



An Introduction to the Dorset Coast Forum

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Chairman, Dorset Coast Forum



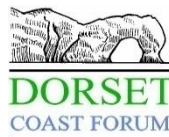


Courtesy of: Brooke Photographic, Weymouth

History

The Dorset Coast Forum was founded fourteen years ago by a group of people, all of whom had their own interests but became united in their desire to actively take steps to protect and enhance the well-being of the Dorset Coast

The founding objectives were to encourage co-operation between *all* the different interest groups living and working along the coast



EU Demonstration Programme on Integrated Management in Coastal Zones

The objectives:

- 🌀 To develop strategic management policy for an area of open coast based on the principles of integration, subsidiarity and sustainability.
- 🌀 To establish the process and approach for an area of exceptional environmental quality facing a range of issues, building on existing experience, knowledge and established mechanisms for involving all coastal interests and users.



Demonstration Programme Partnership

Local Authorities

- 🌀 Borough of Poole (Unitary)
- 🌀 Bournemouth Borough Council (Unitary)
- 🌀 Dorset County Council
- 🌀 West Dorset District Council
- 🌀 Weymouth & Portland Borough Council

Government Agencies

- 🌀 English Nature
- 🌀 Environment Agency

Other Public Sector

- 🌀 Bournemouth University
- 🌀 Poole Harbour Commissioners
- 🌀 Southern Sea Fisheries Committee

Private sector

- 🌀 BP Amoco
- 🌀 Wessex Water
- 🌀 National Farmers Union

Voluntary Sector

- 🌀 Royal Yachting Association
- 🌀 Dorset Wildlife Trust

European Commission

LIFE Environment Programme

■ = Funding partner



The Dorset Coast Strategy

“To promote a sustainable approach to the management, use and development of Dorset’s coastal zone, which will ensure that its inherent natural and cultural qualities are maintained and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.”

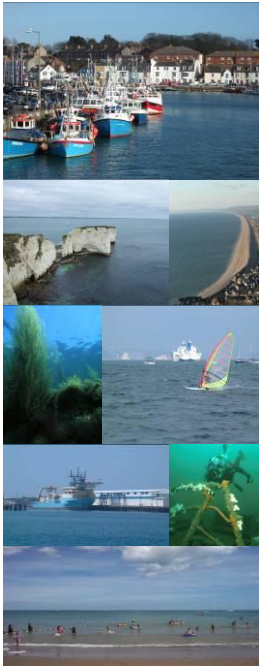
Three aims:

- Encouraging co-operation and dialogue
- Encouraging the gathering and dissemination of knowledge, and the carrying out of relevant research
- Review and integration of national, regional and local coastal policies



The Dorset Coast Strategy

Developed a set of Policies under each of these three priorities, covering such areas as:



- Pollution
- Shoreline Management Plans
- Coastal development
- Support of Marine Industries
- Sustainable Tourism and Recreation
- Education and awareness
- Policy review
- Information dissemination and communications



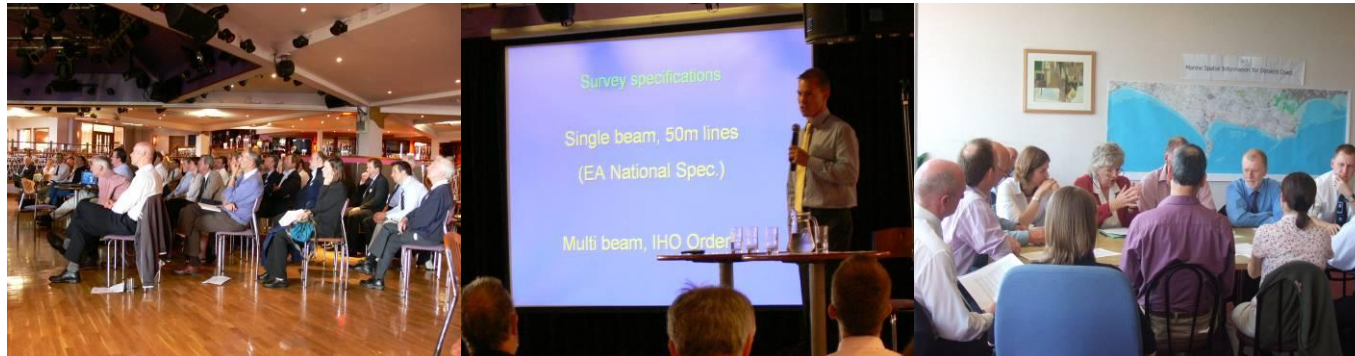
The Dorset Coast Strategy

- ④ Action plan to deliver these policies
- ④ Reviewed in 2005 in State of the Dorset Coast
- ④ Review of Strategy to begin Spring 2009
- ④ Update to consider, climate change, Napoli type events, changes in national policy etc.

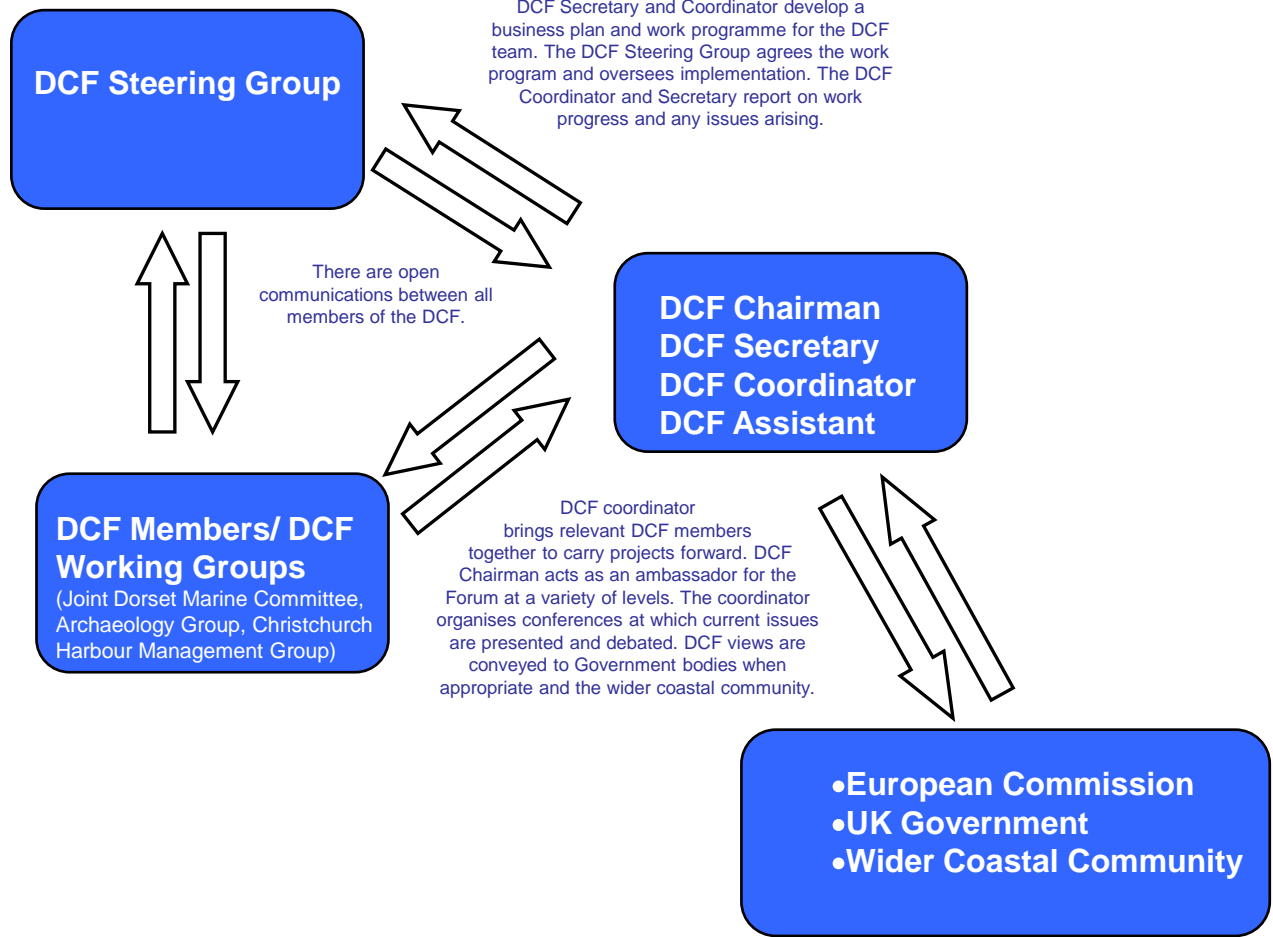


Who are the Dorset Coast Forum?

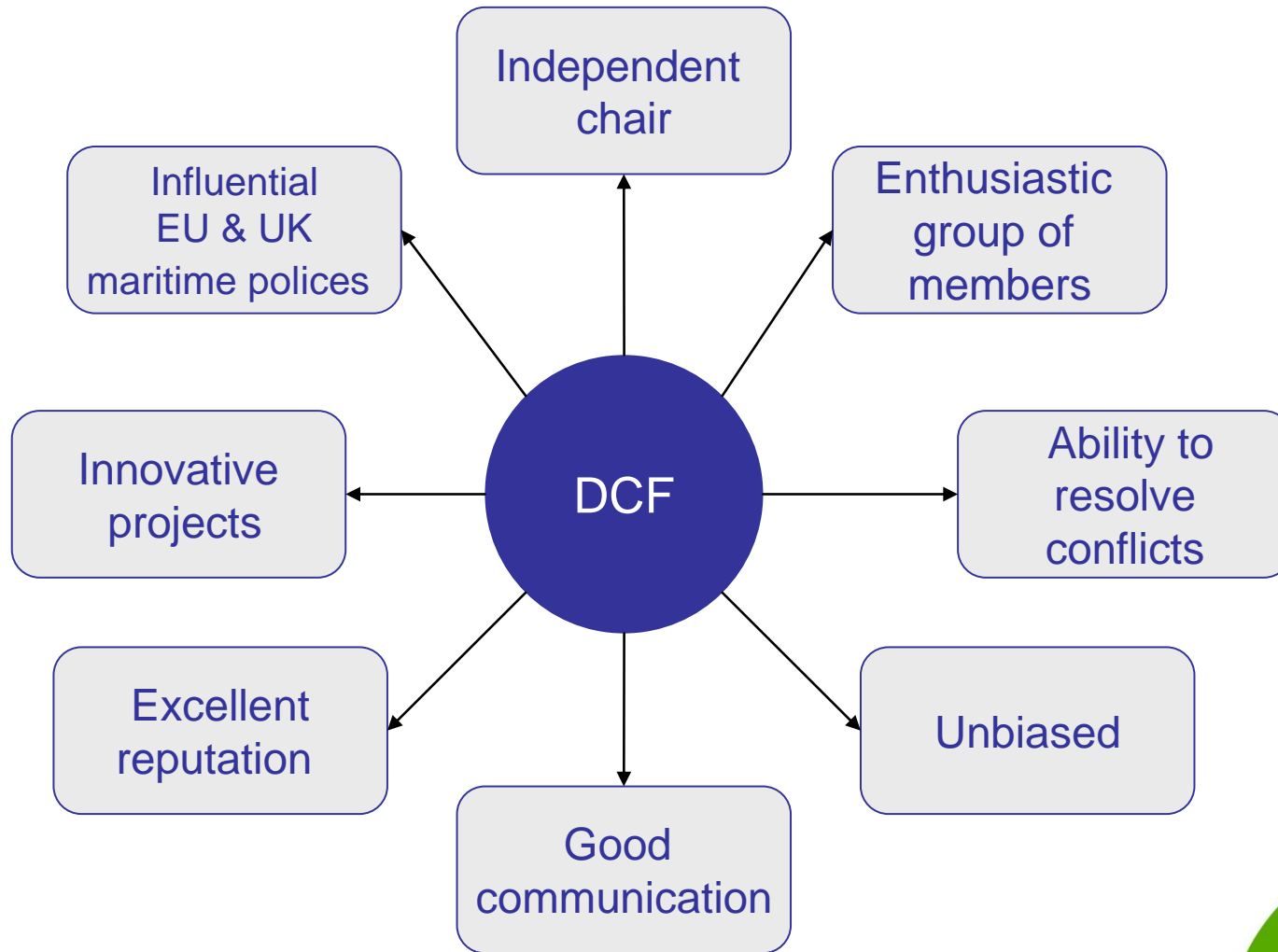
- 🌀 The Dorset Coast Forum is a voluntary partnership of 170 organisations including Government Departments and Agencies, Local Authorities, commercial organisations and the voluntary sector.
- 🌀 Decisions are based on consensus and all partners are treated as equals.
- 🌀 The Forum has an independent Chairman, a steering group, and working/project groups are set up on an ad hoc basis to tackle specific issues



DCF Structure and Function



A successful partnership based on...



DCF Principles

- 🌀 The need for long term conservation of the coast
- 🌀 The need for equivalent recognition for the land and sea, with realistic limits
- 🌀 The need to support sustainable use of coastal resources
- 🌀 The need to maximise prosperity and quality of life
- 🌀 The need to particularly encourage coastal development which works with the environment
- 🌀 The need for effective local involvement in coastal decisions
- 🌀 The need to work towards a properly integrated approach to transport, and ensure coastal issues are firmly on the agenda
- 🌀 The need to work together



How does it work?

- The Forum provides a platform where two-way dialogue can take place on emerging national and European coastal and marine policy.
- Being a well established respected and recognised UK coastal partnership, European and UK government representatives are particularly willing to present policy initiatives during consultation periods, and conferences have been organised specifically to provide local influence on major policy changes.
- With feedback from Forum members the Dorset Coast Forum gather views and respond to relevant consultation documents.
- Two well attended Forum meetings are organised each year which provide an opportunity to present, discuss and debate topical local, national and international issues of broad interest to Dorset's coastal stakeholders.



DCF site visit for National Policy makers



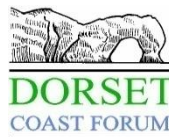
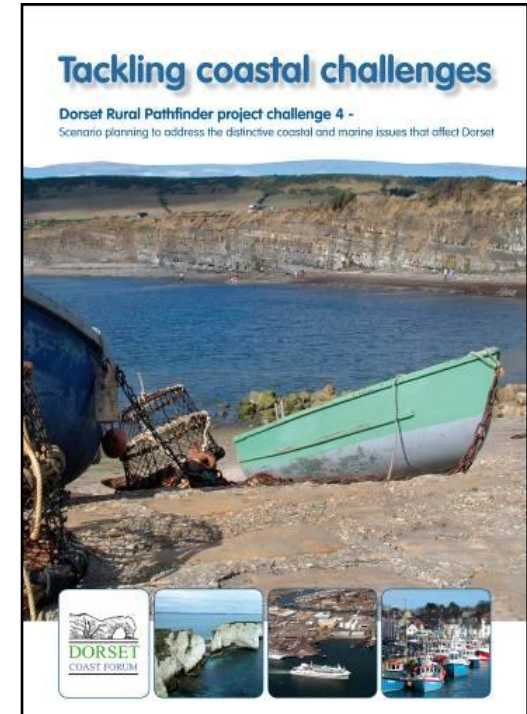
DCF achievements...

- 🌀 The Dorset Coast Strategy was produced in 1999, was internationally recognised and received a commendation from the Royal Planning Institute in 2000
- 🌀 DCF source and catalyst of the idea to propose the Jurassic Coast as a WHS, instrumental in developing the bid. The Dorset & East Devon Coast was granted World Heritage Site Status by UNESCO in December 2001



... and a few more

- Comprehensive coastal and marine databases have been developed and DCF team have distributed Planweb to DCF members. This contains numerous GIS layers of spatial marine data. (wrecks, fish and shellfish areas, bathing waters, marine ecology, SMPs, slipways, beach type)
- A Christchurch Harbour Group established by DCF has recently published a draft harbour and waterways management plan for consultation.
- In early 2007, DCF completed the Dorset Rural Pathfinder Project entitled 'Tackling Coastal Challenges'



Our next big project...



c~scope

Combining Sea and Coastal
Planning in Europe





With special thanks to our funding partners
and all our coastal stakeholders



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