

CONSULTATION OPEN TO 26/03/2012

ON UPDATED VERSION

LYME REGIS COMMUNITY PLAN 2007-2027

A lot has happened since our first Plan was agreed in 2007. For this reason, LymeForward organised a public examination of the Plan by Lyme Regis Town Council during the summer and autumn. The Steering Group then looked in the light of today's changed circumstances at the feedback received at these and other review sessions, and have suggested adjustments (*noted in blue Times Roman italic font and explained in Blue Underlined*) to the previous Visions and Aims.

Objectives are all updated, with those where we cannot at present see how they might be achieved moved to a 'Wish List'.

We now need to know what YOU think of the suggested changes but first a quick overview:

MAJOR CHANGES SINCE 2007

The Global Financial crisis that began in 2007 has already affected grant funding and demonstrated the need to protect existing services such as the Library, but most cuts are still to impact locally.

The change of Government in 2010 resulted amongst other things with the demise of Regional government initiatives (making it now harder to plan across the border) and brought us the challenges and opportunities of Localism and the new planning regime.

It has become very clear that if we in Lyme Regis want a better – or even an equally good – future, it is up to us to make it happen. "They" won't provide it for us.

The good news is that several recent projects have shown once again just how much Lyme can achieve if organisations and townspeople work together: the Shelters have been regenerated thanks to a partnership between the Town Council and a dedicated team of volunteers; concerted pressure from all sections of the community led to the re-acquisition of the "Hub" and its renovation; the closure of the existing pre-school was turned to a positive with the opening of the pre-school at St Michaels School; the decline of our Action Forum group has led to a newly invigorated Over 50s Lunch Club, supported by many local people & organisations.

Not that community involvement is anything new: many of the town's other projects go back many years: Woodmead Halls, the Town Mill, Museum and Marine Theatre are all run mainly by volunteers with financial input from the Town and District

Councils; other events such as Lifeboat and Carnival weeks, Candles on the Cobb etc are run entirely by the community for the community.

NOW WE NEED YOUR REACTIONS

Do you agree with the Vision and long term Aims for each theme?

If not, why not? What do you think should be there instead?

Do you agree with our Objectives for the next five years?

If not, what would YOU suggest, and would you be willing to help make it happen?

IN PARTICULAR

What do you think of the following "new" ideas?:

- That there should be more benches around the town for locals to rest, sit and chat?
- That the play equipment in Anning Road should be improved to provide for older children – and perhaps include outdoor gym equipment for adults to encourage activity which is both healthy and inter-generational?
- That we should investigate the possibility of enhancing a footpath by adding equipment and enabling it to be used as a "fitness trail"?
- Would you welcome a tennis court somewhere nearer the town centre than Uplyme?
- Calling all young people: Do you think Lyme needs a Youth Council? If so, what would you want it to achieve? Should it be linked to the Hub, the Town Council, or have a more general focus, perhaps attached to LymeForward? (if you don't know what that is, have a look at www.lymeforward.co.uk).
- Should there be separate themes for people with disabilities, or for elderly residents.....or for any other section of the community

PLEASE RESPOND IN PERSON TO: LRDT OFFICE

BY EMAIL TO: heather@lrtdt.co.uk

BY POST TO: LymeForward, c/o Lyme Regis Development Trust (LRDT), ST Michael's Business Centre, Church St, Lyme Regis, DT7 3DB

BEFORE FEBRUARY 29TH 2012 IF AT ALL POSSIBLE,

FINAL DEADLINE 26TH MARCH 2012.

ECONOMY

What has been achieved since 2007

- Fossil Festival & ArtsFest are well established in calendar, bringing “interested” tourists who may repeat visit at quieter times;
- Shelters re-opened this summer after extensive collaborative regeneration project, vastly improving visitors’ experience along Marine Parade.
- Good Progress is being made towards the establishment of a Jurassic Coast Studies Centre in Lyme Regis, which would deliver year-round economic benefits to the town.
- The Malthouse has been secured as multi-use educational space and mezzanine providing additional exhibition and workspace at Town Mill.
- Plans are going ahead in 2012 to establish three office units at St Michael’s Business Centre, giving more opportunity for employment.
- Our Community Learning Centre LymeNET continues to provide opportunities for local people to improve their work related skills and expertise thanks to a Big Lottery Grant and very dedicated staff.
- Progress has been made toward positioning Lyme Regis as a destination for the cruise ship sector, with the first visit due in May 2012.
- Progress toward bringing Three Cups Hotel back into the economic life of the Town.
- Turn Lyme Green work encouraging purchase of local food.
- Town Council is considering how best to promote the town in areas other than tourism.

We suggest a slight amplification of the Vision:

Our Vision

To create a sustainable, high quality and year round economy in Lyme Regis that provides relevant skills and employment opportunities for local people and businesses thereby ensuring that the communities in Lyme and surrounding areas have a lively and prosperous future. This vision must be delivered in a way, which either minimises or mitigates the negative effects of a successful economy (such as increasing traffic and house prices) *and safeguards the environment.*

Turn the previous Objectives 1&2 into Aims 1&2.; and insert a new Aim 5.

Our Aims

ECA1: To create a year round sustainable tourist economy by developing and improving facilities and attractions for shoulder and low-season visitors who have a high net-value for the town.

ECA2: To position Charmouth and Lyme Regis as an internationally significant educational tourism destination focussing on geology, fossils, history of earth sciences as well as broader heritage and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). .

ECA3: To help local businesses to grow, building on both the traditional industries of fishing and agriculture and newer skills such as those of the many creative artists in the area.

ECA4: To develop the skill base of the local population in order to improve employment opportunities and meet the needs of local businesses.

ECA5: *To ensure that the necessary infrastructure (eg: broadband and bed spaces) exists so that the town can take advantage of existing and new opportunities.*

ECA6: To attract new businesses to Lyme Regis in order to broaden the economic base and employment opportunities.

Our New Objectives - which we hope to achieve in the next 5 years

ECO1: Fund and build a Jurassic Coast Studies Centre.

ECO2: Help local people start their own businesses by ensuring the availability of relevant business training and business premises, perhaps forming a Local Enterprise zone.

ECO3: Work with traders and existing businesses to: support cooperation; promote them to existing and new markets; and encourage and enable the local communities to buy local products and services.

ECO4: Ensure LymeNet’s continued existence and thus their ability to assist local people to acquire and update saleable skills and expertise.

ECO5: Develop the town’s ability to respond collectively to opportunities such as the 2012 cruise ship visit.

ECO6: Examine the possibility of a co-operative Events Infrastructure co-ordinator.

ECO7: Get the “simple” things right, such as providing clean toilets and a litter-free environment. (Link to **ENO7**).

Our Wish List – things we want to happen if resource/opportunity arises

ECO8: Promote Lyme Regis internationally.

ECO9: Establish the priorities of the local farming and fishing communities in the area surrounding Lyme, to help strengthen their businesses and explore opportunities to diversify.

ENVIRONMENT

What has been achieved since 2007.....

- Turn Lyme Green has been established as a thriving organisation, with well-known identity and website;
- A successful campaign was run to reduce use of plastic bags in Lyme Regis, putting pressure on WDDC to do more and match EDDC targets.
- Award-winning film “Help Turn Lyme Green” produced
- The Environment group advised on planting schedule at Langmoor & Lister Gardens, planting of Jane Austen gardens.
- Dark skies regarded as important in lighting decisions in Lyme. (eg in replacement of existing street lighting).
- Much work on local food, working with producers and encouraging “grow your own:
- Farmers markets & food fairs have taken place;
- Apple trees have been planted in Slopes Farm, Queen’s Walk and Anning Road as the beginning of a Community Orchard;
- Gardenshare scheme launched with some successful pairings
- Much work done to improve the appearance of a variety of areas – from clearing brambles to planting bluebells and trees, beach cleans, Britain in Bloom, identifying trees for WDDC Protection notices etc
- Development of Phase 1V of Coastal Protection scheme plans

We suggest re-wording the Vision, keeping the same meaning::

Our Vision

Recognising that Lyme Regis is a national asset, with a unique natural, physical and marine environment, beloved by residents and visitors alike, and thus a heritage to pass to future generations, the town will successfully nurture and enhance its diverse character while meeting the challenges of climate change and environmental sustainability.

Keep the first two aims, but drop the third aspiration to become an exemplar for environmentally sustainable living.:

Our Aims

ENA1: To protect the unique and high quality environmental heritage that defines and distinguishes Lyme Regis.

ENA2: To minimise the environmental impact of the community of Lyme Regis and the surrounding area and in particular to reduce CO₂ emissions.

And to update our objectives, moving some to a “Wish List” to await opportunity or resource:

Our New Objectives - which we hope to achieve in the next 5 years

ENO1: Support West Dorset’s lead to stabilise East Cliff (Phase IV of the Coastal Protection Scheme)

ENO2: Improve the water quality and visual appearance of the river

ENO3: Continue the community orchard project, and the farmers’ markets, thereby encouraging the growing and purchase of local produce and services by residents, visitors and businesses.

ENO4: Support energy conservation, waste reduction and the use of renewable energy as an alternative to carbon-sourced fuels.

ENO5: Encourage the use of alternatives to the private car and reduce the carbon footprint of all forms of transport in and around Lyme Regis. (link to **TO6**, examining Park & Ride).

ENO6: Support initiatives to achieve dark skies over and around Lyme Regis.

ENO7: Support public awareness and pride in Lyme Regis’s environment; maintain its general appearance by encouraging the identification of ‘tatty corners’ through the Town Council’s Complaints & Incidents reporting process. (link **ECO7**).

ENO8: Encourage close working and constructive dialogue between the Town and conservation agencies to ensure that we can make progress in the 21st Century whilst respecting our unique natural environment and built heritage.

Our Wish List – things we want to happen if resource/opportunity arises

ENO8: Introduce a ‘masts strategy’ that reconciles the competing needs of telecommunications and environmental quality.

ENO9: Reduce the visual impact of signage, utility poles, overhead wires etc. through a programme of improved design, replacement and removal.

ENO10: Ensure that buildings are not allowed to mar the appearance of Lyme by falling into disrepair or being developed inappropriately.

ENO11: Ensure that significant trees, landscapes, greenways, footpaths and open spaces in Lyme Regis are given adequate protection (e.g. from development, chopping down, topping and lopping) and that the appropriate regulations are fully enforced.

HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

What has been achieved since 2007.....

- St Michael's school now has a Breakfast Club and provides hot lunches.
- Meetings have been held with parents of children with disabilities living in Lyme Regis to find out what changes are needed to enable their children to join in general activities with other children.
- Following the demise of the Action Forum, LymeForward organised an event to see what people wanted. As a result, a monthly Community Lunch Club has been set up.
- A Food Bank is being set up.
- A Befriending Scheme is soon to be launched, in co-operation with POPPs.
- Very few serious crime issues raised at PACT meetings
- Successful campaign was run to install smoke alarms
- Fire Service now judges Lyme Regis one of the safest areas
- At least 2 of our churches very involved with community.

Our Vision *(unchanged)*

Whilst providing very high medical and social support to the permanently and incurably ill, we seek to maintain the general physical, mental and spiritual health of the population at the highest achievable level. We want everyone to be as healthy as possible whilst causing as little social burden as possible; and we want both visitors and residents to feel safe in Lyme Regis. If disaster should occur, we want to be confident that there will be a speedy and effective response from the appropriate emergency service, whether police, ambulance, fire, coastguard, or lifeboat.

Our Aims *(New Number 4 added)*

HWA1: To ensure that residents and visitors are able to access health care 24 hours a day, and that all healthy living, preventative health measures and health care facilities are *made available (previously "promoted")* to individual households.

HWA2: To keep Lyme Regis safe for residents, visitors and businesses.

HWA3: To ensure that community policing is responsive to local needs.

HWA4: *To ensure that no one feels isolated or lonely.*

Our New Objectives - which we hope to achieve in the next 5 years

HWO1: Help GPs and other health workers to understand local needs and thus ensure the provision of appropriate healthcare.

HWO2: Support the police to maintain low crime rates, making people safe and feel safer.

HWO3: Encourage the timely reporting of crime and antisocial behaviour, ensure the public are aware of the local police contacts.

HWO4: Support/promote opportunities for community interaction in general. In particular, consider the idea of "gossip/rest seats" around town; and how best to reach those who rarely leave their house.

HWO5: Continue to initiate schemes to help those most in need, such as the Food Bank, Credit Union.

HWO6: Ensure that key workers in Lyme Regis have access to affordable housing. (see Housing)

HOUSING

What has been achieved since 2007

- Have conducted our own surveys of housing need and have been in close contact with WDDC Housing Officers who accept the unique needs of Lyme Regis.
- A definition of “local” meaning those with a real Lyme Regis connection has been accepted and is (generally) applied by WDDC.
- A considerable amount of work has been done to investigate every inch of land within and adjacent to Lyme’s Development Boundary; those sites which might possibly be developed have been submitted to and evaluated by WDDC’s most recent SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment).
- Making slow progress towards investigating the possibility of housing on Woodmead car park (whilst retaining same number of parking spaces)
- Working with Raglan to achieve a range of housing on the “ambulance site” by the Medical Centre, Uplyme Road.
- 2011: Considerable input into the consultation process preceding the drafting of new Local Plan. (Also engagement with all the aborted previous Local Plan consultations!)

Our Vision *(unchanged)*

By 2027 there will be a range of accommodation of suitable numbers, size and cost for all local people who wish to stay in the area and for those wishing to work here, at all stages of their lives. There will be systems in place to help meet the needs of those with special requirements especially key workers. All new building will be environmentally friendly.

Our Aims *(unchanged except for slight amplification of 3)*

HA1: To ensure that key workers and other people employed in Lyme Regis and those with particular needs are able to live locally.

HA2: To ensure that young people are able to continue living in Lyme Regis once they leave the parental home.

HA3: To address the negative impact that second homes and empty properties have on the supply of affordable property for local people *and the living environment*.

Our New Objectives - which we hope to achieve in the next 5 years

HO1: Ensure that the unique needs of Lyme Regis are effectively recognised in the new District Local Plan.

HO2: Ensure that schemes for delivering a sizable amount of affordable housing of varying sizes and tenure type are developed through the most appropriate of the new vehicles available under the Localism Act.

HO3: Establish a strategy whereby the “Right to Acquire” or other such legislation does not diminish the quantity of Lyme’s housing stock.

HO4: Ensure that an allocation scheme is in place that gives priority to people working locally or with strong family connections in Lyme.

HO5: Encourage cross-border working in both the assessment and fulfilment of housing need.

Our Wish List – things we want to happen if resource /opportunity arises

HO6: Set up a Community Land Trust to be ready to take advantage of any opportunities.

HO7: Help second homeowners to understand their impact on the local community and economy and to maximise their contribution to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Lyme Regis.

HO8: Identify empty homes and work with the owners and local agencies to bring them back into occupation.

HO9: Work with residents of large under-occupied properties to help them identify alternative smaller properties and facilitate their move so that larger family properties are available to meet demand.

SPORTS, CULTURE & LIFELONG LEARNING

What has been achieved since 2007

- LymeForward public meeting held at Woodmead Halls started the coordinated effort to save the library in Lyme Regis.
- Lyme Regis Gig Club set up as sports and recreational opportunity for local people to participate in the healthy sport of sea rowing. It now has three gigs with another due to be launched in summer 2012, 130 members and a newly formed youth section.
- The Town has continued to run Annual Fossil Festivals and ArtsFests as well as the long-standing Lifeboat & Carnival weeks.
- Town continued to run the successful Football clubs
- Several new regular courses, eg Pilates, Dancing have been established and are thriving.
- Museum and Town Mill complex are thriving.
- LymeForward successfully applied for numerous supportive grants over the period.

Keep the existing Vision and Aims, with the addition of AIM 3 which was previously an objective. We thought a) that we shouldn't lose sight of this aspiration and that b) it was not a SMART objective, rather an underlying issue

Our Vision

Lyme Regis to be a place offering a wide choice of cultural, extended learning and sports opportunities, creating a cohesive community area where promotion of health, creativity and the achievement of personal potential are fostered in an overall context of enjoyment.

Our Aims

SA1: To make the most of the facilities we have; to achieve and then share enhanced provision across the local area in response to identified needs.

SA2: To ensure the availability of a wide range of sports/learning/cultural activities to give choice and variety, ensuring participation is enjoyable and rewarding.

SA3: *To be alert to general health and well-being aspects alongside pleasure in all activities.*

SA4: To maximise the potential of festivals and events to benefit the town, community and visitors, economic, educational and cultural.

Our New Objectives -which we hope to achieve in the next 5 years

SO1: Find out if there is support for an outdoor gym/cross generational activities, tennis courts, and play equipment for older children on Anning Road; if so, provide.

SO2: Resolve the issues surrounding community use of Woodroffe's facilities.

NB: We've put "Find space for Youth Football Teams' practice in winter" under Youth.

SO3: Continue to support the Museum, Town Mill, and Marine Theatre in recognition of their value to the town both culturally and economically.

SO4: Implement the agreed findings of the 2011 WDDC/LRTC Arts Review including the suggestion that LymeForward should facilitate the setting up of an umbrella grouping of smaller organisations, exploring in particular the possibility of shared resources and marketing.

SO5: Ensure a sustainable future for Lyme's professional library, possibly re-locating with other services to achieve this.

Our Wish List – things we want to happen if resource /opportunity arises

SO6: A forum that can provide a co-ordinated approach to physical activities and their development.

SO6: Maximise the opportunities for people of all abilities and experience to realise their personal potential, with coaching, tutoring, group support as required.

SO7: Work collaboratively to secure funding for existing and new facilities/organisations where the need for provision is demonstrable and once in place, could be sustainable.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

What has been achieved since 2007

- Yellow lines in Staples Terrace, Summerhill Road and Westhill Road
- Negotiated changes to local bus timetable, new bus shelters achieved
- Traffic calming measures in Charmouth Road
- Harbour better managed and more welcoming to visitors
- Parking permits issued to Kingsway Residents + increased parking capacity.
- Public forum session now established before Planning Committees to enable issues to be highlighted
- Residents' permits now issued for 2-hour early & late parking at Woodmead Carpark throughout the year.

Our Vision *(unchanged)*

To create sustainable and integrated transportation arrangements, which facilitate the movement of people and goods into, out of and within Lyme Regis whilst avoiding undue impact on the environment or the economy.

Our Aims *(unchanged)*

TA1: To improve the convenience and safety of pedestrians, cyclists and users of mobility scooters, prams and push-chairs.

TA2: To improve access to the town and of viable car parking (especially for locals, short-stay parking for access to shops).

TA3: To ensure the necessary and appropriate access for delivery and service vehicles whilst avoiding undue disruption.

TA4: To ensure the provision of sustainable and appropriate co-ordinated public transport.

TA5: To increase and improve transport by sea.

TA6: To ensure compliance with traffic regulations.

Our New Objectives - which we hope to achieve in the next 5 years

TO1: Prioritise the relocation of the bus stop from outside the Co-op to where the road widens higher up the hill.

TO2: Find a way of enforcing the restrictions on delivery times to Broad Street shops by large lorries.

TO3: Pursue the concept and implementation of Access Only Traffic Orders with appropriate weight and length restrictions on Lyme's main access routes.

TO4: Develop the proposal to improve Cobb Gate, initially by assessing the feasibility of gaining the support of key stakeholders with a view to community consultation if positive.

TO5: Ensure the Town Bus timetable co-ordinates with other buses, that the routes meet user needs, and that we don't lose existing services,

Our Wish List – things we want to happen if resource/opportunity arises

TO6: Review the Park and Ride services in the context of managed car parking.

TO7: Acquire Intelligent Parking signs to encourage intending visitors to use the Park & Ride services and reduce unnecessary traffic seeking parking places. Improve pedestrian safety in key areas with no existing pavements, first priorities being Sidmouth Road and the main routes to schools.

TO8: Audit existing pavements of concern to less mobile pedestrians, mobility scooters and pushchairs, with a view to improving prioritised areas.

TO9: Explore in more detail the concept of moving Lyme Regis Industrial Estate (where Travis Perkins is) to Penn Cross, thus allowing the land to be used for affordable housing.

YOUTH

What has been achieved since 2007

- Purchased the former Boys Club building and working with Dorset County Council Youth Services, Woodroffe School and Lyme Regis Town Council to develop a well resourced multiuse facility.
- Established Strategic Partnership with Dorset County Council Youth Service to work together for the better delivery of services to young people in Lyme Regis and surrounding areas.
- Established Development Group including young people to advise on the development of services to young people.
- Conducted needs analysis amongst local young people, the community and those delivering services and providing opportunities to establish their needs and how they might be incorporated into new facility.
- Established a programme of activities for young people over the summer.
- Worked to establish Lyme Regis Children's Centre as one stop shop for young people up to the age of 12, their parents and guardians and those that deliver services to them.
- Further progress towards a skate park.

Keep the existing vision and Aims but add a previous Objective as a "how we do this" paragraph

Our vision *(unchanged)*

We want Lyme and the surrounding area to have a sustainable demographic base, to become more young-people friendly and thus more appealing for young people to want to stay in, or return to, Lyme Regis as adults.

Our aims. *(unchanged)*

YA1: To ensure that our young people are healthy safe, and able to enjoy their lives.

YA2 To ensure that despite our geographic isolation, young people have the access to educational, training and recreational facilities needed to allow them to develop to their full potential.

YA3: To enable all young people to make a positive contribution to society and to achieve economic well-being.

YA4 To ensure parents and carers are supported both to help achieve the above and to achieve the family's domestic and economic stability.

YA5: To maximise mutual understanding and respect across the age ranges within the community.

We do this by working with agencies, community and voluntary organisations interacting with young people in and around Lyme Regis to ensure that: young people are effectively involved and consulted on how services to them can be better delivered; and by ensuring that services are co-ordinated and well-managed; best practice 'child safety' procedures are in place; and advice and guidance on issues of concern to young people are available.

Our New Objectives - which we hope to achieve in the next 5 years

YO1: Complete the fabric refurbishment of the HUB and ensure it works to its full potential.

YO2: Deliver a Skate park!

YO3: Support efforts to find space for the Youth Football teams to practise in winter.

YO5: Find out if the suggestion for a Youth Council is supported and is appropriate given other current initiatives.

YO6: Investigate the current need for wrap-around child-care, and other potential services such as a mother & toddler group or support for children with disabilities.

YO7: Continue to provide opportunities for members of the community of all ages and backgrounds to meet and share their experiences and to promote the contribution made by young people to the life of the Town in a positive manner.

YO8: Support opportunities and organisations trying to provide accessible training and employment for young people so they can acquire appropriate skills and expertise to earn a living within the local community.

YO9: Ensure LymeForward Housing Strategies continue to consider the needs of young people.

Our Wish List – things we want to happen if resource/opportunity arises

YO10: Further work with schools, parents and caterers to ensure that accessible healthy eating options exist for young people both in and out of school.