

Bridport Investment Plan Environment and Food

What are the challenge and opportunities identified through the consultation with Bridport businesses?

- Food security real and present danger for the community.
- Support needed for young people to start food businesses – skills, land, premises.
- Link to Colfox school and colleges to push horticultural training locally – a centre of excellence? T Levels?
- Whole set of new skills required for a net zero future.
- How to connect - Low carbon building - Local food processing - Nature recovery and conservation.

Project ideas developed at the open session September 15th 2022:

Bridport Food Matters have a new website and are developing a proposal for a Bridport Food hub.

Need to act to support local growers and provide alternative supply chains...Link to Edible gardens, Discover Farming initiative, Washingpool Farm and regenerative farming in the wider hinterland.

Focus on net zero Transition skills and young people - A college of sustainable technologies in Bridport;

- Young people as new entrants to farming and horticulture – apprenticeships/ training / opportunities – talk to Springtail farm/ Land Workers Alliance;
- New construction skills - not least retrofitting skills and accreditation – Foundry Lea Skills Academy?
- Land management – re wilding will become a growing area for land management employment/volunteers – a joined up/ collaborative approach;
- Support sustainable fishing of Lyme Bay Reserve – investment needs for SMEs in equipment/ skills? Talk to SMEs;
- Online local food supermarket;
- Focus on the hospitality sector to support faster transition.-

<p>Absolutely and brought into the tourism realm too to encourage responsibility and raise awareness among tourists/visitors as well as residents. More schemes for people to get involved with the safeguarding of these spaces, volunteering opportunities, to foster a sense of collective responsibility and civic pride.</p>	<p>More events for children and families, especially those not able to reach this sort of thing, to help protect the town and encourage it to flourish .</p>
<p>Engage farmers and agricultural businesses in the area to either persuade them to work organically or to take responsibility for their agricultural run-off into the rivers around here.</p>	<p>Aside from the fact that a diverse and thriving natural environment makes Bridport a better place to live, investment in our nature infrastructure will help prevent flooding, provide employment and could be used as a selling point for the town; alongside our reputation as Dorset's Eventful Town, we could become Dorset's first Zero-Carbon Nature-Friendly Town.</p>
<p>Where is the money coming from and what price do we have to pay for getting it.</p>	<p>The AONB Team do this brilliantly and should be encouraged to do more of the same!</p>