

# 9. Justice for All



## Defining a Vision for 2030

*'The impacts of climate change will not be borne equally or fairly, between rich and poor, women and men, and older and younger generations. Consequently, there has been a growing focus on **climate justice**, which looks at the climate crisis through a human rights lens and on the belief that by working together we can create a better future for present and future generations.'*<sup>i</sup>

There is no doubt that, if we continue our current path, environmental breakdown will affect us all. However, it is equally clear that the climate and ecological crisis will disproportionately affect those who are least able to deal with the impacts. To compound the injustice, they are typically also the poorest countries and communities who have contributed least to the crisis. Meanwhile, the pandemic brought to the fore the inequalities already at the heart of our society, emphasising how 'business-as-usual' isn't just damaging the environment, but is also failing communities at home and around the world.

In earlier chapters we have discussed the role of being 'disconnected' (from nature, from food) and this extends to public engagement. And the need for public engagement is great. The CCC recognised people have to be fully engaged and empowered to achieve Net Zero, as nearly 60% of the changes needed to get to net zero rely on societal or behavioural changes. Ref: Climate Change Committee (2020) Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget<sup>ii</sup>.

Voter apathy is evidenced not just in the volume of those who don't vote<sup>iii</sup>, but also in the attitudes of those who do so without expecting their vote to count<sup>iv</sup>, or their representatives to act in their interests<sup>v</sup>. In defining a vision for 2030, questions of justice *have* to be considered; not just because it is the right thing to do, but also because avoiding worsening societal and geo-political conflict requires the creation of a genuine sustainable future for all, including addressing the growing concerns of today's youth and engaging everyone with the political processes that control much of their lives.

### ***In 2030...***

***Across Dorset the majority of residents are actively engaged in the decisions that affect their daily lives. Opportunities to engage in community action exist across the county.***

***Decisions are made in a way which ensures that issues around race, gender, sexual orientation, generational issues and equity are managed positively, reducing the negative impacts in all areas. All decisions are taken understanding both the local and global context.***

***In the move to a greener way of life, everyone in a job that was lost has been provided with training and alternative employment. Work is shared equitably. The environment has a voice.***

# Assessment Framework

## How are we performing currently?

This chapter is subtly different to the others and the areas we discuss do not lend themselves to the same scoring approach we have applied to earlier sections. Its inclusion, however, isn't an attempt to 'bolt on' a few associated ideas but goes to the core of why we still haven't taken sufficient action to address the interlinked crises we face.

## 2022 Observations

Most of the analysis in our original report remains valid at the end of 2022. However, we have noted the following developments during the year and brought the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to the fore.

### UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>vi</sup>, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) below, which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. The Goals recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.



We believe these Goals are just as relevant here in Dorset as the rest of the world and to emphasise their importance to tackling the climate, ecological and inequality crises we have included the most relevant SDG icons for each chapter. They have also been adopted by other Dorset organisations, such as BCP Council<sup>vii</sup>, Bournemouth University<sup>viii</sup> and the NHS Universities Trust<sup>ix</sup> to help shape their agendas.

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## **Education, Education, Education.**

Bridport is a beacon for tackling climate justice by providing help and advice to those least able to deal with the consequences of a changing climate<sup>x</sup>. Since autumn 2021, the Town Council has supported an energy efficiency campaign<sup>xi</sup> which includes training local energy champions and collating useful local energy information. Local community groups in the town provide information and support to local people on all aspects of the climate and ecological crises. Bridport Climate Response<sup>xii</sup> aims to raise awareness, motivation and practical actions by households in responding to the climate crisis, and to draw on inputs from young people, voluntary organisations and local businesses to assist this. This complements the work by Bridport Local Food Group<sup>xiii</sup>, which provides information on all aspects of food matters in Bridport to help local people get good quality and nutritious food on their doorstep. Energy Local Bridport<sup>xiv</sup> enables people to buy cheaper renewable electricity generated by the Salway Ash wind turbine and so help alleviate fuel poverty.

## **Green space accessibility.**

The lockdowns showed how valuable access to local green and blue spaces is for people's physical and mental wellbeing. They also offer an urban haven for wildlife. Dorset AONB's Stepping Into Nature<sup>xv</sup> project uses Dorset's natural and cultural landscape to provide activities and sensory rich places for older adults, including those living with long term health conditions, such as dementia, and their care partners. The BCP/Parks Foundation partnership investment is improving 11 parks to create a nature recovery network<sup>xvi</sup> across the local area to benefit both people and wildlife.

## **Gardening for health.**

Two years ago, the growing space at Wellbeing Gardens at the Cow Shed, Bridport<sup>xvii</sup> was established for people with Health Vulnerability. Last year an open access Wildlife Wellbeing Garden was established for the Medical Centre patients and others. Next season they plan an Edible Forest Garden.

## **Not the usual suspects.**

ZCD recognises our audience to date has been predominantly white, middle class and of mid/late age (i.e. those who can afford, and have the capacity, to care about the crises). During 2022, we took steps to try and move outside this climate echo chamber by welcoming young people onto the Advisory Group to help us provide a voice for the younger generation. We also diversified our communication channels by launching a YouTube channel and starting to use social media (Facebook and Twitter) to reach out to different audiences. But we recognise we need to do a lot more to engage with those individuals and community groups, particularly those who do not have the capacity in their busy lives to engage with the climate and ecological crises. We welcome ideas on how to start conversations with these different audiences.

## **Crisis? What crisis?**

In 2022, much of the response to the cost-of-living crisis was financial help to households struggling with their energy and food bills. Both Councils set up information hubs on their websites<sup>xviii xix</sup> to point people at the help available. Some of this advice, in particular how to reduce energy use, also helps people play their part in tackling the climate and ecological crises. But, government payments to help with energy bills, does nothing to address the fundamental problem of leaky homes. The government finally acknowledged the vital importance of improving Britain's housing stock by including financial support for energy efficiency in the autumn budget statement<sup>xx</sup>.

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### **Helping those in Food and fuel poverty.**

According to government estimates there are 19,000 people in Dorset living in fuel poverty. Thanks to generous donations from residents in Dorset, over £75,000 was raised for older people struggling to stay warm over winter 2021<sup>xxi</sup>. Dorset Council working with The Dorset Community Foundation and Citizens Advice launched an appeal earlier this year asking for people to donate any winter fuel payments they did not need to help others to afford to heat their homes without scrimping on food. The Council was also awarded over £2M from the government's Household Support Fund to help vulnerable households across the county in need of financial support. This enabled one-of winter energy vouchers of £200 to be allocated to 3,500 households in receipt of Universal Credit. BCP Council's Access to Food partnership has been awarded £194k from the National Lottery Community Fund, which will allow its work to continue over the next three years. The Access to Food partnership is made up of BCP Council, Public Health Dorset, Faithworks and other Community and Voluntary organisations to help vulnerable residents access nutritious food over the last two years. The partnership's projects include growing, cooking, community meals, and resources that help people to access food when in crisis, as well as building skills and community resilience.

### **BU students debate Climate Justice.**

In December Bournemouth University co-hosted a national Climate Justice Debate Challenge<sup>xxii</sup>, a one-day skills building challenge which aimed to educate students about climate justice and Fairtrade and empower them to critique, debate and be ambassadors for these issues which are so prevalent, especially at this time post-COP27. Students from BU, Middlesex University, University of Bradford, UCL and City, University of London took part in the debate on the motion, 'Fairtrade is necessary to ensure future global food security. During the day, they received seminars on Fairtrade, the climate crisis, international politics and food security followed by a debating masterclass. Working in cross-university teams they developed their arguments and took part in three rounds of knock-out style debates. The judges were extremely impressed with the student's knowledge, passion and persuasive arguments.

## **2022 Objectives**

The areas we need to address for this chapter feature throughout the report, predominantly in the *Effective Policies* and *What Next* chapters. Perhaps even more than in other areas the issues here are beyond our councils' scope. However, councils can support practical issues of justice and fairness through aspects such as:

1. Implementing Citizens Assemblies to address issues of prioritisation and contentious aspects of CEE plans.
2. Providing free / low-cost access to council property for community group meetings and activities.
3. Identifying and securing premises for Climate Emergency Centres.
4. Identifying ways to support the wider adoption of 'fair trade' schemes.
5. Creating local task forces that not only include the wider public and private sectors but also bring in direct citizen and community participants.

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- <sup>i</sup> [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment)
- <sup>ii</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>
- <sup>iii</sup> <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/political-disengagement-and-what-can-be-done-about-it.pdf>
- <sup>iv</sup> <https://www.raconteur.net/public-sector/why-people-dont-vote/>
- <sup>v</sup> [https://fullfact.org/media/uploads/ff\\_election\\_research\\_report\\_final\\_version\\_16.12.19.pdf](https://fullfact.org/media/uploads/ff_election_research_report_final_version_16.12.19.pdf)
- <sup>vi</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/>
- <sup>vii</sup> <https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/documents/s15609/Appendix%201%20-%20BCP%20Council%20Corporate%20Strategy%20and%20Delivery%20Plans.pdf>
- <sup>viii</sup> <https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/sustainability>
- <sup>ix</sup> <https://www.uhd.nhs.uk/about-us/sustainability>
- <sup>x</sup> <https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/climate-emergency-action-plan/>
- <sup>xi</sup> <https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/energy-champions-initiative/>
- <sup>xii</sup> <https://www.bridportclimateresponse.net/>
- <sup>xiii</sup> <https://www.bridportfoodmatters.net/>
- <sup>xiv</sup> <https://www.dorsetcommunityenergy.org.uk/projects/energy-local-bridport>
- <sup>xv</sup> <https://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/project/stepping-into-nature/>
- <sup>xvi</sup> <https://bcpprojects.net/future-parks/>
- <sup>xvii</sup> [https://mailchi.mp/facef90c22af/bridport-food-matters-20247872?e=\[UNIQID](https://mailchi.mp/facef90c22af/bridport-food-matters-20247872?e=[UNIQID)
- <sup>xviii</sup> <https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/Communities/Cost-of-living-help/Cost-of-living-help.aspx>
- <sup>xix</sup> <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/cost-of-living-help>
- <sup>xx</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2022-documents/autumn-statement-2022-html#executive-summary>
- <sup>xxi</sup> <https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2022/03/04/dorset-residents-donate-75k-to-people-in-fuel-poverty/>
- <sup>xxii</sup> <https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/sustainability/get-involved>