeForward and the CCT. Local project management is led by Simon Williams. He has held a number of stakeholder meetings; begun involvement of the Dorset Art Development Company to explore the nature and extent of art interpretation; had discussions with procurement teams in East Devon and Dorset to maximise efficiency with contracts; and held site meetings with contractors. Gates have been replaced and some signage updated. Public consultation in Lyme and Uplyme is planned for October 2017.

- *Public WiFi*

£12k of funding has been secured towards the delivery of public WiFi along the seafront. Proposals and surveys have been provided to LRTC for approval, a supplier identified, and an installation date is awaiting the go-ahead from LRTC, which is part funding the project.

- *Litter reduction*

The CCT has part-funded a litter picking station as part of a Dorset-wide litter project. Branding is agreed, the station has been designed, built and installed. The CCT is joining Dorset Litter-free Forum with a view to improving efficiency of waste management in Lyme and Charmouth.

Promotional work with Coastal Path and the iCoast website is developing in conjunction with the Dorset Coast Forum.

Other current projects include:

- *Lyme Regis Sculpture Trail*
LRTC has underwritten funding (£5K) for 2018. The Dorset Art Development Company has been engaged to train a curator so that new sculptures can be secured for 2018 season following removal of existing sculptures in January 2018.
- *FaceForward*
Supporting 15-24 years old NEETs (not in education, employment or training), this Ansbury-run programme uses a variety of local activity providers to help get young people on a journey to employment. A partnership agreement between Ansbury and LymeForward is in place, so LymeForward can now make referrals for young people to engage with and be supported by the FaceForward programme.
- *Working Links*
'Working Links' provides support to long term unemployed people by identifying and addressing barriers preventing them from finding work. The 'links to work' programme will visit Lyme library on Wednesday mornings with LymeNet who will provide career counselling alongside assistance with finding work. 'Links to work' will provide counsellor sessions and ongoing support to help people stay in work.
- *Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) Round 5 funding bid in 2018*
The public workshop following the AGM in July aimed to identify potential projects for a collaborative (pan-area) bid within an overall enhancement programme. Over 50 separate ideas for development emerged, which the CCT team has sifted and prioritised for CCF funding purposes. Work is in hand to investigate some of the ideas further, and a public presentation was made on July 28th as to possible bid themes. Further dialogue with DCLG over the viability of bid themes has taken place.

5. Forward plans as agreed by the Steering Group

(a) Town Council requirements

The first two items below are new requirements included the revised Grant Agreement.

- Developing engagement with the business community / supporting the development of the business group

This comes under the aegis of the Coastal Community Team with its 'economic' brief.

Initial objectives:

- To better involve local businesses as partners in matters pertaining to the commercial and economic welfare of the town.
- To give the Town Council a single point of contact for such matters.
- To create a stronger local business voice in Lyme and the local area, benefiting businesses and strengthening funding bids.
- To encourage businesses in different sectors (eg fishing/the harbour, tourism and visitor attractions, retail, food and drink, creative arts, media ...) to contribute their perspectives on matters of common interest.

Immediate actions:

- A preliminary meeting has been held with Ian Girling, Chair of Dorset Chamber of Commerce, to better understand potential models to bring businesses in Lyme and area together in a cohesive business group; Councillor Reynolds and Tony Colston attended a Dorset Chamber of Commerce meeting on 29th September.
- A public event is proposed for October to bring businesses together, to hear the various plans being explored locally, ideas from Ian Girling, plans from LRTC, and recommendations from the existing Lyme Regis Business Group.
- From this event a potential working model, perhaps a Chamber of Commerce, would be developed if sufficient interest is shown.

- Promoting a safer neighbourhood / liaising with the police and other emergency services
This comes under the aegis of the Health and Wellbeing Group. (This matches the Community Plan's heading of 'Health, Wellbeing and Safer Communities': members will recall LymeForward's liaison with the Fire & Rescue SAIL team, enabling them to get their advice to local groups, and that the various health and wellbeing support groups are themselves contributory to 'safety'.)

Initial objectives:

- Establish what weaknesses / gaps now exist and whether / how they can be plugged.
- Understand the ways in which police and emergency services plan to operate locally.

Immediate actions:

- The Coordinator and PCSO Luke White have discussed the current situation regarding local presence and future risks such as annual scheduling of police work, their lack of resources, and their focus only on statutory obligations.
- Consult with community groups (eg Residents' Association) to understand concerns.
- Including improved facilities in Langmoor and Lister Gardens as part of a grant application to the Coastal Communities Fund
This was incorporated in the July workshop and would form a key element of the seafront enhancement programme bid.

(b) *Health and Wellbeing Group* (in addition to relevant LRTC requirements, above)

- Continue to develop, encourage, consolidate and sustain local health and wellbeing support groups, liaising with volunteer group leaders and publicising activities.
- Complete baseline data analysis for current GP/medical and community services, plus associated welfare support services.
- Receive, review and respond to the CCG's imminent report on its initial findings.
- Share HWG findings and expectations with managers / budget holders of key providers, in particular for mental health, social services and child health.
- Meet with senior staff from Dorset Healthwatch and Axe Valley Health and Wellbeing Hub to coordinate actions as required / possible.
- Establish closer links with the three PPGs and Joint PPG (the Chair of Lyme Regis Medical Centre PPG is joining the HWG), and with the CCG Locality Programme Officer.
- Progressively update the HWG's June paper for the CCG to reflect developing knowledge and understanding, prior to January meeting with the CCG team.
- Share information with local residents through publicity.
- Increase the evidence base through extended consultation, on individual / small group basis as far as practicable, to include personal stories where these are representative.
- Seek additional external funding that may help with such research.
- Build recognition among commissioners and providers that the HWG is an important element on the ground in quality assurance of services.

(c) *Coastal Community Team* (in addition to relevant LRTC requirements, above)

- Bid to Round 5 of Coastal Community Fund (for Spring 2018)
Following the workshop on 3rd July and open meeting on 28th July:
 - Refine the bid concept and content, taking into account any further submissions, and harmonising with LRTC objectives.
 - Summarise and publicise the overall project concept and the various elements within it, inviting further public comments and ideas.
 - Hold an open public meeting to present and debate the proposed bid.
 - Write the final bid for submission to Round 5 of Coastal Community Fund, and/or otherwise suitable grants.

- Waste reduction and management
 - An initial meeting has taken place with Karyn Punchard, Director of Dorset Waste Partnership, with agreement to identify ways of reducing waste across Lyme and Charmouth, improving the visual impact of the seafronts, by for example:
 - * introducing Big Belly compacting bins;
 - * using microchips to alert DWP when bins are approaching full;
 - * making more flexible use of resource for clearing other rubbish;
 - * extending recycling by introducing more recycling points and a more flexible service.
- Beach wheelchairs
A resident has committed to fund an additional wheelchair that can float in the sea, and if necessary a process for booking and management.
- Sustain relationships with key stakeholders, identifying any other projects that could contribute to economic development, and potential funding opportunities to suit such projects.

(d) *Other*

- Eco-Schools
With the support of a local business and of Turn Lyme Green, work should start this term on helping local schools, beginning with Charmouth Primary School and the Woodroffe School, to aim for Eco-School status, complementing the similar awards earned by three local hotels and the Baptist Church.
- A Youth Council?
The Coordinator has held three meetings with Sixth Form students and the Head of Sixth Form at the Woodroffe School to explore possibilities for a Lyme Regis Youth Council. A core of students is ready to work with the Town Council's Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee to see if progress can be made.

(e) *Partnership meeting dates 2018/2019*

The following dates have been booked:

Thursday 15th March 2018 (afternoon)
Monday 2nd July 2018 AGM (evening)
Thursday 11th October 2018 (afternoon)
Thursday 14th March 2019 (afternoon)

6. Report from Philip Sankey (WATAG)

South Western Railway

This company took over the franchise for train services from Waterloo from 20 August 2017. They are running a consultation (12 weeks from 29 September 2017)

They say:

South Western Railway will be making some major changes to the train services it plans in the December 2018 timetable. The proposals have been developed with extensive input from customers and stakeholders who asked for:

- added peak capacity and faster services;
- earlier and later trains; and
- more Sunday services.

These are just some of the benefits you will see when the timetable begins on 9 December 2018.

We really value your feedback – indeed have received and responded to plenty of queries since the announcement of the change of operator.

Please take the time to review the proposals for your area which have been published on our website, www.southwesternrailway.com/timetableconsultation. This site is open to the public and we have invited customers and staff to provide feedback via email. All of this feedback will be reviewed and considered to help shape the new patterns of service and to form the final consultation document that will be put to the Department for Transport and Network Rail.

This timetable consultation is a major step on South Western Railway's journey towards the delivery of improvements to services that we know customers want to see.

WATAG understand that the main proposals for West Dorset include the following:

- speeding up the journey time to from Axminster to London by omitting the Clapham Junction stop.
- only providing one through train from Dorchester South to Waterloo each hour. The second train would be diverted after Southampton to Portsmouth.

Buses

X51/X53

First Bus has gained school contracts for three schools including Woodroffe. They have diverted some resources to this work. The level of service for this winter is reduced compared with 2016-2017.

From 1 September 2017. Basic service Axminster - Lyme Regis – Bridport reduced to hourly. Alternate journeys continue to Dorchester or to Weymouth via West Bay. There are some Monday to Friday extra journeys particularly between Bridport and Dorchester but connections are not guaranteed.

From 1 October 2017. Sunday service reduced to two-hourly on X53 Axminster to Weymouth only. From 19 November 2017 there will be no Sunday service.

Exeter

There will be some changes to stopping arrangements in Exeter on X52 and 9A linked to the bus station redevelopment.

X52 now reduced to two journeys each way Mondays to Saturdays leaving Lyme at 0930 and 1130 and arriving back in Lyme around 1320 & 1520.

Service 71

Funding from Lyme Regis Town Council has allowed reinstatement five days a week (no Saturday service). Damory was unable to agree a contract with LRTC until they knew the result of tenders for primary school contracts which were not awarded until August.

During the Summer holidays, Dorset Community Transport operated the Lyme flyer as a stop gap measure.

There is still a need to encourage usage of the town bus.

PHILIP SANKEY
WATAG