

**Loders Parish Council Response to:
Dorset Council Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy Consultation**

Background (Page 3):

Dorset Council provides a huge variety of services supporting residents in their daily lives. Which of the following areas of the council's work matter most to you and your family? Please select up to five.

Dorset Council Work Areas:	Total
Protecting Dorset's natural environment	✓
Tackling climate change	✓
Helping people have healthy lifestyles	
Keeping vulnerable children and adults safe from harm	✓
Supporting people to live fulfilling and independent lives	
Providing rural buses and transport	
Collecting household waste (bins), recycling and cleaning streets	
Making sure roads and highways are in a good condition	
Increasing the availability of affordable housing	
Supporting economic growth and good quality jobs	
Providing libraries, museums, arts and culture	
Supporting schools so children have a good education	✓
Improving digital connectivity (such as access to fast broadband)	
Providing an effective planning process to manage development	✓
Working closely with communities and the voluntary sector	

Doing your bit

What are you already doing to reduce your carbon emissions? (Select all that apply)

- Using or generating more renewable energy
- Reducing the energy you use at home
- Making changes to your diet, buy more local food or growing your own food
- Buying from companies with green credentials
- ✓ Reducing your waste and recycling more
- Using less water
- Making your garden wildlife friendly
- ✓ Traveling less, walking or cycling more or buying an electric car

Do you think you can do more to reduce your carbon emissions in the future? **Possibly**

If yes, what do you think you could do over the next 5 years? (Select all that apply)

- Using or generating more renewable energy
- Reducing the energy you use at home
- Making changes to your diet, buy more local food or growing your own food
- ✓ Buying from companies with green credentials
- ✓ Reducing your waste and recycling more
- Using less water
- Making your garden wildlife friendly
- ✓ Traveling less, walking or cycling more or buying an electric car

Comments: as a parish council submitting a corporate response, this section of the consultation is not wholly applicable. However, the parish council have declared a climate and ecological emergency within the parish aimed at energising residents to take action.

Is anything stopping you from taking action to reduce your carbon footprint?

- Cost
- Not sure what to do
- Facilities not available
- Regulations (e.g. Listed building)
- Other

Comments: as a parish council who can contribute to the planning application process, planning regulations prevent the parish council from influencing planning applications which have a negative impact on the carbon footprint.

Dorset Councils Role (Page 5/6):

Our approach is about understanding what actions Dorset Council can directly influence, indirectly influence [such as through our services or use of our assets] and what we can only influence as part of a wider partnership. Do you agree with our approach?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: The target of 2040 for Dorset Council to be carbon neutral and 2050 for Dorset Area to be carbon neutral is not ambitious enough, the climate emergency is just that 'an emergency' and therefore requires an immediate response. It is also noted that town and parish councils receive very little mention in the action plan when their role at the grass roots community level is imperative.

Carbon Targets (Page 6):

Do you agree with the target set for Dorset Council ITSELF as an organisation of 2040?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Do you agree with the target set for the Dorset Council AREA of 2050?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: the targets for Dorset Council and the Dorset Area need to be far more ambitious and the action plan objectives throughout the strategy need to be definable and measurable.

Topic Area Renewable Energy (Page 7/8)

Renewable Energy - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What we can directly impact		✓			
What we can indirectly impact		✓			
What we can influence and partnership		✓			

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "renewable energy" area for action?

Greater consideration needs to be given to onshore and offshore wind power and tidal and wave power - Dorset Council need to lobby central government to be more favourable to these forms of renewable energy which have fewer effects on the environment than many other energy sources.

Loders Parish Council would not support energy generated by nuclear power stations - Dorset Council should lobby central government to not rely on nuclear energy as a renewable power source.

Renewable Energy - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- ✓ Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: although Loders Parish Council agree with the action plan for renewable energy, Dorset Council need to do more (see the points above) and the targets for Dorset Council and the Dorset Area need to be accelerated. The zero carbon target dates of 2040 and 2050 are not ambitious enough.

Topic Area Buildings (Page 9/10)

Buildings - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What we can directly impact	✓				
What we can indirectly impact					✓
What we can influence and partnership					✓

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "buildings" area for action?

Carbon emissions from Dorset buildings account for the second highest proportion of the county's footprint – 60%. Dorset Council have not considered how they will facilitate the replacement of fossil fuels in private homes.

Buildings - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- ✓ Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: help/advice needed for owners of older/traditional homes to switch from gas and oil heating. Air source heat pumps are not suitable for older traditionally constructed stone buildings and the electrical supply infrastructure does not have the capacity to provide for full electric heating (nor electric vehicle recharging points). As already mentioned, the zero carbon targets for Dorset Council and the Dorset Area need to be accelerated. The target dates of 2040 and 2050 are not ambitious enough.

Topic Area Food & Drink (Page 11/12)

Food and drink - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What we can directly impact		✓			
What we can indirectly impact		✓			
What we can influence and partnership				✓	

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "food and drink" area for action?

Some key areas have been omitted:

food poverty issues, food waste, food security, and agricultural production and the role this plays in carbon emissions.

Food and drink - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- ✓ Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

- The range of actions do not address the stated key objective of increasing low carbon food production in Dorset.
- Only 4 of the 9 actions are targeted before 2023. The pace of the proposed actions should reflect a greater sense of urgency
- The action plan lacks robust targets in important areas, for example transitioning County Farms to low carbon production which aims to "Work to encourage adoption of more climate friendly practices" rather than clear, measurable and time linked targets. Same as "explore carbon reduction in procurement" – why can't there be a mandatory carbon reduction in new contracts with suppliers? And, while committing to an audit of fertiliser use in county land holdings there is no clear target associated with its reduction -- instead an undertaking to "Revise policy as required"!
- As already mentioned, the carbon zero targets for Dorset Council and the Dorset Area need to be accelerated. The zero carbon target dates of 2040 and 2050 are not ambitious enough.
- This section of the Strategy would have benefited by a greater understanding of the issues and working more closely with a range of specialist organisations
- Why no consideration of potential roles for Town and Parish Councils in meeting these targets?

Topic Area Economy (Page 13/14)

Economy - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What we can directly impact		✓			
What we can indirectly impact		✓			
What we can influence and partnership		✓			

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "economy" area for action?

Economic growth contributes to climate change - you can't have economic growth without it having a negative impact on the environment. Dorset is a major tourist destination (tourism generates traffic which is a major contributor to carbon emissions) and yet the action plan has no detail on what steps the Council will take to support it becoming a low carbon tourist destination. Also, what is meant by Eco-Tourism and how to promote it.

Economy - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- ✓ Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: although Loders Parish Council agree with the action plan, there needs to be more specifically in relation to Dorset as a major tourism destination. As already mentioned, the targets for a zero carbon Dorset Council and the Dorset Area need to be accelerated. The zero carbon target dates of 2040 and 2050 are not ambitious enough.

Topic Area Waste (Page 15/16)

Waste - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What we can directly impact		✓			
What we can indirectly impact		✓			
What we can influence and partnership		✓			

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "waste" area for action?

The waste action plan reflects the existence of an existing, well-structured strategy.

Waste - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- ✓ Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: The waste action plan has clearer, measurable targets in contrast with other sections of the Dorset Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy. But there is no mention of food waste and there needs to be more partnership projects. As already mentioned, the zero carbon targets for Dorset Council and the Dorset Area need to be accelerated. The target dates of 2040 and 2050 are not ambitious enough.

Topic Area Water (Page 17/18)

Water - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What we can directly impact	✓				
What we can indirectly impact	✓				
What we can influence and partnership	✓				

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "water" area for action?

Dorset Council need to lobby central government in relation to contradictory policy so that planning applications that do not meet water reduction/recycling etc. are refused whilst those that are environmentally favourable are encouraged. Planning applications that seek to build on flood plains need to be refused.

Water - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- ✓ Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: as already mentioned, the targets for Dorset Council and the Dorset Area need to be accelerated. The zero carbon target dates of 2040 and 2050 are not ambitious enough.

Topic Area Natural Assets (Page 19/20)

Natural Assets - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What we can directly impact	✓				
What we can indirectly impact	✓				
What we can influence and partnership	✓				

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "natural assets" area for action?

Loders Parish Council is against drilling or fracking for mineral and oil extraction. Any future reviews of the Dorset Minerals Strategy need to be aligned with the Dorset Council Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy but we don't want any 'alignment' to prioritise mineral extraction but to prioritise climate & ecology.

Natural assets - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- ✓ Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: as already mentioned, the targets for Dorset Council and the Dorset Area need to be accelerated. The zero carbon target dates of 2040 and 2050 are not ambitious enough.

Topic Area Transport (Page 21/22)

Transports - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What we can directly impact	✓				
What we can indirectly impact	✓				
What we can influence and partnership	✓				

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "transport" area for action?

As the biggest generator of carbon emissions, transport needs to feature first in the areas for action. Active travel (walking/cycling) is important in reducing air pollution and improving health and well-being. Car sharing is also important as is digital infrastructure to facilitate home-working, home-learning and e-commerce therefore reducing transport needs. Dorset Council to lobby government not just for rail improvements but bus improvements as well.

Transport - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- ✓ Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: as already mentioned, the targets for Dorset Council and the Dorset Area need to be accelerated. The zero carbon target dates of 2040 and 2050 are not ambitious enough.

Making it happen (Page 23-26)

Leadership and governance

Do you agree we have identified all the relevant leadership and governance actions?

- ✓ Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: throughout the action plan, little is made of the role of town and parish councils which are effectively the grass roots for climate change. Dorset Council needs to be clear about a structure in which this partnership is going to work and if necessary, create a framework. Local councils want to be active partners in addressing climate change.

Funding the response

Do you agree with our approach to funding the actions required to implement the strategy i.e. invest-to-save schemes, capital receipts through asset rationalisation, and building into our capital programme as well as exploring options to raise additional funds through borrowing and council tax?

- Strongly agree
- ✓ Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments:

Engagement and communications

Do you agree we what we are proposing for engagement and communications actions?

- Strongly agree
- ✓ Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Comments: town and parish councils must be involved but how will they become involved? Dorset Council needs to take the lead in setting up a structure.

Monitoring & progress reporting

Would you be interested in seeing the progress reviews? **Yes**

How often do you want to be updated on progress? **Every 6 months**

How do you want to be updated on progress? **Website, E-newsletter, social media, press releases**

Any other comments

In order to 'make it happen' it must be seen as something that people can do and is not imposed from above. Dorset Council need to actively encourage people to change their behaviour to reduce their carbon footprint. A bottom-up approach to get people onboard to change their behaviour may have been a better approach as town and parish councils and community groups are keen to be involved.