

**TRANSITION TOWN DORCHESTER AGM**  
**27<sup>th</sup> April 2009**  
**Dorset Construction Centre, Poundbury**

**Chairman's Report**

Transition Town Dorchester (TTD) is a little over a year old now and as I reflect back over the growth in both member numbers and successful projects, I feel great pride in having been involved during this busy embryonic period.

There is no 'right or wrong way' in Transition. It is inclusive and open to anyone who is willing to engage with the future we are facing and who wishes to be part of the solution. The driving force in TTD over the last year has come from the Steering Group who have formed an administrative structure, established a website and raised awareness by engaging with the public, local groups, local businesses and our elected representatives through presentations and events such as film nights, the Sustainable Communities Act Public Meeting and other environmentally themed seminars. Ongoing projects have been established such as the Casterbridge Food Co-operative, Thomas Hardy School youth engagement project, Green Drinks and more are coming on-stream.

In the coming year, further work is in hand to ensure the TTD message is refined to engage people more widely, to streamline our framework so that it is as easy as possible for people to get involved and to promote the group to the surrounding villages that come under the TTD umbrella. We look forward to more growth by welcoming new individuals and established groups and businesses who want to work in the spirit of Transition.

Change is part of Transition and rotating roles within the organisation is healthy. Transition Town Dorchester is in good shape so I intend to step down from the position of chair person in May in order to allow others to experience this central role.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the TTD Steering Group for their energy and commitment over the last year - we really have achieved a great deal (see appendix). Also, the general membership of TTD who have supported our projects and some other people and groups who have been particularly supportive during our first year including Dorset Agenda 21, Dorchester Town Council, Dorchester Area Partnership and Alistair Chisholm in his various roles within our community.

Michael Jones

Chairman  
Transition Town Dorchester

Appendix 1

Transition Town Dorchester Events and Activities – Progress in 2008/09

**Transition Town Dorchester Events and Activities – Progress in 2008/09**

<b>Event</b>	<b>How did it go?</b>
<b>When The Oil Runs Out</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2008 The first event – A talk by Ben Brangwyn from the Transition Network	Excellent – maybe 150+ people attended
<b>How Cuba Survived Peak Oil</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2008 The first local film and formation of the Steering Group	Good – maybe 50 people
<b>Transition Network Conference</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2008 5 people from Dorchester attend the Transition Network Conference	Excellent learning event
<b>Transition Town Dorchester event</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2008 Information and displays on Transition Topics within United Reformed Church – giant carbon footprints drawn on the street	Around 40 people attended throughout the day – many more asked about the footprints
<b>Transition Town Dorchester at The BIG GREEN DAY followed by THE END OF SUBURBIA film</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2008 TTDorchester have a display at the Town Council's event with a film in the eventng at the Thomas Hardy School	Excellent networking, awareness raising and collaborative events
<b>Transition Town</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Library established
<b>Dorchester Carnival</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> June	A display in the park mixed engagement
<b>Transition Town Dorchester Friends of Ourganics event</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2008 an event to help the steering group and transition volunteers to work together and understand permaculture	Networking and organising event supporting Steering Group development
<b>Transition Town Dorchester social bike ride – Frome Valley</b> Wed, 9 July 2008 Joint event with local branch of Dorset Cyclists Network	Rain
<b>Transition Town Dorchester local food picnic at Maumbury Rings</b> General public gathering 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 08	rainy event again...
<b>Casterbridge Food Co-op – Dorchester Meetings</b> from 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 ordering happening 3 monthly from Dec 08	Excellent. Membership growing, local producers coming in
<b>Dorchester Community Partnership – Action Plan</b> September 2008 TTD fed into the action plan and has a rep on the Community Ptship	Networking activity, links with local government and opps. to influence local policy
<b>Dorchester Community Lunch</b> Introduction to Transition 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2008	Awareness raising with local Groups good to reach these
<b>TTDorchester and LETS joint event – fungus forray</b> A shared event led by Andy September	Great for networking less good for mushrooms due to summer rain

Designing for the 21st century ..... and beyond what will this mean for Dorchester? Permaculture training event 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2008	15 or so people attending – good feedback and skills learned
Transitionista Fashionista! Clothes Swap, tea and networking 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 – clothes swapping event at United reformed church	People were a bit thin on the ground – more promotion needed
Green Drinks – Tom Brown’s Dorchester 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month Oct, Nov, Dec 2008, Jan, Feb, March, April’09	Good 4–25 people at each

Event	How did it go?
Transition Town Dorchester Web Site Launched October 2008	Basic site up and improving monthly – more content help & expertise always needed
Transition Town Dorchester Newsletters From Sept/October 2008 – news going out monthly to people who registered an interest	Now 180 subscribers & growing monthly
Transition Town Dorchester Steering Group expands Nov 08 new members include Stella from WDDC, Dan and Jon from Green & Pleasant and Nick W	More people always needed and welcomed!!!!!!
Transition Town Dorchester Talk to AGE CONCERN 19 <sup>th</sup> November – an introduction to the Transition Movement	Part of a series of talks to groups – good for awareness raising
Transition Town Dorchester links with Thomas Hardy School November – collaboration begins between International Baccalaureate students and TTD	Very positive feedback from students. We hope this will help initiate a Youth Group and more innovative projects – also linking now with Dorset Youth Assn
BIOMASS BOILER VISIT A mid-week daytime event at Kingston Maurward College 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Some great skills learning and interest – mid week meant numbers were a bit low
Transition Town – Heart and Soul Group Dec 11th Beginnings of a group to understand the philosophy of change and our reactions to Transition	Not enough people for a standalone Dorchester group yet so currently linking with Weymouth no public activities / events yet
Transition Town Dorchester – Sustainable Communities Act Meeting 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2009 with Local Works and Councils	Around 400 people attending very good publicity and 2 Transition Speakers
Climate Change Speaker Training Jan 2009 – 2 members attend from Dorchester	Good skills learning
Dorchester Car Club 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan – a shared initiative with Dorchester Community Action to have a car sharing club in Dorchester	Car is already available and membership is small (20) but growing

<b>Local Energy Open Space Event</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb – an energy event with speakers from the council and from the Dorchester Energy Advice Centre	A well-attended event (24 people). Following this event an energy group is now being formed supported by Andrew Wylie
<b>Transition Town Dorchester talks</b> Feb Chairman talks to Sherborne Group Talk to Dorchester Chamber of Commerce Talk to Poundbury Ladies Group	Some excellent well-attended talks to other groups in Dorchester and local areas
<b>Transition Town Dorchester Film and Onion Psychology</b> The 11 <sup>th</sup> Hour at the Thomas Hardy School	Around 25 people came and fed back what changes they will make personally and what we might all do better

<b>Event</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>Looking for the Big Idea</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> April AGM and party	Free use of the new Construction Centre at Poundbury courtesy of Weymouth College
<b>Transition Training</b> 2 people in Dorchester have so far received Transition Network Training. TTDorch has worked with DA21 to secure free Dorset wide training which will include a further 2 people being trained for our Transition Town plus more than 22 other people trained across Dorset	Really excellent for skills transfer and for linking Dorset's Transition Towns – great support from DA21 and Transition network
<b>Steering Group changes</b> Toni, Andrew and Damian joining the steering group from April / May	More people always needed and welcomed!!!!!!
<b>Grassroots Grants</b> Application made for 5K funding events and activities	Refused
<b>Dorchester Car Boot Monies</b> Application made for £500 funding events and activities in 2009	Hurrah! £180 awarded
<b>Co-Op Transition fund</b> Application made for £150 from the Co-operative Transition Towns awards scheme	Pending