

BRIDPORT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

LAP	Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP)
Completed by	Brian Wilson (Chair) and Claire Peters-Way (BTC)
Date	13th April 2021

Performance indicator	Information to demonstrate activities and achievements
Number of LAP Steering Group meetings and their dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two BLAP Steering Group meetings were held virtually, taking place on 10th December 2020 and on 25th February 2021. ○ The expected June 2020 and September 2020 meetings of the Steering Group did not take place this year due to the pandemic.
AGM or Annual Assembly held with its dates and attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The BLAP AGM did not take place as expected in June 2020 this year due to the pandemic. ○ BLAP Steering Group members instead voted by an online process for the Chair and Vice-Chair. This took place during August/September 2020.
Number of members in the partnership	<p>The BLAP Steering Group comprises of the following core membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allington Parish Council ○ Bradpole Parish Council ○ Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council ○ Bridport Town Council ○ Burton Bradstock Parish Council ○ Char Valley Parish Council ○ Charmouth Parish Council ○ Chideock Parish Council ○ Litton Cheney Parish Council ○ Loders Parish Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Netherbury Parish Council ○ Puncknowle and Swyre Parish Council ○ Shipton Gorge Parish Council ○ Symondsbury Parish Council ○ Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council ○ Bridport Area Fiftyplus Forum ○ Bridport Area Forum for People with Disabilities ○ Bridport Arts Centre ○ Bridport Chamber of Trade and Commerce ○ Bridport and District Citizens Advice ○ Bridport and District Tourism Association ○ Bridport Environment Group ○ Bridport Leisure Centre ○ Bridport Youth and Community Centre ○ Dorset Police ○ Federation of Small Businesses (Rural Dorset) ○ Transition Town Bridport ○ South West Dorset Multicultural Network ○ Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG) <p>However, the wider membership of BLAP is 223, most of whom are representatives of local organisations.</p>
Sub-groups or forums that are running	<p>BLAP Management Team – met virtually four times over the year. Expected meetings between April and August 2020 did not take place due to the pandemic. Meeting dates were 16th October 2020, 24th November 2020, 18th January 2021 and 1st March 2021.</p> <p>Parish Liaison Group – met virtually six times over the year. Meeting dates were 17th June 2020, 30th July 2020, 30th September 2020, 18th November 2020, 13th January 2021 and 12th March 2021.</p>

	<p>Health and Wellbeing Working Group – expected meetings did not take place due to the pandemic, but there has been contact made with group members to understand local progress and issues.</p> <p>Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Working Group – expected meetings did not take place due to the pandemic, but regular contact with group members resulted in two bulletins being circulated.</p>
<p>Parishes actively engaged in the partnership</p>	<p>The following fifteen parish and town councils are BLAP members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allington Parish Council ○ Bradpole Parish Council ○ Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council ○ Bridport Town Council ○ Burton Bradstock Parish Council ○ Char Valley Parish Council ○ Charmouth Parish Council ○ Chideock Parish Council ○ Litton Cheney Parish Council ○ Loders Parish Council ○ Netherbury Parish Council ○ Puncknowle and Swyre Parish Council ○ Shipton Gorge Parish Council ○ Symondsbury Parish Council ○ Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council
<p>Number of consultations responded to on behalf of the LAP</p>	<p>BLAP responded to the following four policy and strategy consultation exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dorset Council Organisational Revenue Support Fund proposals ○ MHCLG Planning White Paper ○ Dorset Council Local Plan draft ○ Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy draft

	<p>Work also commenced on responding to the Dorset Council Homelessness Strategy consultation.</p> <p>BLAP also supported the response made by WATAG to the DFT consultation on the Future of Transport Rural Strategy.</p>
Has an audit of partnership membership been undertaken?	BLAP has started work on a review of its role, structure, activities and funding, to be concluded within 2021. This has commenced with an information gathering exercise from its membership. The review will go on to address the future role of and input by members.
When was the LAP constitution or protocol or terms of reference last reviewed?	The BLAP Protocol was last reviewed in 2018. A new Business Plan for 2021 – 2024 was signed off in February 2021. However, the review referred to above is expected to result in both a revised Protocol and a revised Business Plan by the start of the 2022/23 year.

Detail of action plan activities delivered	
Activities undertaken or meetings attended by the LAP Chair	<p>Meeting attended representing BLAP were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Advice Network (1st May 2020) ○ Bridport Collaboration Project (10th June 2020) ○ Bridport Market & Business Liaison Group (23rd June 2020) ○ Bridport Market & Business Liaison Group (20th October 2020) ○ Bridport Market & Business Liaison Group (9th February 2021) ○ Local Advice Network (18th February 2021) ○ West Dorset Parking Project Working Group (22nd March 2021) ○ West Dorset Partnership (22nd March 2021)
Activities lead by the LAP	Thirty-three BLAP Bulletins were circulated to the membership, providing information about upcoming events, meetings, consultations and service developments. This has included regular local information

	<p>from Public Health Dorset about the pandemic, the vaccination programme, advice lines and various support programmes.</p> <p>BLAP Bulletins – usually produced on a fortnightly basis – were circulated weekly during the initial phase of the pandemic (April to June 2020) when information and advice was changing quickly.</p>
<p>Activities undertaken by LAP members that benefitted substantively from LAP support</p>	<p>Various Parish Councils have been assisted in making their own responses to the draft Local Plan and Climate Emergency Strategy consultations through their engagement with peers at the Parish Liaison Group.</p> <p>Various Parish Councils have been able to follow up specific local concerns with Dorset Council officers or with the West Dorset MP as a result of links that were made at Parish Liaison Group meetings e.g. on broadband and bus services.</p> <p>Bridport Citizens Advice have been considering options for establishing a Poverty Action Group in the area, with input and support from BLAP.</p>
<p>Projects undertaken by LAP members which have contributed to the LAP</p>	<p>Bridport Town Council’s responses to the draft Dorset Local Plan and to the draft Dorset Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy provided helpful steers for BLAP’s own responses and for responses drafted by BLAP member Parish Councils.</p>
<p>What, if any, funding has the LAP levered in to deliver projects?</p>	<p>None during this year. A grant application submitted to Dorset Council was unsuccessful.</p>

Staff and volunteer time	
Paid staff hours	Administrative support and Town Clerk input was funded by a grant received from Dorset Council plus match funding received from Bridport Town Council. Their total value was approximately £10,000.
Volunteer hours by the Chair	<p>It should be noted that activity ceased during the first pandemic lockdown, substantively affecting the volunteer hours input in the earlier part of the year.</p> <p>The current Chair logged 149 volunteer hours in all. This consists of 25 hours in the period May to August 2020 when acting as stand-in and the remaining 124 hours in the period September 2020 to March 2021 when formally acting as Chair.</p> <p>These volunteer hours have been valued at £1,934 (based on standard ONS costs).</p> <p><i>In a more normal year (without pandemic restrictions) it is likely that these figures would be roughly 215 volunteer hours valued at £2,800.</i></p>
Volunteer hours by others	<p>Again, it is noted that 2020/21 was an unusual year, with volunteer hours being lower than expected due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Management Team = 50 hours Steering Group = 70 hours Parish Liaison Group = 150 hours Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Working Group = 10 hours Health and Wellbeing Working Group = 10 hours Consultation responses (other than by Chair) = 10 hours Other ad hoc discussions, etc = 20 hours Total for the above = 320 hours</p> <p>These volunteer hours have been valued at £4,154 (based on standard ONS costs).</p> <p><i>In a more normal year (without pandemic restrictions) it is likely that these figures would be roughly 640 volunteer hours in total valued at £8,300.</i></p>

Other input by paid staff e.g. by officers attending meeting	Dorset Council officers attended and presented at three of Parish Liaison Group meetings i.e. on transport, broadband and planning.
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Future work	
What are the main priorities for the LAP	<p>Nine main activities are listed in the BLAP Business Plan for 2021/22 which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manage an active Steering Group to provide good governance and enable effective networking ○ Conduct and implement a review of BLAP’s roles, funding, focus and ways of working ○ Facilitate and develop the work of the Parish Liaison Group ○ Facilitate and develop the work of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Working Group ○ Facilitate and develop the work of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group ○ Attend and contribute a BLAP perspective to other key groups or networks in the area ○ Disseminate information of local interest to and on behalf of BLAP members ○ Respond to external consultations where of clear BLAP interest and there is a BLAP perspective ○ Raise awareness and promote the role of BLAP to a wider local audience <p>The review (noted above) will seek to ensure that BLAP remains relevant to the needs of its members, is structured appropriately and can remain financially sustainable beyond 2021/22.</p> <p>BLAP managed to restart most of activities during 2020/21, not least through calling virtual meetings. The intention is to restart further activities in 2021/22 assuming that the pandemic continues to ease.</p>