

## TOWN & PARISH NEWSLETTER / 1 MARCH 2019

### COUNTDOWN TO 1 APRIL 2019

### 31 DAYS TO GO

If you have any questions please email [shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

### USEFUL DATES FOR THE DIARY

Town and parish councillors and members of the public are encouraged to come along to meetings and to table questions. You can find all the details at [dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com](http://dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com), but here's a list of some of the next key dates:

7 March - Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 6.30pm, South Walks House

11 March - Shadow Executive Committee, 4pm, South Walks House

25 March - Shadow Executive Committee, 4pm, South Walks House (reserve date)

### WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC OFFICES

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council has agreed, in collaboration with Dorset Council, that current Christchurch and East Dorset Partnership staff who will transfer to Dorset Council can continue to work from the Civic Offices in Christchurch after 1 April 2019. This has been agreed for a minimum period of 12 months. Allenvie House in Wimborne will also continue to be a touch-down space for Dorset Council. This will help to ensure that services continue as usual for residents of East Dorset.

### THINKING OF BECOMING A COUNCILLOR?

You may have already decided to stand for election as a Dorset Council councillor, or you may be giving it some thought and wondering what it would involve. Visit our website to find some information to help you decide whether you would like to stand for election:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/councillors/become-a-local-councillor.aspx>

### PURDAH: COMING SOON!

The purdah period for the elections scheduled for 2 May 2019 will commence with the publication of the Notice of Election on 15 March 2019. We will ensure that special care is taken in regards to publicity during purdah, which is a period of heightened sensitivity.

Detailed guidance published by the Local Government Association can be found at <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/purdah>.

### CONTACTING DORSET COUNCIL

From Day 1, you will be able to contact Dorset Council in the same way as you contact your council now – whether that's online, by phone, email or in person.

This website is always the best place to check for the correct details for services and we keep the site and other information updated with any changes.

Head to [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/about](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/about) for more information.

With our public information campaign now in full swing, you may have seen Dorset Council signage on minibuses, roundabouts, council vehicles and other places in your area. If you do spot anything - feel free to Tweet us a picture to @DorsetCouncilUK.

Keep an eye on our social media channels (DorsetCouncilUK) and see if you can work out where we've been visiting. We've been out and about with the new logo taking pictures across the area to show how many great places Dorset Council covers. You can Tweet us your pictures too, or send them in to [shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:shapingdorsetcouncil@dorsetcc.gov.uk).

Don't forget, if you'd like some leaflets for your local area, email [comms@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:comms@dorsetcc.gov.uk).

## Six councils into one working for Dorset



[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

### NEW DORSET COUNCIL SIGNAGE

We'll be getting work underway in March to replace some council signs with new Dorset Council signage. We're prioritising critical items for Day 1 to keep costs to a minimum, so not every sign will be replaced, but you will start to see Dorset Council signs in key places.

We'll be changing the external signs at libraries in Swanage, Wareham, Wimborne, Ferndown, Shaftesbury, Sherborne, Bridport, Weymouth and Dorchester.

We'll also be changing signs in reception and external areas at:

- Westport House, Wareham
- Allenview, Wimborne
- Nordon Hub, Blandford
- South Walks House, Dorchester
- County Hall, Dorchester
- Commercial Road, Weymouth

Matt Prosser (Chief Executive Designate) and the new Dorset Council logo have been out and about on behalf of the new council recently.



Matt and Simon Hoare, MP for North Dorset, were both speakers at an agritech and aquaculture event at Kingston Maurward (above) and Matt met with Rishi Sunak MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Local Government) at a Government Digital Service digital leaders session in London (below).

