**Dorset Climate Action Network**

**Outline to provoke discussion at DorsetCAN’s Open Meeting on 19th November**

**Name of the network**

We propose **Dorset Climate Action Network**, with mnemonic **Dorset CAN**.

We might add a strapline – *either* Thinking Globally, Acting Locally *or* Stronger Together

**Thematic scope of the Network.** We propose that this should embrace

- **climate change** and the directly related issues of adapting to change and of mitigating the change by urgent reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases

- promoting sustainable use of the **world's resources**, and opposing abuse of those resources, for example by excess use and dumping of plastic

- reversing the global and local **loss of wildlife**

- pursuit of **social justice**, for example in tackling fuel poverty

- promoting **resilience, sustainability** and **regeneration.**

**Geographic area**.  We propose to focus on the **mainly rural Dorset Council area, exc**luding Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) , because

* the issues in BCP are complex and different from those in mainly rural Dorset
* Dorset Council - with its powers and funds related to education, highways, planning, refuse disposal etc. - is a prime actor in the climate field and a major target for us in terms of partnership and lobbying.  We will need to focus our energy on the actions of bodies which are focused on this rural county.

**Statement of Aims – *provisional wording***

“Dorset Climate Action Network has been set up in response to the rapidly growing public concern about the impact of climate change, the use and abuse of the world's resources, the loss of wildlife and the related threats to social justice at global, national and local level. The Network aims to stimulate awareness of these issues and to support action by people and local organisations throughout Dorset County, as a complement to action by national government, Dorset Council and other agencies.”

**Network members.** We propose that the core of the membership should be local organisations, based within Dorset, which are, or wish to become, active in fields related to climate change, use and abuse of resources, protection of wildlife and related issues of social justice. This embraces town and parish councils and civil society organisations.

We will be open to the involvement of regional groupings of relevant organisations.

Membership of the Network will also be fully open to individuals, particularly those who offer skills that we need or whose organisations may become Network members.

We aim to work closely with county-level organisations who are active in our field.

**Activities.** The activities of the Network would be decided in response to the expressed needs of members. Possible elements might be :

- provision of information about global, national, regional and county-level policies, programmes, funding, events, petitions etc

- public information about the members

- exchange of news about activities across the county

- support for events organised by members, district groups and the Network itself

- sourcing of advice and expertise

- sharing of experiences and expertise, e.g. through topic groups

- awareness-raising and advice to all who want to ‘make a difference’

- training programmes, complementary to those run by Extinction Rebellion and others

- advocacy to Dorset Council and other agencies and organisations.

The Network would become a **Voice for those in Dorset who care about these issues**

Dorset CAN Outline for 19 November 2020 meeting