



## Latest updates from Dorset Council

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## Managing Debt

Are you feeling the strain of increasing debt during the rising cost of living?  
Please don't struggle alone.

Dorset Citizens Advice can talk you through the options for managing debt and help you get things under control.

Visit Citizen Advice via the below button to find your local office or call the Dorset Adviceline on 0800 144 8848.

[Visit Citizen Advice](#)

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## Smart sensor pilot in Dorset libraries

A pilot scheme using smart motion sensors in Dorset libraries is about to go live from the end of February 2024.

Starting at Dorchester library and Learning Centre, a variety of smart sensors will be installed across the building. The sensors will be in places such as entrances and exits, at tables and at customer access counters.

The sensors do not record images of people or collect any personal data. They detect body heat and movement and will be used to monitor footfall, occupancy and length of stay. The data will help us to understand how our customers like to use our library spaces.

If the pilot scheme is successful, the sensors will be installed at other library buildings across Dorset.

[Find out more about your local library](#)

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## Maintenance works set to start at Greenhill on Weymouth seafront

We will be carrying out essential beach maintenance from Monday 4 March at Greenhill, on Weymouth Esplanade.

A section of the beach at Greenhill Gardens – from the Seascape Café heading south towards the Beach Café at the end of Brunswick Terrace – will be closed to the public while the work is ongoing.

The work is expected to take one week to complete and during this time, the beach will be closed to the public to allow the heavy machinery to operate safely. Pedestrian access to the promenade may also be disrupted. Portland stone will be used to protect the toe of the wall.

[Find out more](#)

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## **New Verwood play area open to the public**

Verwood residents, local councillors, suppliers, and contractors recently came together as Dorset Council officially opened a brand-new play area on Eastworth Road in Verwood.

Funded by contributions from Penny Farthing Homes – the developer of the nearby housing estate - the refurbished play area provides a space for the community to relax and engage with nature.

The aim of the project was to create a safe and fun environment for the whole community to enjoy. Dorset Council's Planning and Natural Environment teams came up with the concept and took it to community for public engagement.

[Find out more](#)

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## Work to revitalise Ferndown set to begin

The first of three phases of improvement works designed to breathe new life into the Penny's Walk and Victoria Road areas in Ferndown is set to begin over the next few months.

These improvements are as a result of recommendations made to the town council and the former East Dorset District Council through a comprehensive appraisal of the town in 2017.

Phase one will include removing some of the old planters in Victoria Road and replacing with a new design and look at new seating near the library to make this space a more modern and community focused area.

There will be consultation on some concept designs to ensure the community is involved and can input into the final design. It is hoped that with additional funding the look and feel of this small area can be replicated down Victoria road and possibly Penny's Walk in the future with the addition of an improved street lighting scheme. The new design aims to better connect people with nature in an urban setting.

[Find out more](#)



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## Future flood risk study for Weymouth published



A new assessment which forecasts future flood risk in Weymouth town centre has been undertaken and published by Dorset Council.

The study assesses the levels of flooding that could occur over the next 114 years in extreme weather events. It considers sea, river, rainfall and ground water.

The Environment Agency (EA) carried out the study on behalf of the council and the findings have now been published.

This Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) will help guide the council's work on local plan and the Town Council's work on its neighbourhood plan. The findings from the assessment will also need to be considered when making decisions on planning applications. It focuses on the Weymouth Town Centre area defined in the West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Local Plan (2015).

[Find out more](#)

