



# GREEN SPACES INTERPRETATION

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A REPORT FOR BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

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# CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND	2
2. INTRODUCTION	3
2.1 Bridport – the setting	3
2.2 The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan	4
3. DEVELOPING INTERPRETATION	6
3.1 Stakeholders and responsibilities	7
4. CURRENT SITUATION	8
4.1 Physical interpretation panels	8
4.2 Signage	11
4.3 Street furniture and infrastructure	13
4.4 Self-guided walks and trails	16
5. OPPORTUNITIES	18
5.1 Examples of alternative approaches	18
6. PRACTICAL DELIVERY	24
6.1 Coherence and consistency	24
6.2 Thematic strands and stories	27
6.3 Engaging artists and community groups	29
6.4 Consultation	31
7. ACTION PLAN	31
8. POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING	39
8.1 National funds	39
8.2 Local funds	42
APPENDIX 1 – BIBLIOGRAPHY	45
APPENDIX 2 – CONSULTATION WITH GREEN SPACES GROUPS	46
APPENDIX 3 – CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	48
APPENDIX 4 – ORGANISATIONS WITH LINKS TO GREEN SPACES	50
APPENDIX 5 – GREENSPACES VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS	50
APPENDIX 6 – SOURCES OF FUNDING	51

## 1. BACKGROUND

*“Few resources hold the potential to impact so positively on a wide range of social issues as parks and green spaces.”*

HRH The Duke of Cambridge<sup>1</sup>

This scoping study has been written to support the develop a strategic interpretation scheme for Bridport town centre heritage assets and green spaces. It has been commissioned by Bridport Town Council.

The interpretation scheme will be one of a number of projects that link strongly to the aspirations of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan and will include considerations of information panels, signage, way-markers, street furniture, as well as walking and cycling routes around and through the town. The scheme will be developed in close collaboration with a range of stakeholders including; Bridport Museum, Chamber of Trade, tourism providers, voluntary groups involved in green spaces management as well as Bridport Town Council.

The aim will be to create a high quality, strategic and coherent scheme grounded in the stories and heritage relevant to local communities yet pertinent to visitors to the town and which will conserve and enhance the local distinctiveness and the heritage of the neighbourhood plan area. The resulting scheme will be used to secure project partners inform funding applications and serve as a template for project delivery.

This scoping study for the interpretation scheme includes:

- Criteria and principles to be used in developing the scheme
- Examples of best practice and inspirational solutions from other places
- Summary of existing, relevant community consultation and other local activity that might relevant (e.g. local heritage trails)
- Outlines of the thematic strands and stories to inform design
- Details on potential for engagement of local artists/community groups in delivering the scheme
- Outline proposal for key elements of the scheme together with indicative costings
- Indicative funding plan

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted in *Green Spaces for Good*, 2018 – 2022 Forward Plan of Fields in Trust

## 2. INTRODUCTION

*“Parks and green spaces are treasured assets and are often central to the lives of their communities. They provide opportunities for leisure, relaxation and exercise, but are also fundamental to community cohesion, physical and mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and local economic growth.”*

Public Parks report, House of Commons<sup>2</sup>

### 2.1 BRIDPORT – THE SETTING<sup>3</sup>

Bridport is the main settlement within the neighbourhood area. It is a market town about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) inland from Lyme Bay near the confluence of the River Brit and its tributaries the Asker and Simene. Its origins are Saxon, and it has a long history as a ropemaking centre and of fishing and ship building from West Bay.

Bridport’s main streets are particularly wide due to previously having been used to dry the ropes, after they had been spun in long gardens behind the houses. Today, these wide streets are home to the twice weekly market, which complements the many independent shops, cafes and pubs in East, South, and West streets. The town also holds music festivals, The Melplash Show, a hat festival, and Christmas Cheer. In the 21st Century, Bridport’s arts scene has expanded with an arts centre, theatre, cinema, and museum. Many artists have settled locally, working in studios scattered around the Bridport area.

Bridport has an important relationship with the surrounding landscape. The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan not only recognises the setting of Bridport but also the distinct identities found in the green corridors that not only connect local residential settlements but contain a wide range of wildlife that includes badgers and bats of many species. These corridors allow residents to walk from their villages into Bridport along the network of footpaths that exist in the area, thus alleviating the need for a car. The area is dominated by several hills, they are flat-topped with steep sides and clearly visible across the town, adding to the distinct “sense of place”. As well as their inherent value in terms of natural beauty, they are of economic value in terms of tourism and attracting people to the area.

Bridport is well-provided for with its number of outdoor sports pitches for rugby, football and cricket and tennis courts offering residents formal and informal sporting opportunities. Alongside these are 16 playing fields, parks and community amenity areas which are valued by the communities that surround them. There is a local wish to see that these areas are safeguarded and where possible, enhanced, particularly for users of different physical abilities.

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<sup>2</sup> *Public Parks, Seventh Report of Session 2016 – 17*, House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee February 2017

<sup>3</sup> Information summarised from *The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, Pre-Submission Version* Bridport Town Council. July 2018

## 2.2 THE BRIDPORT AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN<sup>4</sup>

*“Working in partnership with the other local councils and its communities, the Town Council welcomes the opportunity to safeguard Bridport’s heritage, open spaces and town alongside sustainable development that reflects and meets the present and future needs of all who live and work in the area”. Vision for Bridport (town centre and West Bay) “*

In 2009, West Dorset District Council produced the West Dorset Landscape Character Assessment which recognises the way in which settlements relate to the surrounding landscape and hills, which are worthwhile protecting. The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan supports that assessment and adds local detail through its own set of landscape and heritage policies.

In relation to the development of an interpretation vision for the green spaces in Bridport, the neighbourhood plan provides the framework and articulates the overarching aspirations that should be reflected in any decisions involving interpretation and other interventions into the town’s green spaces. These are summarised under the following objectives:

- **Heritage & Landscape:**
  - Objective 03. To maintain, protect and enhance the unique nature of the area, its heritage, important features, character and its environmental assets
  - Objective 04. To enhance and protect the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation, the Conservation Areas, and the Jurassic Coast UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Social & Community Infrastructure:**
  - Objective 08. To protect the excellent community facilities that exist today, including education, health, cultural, sport and leisure facilities.
  - Objective 09. To increase the range and availability of community facilities, sports, and leisure facilities where these bring benefits to the community.
- **Access & Movement:**
  - Objective 13. To make it easier to walk, cycle and use public transport.
  - Objective 14. To safeguard and improve pedestrian movements in the neighbourhood area.

The Interpretation action plan in Section 7 offers suggested activities that will contribute to and inform a number of the identified projects within the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan:

- 01. To improve the town centre public realm and environment, make pedestrian movement easier and more pleasant, through better paving and decluttering of redundant street furniture. Exploring the idea of town centre quarters and improving the linkage between areas.

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<sup>4</sup> *The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, Regulation 15 Submission*  
Bridport Town Council. April 2019

- 03. A Heritage interpretation strategy to design, guide and plan interpretation activities across the neighbourhood plan area
- 08. Improve community facilities for young people including play facilities for all ages.

A green and blue infrastructure survey is already underway covering both Bridport town centre and the land immediately beyond the urban area. This may include the opening-up of sightlines to the River Brit, making physical connections between St Michael's and Plottingham, initiating and undertaking practical management of the blue/green corridor for wildlife and public access reasons.

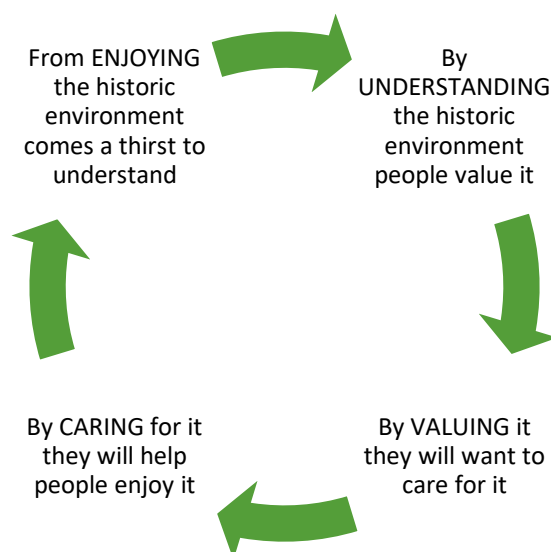
The Neighbourhood Plan in reference to St Marys and Askers Meadows states, "To maintain the future vibrancy of these natural areas, it is important to promote their individual character as distinct from one another." This underpins the principle of local distinctiveness within interpretation across parks and greenspaces.

### 3. DEVELOPING INTERPRETATION

The Association for Heritage Interpretation states that *“Interpretation enriches our lives through engaging emotions, enhancing experiences and deepening understanding of people, places, events and objects from past and present.”*

Interpretation refers to all the ways in which information is communicated to visitors. In the context of parks and green spaces, it is a communication process that helps people make sense of and understand more about a place. It can bring meaning, enhance visitor appreciation and promote better understanding. Enhancing the visitor experience can result in longer stays and repeat visits. This in turn will lead to increased income and potentially create employment opportunities.

Interpretation can also be key to the management and maintenance of sites. In 2005, English Heritage created the “virtuous circle of conservation” as a way to describe how people’s attitude to heritage changes as their engagement with it increases.<sup>5</sup> Although focussed on the historic environment, the principles can equally well be applied to parks and greenspaces.



In summary, interpretation is the means of creating meaningful, intellectual, emotional and lasting connections between people and place.

For interpretation to be effective, the message must be coherent and consistent. Each location should have complementary themes which link together in an overarching narrative which addresses visitors’ needs, information requirements and interpretation content. Within this narrative each location should have the opportunity to focus on the key themes relevant to their location and present their interpretation according to the locally distinct characteristics of the place.

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<sup>5</sup> From *Making the past part of our future*: English Heritage Strategy 2005-2010 page 2  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/eh-strategy-2005-2010/making-past-part-of-our-future/>

In order to develop interpretation across a number of diverse spaces agreeing an overarching interpretation strategy is a good starting point to:

- Identify and articulate the agreed vision of stakeholders
- Create a consistent methodology for messaging
- Agree parameters and guidelines for the implementation and presentation of interpretation
- Identify opportunities for making strategic use of grants and other messaging-related funding.

The suggestions and potential activities identified in this report could form the basis of a shared interpretation strategy. It is important to note however, that consultation for this report has been relatively limited and it is recommended that wider stakeholder and public consultation is undertaken to inform a final strategy.

### 3.1 STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Bridport is a vibrant town with many stakeholders. Listed below are organisations which have some form of responsibility for maintenance of green spaces or an interest in how they are used.

**Bridport Town Council** - Landowners for key areas of public realm; responsible for delivering local services such as allotments, open spaces and play areas, and Bridport Market.

**Dorset Council** - Landowners for certain areas; responsible for some car Parking facilities. Planning authority, responsible for environmental services, community partnerships, tourism and leisure. The new Dorset Council also has responsibility for highways, co-ordinating public transport and associated signage and infrastructure. Maintain public rights of way.

**Dorset Waste Partnership** - Responsible for collecting domestic refuse, some commercial waste (where contracted to do so) and servicing street bins.

**Dorset AONB** – Interested in the interpretation of landscape and the culture within it. Currently run programmes such as Stepping Out which could offer partnership opportunities for activities in green spaces.

**Environment Agency** – Many greenspaces have direct links to the environment agency through flood defence schemes and waterways

**Bridport Tourist Information Service** – Located in the centre of Bridport in the Town Hall they provide a valuable orientation point for visitors and locals. They currently provide maps, trails and information about Bridport

**Heritage and cultural organisations** in the town – see list Appendix 4. Whilst these organisations might not have a formal remit to work within parks and greenspaces, they occasionally use the spaces for the deliver of activities e.g. outdoor theatre, guided walks



**Greenspaces voluntary groups and organisations** – see list Appendix 5. An initial meeting of these organisations was held as part of the development of this report (see Appendix 2).

In addition to the above list of ‘management’ organisations, the resident, visiting and part-time resident community are, of course, important stakeholders.

## 4. CURRENT SITUATION

In order to inform future activities and identify potential projects for the improvement of interpretation across Bridport’s green spaces, an initial assessment of current provision was undertaken. Assessment has been split into four sections that each offer potential for improvement. These are:

1. Physical interpretation panels
2. Signage
3. Street furniture and infrastructure (including benches, railings, litter bins etc)
4. Self-guided walks and trails

Ideas for alternative approaches and solutions are given in Section 5.

### 4.1 PHYSICAL INTERPRETATION PANELS

There are currently a small number of physical interpretation panels across green spaces in the town, but these vary significantly in content, quality and design. There is also an inconsistency in placement of interpretation both across the town and in specific locations.

**Green Ring Route:** In 1997 a joint initiative between Bridport Town Council, West Dorset District Council and the Rural Development Commission, implemented a project to install interpretation panels focussing on the town’s heritage so creating a ‘Green Ring Footpath’. This route was an identified walk that incorporated some of the key historic sites in the town.

Some panels still remain in place but are weathered or have suffered damage through vandalism or natural deterioration.



At one site near Palmers Brewery the panel stand remains, but the panel content is missing.



The designs and content of the panels are now very outdated according to current interpretation principles. Large quantities of dense text characterise the panels, font style is old fashioned and not especially accessible. There is also little contextualisation, visitors are not given a sense of being on a route or directions on where to go next to find other panels or explore the history of the town further.



### Community Orchard

At the eastern end of the Community Orchard an attractive carved wooden panel gives details of forthcoming events and activities in the orchard. The natural materials used, and the carving of plants and trees reflects the setting and characteristics of the orchard. It does not however contain interpretative content about the orchard, although that might be intentional. At the main east and west entrances to the Community Orchard there is no obvious signage or interpretative content.



### Millennium Green

Bridport Millennium Green has by far the most interpretation panels which are modern, and the design is clearly laid out. Placed at most of the key entrances to the site they give information about the whole



site, walking routes and key features of interest (historic and natural). Whilst being very traditional and 'off the peg' in approach the panels give visitor simple and easy to follow information which encourages further exploration of the area.



### **New Zealand**

The nature reserve site at New Zealand has two large notice boards at each end. These give some site information, but it is in the form of printed out A3 sheets and very inaccessible. The boards have also been used for posters advertising dog training classes and other activities. It is not clear what the key purpose of these notice boards are which is a shame as they are very large in the context of the site.



### **East Bridge**

Although not an interpretation panel for a green space this small stone sign is located along the main footpath from the bottom of East Street to Askers Meadow. Very traditional in style and somewhat incongruous in design to its surroundings, it offers arguably the most successful interpretation content of all sites visited. The content is short and succinct, it commemorates the site where Richard III stayed in 1483. The sign references a small mullioned window from which Richard III may have looked out across the river, it encourages visitors to actively look for a feature which may otherwise have not been noticed and explains its historic significance.





## 4.2 SIGNAGE

Walking around the main routes in Bridport town centre there was a noticeable lack of waymarking and signage on many key routes and entrances to green spaces. In some places it was unclear whether public access was even permissible despite indicated footpaths on maps.





**Askers Meadow** does have clear fingerpost signage in a traditional format at the northern and central sections of the route but there is nothing obvious at the South Street entrance near Morrisons. As visitors enter the north end of Askers Meadow there is finger posting but it is the safety signs relating to the weir that have the greatest prominence on the approach.



**St Mary's Playing Field** does have some signage which identifies the 'park' and the riverside walk into town. There is also a standard footpath signpost at the entrance near Palmers Brewery. What is noticeable is the lack of consistency of format and placement. The messaging on the signs is not particularly welcoming although it is stated that the space is 'For the enjoyment of the public'. These signs are primarily functional and do not seek to provide visitor interpretation or orientation.



At the Southern end of St Mary's Playing Field (Palmers Brewery Entrance) there is a traditional footpath sign with circular footpath way markers on the post. Of particular interest is a green and yellow disc incorporating a relief of a dragon fly and river. It immediately (and therefore successfully) caught the attention of a family group but there was no context and therefore no understanding of the trail to which it relates.



#### 4.3 STREET FURNITURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Parks and greenspaces necessarily have a quantity of street furniture and signage including:

- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Fences, railing and gates
- Bike racks
- Litter bins
- Dog waste bins
- Shelters



At present there is little coherence across the various green space. All items tend to be 'off the shelf' and replaced on an ad hoc basis as and when required. Community consultation on Bridport play areas<sup>6</sup> in July 2017 identified that improvements would be desirable to signs, waste bins, fences and benches.

The following pages illustrate the wide range of designs in park benches, railings and fences currently located across Bridport's parks and greenspaces.

Benches range from traditional, wrought iron designs to more modern concrete and wood construction. In some areas, benches are in poor state of repair. More recent seating additions tend to be perching places (e.g. simple wooden benches without a back). In the Community Orchard there are some bespoke designs which have had artist input – see top two images on following page. All other benches illustrated are in public parks and so within the remit of Bridport Town Council.

<sup>6</sup> Bridport Play Area Consultation, July 2017, Bridport Town Council







Walking around the greenspace there are many fences and railings for safety and demarcation purposes. As the primary purpose of this infrastructure is to keep people out or off certain areas it does not present a particularly welcoming message to visitors. The visual appearance of the fences and railings could be softened, and the infrastructure used to guide and inform people, inviting them to explore the areas that are accessible (whilst physically directing them away from areas that are not). Further exploration of this idea is included in Section 5 - Opportunities.





## 4.4 SELF GUIDED WALKS AND TRAILS

Bridport has a large number of very active community groups and has delivered a number of large-scale capital redevelopment of heritage assets in recent years. As a result, there are various self-guided walks and heritage trails that have been researched and produced, including:

**The Newbery Trail** – walking trail around key areas of the town that inspired the artist Fra Newbery. Researched and developed as part of the Newbery Trail Project in 2008.

**Green Ring Footpath** – developed in 1997 the Green Ring takes in a circuit of the town (details in Section 4.1 above).

**Heritage Trails** – Bridport Museum has produced walking trails around the town centre and offers a programme of guided walks around key historic sites.

**Bridport Tourist Information Service** – currently researching two routes with a view to producing printed walks: 3 hills - Coneygar, Watton and Allington and a route from Bridport to West Bay.

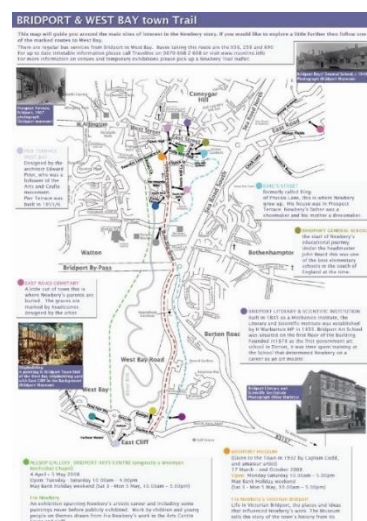
**West Bay Discovery Centre** - currently two printed trails are available around West Bay. The Discovery Centre is also developing leaflets focussing on Pier Terrace and the railway.

In addition, there are commercial trails that have been developed:

**Treasure Trails** – on sale for £6.99 trails currently cover Bridport Town, West Bay, Highlands End and Eype Village, Charmouth and Chideock, Freshwater Beach and Burton Bradstock, Golden Cap, Burton Bradstock and The Chesil Bank [www.treasuretrails.co.uk/things-to-do/dorset/bridport](http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk/things-to-do/dorset/bridport)

**Broadchurch trail** – this trail takes in the key filming locations used in the ITV series. There are also guided tours of the locations bookable through the Tourist Information Service. [www.visit-dorset.com/ideas-and-inspiration/film-and-tv/broadchurch](http://www.visit-dorset.com/ideas-and-inspiration/film-and-tv/broadchurch)

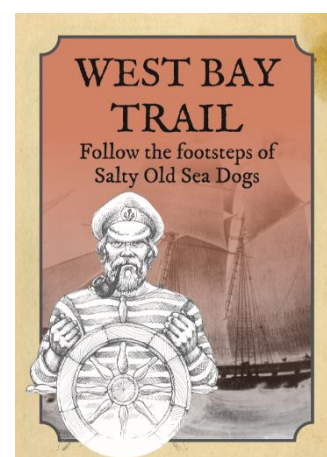
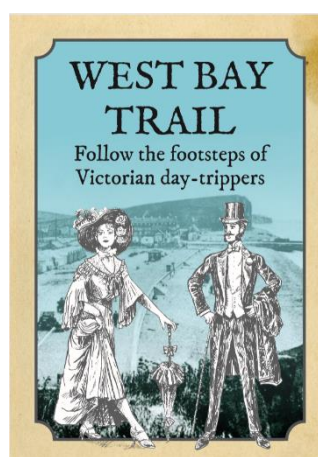
**Guided walks** - There are a number of groups who delivery guided walks of the town or use green spaces for groups 'trail' activity. These include:



Newbery trail



Bridport Museum trail



West Bay Discovery Centre trails

- Bridport Museum guided historic walks
- Bridport Dark History Tours (previously known as the 'Bridport Ghost Walk')
- Sing and Stroll, Rock and Ramble

**Cycle trails** - Bridport is on the National Cycle Network Route 2 and has a network of urban and rural cycle routes: [www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/sport-leisure/cycling/documents/bridport-urban.pdf](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/sport-leisure/cycling/documents/bridport-urban.pdf)

The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan identifies footpaths and cycle routes to be upgraded<sup>7</sup>. Improvements are currently underway on the cycle route from Bridport to West Bay as part of the 'Coastal Connections – people and places' project funded by the Coastal Communities Fund. This route will become part of a wider walking and cycling network known as the West Dorset Trailway, which will eventually connect to Maiden Newton. The route offers a number of access points to the main town.

Finding and navigating through the different trail options is not easy. There is real potential to revisit the key routes, intersections and key places of interest and look to produce a more cohesive walking and cycling offer in the town.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Sustainable-Transport-Improvements-18-12-2018.pdf>

## 5. OPPORTUNITIES

*“We need less stuff, but this stuff should be better designed and built”<sup>8</sup>*

As outlined above, parks, greenspace and walking routes need to have a level of infrastructure to help guide visitors, protect their safety and provide facilities such as bins and cycle racks. Clearly in some locations more traditional interpretation ‘boards’ work well but using this as a universal solution risks compromising the quality of green space and making it cluttered.

In this report therefore two areas of focus are explored to improve the interpretative offer in Bridport’s green spaces:

- 1 What other solutions are there for interpretation? See Section 5.1
- 2 How can the design and presentation of traditional interpretation boards be improved and what mechanisms could be introduced to create a greater coherence across the town? See Section 5.2

### 5.1 EXAMPLES OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO INTERPRETATION IN GREEN SPACES

Good interpretation engages visitors, encourages them to look, explore and discover new things that they take away from their experience. Interpretation should be relevant to people of all ages and backgrounds. It needs to be accessible both physically (so thinking about those with particular needs) and intellectually. Most importantly, interpretation needs to enhance and complement the space to which it relates. Below are some examples of interpretation in green spaces, these different approaches together with feedback from green space organisations in the town have helped inform the action plan in section 7.

#### 5.1.1 New approaches to single location interpretation

If the decision is to have a focal interpretation area in a green space, traditional information boards are one option. Alternatively, or perhaps in addition to this, incorporating an element of interactivity can encourage the sense of discovery for visitors to take forward into their experience of the green space. This approach works well with all ages, giving small chunks of information that as a whole can cover a wide number of topics and themes. Design, having activities at different heights to cater for all ages/sizes and choice of materials is an important consideration so that interpretation ‘sits’ well within the natural environment.

More traditional approaches can be brought to life by incorporating tactile elements or simple moveable options. Interest and local distinctiveness can be created through design, for example, using materials found in the natural environment as the information ‘board’.

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<sup>8</sup> p9 *Putting Soul in the City – towards a manifesto: Using public art to transform the 21<sup>st</sup> Century urban landscape* An essay by Graham Henderson, part of an initiative led by Bean ([www.beam.uk.net](http://www.beam.uk.net)) and Place Alliance ([www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk)) <http://placealliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Putting-Soul-in-the-City-Essay-Towards-a-Manifesto.pdf>









Incorporating elements of interactivity, tactile design and consideration of the different formats for presentation of information can enable universal accessibility.

### 5.1.2 Creating interpretation trails and multiple point interpretation

Trails and small snippets of information dispersed throughout a site encourages visitors to explore, to digest small quantities of information and move on to seek out the next interpretation point. This approach enables interpretation to be broken down into specific themes or to be located in direct relation to a specific object or place e.g. a specimen tree, historic landmark, place where a specific creature might be seen. The examples of 'trail' interpretation below utilise natural materials and some interactive elements.



The interpretative approaches above follow a traditional didactic approach offering relatively detailed textual descriptions with illustrations. Interpretation can however be much simpler – a visual pointer to indicate to the visitor what they might see or learn about in the place they are visiting.



### 5.1.3 Utilising infrastructure

Rather than introduce additional structures into an environment to host interpretation, an alternative approach is to integrate interpretation with the street furniture, railings etc that are an integral and necessary part of the green space. The extent of this integration can vary:

- Interpretation can simply be designed to attach neatly to infrastructure as in the examples on signposts and railings below.
- It can be a specifically manufactured element of the infrastructure as shown in the metal insert in the walkway or the words carved into the fencing below.
- Interpretation can inform the design and structure of the item, such as a bench or table. This approach is perhaps the most wholistic option, it offers great potential for bespoke designs and artist involvement. Although likely to be slightly more expensive than traditional off the shelf options, reviewing how budgets are spent and combining interpretation and infrastructure budgets can make this a realistic option. Taking a bespoke approach can also offer better value for money in terms of community buy in, involvement in design creating value and therefore a community more likely to care for the item.







Benches and tables are natural stopping and resting places. Integrating interpretation at these points can mean information is more likely to be read, digested and put into context as visitors stop to look around. As the examples demonstrate, there are levels of interpretation within the approach –a visual representation of what might be seen on the bench, rubbish bin and picnic set below, to the integration of more traditional interpretation boards into the furniture as seen on the benches above and picnic table below.



#### 5.1.4 Trails

As identified above there is potential to bring together all the different trails together in a single location, enabling visitors to pick and choose what themes or routes they want to follow. This could be realised with a printed solution, made available through the Tourist Information Centre and key venues. Alternatively, all the different trails could be brought together and promoted in a single online location such [www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk](http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk).

A further solution could be to develop a project which integrates all these trails in a website and app. There are various potential solutions on the market, an example being Sprytar which is used across a number of UK parks (<https://www.sprytar.com/>). A solution like this not only offers self-guided trails but also has the opportunity to integrate information on points of interest, key things to look out for (flora, fauna etc) and an option to include events. As the key greenspaces are all in relatively close proximity to the town the availability of 4G for the use of an app should not be an issue.



## 6. PRACTICAL DELIVERY

This section looks at how any future interpretation project could be delivered and the key considerations in developing them.

### 6.1 COHERENCE AND CONSISTENCY

Interpretive solutions need to be mindful of their setting, respecting and reflecting place. Physical intervention should not conflict with the historic integrity of landscapes, structures and buildings or impact on their ecological characteristics. This means careful consideration of material choices, colour schemes, dimensions, impact on critical sight lines and methods of installation.

Interpretation should provide both challenge and incentive for people. As best practice, interpretation should adopt the principles of inclusive design (also called universal design) to ensure that places are usable by everyone, regardless of age, ability and circumstance. It is based on the simple principle that designing for the widest range of people creates better designs and benefits everyone.<sup>9</sup> In practice this means the careful consideration of siting of interventions, good colour contrasts on graphics, accessible text and writing style, and the use of a range of interpretive media. In this way the needs of both people with disabilities and impairments, and other visitors, can equally be considered.

*“Inclusive communication ensures that your promotion, on-site information and other materials reach the widest audience... Inclusive communication is one of the easiest ways to open up to new and missing audiences. It is not about 'dumbing down' your messages, it's about being more creative and ensuring that you say what you mean: simply and directly.”<sup>10</sup>*

Design solutions need to be flexible, considering the practical working requirements of the location and the multi-use nature of its space. Organisations such as The Sensory Trust ([www.sensorytrust.org.uk](http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk)) provide a range of guidance material and project ideas with the aim of making the outdoors accessible and enjoyable for all people, regardless of age, ability or social circumstance.

#### **Branding / style**

Consultation with green spaces groups indicated a willingness to consider a more coherent approach to interpretation of green spaces but also concerns that solutions do not become ‘corporate’ and that each individual space is able to maintain its local distinctiveness.

Creating a ‘house style’ and branding guidelines can be a solution to creating a more coherent and cohesive approach to content development and design. Individual groups can adopt agreed basic principles in developing their own unique interpretation, so creating a consistency across sites for the visitor. This can be achieved in a number of ways:

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/information/factsheets/what-is-inclusive-design.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/information/factsheets/what-is-inclusive-communication.html>

**Colour palette:** The use of a consisted colour palate can provide visual connections between interpretation at different sites, make interpretation more easily seen and reflect the key messages or setting of interpretation e.g. greens and browns are commonly used in natural settings, blues and yellows beside the sea. It is important however to have some contrast within the colour palette in order to make interpretation stand out – e.g. muted shades of grey and sage may be sympathetic to the environment they do not stand out to catch visitors’ attention and can become ‘lost’ in the setting.

**Font:** Adopting a clear and accessible font across all interpretation is a simple mechanism for creating consistency. The font used should be clear in design, avoid using ‘handwriting’ or ‘fancy’ fonts, sans serif fonts are generally considered to offer the easiest to read.

Font size is important so that text is easy to read but it is important to remember that font size changes with individual fonts:

This is size 12 font in Calibri

This is size 12 font in Arial

This is size 12 font in Verdana

‘Clear Print’ is a term generally used as a standard for maximising the legibility of printed documents such as leaflets, brochures, guidebooks and maps. Clear print requires a minimum font size of 12pt Arial. When looking to produce material in large print the RNIB defines this as being 16pt Arial or bigger. There are also other Clear Print guidelines that should be considered:

- Space between the lines (leading) should be at least single spacing, preferably more Text should be left aligned. Text that is centred or aligned on the right could be missed
- Do not hyphenate words at the end of lines
- Avoid using text on top of images; it is difficult to read and can be completely missed

These guidelines also apply to the design of interpretation panels although a minimum of font size of 18pt Arial is recommended for information of this kind.

**Graphic language:** Typically, this might be seen as stylised shapes / patterns as headers on graphic panels or running down one side of a panel. Developing an overarching graphic language can help provide coherence across an interpretation scheme whilst also allowing for elements of local distinctiveness at different sites.

**Content design:** One of the fundamental principles of interpretation delivery is layering; the way in which the content of a graphic layout or digital medium is presented.

Top-level messages are communicated through large text titles, images and introductory paragraphs, and are intended to be easily digested by all visitors. The subsequent content becomes more detailed as the visitor follows the story and is often presented in smaller text. People can therefore choose to engage to whatever degree they wish, and with effective layering all will receive the key core message/s.

Graphics should be carefully layered, with minimal text content arranged in a well-defined hierarchy. Exact detail needs to be agreed by the team managing the interpretation delivery, but general guidance is as follows:

- A catchy, attention-grabbing title.
- Brief headline summarising the key message of the section in a nutshell (use large easy to read text so visitors easily pick up the key themes and stories).
- Follow on body text – this will offer more in depth and detailed information
- Image captions – can provide more information on specific areas - but keep them short.

As a general rule less is more. Keeping text concise and direct will keep the visitor engaged and there is a direct correlation between how much text is presented and how long a visitor will decide to stop and read it. Long, dense blocks of text are daunting and off-putting. Visitors are more likely to spend time reading smaller, bite-size bits of information as they are more digestible and easier to manage.

For interpretation panels there is no absolute guidance on how much text to use but it is generally recommended to keep the copy under 300 words.



**Language** – the use of language is very important. Developing a ‘voice’ and directly addressing a visitor will build the relationship with your audience. Think about whether you are writing in the first or third person. Try to incorporate calls to action to actively engage visitors (e.g. Look at... Can you spot ... Walk this way... ).

## 6.2 THEMATIC STRANDS AND STORIES

Parks and greenspace offer great potential for audience engagement as they can touch on many areas of interest including history, nature, wildlife, gardening etc. They are also visited by people of all ages, with different motivations including leisure and dog walking, fitness, peace and quiet, spending time with friends and family, play (structured sports such as football to informal visits to play areas), discovering new places or simply passing through on route to somewhere else.

In order to provide a structure for interpretation in parks and greenspace three simple themes have been identified: History, Nature, Management. For each theme suggested questions have been given, these could be used to inform the development of content. It should be noted that the relevance and therefore emphasis on themes will differ at each site although it is anticipated that all sites will include elements from each theme. A challenge will be to ensure that there is coherence across all sites, that there isn't duplication or repetition. A project has been identified in the Action Plan (Section 7) to research and develop a number of storylines that span the different sites and identify the stories unique to each park or greenspace.

### 6.2.1 History

There is potential to link Bridport's parks and greenspaces by focusing on the heritage of the town and its key historic narratives. Bridport Museum has undertaken a significant amount of research as part of the recent redevelopment to identify key themes and create a narrative to coherently present the history and character of the town.

In very general terms the museum structures its narrative around the following themes:

- Geology – Jurassic Coast, geology of local area linking into soils and rock, farming, building materials
- Archaeology – early settlers, hill forts
- Development of the Town – specific focus on Anglo Saxon town, Bridport Harbour, Conflict, Dr Roberts Railway, Trade and Business. Rope and Net Making is probably the most significant and locally distinct story and provides an obvious narrative to link key historic buildings and sites.

An historic strand will enable parks and greenspaces to not only tell the story of their individual site but also to make links and connections to other places in the town, feed into trails and guided walks.

Key Historic Questions:

- How was this place different in the past?
- What interesting stories are there to tell about the place?
- What are the key historic features and why are they important?
- How does this place relate to the town/other places?

### 6.2.2 Nature

Exploring nature is an obvious theme for parks and greenspaces. It provides rich material to encourage discovery, to provoke visitors to observe what is around them, to understand what is special about a place and how/why it should be protected in the future.

Nature as a theme also provides many attractive visual images and interactive opportunities.

Key Nature Questions:

- What kind of wildlife/plants/trees can you see in this place?
- Which are important and why?
- What makes this a good place for different wildlife/plants/trees?
- What are the interesting geographical features?
- How do these link to other places?

### 6.2.3 Management

Consultation with organisations managing greenspaces identified a number of shared concerns around management. These cover the practical considerations of maintaining and caring for sites; encouraging people to look after their greenspaces; sourcing, training and retaining volunteers. The management theme offers potential for partnership working across parks and green spaces to share resources and promote overarching messages that are relevant to all sites.

Key Management Questions:

- How is this place cared for?
- What are the important considerations?
- What are the plans for the future?
- How can I help?
- Where can I go for more information?

Alongside the interpretative messages above, there are additional key 'maintenance' messages which should be addressed to all visitors in appropriate locations. These could be phrased under the heading:

You can help look after our green spaces by:

- Taking your rubbish home with you or disposing of it properly
- Cleaning up after your dog
- Treating the landscape/plants/wildlife with respect (e.g. not picking flowers, digging up plants, feeding bread to ducks etc)
- Following the relevant codes of conduct for recreational activities
- Leaving your car behind and exploring on foot, by bus or by cycle
- Supporting local businesses by buying local

Consideration should also be given to signposting and setting each site within the context of the network of parks and greenspaces. This will encourage people to explore beyond their immediate location.

### 6.3 ENGAGING ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

*"Culture can improve and render more dynamic all of our communities, reconnecting people with their places in a way that will have an important social and economic impact"<sup>11</sup>.*

The process by which infrastructure solutions are delivered can have a significant impact not only on the look and feel of a place but also how people engage with and value it. In this report the opportunities for interpretation have been identified and consultation supports the proposal for bespoke and creative solutions that complement and enhance Bridport's local parks and greenspaces. Using artists and engaging community groups in the process of identifying and delivering solutions is a proven method for approaching innovative and integrated interpretation.

*"We need less stuff, but this stuff should be better designed and built"<sup>12</sup>*

#### 6.3.1 Public art

The term 'public art' spans art in any media that is realised in the physical public domain. At its best public art connects people with place, brings about a new understanding and adds value to the audience's experience.

In this report, the engagement of artists focuses on visual arts and the practical application of artistic practice to inform and develop interpretation and integrated solutions to the parks and green spaces infrastructure. There are, however, many other opportunities that could be explored to bring different forms of public art to parks and green spaces within a larger programme of work to integrate culture across the town, this could include, but is not limited to, site specific performances, sculptural commissions and murals.

Locally, Weymouth<sup>13</sup> and Lyme Regis<sup>14</sup> have both recently commissioned sculpture trails. There are also lots of inspirational case studies of this kind of work along public paths and routes with Sustrans<sup>15</sup> and on the Publicartonline<sup>16</sup> website.

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<sup>11</sup> *Putting Soul in the City – towards a manifesto: Using public art to transform the 21<sup>st</sup> Century urban landscape* An essay by Graham Henderson, part of an initiative led by Bean ([www.beam.uk.net](http://www.beam.uk.net)) and Place Alliance ([www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk)) <http://placealliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Putting-Soul-in-the-City-Essay-Towards-a-Manifesto.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> As 10 above

<sup>13</sup> <https://b-side.org.uk/opportunities/weymouth-public-art-trail-commission>

<sup>14</sup> <https://theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk/news/latest-news/langmoor-gardens-sculptures/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/national-cycle-network/art-network>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.publicartonline.org.uk/pasw/sculpturetrails/>

Using artists to design and create the street furniture, signage and other functional infrastructure associated with parks and green spaces not only delivers a practical solution but can celebrate the sense of place. Well written briefs ensure that artwork complements the environment, preserves and celebrates heritage and creates a legacy for the future, highlighting what is important to today.

Good public art has the potential to regenerate and revitalise public places. Art can encourage more visitors, create a sense of local pride, and make a place more attractive to live and work.

In Bridport, the arts is a thriving sector with a network of practicing artists and a strong creative industries profile. A public art approach would therefore not only enhance public places but could also support and promote the local creative economy.

### **6.3.2 Engaging communities**

How a public art project is delivered is key to ensuring its success. Communities need to understand the aims of a project and be given an opportunity to comment and inform development in order that they have a sense of ownership. If managed well, projects of this kind create a sense of local pride and value in an artwork which in turns is more likely to protect it in the future as detailed in the 'virtuous circle of conservation' in Section 3.

Bridport has a good track record of community engagement. Local schools are enthusiastic to engage in projects with artists and participate in community-based projects. There is a good network of active local groups and networks who could be engaged in projects in the following ways:

- User requirements – community groups to inform what is required at sites to make them more user friendly, this could be generally or to meet the needs of specific user groups. These groups can also be valuable to test solutions before they are implemented.
- Research - individuals and groups with interests in history, nature and the local environment can inform interpretation content.
- Accessibility – using groups to inform designs and test proposals to ensure wide accessibility.
- Design – participation in artist led workshops to develop visual content and shape final designs.
- Delivery – communities could directly make solutions e.g. elements of signage or way-marking, or support the installation of solutions.

Most public funding bodies require community engagement in projects, this demonstrates demand, embeds projects in the community and can underpin longer term sustainability. If interpretation is seen as a way of better understanding and engaging with a place, then the following opportunities for volunteer and community engagement could also be built into future projects:

1. Training for volunteers, this could include disability awareness, health and safety.
2. Workshops in traditional skills such as hedge laying and dry-stone walling which could contribute to the ongoing maintenance of the site.
3. Community gardening groups to help maintain parks.
4. Volunteer led walks and talks.

Many of the independent organisations managing green spaces already operate in this way and there is an opportunity to look at shared training needs, volunteer recruitment and coordinated events programming that could benefit all parks and greenspaces operations.

## 6.4 CONSULTATION

Extensive consultation was not within the remit of this report however the following activities have taken place:

- Review of existing plans and reports relating to parks and green spaces in the town: see Appendix 1 - Bibliography
- Conversations with key external organisations who have an interest in the town and could contribute to key initiatives/projects around parks and greenspaces: see Appendix 3 for conversation notes
- Meeting of greenspace groups to discuss and generate ideas: Details are included as Appendix 2

The information gathered from this work has informed the development of the Action Plan in Section 7.

## 7. ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan below suggests a number of potential projects around developing interpretation in parks and green spaces.

In order to maintain stake-holder interest a tiered approach is proposed. This will incorporate longer term visioning and a number of distinctive 'quick wins' to maintain interest, buy in and momentum. It will also enable ideas and activities to be evaluated and tested to inform future vision.

Projects have not been prioritised but a key piece of work that should be completed early on links to strategic planning. This will establish Bridport Town Council as the lead to coordinating a new interpretative approach and enable activities to be trialled prior to wider implementation.

It is important to fully understand what is currently in place (across all areas identified in this report including walking maps/trails, signage and physical interpretation), what works and what doesn't within each space. Once this information has been collated and reviewed a process of rationalisation can begin which, in turn, will form the basis of a more strategic and coherent approach to engagement with parks and green spaces across the Bridport area.

Bridport's parks and green spaces are integral to the character of the town and therefore the orientation between them is important. Strategic planning should consider the relationship between



green spaces and built up areas as well as the setting of the town in the wide context of the surrounding coast and countryside. There is a real opportunity for a holistic approach which will position parks and green spaces as a unifying element of the town. Better interpretation can lead to more and a wider range of people using, understanding and valuing Bridport's parks and green spaces. Improving these spaces will positively impact the presentation and perception of the town, a process which, in other places, has led to tangible improvements in health, wellbeing and local economic prosperity.

#### Tier 1 – Strategic planning

This tier looks to embed interpretation into future planning of work across all parks, greenspaces and public rights of way. It is about changing the way activity is delivered and giving greater emphasis to a more coherent, inclusive and creative approach to the management of parks and green spaces. Strategic planning will develop links between approach, branding, signage etc.

Strategic planning will develop a number of objectives and projects which will inform future work and enable the Council to be in a strong position to respond to funding opportunities when they arise. Whilst advocacy in this area can begin immediately, comprehensive outcomes will only be fully realised after a number of years as the vision is embedded into operations. Articulating the strategic plan will however ensure that all projects, particularly within Tier 2 activities, sit within a wider framework and contribute to a greater coherence across all spaces.

#### Tier 2 – Project opportunities

This tier looks at specific project which will require funding to deliver interpretation outcomes. There are a number of approaches to realising these projects ranging from a large scale, all-encompassing externally funded project to the delivery of projects on a piecemeal basis as and when funding is available (to ensure that the latter approach is effective, Tier 1 strategic planning is crucial). In some instances, projects might be delivered by a reallocation of existing funding to support a new method of delivery. Tier 2 activities are likely to be short to medium term.

#### Tier 3 – Quick wins

These quick wins will ensure that organisations remain engaged and enthusiastic about the potential for parks and greenspaces. Most activities will require little or no funding investment and therefore be achievable in the short term.

Ref:	Activity/Project	Timeframe	Description and likely outputs	Delivery Possible lead, stakeholders and partnerships	Indicative costs	Funding lead, sources or options
1	Build on green spaces group network and establish agreed process for sharing information and signposting between organisation's websites.	Tier 3 – Quick win This can simply be achieved through green spaces group	Sharing links on websites to promote other green spaces.  Dedicated page on <a href="http://www.Bridportandwestbay.co.uk">www.Bridportandwestbay.co.uk</a> to promote all greenspaces. Current some individual organisations have a link and West Bay Play are has a page, but parks and greenspaces could be promoted under the 'Visit' section	Bridport Town Council as coordinating body.  All greenspace groups to contribute	N/A	N/A
2	Identify opportunities for sharing resources. Particular focus could be placed on volunteering, education outreach and events	Tier 3 – Quick win Green space group need to agree on areas where joined up working can have mutual benefit	Linked to activity above.  Could link to other work currently being explored by Bridport Town Council to develop more coherent working across cultural organisations in volunteering, education, marketing	Bridport Town Council as coordinating body.  All greenspace groups to contribute	Small budget could be required to produce marketing/promotional material	Local funding support or built into a larger project
3	Commission designer to develop simple style guidelines for interpretation	Tier 2 – Project opportunity	Designer brief would be to develop style guidelines including colour palate, font and graphic language, building on the recommendations of this report. This would be applied to all signage and interpretation developed by Bridport Town Council. Community groups and organisations managing green spaces would also be	Bridport Town Council	Designer allow £1,500	Local funding support or built into a larger project

Ref:	Activity/Project	Timeframe	Description and likely outputs	Delivery Possible lead, stakeholders and partnerships	Indicative costs	Funding lead, sources or options
			encouraged to adopt key elements in order to try to achieve some overarching consistency (whilst also retaining distinctiveness for individual sites). Development of a template for interpretation panels could also be built into the brief depending on the strategic approach agreed,			
4	Develop an overarching interpretation narrative that also identified key stories and messages for each park and green space.	Tier 3 – Quick win	<p>Work will community groups to identify all key themes within the categories of heritage, nature and management. Consult with sector specialists e.g. Natural England, RSPB to overlay site specific information.</p> <p>Collate all information and translate into overarching interpretative narrative which identifies key themes for each park and green space but also provides links between sites to create coherent and complementary interpretation across the Bridport area.</p>	Led by Bridport Town Council. Could be delivered in house or with external consultancy support	Depends on resources and approach	Local funding support

Ref:	Activity/Project	Timeframe	Description and likely outputs	Delivery Possible lead, stakeholders and partnerships	Indicative costs	Funding lead, sources or options
5	Review signage and improve to and between parks and green spaces	Tier 1 – Strategic planning and Tier 2 – project opportunity	<p>Initial work to review what is currently in place and what is required. This is an opportunity to declutter and rationalise public spaces to create a clearer, more streamlined and coherent signage scheme. Identification of optimal visitor orientation is recommended to ensure success.</p> <p>Unique designs could be produced through engagement with local artists.</p> <p>Signage could incorporate bespoke designs or lettering/artwork used on more off the peg solutions.</p>	<p>Led by Bridport Town Council</p> <p>Opportunity to extend project with community input.</p>	Depends on approach	Funding as part of general upgrade or delivered as a stand-alone project with external funding
6	Identify opportunities for new approaches and working practices to introduce interpretation and bespoke design within the general upgrade budgets for street furniture, signage etc	Tier 1 – Strategic planning	Agree strategic plan for interpretation in parks and greenspaces. Identify areas to trial activity – implementing activity in areas directly managed by Bridport Town Council (including the connecting routes between green spaces) will demonstrate what can be achieved. Areas managed by community groups will then be invited to adopt successful ways of working.	Bridport Town Council	Existing budgets	<p>Look at existing budgets.</p> <p>Potential for additional funding from Arts Council England if using artists.</p>

Ref:	Activity/Project	Timeframe	Description and likely outputs	Delivery Possible lead, stakeholders and partnerships	Indicative costs	Funding lead, sources or options
			Identification of budgets that could be used to match fund external applications for realisation of projects.			
7	Review all existing walking trails and identify cross overs to produce a single source for heritage trails and self-guided walks around the town. Linking to this identify a new greener green ring route.	Tier 2 – Project opportunity	<p>All trails in single location, possibly <a href="http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk">www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk</a></p> <p>Engage volunteers to help shape a new green ring route which could also include additional or ‘branch’ routes and other town information e.g. where to eat/buy a picnic. Look at links to other town mapping e.g. Bridport and West Bay Official Guide and Map, Bridport and West Bay Walks Map, Bridport food map, local shopping map.</p> <p>Use designer to create a self-led trail – this could be printed in a leaflet, incorporated into interpretation around the trail and/or downloadable from a website.</p>	<p>Bridport Town Council</p> <p>Volunteers and green spaces to support the research and development</p>	<p>Designer for single trail allow £2,500</p> <p>Print costs depending on size and finish – a better quality print could mean the leaflet has a cost rather than being given away free of charge.</p>	External or local funding – could be small grant application or part of larger bid
8	Commission project to develop interpretation benches	Tier 2 – project	<p>At least 1 bench commissioned for all key parks and greenspaces.</p> <p>Could be approached in 2 ways:</p> <p>1. Standard bench design developed to incorporate interpretation (as</p>	<p>Greenspaces to inform content.</p> <p>Coordination by Bridport Town Council.</p>	<p>For option 1 allow £2,800 per bench (based on oak bench quote from <a href="http://www.bsginterpretation.co.uk">www.bsginterpretation.co.uk</a>)</p>	National Lottery Heritage Fund could support either option.

Ref:	Activity/Project	Timeframe	Description and likely outputs	Delivery Possible lead, stakeholders and partnerships	Indicative costs	Funding lead, sources or options
			illustrated in examples above). Each site then provides its own interpretation to be included on bench.  2. Different benches in each location, designed to respond to the location and the interpretation of it.		For Option 2 allow £4,000 - £5,000 per bench	Artist designed benches could receive funding from Arts Council England
9	Commission project to identify a unique species of each park, illustrations of these an information could be places on way-markers in each park or incorporated into fencing, gates etc.	Tier 2 – project opportunity	Could be approached as artist led project to identify, illustrate and create artwork for each site. Could include community involvement in design and making (see suggestions for ceramic plaques in consultation as an example)  Alternative approach to procure way-markers or routing designs into fences/gates. Designs could be developed with engagement from the community.	Led by Bridport Town Council.  Participation by all green spaces. Engagement with community groups.  Crafty & Co offer routing service in Bridport	For artist led project allow £4,000 to £5,000  For way-markers allow £120 per post if new. Could also be approached as plaques attached to or routed into existing infrastructure.  Designer time allow £1,500	As above
10	Develop app to cover all parks and greenspaces	Tier 2 – project opportunity	Commission company to develop and produce app.  Volunteers and local organisations to research and provide content.	Led by Bridport Town Council.  Would need central coordination to ensure information on app updated and relevant.	As an example, the Sprytar system costs £4,999 there is a £495 annual charge.	As above

<b>Ref:</b>	<b>Activity/Project</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Description and likely outputs</b>	<b>Delivery Possible lead, stakeholders and partnerships</b>	<b>Indicative costs</b>	<b>Funding lead, sources or options</b>
11	Introduce interpretation into existing infrastructure	Tier 2 – project opportunity	Rather than installing additional freestanding interpretation boards look at opportunity to use existing signposts, fences etc	Trial with Bridport Town Council greenspaces	Depends on approach	Local funding or as part of larger project as above.

## 8. POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

Funding for potential projects could come from a number of sources. Below are some suggestions for funds which either have a very specific remit relevant to parks and greenspaces or a geographic applicability (further sources are listed in Appendix 6). These sources are in addition to investment from the Town Council as many will require an element of match funding from the applicant.

There are also a number of private Trusts and Foundations which support work around education, health, wellbeing and greenspaces. However, the Town Council may not be able to make applications to these as it is not a registered charity. In the past applications have been made on behalf of the Town Council by the Bridport Area Development Trust (BADT), one of the founding principles of which was to act as a conduit for funding in the town. Further discussion would need to be progressed with BADT as its remit may have changed since it was originally established. If organisations managing green spaces are registered Charities, they would be able to apply themselves.

### Section 106

Section 106 money has in the past supported work in parks and greenspaces. The scheme is due to change to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CILS). At the moment there are no clear guidelines on how the money will be distributed. Historically Section 106 fund have been distributed on an ad hoc basis. The Town Council is currently not consulted at the stage when the CIL is put in place and therefore opportunities are missed. With significant building developments planned in the town it would seem sensible to discuss a more structured and strategic approach to the allocation of CIL with the new Dorset Council.

### 8.1 NATIONAL FUNDS

The following funds operate different levels of funding and may be applicable to different areas of work. These funds are all primarily supported by the National Lottery and therefore cannot be used to match fund each other.

#### National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF - previously Heritage Lottery Fund) has just released its Strategic Framework 2019 -24. The organisation fund projects from £3k to £5m. Natural heritage, wellbeing and projects that demonstrate the cultural value of landscapes and nature have now been included as a focus for support.

*In this Strategic Funding Framework, we will make sure that the projects we support do their utmost to reduce biodiversity loss, to maintain the beauty and quality of our urban and rural landscapes, and help people to reconnect with the UK's natural heritage.<sup>17</sup>*

NLHF state that they are “particularly keen to encourage projects that:

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/sites/default/files/media/attachments/Heritage%20Fund%20-%20Strategic%20Funding%20Framework%202019-2024.pdf>



- deliver conservation at a landscape scale and increase people's understanding of the cultural value of landscapes and nature
- deliver more, better, bigger, better connected and more resilient habitats for nature
- reconnect people to the importance and value of nature to their daily lives
- use partnership working to increase and broaden collaboration, particularly where it engages organisations that may have a direct impact on the future of landscapes and nature
- explore and test new ways of doing things that are scalable and include sharing the learning.

More details on funding streams and how to apply on the website: [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)

### **National Lottery Community Fund**

National Lottery Awards for All offers funding from £300 to £10,000 to support what matters to people and communities. We will fund organisations with great project ideas that:

- Shape the places and spaces that matter to communities
- Bring more people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
- Enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage

Rolling programme with no deadlines. Apply via the website:

[www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/under10k](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/under10k)

Larger grant scheme also operated for amounts over £10,000. Within the larger grants there are two potentially relevant schemes:

Reaching Communities - grants of over £10,000 in England, supporting organisations with great ideas that enable communities to thrive. The grants are awarded to voluntary and community organisations or social enterprises for up to five years. This can fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. The scheme is interested in project which:

- bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.

Apply via the website: [www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/reaching-communities-england)

Partnerships funding - grants over £10,000 for organisations who share responsibility and influence with others, who have a shared set of goals and values, and achieve their mission by starting with the bigger picture rather than just what their organisation can do on its own. Grants are awarded for up to five years and can fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs.

Partnerships funding is specifically designed to support generous leadership and increased collaborative working, which starts with shared goals and values between different organisations and an understanding of the bigger picture. The aim is to support organisations to develop and grow

existing partnerships and also to encourage new types of partnership which build on different skills and strengths. Funding can support many different types of partnership, including:

- cross-sector partnerships
- local place-based collaboration
- local and national organisations working together around a particular theme.

Apply via the website: [www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/partnerships-england](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/partnerships-england)

### **Sport England**

Sport England fund projects between £300 and £50,000 through two grant schemes that could be relevant to parks and greenspaces:

#### *Small Grant programme*

The aim of the programme is for everyone in England, regardless of age, background or level of ability, to feel able to get involved in sport and physical activity. The Small Grants programme aims to support this by offering funding to projects involving adults and young people aged 14 or over which meet one or more of the aims of the 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy:

- Get inactive people to become more active
- Develop lasting sporting habits
- Engender more positive attitudes among young people
- Develop more diverse volunteers
- Improve progression and inclusion among the most talented
- Projects working with mixed age groups may still be considered if there is a focus on people aged 14 and over.

Applications via the website: [www.sportengland.org/funding/small-grants](http://www.sportengland.org/funding/small-grants)

#### *Community Assets Fund*

The Community Asset Fund is a programme dedicated to enhancing the spaces in the local community that give people the opportunity to be active. The scheme aims to help local organisations to create quality and financially sustainable facilities that benefit their community for years to come. Key outcomes are:

- Physical wellbeing
- Mental wellbeing
- Individual development
- Social and community development
- Economic development

There are no application deadlines. Two levels of grant are available: £1,000 to £15,000 and £15,000 to £50,000. Applications via the website: [www.sportengland.org/funding/community-asset-fund](http://www.sportengland.org/funding/community-asset-fund)

### **Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants**

The scheme offers grants from £1,000 to £100,000 and could be applicable to artist led projects and commissions. Funding is channelled through two levels of project: £15,000 and under or over £15,000. Guidance and details on how to apply on the website: [www.artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/projectgrants)

## 8.2 LOCAL FUNDS

Below are details of sources of funding with particular local relevance. Value of support offered varies and some do require applicants to be registered charities.

### **Dorset AONB Sustainable Development Fund<sup>18</sup>**

Dorset AONB have confirmed that they have £20,000 in their Sustainable Development Fund to allocate to projects before 26 April 2019. Their guidance specifies that they are looking to support projects that:

- Encourage everyone to get involved, including young people.
- Remove barriers to all people's enjoyment and involvement in the countryside.
- Bring organisations and people together in tackling problems or promoting new ideas.
- Encourage links between urban groups and those resident in the AONB.
- Demonstrate innovation or best practice.

Support for individual projects is unlikely to be in excess of £3,000. The fund can support up to 50% of the costs of most projects or 75% for voluntary groups or charities. In-kind contributions and volunteer time can be used as match funding; the amounts can be found on the application form.

### **Stepping into Nature<sup>19</sup>**

Operated under the banner of Dorset AONB, Stepping into Nature has a small grants scheme for local communities to use. This fund is used to help people make connections to the natural environment in local communities. Enabling community groups to undertake projects, which help to conserve and enhance the natural beauty in their local area and encourage engagement with nature for older people, those living with dementia and their carers.

The maximum amount available per application is £2000 at a 70/30% match (in-kind or funding). It is a competitive grants scheme for eligible projects that contribute towards some of the Stepping into Nature objectives which are:

- Developing and delivering opportunities for people to become more physically and mentally active that increase people's resilience by improving social and emotional wellbeing
- Improving the environment to increase accessibility creating "Dementia Friendly Countryside" green spaces
- Reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness through delivering inclusive nature-based activities within communities.
- Increased confidence and life skills for older people, those with dementia, carers and providers.
- Increased motivation and independence for carers and people with dementia through increased provision and information to accessing the natural landscape.

### **Dorset Community Foundation**

Most grants are between £1,000 – £5,000 and support voluntary and grassroots organisations that are well-placed to identify and address local needs. The Foundation manages a number of different

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/local-action/sustainable-development-fund/78-how-to-apply>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/stepping-into-nature/community-funding>

grant programmes – they normally send out a grant alert when they re-open a fund or launch a new funding programme. You can sign up for a Grant Alert on the website:

[www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org/apply-for-a-grant](http://www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org/apply-for-a-grant)

Tel: 01202 670815

Email: [grants@dorsetcf.org](mailto:grants@dorsetcf.org)

### **Palmers Brewery Fund**

Operated by Palmers Brewery the fund welcomes applications from non-political organisations including sports clubs, youth groups, arts projects, schools, heritage initiatives and wildlife and conservation organisations that are based in the area and benefit life in West Dorset. The fund has approx. £10,000 to donate each year. Application forms are available on the website.

[www.palmersbrewery.com/fund](http://www.palmersbrewery.com/fund)

### **Bridport Round Table, Rotary etc**

These community groups raise funds for local projects. Although they do not give away large amounts, they are interested to support projects which bring community benefits. Application is by letter to each individual organisation.

### **AMSAFE Community Fund**

This is a small-scale fund managed by a delegated employee groups at AMSAFE. Projects can submit potential projects and employees decide on what they want to support and the level of support they are willing to give.

### **Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation**

This is a small-scale local trust which gives to projects in accordance with the Foundations objects which are the relief of poverty, distress and sickness and the advancement of education, religion and charitable purposes of benefit to the community.

The Foundation considers applications for funding of projects and appeals from local and national charitable bodies registered with the UK Charity Commission or bodies with equivalent status. Applicants are asked to provide a summary of the project together with costings, financial accounts and details of fundraising activities. The Trustees have direct contact with a number of applicants. Each application is initially reviewed by two Trustees before being put to the full Board of Trustees for consideration. On occasion a visit is made by a Trustee to an individual applicant to see the work first hand. Each application is judged on its merits with special consideration given to any which benefit the community in Dorset and West Hampshire.

Email: [rupertedwards@edwardsandkeeping.co.uk](mailto:rupertedwards@edwardsandkeeping.co.uk)

Tel: 01305 251333

Unity Chambers, 34 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1HA

### **The Valentine Charitable Trust**

A small-scale local trust that offers support for charitable purposes at the trustees' discretion. Areas of particular interest are (i) the provision of such amenities and facilities for the benefit of the public as are not provided from public funds and (ii) the protection and safeguarding of the countryside and wildlife and the control and reduction of pollution.

Tel: 01202 292424  
Hinton House, Hinton Road, Bournemouth BH1 2EN

### **Gannett Foundation**

The Gannett Foundation is a charitable giving arm of the Newsquest Group, which publishes the Bridport News and Dorset Echo. The Foundation supports charities with projects which take a creative approach to fundamental issues such as neighbourhood improvement, local problem-solving, economic development, youth enterprise, sport and healthy living, assistance to disadvantaged or disabled people, care of the elderly, environmental conservation, and educational or cultural enrichment. Typically grants are modest sums for practical projects, but awards for larger projects will be considered. Applicants need to be registered charities.

Applications are invited once a year in the Autumn and submitted via an application form publicised through the local press: [www.bridportnews.co.uk](http://www.bridportnews.co.uk)

### **Hall and Woodhouse Community Chest**

Hall & Woodhouse set up the Community Chest in 2002 to provide local help for its local community in and around Dorset. The ethos of the Community Chest is:

- Working together towards improving both facilities and the lives of residents in the community.
- Promoting, encouraging and supporting community involvement.
- Offering access funds to local voluntary groups with clearly identified needs.

The Community Chest for 2019 is a pool of £50,000 pledged by Hall and Woodhouse, along with supporting funds raised by Hall & Woodhouse pubs. Applications are welcome from any voluntary or community organisation or group with a local interest that is based or works in their trading area in the south of England, from Devon to Kent and north to Bath, Bristol and London. Groups can apply for grants of amounts between £300 and £3,000.

The deadline for all 2019 applications is Friday 31st May 2019. Applications via a form available on the website: [www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk/giving-back-to-the-community](http://www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk/giving-back-to-the-community)

## APPENDIX 1 - BIBLIOGRAPHY

*The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, Pre-Submission Version*  
Bridport Town Council. July 2018

*West Bay Interpretive Master Plan (draft)*  
Coastal Communities Group

Fields in Trust Strategic Plan

Arts and Place: <http://artsandplace.org/>

Place Alliance: <http://placealliance.org.uk/>

The Sensory Trust: <https://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/>

Play England: [http://www.playengland.org.uk/resource\\_types/parks-and-open-spaces/](http://www.playengland.org.uk/resource_types/parks-and-open-spaces/)

*Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces, Measuring the economic and wellbeing value to individuals*  
Fields In Trust 2018

*Public Parks, Seventh Report of Session 2016 – 17*  
House of Commons, Communities and Local Government Committee. February 2017

*‘Stepping into Nature’, Evaluation Report on Focus Group Findings*  
January 2016, Dr Michelle Heward, Dr Fiona Kelly, Prof Anthea Innes, Laura Reynolds and Wendy Cutts. January 2016

*Bridport Play Areas Consultation*, July 2017  
Bridport Town Council

*Bridport Museum Interpretation Plan*  
Bridport Museum with Smith and Jones

*Allington Hill Management Plan 2016 – 21*  
The Woodland Trust

*Cooper Wood Management Plan*  
Alex Butler, FWAG South West for Coopers Wood Community Group. February 2016

*Askers Meadows Management Plan*  
Bridport Town Council

## APPENDIX 2 - CONSULTATION WITH GREEN SPACES GROUPS

A meeting of greenspaces was convened, and a short presentation given on the aims of this report. A discussion followed and attendees were invited to share their thoughts on a number of questions.

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Paul Arthur	Bridport Community Orchard
Gill Massey	Borough Gardens
Roger Lake	Chapel in the Garden
Maggie Ray	Borough Gardens
Colin Baker	Bradpole Parish Council
Jane Thrower	Living Churchyard – St Mary’s Church, Bridport
Christine Preston	Community Orchard
Richard Nichols	Bridport Neighbourhood Plan
Jemma Thompson	Artist
Pete ?	St Mary’s
Edward Burt	Bridport Millennium Green Trust
Cathy Harvey	Allington Hillbillies
Sal Robinson	Allington Hillbillies
Nick Grey	Dorset Wildlife Trust
Wendy Cutts	Askers Meadow
Paul Bennet	Bridport Millennium Green Trust
Lucy Rowland	

### What are your main concerns?

Funding for capital projects

The it doesn’t look ‘corporate’

Challenges and block stunting creativity and communicating the joy and vibrancy we wish to inspire  
There will be a lot of effort needed to maintain/support the solutions and this effort will be coming from (potentially) already stretched volunteers. Will there be long term implications on funding for support/maintenance of signs and boards? Where will this come from? It would be useful to have an early, broad indication of timescales. What would the sources of funding be? Have a single point of contact monitoring and looking for funding opportunities

### How would you like interpretation to be tackled?

Each group thinking about their stories and then coming together to work at similarities and differences and how we can link – themes – trails throughout Bridport.

### What do you like?

The idea to commission or collaborate with local artists to design/make the trail way to link our greenspaces. Would love a meeting with Crystal and artists to pool ideas and inspire  
Love the people – distinctive, independent, artistic, determined

Commission local artists designers  
Too much dog poo!

### **What do you dislike?**

Not much to dislike in ideas  
A living wall on the LSI wall – succulents and plants covering the wall

### **Any other ideas/thoughts**

From Bucky Doo have green coloured signposts to the green spaces in the town  
Flax flower in raised beds, edible fruit trees lining our streets – free to eat  
Footsteps onto the pavement in steel? And wood?  
Storytelling (e.g. Flying Monkeys) and poetry events (e.g. Apothecary)  
Benches of different designs – an opportunity for public arts, local artists and vandal proof!  
Aaron@ Crafty Co engraves letters into wood ...poems on benches? Fences? A phrase?  
New bins – bright lime green  
‘Flagship species for each green space to be carved into e.g. benches, signposts or other kinds of interpretation. E.g. water vole for Askers Meadows, Kingfisher at North Mills, Dormouse on Allington Hill, Corky-fruited water dropwort (a plant) at Community Orchard.  
Reinstate pictorial signs of Spirit of Bridport at entrances to the town – a mural maybe? Or a Fra Newbery piece?  
Parish map of Bridport and surrounding parishes  
Cleaning and clearing rubbish from rivers – volunteer project  
New river walk  
Ceramic signs? Like in Spain? Mallorca?  
Ceramic signs can be used to convey information in a durable way that also brings unique personality because hand made by a real person through a traditional process – even if giving info about a link to a website etc



## APPENDIX 3 - CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- **Dorset AONB** – [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk)  
Dorset AONB are currently looking at a new large-scale funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This is likely to focus on the Marshwood Vale area but also include Bridport. There could be partnership opportunities that might support the development of new walking/cycling trails, signage and interpretation. Projects like the West Dorset Pedals and the reinstatement of finger posts could also be relevant to work in Bridport.
- **Stepping into Nature** – [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/stepping-into-nature](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/stepping-into-nature)  
Run by Dorset AONB, this scheme is already supporting work in Bridport but interested to look at other projects. They are particularly keen to look at projects that might address some of the issues raised in past evaluation such as pathway improvements and projects that help people make a behaviour change and get out and use parks and greenspaces. Stepping into Nature can also support projects looking to make spaces more dementia friendly, they have produced a check list to support organisations looking at this.
- **The Arts Development Company** – [www.theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk](http://www.theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk)  
The Arts Development Company can support projects developed with artist engagement. They also have a cultural tourism remit which could be relevant to Bridport parks and greenspaces. An immediate opportunity which has to date failed to secure that much support is a Parish boundaries project. This will engage artists to work with parishes to identify their own stories and then create a marker which reflects these stories at the boundary to the parish. This opportunity has been circulated to parishes in the Bridport area and was recirculated during the development of this report. The Arts Development Company has also supported the funding application in partnership with Common Ground aimed at the proposal with Assemble as detailed below.
- **Coastal Communities Team** - [www.coastalcommunities.co.uk/coastal-teams/bridport](http://www.coastalcommunities.co.uk/coastal-teams/bridport)  
The Coastal Communities Team is currently delivering a number of improvement projects with a particular focus on West Bay. One strand of the project focuses on interpretation at West Bay and initial discussions explored whether there could be an element of commonality in the design of new interpretation which could form a coherence between West Bay and Bridport developments. Within the timescale it was unrealistic to achieve this as the interpretation element of the project was too far advanced and the design coherence was developed to link to other sites along the Jurassic Coast. There are however opportunities to promote the new interpretation if a more coherent marketing scheme could be developed. There are also opportunities to introduce interpretation along the new improved cycle path between Bridport and West Bay (due for completion Summer 2019).
- **Common Ground** - [www.commonground.org.uk](http://www.commonground.org.uk)  
Common Ground was founded to seek imaginative ways to engage people with their local environment – the concept of Local Distinctiveness runs through all their work. In Bridport, Common Ground are looking to develop a project with Assemble ([www.assemblestudio.co.uk](http://www.assemblestudio.co.uk)) which will look at how local housing developments can adopt a more bespoke approach that offers local communities the opportunity to inform and develop the environment in which they live and work. The first phase of the project will

essentially be consultation and an exploration of ideas which will be coordinated by Assemble, a funding application to support this is currently being assessed by Arts Council England. Other areas of work that could be of interest in the Bridport areas are the development of parish maps and Common Ground have worked with artists on various projects around waymarking and development of trails within the natural environment.

#### APPENDIX 4 - ORGANISATIONS WITH POTENTIAL LINKS TO GREEN SPACES

Bridport Museum  
Bridport Area Development Trust  
Bridport Heritage Forum  
Bridport History Society  
Bridport Arts Centre  
Bridport Open Studios  
Bridport Literary and Scientific Institute  
West Bay Discovery Centre  
Coastal Communities  
Stepping into Nature  
Sustrans  
Sing and Stroll / Rock and ramble  
WDDC Health Walks  
West Dorset Ramblers  
Bridport Runners  
Private personal trainers and running groups

#### APPENDIX 5 - GREENSPACES VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Bridport Community Orchard Group  
Borough Gardens Group  
Allington Hill Group  
Millennium Green Trust  
Friends of Millennium Green Trust  
Askers Meadow Nature Reserve Group  
Bothenhampton Nature Reserve Group  
Jellyfields Nature Reserve  
Watton Hill Trust  
Bridport and District Allotment Society

## APPENDIX 6 - SOURCES OF FUNDING

### **Jewson Fund**

A fund which supports community projects. In 2019, the Jewson website states that they will not be running the fund in the current but instead focusing on helping past recipients put their prizes in action and making sure their awards benefit as many people as possible. They will be reviewing how to better support customers and the communities in which branches operate in the future so worth looking out for future guidance: [www.buildingbettercommunities.co.uk](http://www.buildingbettercommunities.co.uk)

### **Cooperative Bank Customer Donation Fund**

All Community Directplus account holders can apply for up to £1000 from the Customer Donation Fund to support special projects and fundraising activities. The closing dates for applications are March and September, and they will then be assessed in April and October.

Online application: [www.co-operativebank.co.uk/business/community/customer-donation-fund](http://www.co-operativebank.co.uk/business/community/customer-donation-fund)

### **Co-op Local Community Fund**

The Co-op Local Community Fund helps pay for local projects that Co-op members care about. Every time members shop at Co-op, 1% of what they spend on selected own-branded products and services goes to help fund community projects where they live. All money raised from shopping bag sales is also donated to chosen causes. New causes for our communities every 12 months. Applications are currently closed and will next open in spring 2019.

To be accepted you must have a project in mind that will benefit your local community. Many applications are from charities or local community groups, but as long as your organisation isn't run for private profit you can apply. For more information see website: [www.causes.coop.co.uk](http://www.causes.coop.co.uk)

Tel: 0800 023 4708

Email: [membershipcontactus@co-operative.coop](mailto:membershipcontactus@co-operative.coop)

### **Morrisons Foundation**

The Morrisons Foundation supports charities making a positive difference in local communities across England, Scotland and Wales. Two types of support are given:

1. Match funding supports the charities that Morrisons employees fundraise for and provides a cash boost to their efforts.
2. Grant funding supports charities delivering projects which help to improve people's lives.

More details and application via website: [www.morrisonsfoundation.com](http://www.morrisonsfoundation.com)

The Morrisons Foundation, Hilmore House, Gain Lane, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD3 7DL

Tel: 0845 611 4449

### **Waitrose Community Matters**

This in store scheme offers a share of £1000 between three local organisations each month. Customers chose which organisation they want to support through green tokens in a voting box. Applications can be made by picking up a form in store.

### **The Alec Dickson Trust**

The Alec Dickson Trust supports young people in the UK who want to use volunteering or community service to do brilliant things in their communities.

The Trust believe that young people are amazing and that they have the potential to make the world a better place through volunteering. Grants of up to £500 to individuals or groups of young people aged 30 or under, to help them put their ideas into action and run projects that benefit the lives of others – particularly the most marginalised and disadvantaged.

Applications accepted all year round via the website: [www.alecdicksontrust.org.uk](http://www.alecdicksontrust.org.uk)

Email: [thealecdicksontrust@talk21.com](mailto:thealecdicksontrust@talk21.com)

### **The Football Foundation**

The Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations. It is focused on supporting the development of new or refurbished local football facilities, improving the experience of playing the national game at the lowest levels, and helping to increase participation in football across the country. The Fund is managed by the Football Foundation on behalf of its funding partners – the Premier League, The FA and the Government, via Sport England. The Fund gives grants for projects that:

- Improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities.
- Sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age, or ability.
- Help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport.

The types of facilities include: Grass pitches drainage/improvements, Pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms, 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs) and multi-use games areas, Fixed floodlights for artificial pitches.

Grant are between £10,000 and £500,000.

Applicants must demonstrate a financial need for grant aid and provide evidence that all available options for match funding have been exhausted. Applicants are expected to contribute their own funds towards the project and also secure financial contributions from other funding organisations.

Priority is given for applications involving professional club community programmes located within areas of high deprivation (as defined by the Governments Indices of Deprivation). For projects outside of these areas, priority will be given to those that can demonstrate that it draws a significant proportion of its participants from neighbouring deprived areas. Schemes that are a joint application between professional club community schemes and grassroots football will be prioritised, as will those supporting 3G FTPs.

Application via the website:

[www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund)

The Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £10,000 for the provision of capital items, or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. The aims of this scheme are to:

- Support the growth of football clubs and activity.
- Prevent a decline in football participation.
- Make improvements to facilities to address any health and safety issues.

Grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost, are awarded to support the costs of the following list of projects or items: Replacement of unsafe goalposts, Portable floodlights, Storage containers, changing pavilion/clubhouse refurbishment and external works, Grounds maintenance equipment, Pitch improvement works (natural and artificial surfaces), Fencing

Grants are between £1,000 and £10,000. The maximum total project cost is £50,000 (including VAT, if applicable). Grants cannot exceed 50% of the eligible project cost. Apply via the website: [www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund-small-grants-scheme](http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund-small-grants-scheme)

### **The Foyle Foundation**

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant making trust that funds UK charities whose core work is in the areas of Arts and Learning. The Small Grants Scheme is designed to support smaller charities registered and operating in the United Kingdom, especially those working at grass roots and local community level, in any field, across a wide range of activities. Grants are between £1,000 and £10,000.

This is a rolling programme with no deadline. Applications on a form available through the website: [www.foylefoundation.org.uk/small-grants-scheme](http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/small-grants-scheme)

### **Groundwork**

Groundwork is a leading UK environmental regeneration charity. It supports communities in need, working with partners to help improve the quality of people's lives, their prospects and the places where they live, work and play. Groundwork manage a number of grant schemes on the behalf of businesses, public sector and third sector partners. Details and information on how to apply are available on the website: [www.groundwork.org.uk/Pages/Category/groundwork-grant-schemes](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Pages/Category/groundwork-grant-schemes)

### **The Paul Hamlyn Foundation**

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in the UK. Grant focus on a number of areas with learning, participation, arts and young people. Organisations of any size may apply for any amount provided the proposal meets the aims of the grants scheme. The foundation does not fund individuals or projects that have already started.

Application via an online form on the website: [www.phf.org.uk/our-work-in-the-uk](http://www.phf.org.uk/our-work-in-the-uk)

### **Woodenspoon**

Woodenspoon is the children's charity of the rugby world. With support from the Rugby Football League and Rugby Union, Woodenspoon offers grants to local and national projects. All funding must directly benefit disadvantaged children and a strong emphasis is placed on those with Special Needs. Grants are considered for playgrounds and outdoor activities, education, health and wellbeing, sensory gardens, specialist equipment and facilities. Woodenspoon aims to "enhance and support the lives of children and young (under the age of 25) who are disadvantaged physically, mentally or socially".

Applications via the website: [www.woodenspoon.org.uk/our-grants/how-to-apply](http://www.woodenspoon.org.uk/our-grants/how-to-apply)