

# CONVERSATION

NO.1. | AUTUMN 2023

COMMUNITY. RECONNECTED.

## The Big Poundbury Conversation Reports Back Change is afoot!

Community says Poundbury works well for most, but could be improved for everyone.

### What is it?

The Big Poundbury Conversation is a set of events, meetings, informal chats and surveys for all adults, young people, and organisations linked to Poundbury. This newspaper reports on the main findings, and describes some exciting options for the future.

### Why was it started?

It is always a good idea for an organisation to review what it stands for and is trying to do. The 2023 Residents' Association committee decided that as Poundbury building work ends, they should ask everyone here what works well for them, and what they would like to see developed in future.

The volunteer committee and working group decided everyone who makes up our community would be invited to join the consultation. So as well as residents, we have talked with those who live near Poundbury and use our shops, parks, cafes, halls and school, visitors, young people, those who work here, and leaders of businesses and organisations based in Poundbury, both big and small.



### The Conversation is Big

Big Conversation Lead Simon Standish said 'We've tried hard to make sure all sections of our community are involved, including renters, owners, those who work here, young and old. Over 750 people have taken part, with 545 completing surveys. We've had 81 emails expressing views, and interviews with 32 people.'

He added: 'The team have spoken to over 150 people at events and met with groups and organisations, including our schools. 72 surveys have been completed by residents living in Housing Association properties.'

### There's good news, some challenges, and some great ideas!

Overall, 80% of respondents like being here and would recommend Poundbury as a place to live or work. They can see ways we can improve the physical environment, join things up, include everyone, and better support each other. Exciting ideas about how we might get there are emerging.



The Big Poundbury Conversation has attracted an enthusiastic team of volunteers over the summer

### READ ON FOR...

- Surprising Poundbury stats
- What people say works well
- What could be better
- Ideas for the future
- Case studies of successful projects elsewhere
- What happens next

**NO 'THEM AND US'. WE ARE ALL 'US'.**

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# Who is 'Poundbury'?

## What do we really know about the 'urban extension of Dorchester' we call Poundbury?

We are a mix of renters and owners, people who retire here, families who settle, and many who come for a short period just as part of their life journey. Socially rented, privately rented and privately owned homes may share the same architecture but this masks some significant differences in terms of needs, circumstances and aspirations.

This is just a taste of our community in 2021. We know that the numbers have grown since then.

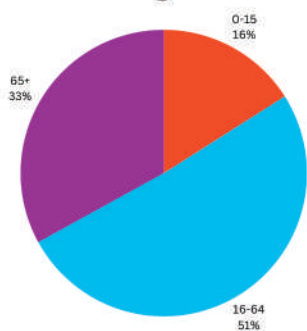
The Big Conversation aims to generate greater awareness of our community and its needs. We are bigger than our individual household or our street neighbours.

### Key data

- 4,072 residents
- 2,033 households
- 219 businesses
- 2,300 people working in businesses (more may be home based)

Data is taken from the 2021 census and the Office of National Statistics.

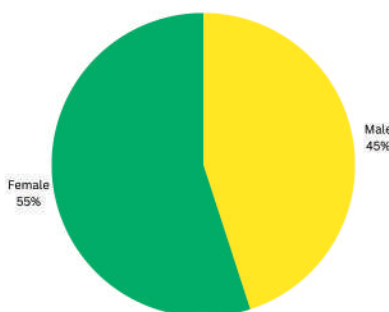
### Age



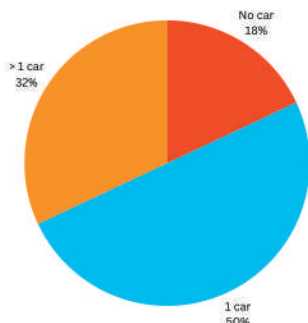
**MYTH:** Most Poundbury people are 65+

**FACT:** The percentage here is only slightly above the Dorset average of 29%. The percentage of under 16s is the same here as for Dorset as a whole.

### Gender

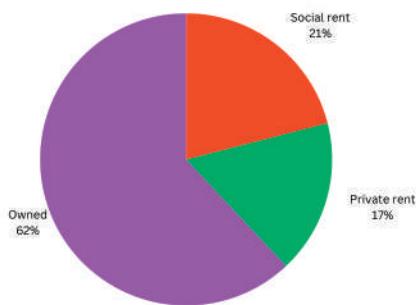


### Transport



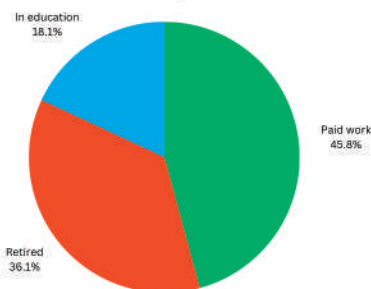
**MYTH:** Every in Poundbury drives  
**FACT:** 18% of households have no car, higher than for Dorset as a whole where 14% have no car. Nationally, 21% of households have no car. Car owners are also cyclists, pedestrians and public transport users.

### Homes



**MYTH:** Poundbury is only for wealthy home owners. **FACT:** For Dorset as a whole, 72% of homes are privately owned, 12% are socially rented and 16% privately rented. Our community therefore provides much more social renting and has fewer privately owned homes than the Dorset average.

### Occupation



### Interesting stats

- 8.3% of Poundbury's population have caring roles
- 40% of housing is purpose built apartment blocks
- 30% of the population are registered with disabilities or have a long term physical or mental health condition
- 22% of children at Damers are eligible for free school meals, which is higher than other schools in Dorchester



The Great Field is seen as a real asset and establishes Poundbury as part of a wider Dorchester community. The wildflower meadows are popular, but there are concerns about poorly maintained planted areas and dog mess!



# What are people saying?

## The good news

Overall, 80% are happy being here and would recommend Poundbury as a place to live and work. This reduces to 72% satisfaction for those under 44, and 69% for those renting from housing associations.

People like the **shops and services** being easy to get to. The **bus** to our town centre is felt to be good. **Green spaces** and the mix of building styles and types of homes goes down well. People mostly feel **safe** here.

Residents like **events** that bring people and business into Poundbury. They think there is a good range of **clubs or groups** that people can join. They are grateful to some of the early 'pioneers' of the residents' association and other groups and venues.

*Poundbury Magazine, edited by Fran Leaper, is mentioned as a key source of information for many people and is very much valued.*

There is about a 50:50 split between those who feel well informed about what is going on, and those who don't. Older people appear to have more local connections and especially appreciate the **Poundbury Magazine** edited by Fran Leaper. Younger people and renters seem less connected and mention **social media** as a more important source of information.



*'The standard of build and finish is not always as expected, and follow through sometimes lacking'*

## The challenges

For many home owners the **standard of build and finish** is not what they expected. Particular problems include **peeling render and rotting windows**. There is a feeling that some buildings and street areas already look shabby.

Responses show frustration with developers for a perceived lack of attention to problems and poor communication and follow through. Many are also critical of the Duchy in terms of perceived inflexibility of regulations and a poor response rate to problems.

*'Why are we still installing gas boilers? These will have to be retrofitted with renewables pretty soon at great cost!'*

Many welcome the integration of social renting, shared ownership and conventional ownership. Some renters said they felt out of place and unwelcome in Poundbury, and that shops and services didn't meet their needs locally so they had to travel. They would like to feel more included.

Crime statistics show Poundbury to be a relatively safe place, but recent incidents have made some people feel things are getting worse in terms of **anti-social behaviour, vandalism, litter and dog mess**.

There are worries about **road safety** problems such as speed, noise, and loss of visibility caused by poor parking and blocked access for pushchairs or those with disabilities.

Some expressed frustration that Poundbury is not leading the way in **energy efficiency or renewables** as it could be.

Residents would like more **affordable shops and restaurants** with the opportunity for more lively night life.

There are strong views on the general **tidiness and maintenance** of the estate, and the behaviour of some dog owners.

*'Poundbury is supposed to be walkable. But where is the affordable food within walking distance?'*



*Big Conversation workshop at Brownsword Hall*

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# Poundbury says: 'We need a community hub!'

People said they felt less connected to others than they used to or would like, and several said they felt lonely. They would like more local things to do in the evenings such as music, comedy, films and places to meet up.

Overall, 70% supported the idea of a physical centre where people can meet, access services, share books, games and tools, and where needs such as affordable food, support for families and much more could be provided. The support for this is even higher at 90% from housing association residents who took part in the main survey.

There are already some very good community venues here including the PiPs Cafe, Brownsword Hall, school, church and Quiet Space. These each have different facilities and focus. A community hub could complement and add to this provision through a central space which is a drop in, rather than somewhere you need to book.

## A vision of 3 venues

Conversations suggest we might need three connected venues serving different functions: -

1. **'The Hall'** - for shorter, regular, booked events. People think that Brownsword Hall, PiPs and others already fulfil this need well
2. **'The Space'** - for bigger events or exhibitions over one day or more, such as arts, crafts, books, holiday clubs and business events, uninterrupted by daily hire
3. **'The Hub'** - a welcoming venue to which you can simply 'drop-in' to meet people, find information and support, pick things up and more

## CASE STUDY: Weymouth Information Shop

The Weymouth Information Shop provides information about wellbeing, community and health services, volunteering opportunities, tourism, community groups, local services, events and activities.

It is supported by charities such as AgeUK, as well as Dorset and Weymouth councils and Dorset NHS, and is open on a daily basis.

The Info Shop provides a 'front door' to a wide range of local organisations and support services, providing hot desks and scope for drop-in 'clinics'.



MORE INFO:  
[weymouthinformationshop.co.uk](http://weymouthinformationshop.co.uk)

## CASE STUDY: Board In The City - Southampton

Board In The City is a social enterprise with a difference - it is a community cafe full of board games! They are proud of their commitment to providing a safe and inclusive space for both younger and older players.

Players pay an entry fee and can then stay as long as they like. There are discounts for young people and group bookings. A wide range of affordable drinks are provided.

Board In The City is a non profit company which provides valuable volunteering opportunities. These have helped volunteers to make new friends, develop skills and gain paid employment.

Could Poundbury and Dorchester support a standalone venue such as this, or could we incorporate it into our hub? Might you use it, or help to run it?



MORE INFO:  
[boardinthecity.co.uk](http://boardinthecity.co.uk)



# A hub could help fix problems raised in the Big Conversation

### CASE STUDY: Community Living Room



Easton Community Hub in Bristol provides space for local organisations, a community cafe, childrens' toys and games, books and local information. Central to the concept is a 'community living room' with additional space which can be booked for private meetings.

#### MORE INFO:

[eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk/our-places/easton-community-centre/](https://eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk/our-places/easton-community-centre/)

### NEWS FROM OUR TIME-TRAVELLING REPORTER IN 2025

A gentle hum of **chatter** rises from the single long table where I notice that **old and young** are in conversation together. A smell of good **coffee** and **fresh bread** drifts over from the community bakery, staffed by an enthusiastic team of **young people** with **learning difficulties**.

A group of **parents** are here collecting some **fruit and veg**, surplus from the **community farm** and local supermarket. Their pre-school children are fully occupied at an **art and craft** table, whilst others enjoy a **story** from a volunteer. Later, they select some favourite **toys** to borrow for the week.

A group of **tourists** burst through the door, confused about where to find places in Poundbury. A volunteer quickly provides a **map**, pointing out the **local businesses** where they should spend their money.

An hour later, two busy-looking people come in and sit at a table to the side of the room. Others begin to sit with them for a few minutes at a time, and I realise they are **local councillors** dealing with **concerns from the public**. Several volunteers of different ages are also welcoming visitors looking for help accessing housing, NHS, council or other support services using the IT equipment supplied by a local business.

I spot the **community noticeboard** and a poster tells that a designated space in the Hub will be busy from 3.30-6 with the **Youth Cafe**, which is managed by young people themselves with mentors. Back in the main hub, a **board games club** from 6.30-9.30pm this evening is already fully booked.

### CASE STUDY: Weymouth Nest



Open and growing since November 2020, The Nest is a community company with shops in Westham and Littlemoor. The shop provides groceries for those on lower incomes, offering a different but complementary type of support to food banks that operate on a referral basis.

Fruit, vegetables and bread are free of charge. For other products, prices are set at £4 or £6 for a fixed number of items (10 or 15).

The Nest aims to tackle food poverty and food waste, and promote healthy eating. The shops are mostly run by a small team of volunteers and stocked with donations from supermarkets and the public.

Hidden behind our windows, some people in Poundbury are struggling to afford the basics. A community food club like Weymouth's Nest could be a useful part of a Community Hub here in Poundbury.

#### MORE INFO:

[thenestweymouth.co.uk](https://thenestweymouth.co.uk)

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## CONTENT WARNING: CONTAINS HOPE

# A greener, healthier Poundbury

This summer, our news feeds have been showing us images of the climate emergency in real time across the globe. In the Big Conversation, people are coming up with positive local solutions which improve our day to day lives at the same time.

Poundbury is held up as an example of sustainable urban development – but is it? People mention good home insulation, a road layout generally designed for walking and cycling, green planting by roads and of course the Great Field, green gas digester, allotments and community farm as things they like. But the Conversation suggests they want to go further by:

- Planting more trees
- Implementing renewable energy and replacing gas boilers
- Reducing car dependency by developing alternative choices
- Making streets safer for people on foot or bike, including to town
- Adding more electric car charging points
- Systems for re-using unwanted but good condition household goods
- Ways to reduce food waste and share good food
- Provision of affordable groceries and basics within walking distance

Some of these ideas may require support of the Duchy, for example making it easier to use solar panels. They may also require council support, such as for faster implementation of plans for cycle lanes.

Damers School pupils in their presentation to the June Community Meeting talked enthusiastically about various eco initiatives that we could adopt on a larger scale.



Damers pupils undertake energy audit

### CASE STUDY: Poundbury's own Great Field



*Miles explains how Poundbury's wildflowers are in fact carefully managed*

The Great Field is, literally, a growing success story of creating nature-rich places on our doorstep, with survey results showing it to be very popular. The park as a whole is felt to be a great place to walk the dog, be outside, exercise, meet your neighbours and allow the kids (of all ages) to let off steam.

Miles King runs the charity People Need Nature, which encourages reconnection with the outdoors to improve mental health. Children from Damers have collected wildflower seeds from Poundbury Fort to create their own wildflower meadow on the Great Field. Miles is now planning the 'Poundbury Nature for Wellbeing' project in partnership with our surgeries' social prescribing work.

Social prescribing is when your medical professional recommends practical steps to improve health, before clinical solutions like medication are prescribed. Arts, exercise, social activities and being in nature can be very effective and save the NHS money too.

The Great Field is also beginning to be used for Dorchester or Dorset events such as the Food Festival and locally organised Art in the Park – all of which get us outside. People we have spoken to say it is a great venue for this kind of community gathering, easier to access than Queen Mother Square and closer to space for children to play.

**MORE INFO:**  
[peopleneednature.org.uk](http://peopleneednature.org.uk)

### Health and environment are linked

Addressing 'green' issues improves our mental and physical health, as the charity People Need Nature are proving in Poundbury. Sometimes people are blamed for their own poor health, when in fact a bigger factor is the way we have designed systems such as food, transport and urban layout. For some, it can feel things are stacked against them.

It seems Poundbury is already ahead of the game on urban design. People Need Nature are leading the way on reconnecting us with our environment. But the Big Conversation suggests there is an appetite to do more to make active travel safer and more attractive for everyone. We could also work to make affordable, healthy food available – within walking distance.



# Community-led solutions for a healthier environment

### CASE STUDY: Community Car Clubs



'There are just too many cars' says a parent navigating their young children to Damers School past vehicles on pavements, speeding racers, reversing cars and a long line of traffic.

Electric cars reduce CO2, but not congestion. Community car clubs might be part of a solution. For a membership fee, and a per-mile charge, you can book and use one of a suite of different cars all parked in designated local spaces, with insurance and breakdown cover included.

Maintenance, MOT and cleaning are managed by either a voluntary group or a company, which affects costs.

'It's a great solution if most of the time your car is parked,' Glenn Storhaug told us. Glenn helps to manage a successful volunteer-led club in Hereford.

'You cut carbon and pollution, save money, reduce parking issues, and get access to a well-maintained car when you need it.'

MORE INFO:  
[stjamescarclub.org](http://stjamescarclub.org)  
[como.org.uk/community-car-sharing](http://como.org.uk/community-car-sharing)

'Electric cars are only part of the answer'



'There are too many cars, but not enough easy alternatives. Community car clubs are a great solution.'



### CASE STUDY: Allotments

Allotments have huge benefits in terms of mental and physical health, and social connections, says charity Thrive, which promotes gardening particularly for people living with disabilities or ill health, or who are isolated, disadvantaged or vulnerable.

Organisers of Poundbury's allotments tell us they have a two year waiting list for the current sites, one in the walled garden next to the Community Farm, and the other close to the fire station.

We are told that a third site is being planned for 2024 at the eastern end of Peninsula Way.

For a time, council houses had to have a garden big enough to feed a family. Can we get back to that sort of provision in time?

MORE INFO:  
[thrive.org.uk](http://thrive.org.uk)  
[nsalg.org.uk/allotment-info/benefits-of-allotment-gardening/](http://nsalg.org.uk/allotment-info/benefits-of-allotment-gardening/)

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# A safer Poundbury

Community safety is not just about policing, although clearly we'd all like crime detection and prosecution rates to improve. The Big Conversation has made clear our community wants to address the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour too.



## Streets for people

To reduce risk of injury and death, lessen air pollution, and to encourage more walking and cycling, a new 20 MPH limit will be assessed soon. If implemented, Poundbury will join all of Scotland, Wales and many English counties in having safer 20mph limits where there are pedestrians. The 20mph Poundbury group told us that whilst enforcement is important, even without it, speeds do reduce.

Parking remains an issue to be worked on, perhaps through signage, enforcement, business support for cycling, walking, bus or car sharing, and by solutions such as community car clubs reducing the need for ownership. Nearly one in five Poundbury households do not have any car at all and rely on safe streets and good public transport.

Reductions in car usage have an impact on accident risk as well as a positive impact on level of CO2 emissions and air pollution - including from tyres.

## Most people feel safe in Poundbury

Generally respondents feel safe and their daily lives do not appear regularly impacted by unwanted behaviour. But in the open question response many people chose to comment unfavourably on:

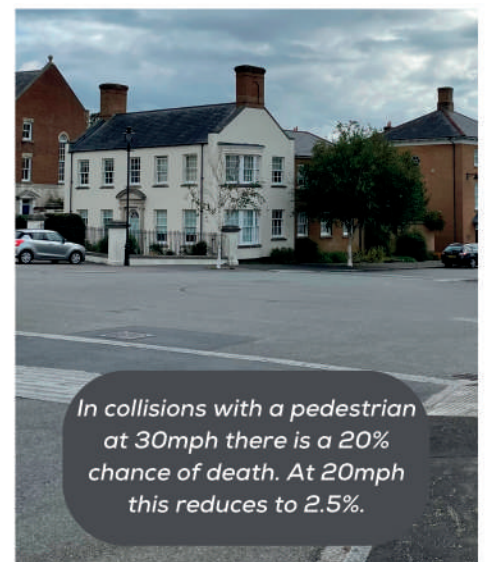
- A minority of dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs, especially in The Great Field
- Areas of litter and waste with rising incidences of cigarette litter and disposable vapes - both of which are pollutants and dangerous
- Examples of vandalism and anti social behaviour in some parts of the neighbourhood
- Examples of excessive speed and noise by a small minority of drivers
- Inconsiderate car parking which pushes children and vulnerable adults into the road, obscures visibility, and prevents emergency access

A small number of respondents blamed specific age or social groups for problems. However, it important to point out that we often do not know who is causing a problem, and should avoid blaming others without evidence as it makes things worse rather than better.

## Litterpicking heroes

The Poundbury community litter pickers do a fantastic job for all of us for which we are hugely grateful. RiskSTOP, a Poundbury based business for 20 years, has their own litter picking group that also goes out and deals with litter close to them.

But there is more that can be done. How do we turn off the pollution at source? Can we support businesses who no longer provide the disposable packaging which then litters our fields and streets? How do we extend the sense of ownership and pride in our community to reduce littering?



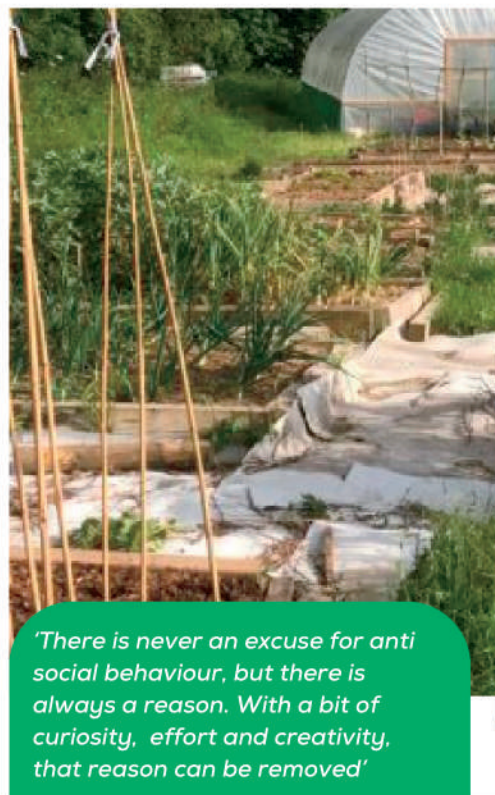


## Giving young people a stake in our community

When commenting on acts of anti-social behaviour, many also point out the lack of facilities and activities for younger people in Poundbury on an ongoing basis. How do we support our young people to feel they have a stake in their local community and take pride in it?

We have spoken to the Dorchester based Youth and Community Centre and they have outreach activities that could be offered more in Poundbury and that a venue would be helpful.

A young peoples' version of the survey, designed by Student Voice at Thomas Hardy School, is underway this term. It will provide helpful insight into young peoples' views of Poundbury and what they would like to see and be involved with in future.



*'There is never an excuse for anti social behaviour, but there is always a reason. With a bit of curiosity, effort and creativity, that reason can be removed'*

### CASE STUDY: Youth Cafes



Poundbury resident Sue Hancock introduced us to the concept of the Youth Cafe and told us about a successful project in Tavistock.

She explained: 'They allowed the young people to design and run their own place, with the support of adult mentors. These young people showed they were capable of running a safe place for themselves and their peers'.

Sue adds: 'The same ethos has worked well at Dorchester Skate Park. Designed by a committee of young people, and committed to zero-graffiti, it shows that if you give people responsibility they tend to respect what they have been given.'

More info:  
[tavistockyouthcafe.com](http://tavistockyouthcafe.com)  
[thirstcafe.com](http://thirstcafe.com)

We've spoken with Jake, the Manager of a similar concept called Thirst Youth Cafe in Bishop Stortford. The only adults allowed are staff and carefully trained volunteers.

It provides up to 70 young people at a time somewhere safe, affordable and sociable to be 5, afternoons a week. Local anti-social behaviour reduces as young people have something to do, somewhere to be, and can discover the positive roles they can play in their own community. Jake adds 'It works because the young people feel a sense of ownership.'

What goes on?

- Arts and crafts
- Cooking and cafe
- Music and games
- Outdoor activities and visits
- Lots more - led by young people with mentor support

### CASE STUDY: Dorchester Community Farm

Dorset's own Future Roots programme, and the network of Jamie's Farms, are examples of providing children with a safe and inspiring environment when they struggle in traditional education. These schemes report excellent results as young people reconnect with outdoors, learn practical skills and develop their confidence.

On a smaller community-led scale, here in Poundbury we have a Community Farm which could produce even more healthy and affordable local food if it had more volunteers.

In conversations as part of the survey, questions have been asked including: 'What are we not joining up here? Could we set up a scheme where young people work on the farm, building their confidence and skills, provide produce to our food club in the hub, and gain a real sense of ownership of this process?'

'Food for thought'.

More info:  
[futeruroots.net](http://futeruroots.net)  
[jamiesfarm.org.uk](http://jamiesfarm.org.uk)  
[transitiontowndorchester.org](http://transitiontowndorchester.org)

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## From a Residents to a Community Association

It seems clear that residents and businesses share a common community agenda. But it can sometimes feel that issues, information and organisations are not joined up. Could we rethink how we are set up to effectively deliver the best ideas coming out of the Big Conversation?

We share the overall space, public services and the roads. Many live and work in Poundbury, others commute here. Younger children will attend Damers First School.

Residents, businesses and local organisations rely on each other in different ways. Residents want to see a thriving set of shops and social spaces offering choice, affordable products and services, and good access. They need to know about them. Retail business needs a decent footfall and demand, to survive and thrive. They want visibility and promotion to the local community and beyond.

Organisations based here need an attractive working environment to make sure they can recruit the skills and numbers that they need to fill offices and work spaces.

So issues like travel options, parking, access to green space, shops and services are all important. There are things that residents and organisations can share, like facilities and skills.

There is no one forum that brings these issues together and where joint decisions might be taken on how best to preserve what works well and improve what does not.

Our visit to Nansledan near Newquay, and discussions with residents and managers in Tornagrain, Inverness, opened our eyes to the benefit of re-shaping the current Residents' Association into a broader based Community Association comprising residents, businesses and organisations, with the potential for involvement of those who live close by but feel part of this community.

### CASE STUDIES: Nansledan and Tornagrain



Tornagrain, Inverness

Nansledan is a newer and bigger version of Poundbury near Newquay in Cornwall. Like Poundbury, it is on land owned and developed by the Duchy of Cornwall. To be twice the size of Poundbury when complete, it has updated the Poundbury concept, with two key differences being block paving instead of grit, and a single 'market street' for retail.

Tornagrain, close to Inverness, is designed by the same architect as Poundbury but is owned by Moray Estates. It is earlier in development than either Poundbury or Nansledan. It has a similar feel but with a Scottish twist, again with a single high street. However, where Poundbury and Nansledan are extensions to existing towns, Tornagrain is an entirely separate new town in countryside.

Both developments have established Community Associations from the start which involve businesses and local organisations too. They focus on community development in addition to issues relating to being a resident, such as the buildings.

Both associations are registered charities which makes it easier to fund and manage bigger community projects.

**MORE INFO:**  
[nansledancommunity.org](http://nansledancommunity.org)  
[tornagraincommunity.org](http://tornagraincommunity.org)



### NANSELEDAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

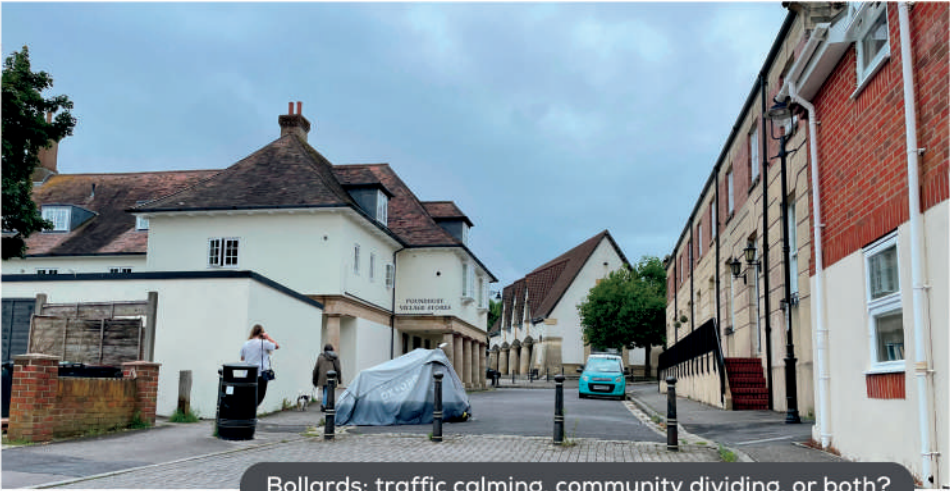
A COMMUNITY WITH CHARACTER

*'[Nansledan Community Association] has a vision to create a mixed community of neighbours and businesses within Nansledan, working together to achieve an inspiring quality of life. A community that is considered by residents to be a desirable place in which to live and enjoy the benefits of family, friends, and community.'*

Nansledan Community Association vision statement



# Poundbury, Dorchester?



Bollards: traffic calming, community dividing, or both?

Are we an 'urban extension' of Dorchester or a separate place? How much should Poundbury have its own facilities and how much should we share with the whole town? Whilst not a main part of the survey questioning, these issues came up quite often in discussion.

Whilst the signs welcome us to Dorchester, the architecture and the Duchy bollards show a division. We also have a political boundary - the council ward of Poundbury.

The fact that so many people have moved here from around the UK, rather than only Dorset, as well as the architecture, can make it feel different to other parts of Dorchester, from where some negative views of Poundbury have been expressed.

Most Poundbury residents have very positive views of Dorchester and want Poundbury to be seen as integral to the town just as areas like Fordington and Manor Park already are.

'We use the Great Field and my children go to the school. I want to feel part of this community and would get involved in a new community association if it was open to us.'

*Resident of 'old' Poundbury (behind the doctors' surgeries)*

We've spoken to people who live in west Dorchester, but outside the new development, who regularly use Poundbury facilities like the school, cafes and field. They told us that they would like to feel part of our community, but don't at the moment. The current Association only allows membership for those resident within the Duchy boundary. When building work stops, is this a division we think is still useful?

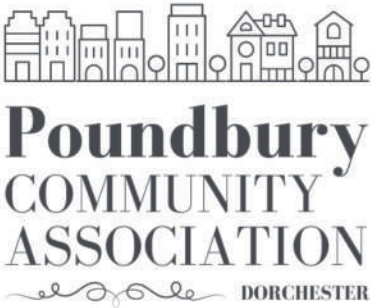
So, in thinking about community development, do we need to review our relationship with 'Dorchester'? Most people we have spoken to want greater integration with the main town and for those outside the new development to feel welcome here. A new Community Association would need to work effectively as part of the wider local system and build partnerships with a wide range of organisations.

## Where does the Big Conversation leave us?

The Big Conversation has made lots of us think about our community in new ways. We've found out what we value as well as issues lurking behind the surface which need tackling. There are things to learn from and improve for all organisations here - including the current Residents' Association - and if everyone pulls together we think we can do good things.

What do you think should be on our radar going forward?

Which projects would you support? Are there any that especially interest you? Might you consider volunteering some of your skills for something specific?



### Emerging priorities

1. A re-shaped Community Association as a registered charity, democratically organised and accountable, and better able to secure funding and manage projects, volunteers and staff
2. Detailed discussions with partners on developing a shared community hub
3. Improve database and promotion of services, groups, facilities and offers
4. Use our community facilities to offer a greater range of social events, bringing people together
5. Working with others on how we can improve road safety, street environments and provide more travel choices
6. Planning how we build a greener, healthier and more affordable Poundbury

See the full results at:  
[lovepoundbury.org/bigconversation](http://lovepoundbury.org/bigconversation)

Get in touch by emailing  
[bigconversation@lovepoundbury.org](mailto:bigconversation@lovepoundbury.org)

**NO 'THEM AND US'. WE ARE ALL 'US'.**

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# So what's next and how could I be involved?

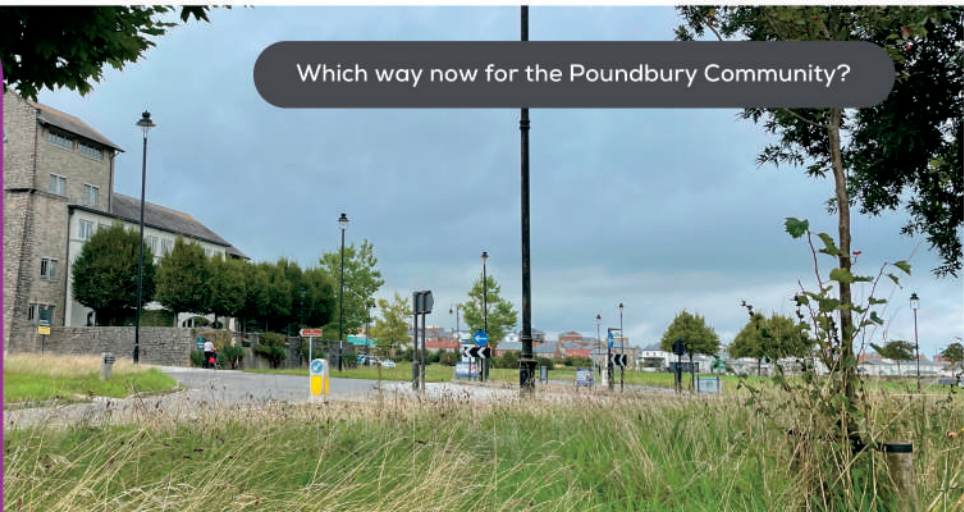
## Over to you

This paper simply highlights options, none of which will happen by magic, and some of which may not be supported. Nothing will happen unless we make it happen.

Do you have skills which you might consider sharing? We're particularly looking for the following, but if you have a different skill and idea, do let us know!

- Charity governance and admin
- Volunteer management and safeguarding
- Fundraising and grants
- Setting up or managing a venue - cafe, community space etc
- Data collation
- Wordpress and graphic design
- Writing and editing
- Partnership and business development
- Managing and promoting social or business events and befriending people
- Community campaigns
- Car clubs
- Renewable energy, energy efficiency advice
- Practical skills such as repairs
- Food clubs or community fridges

These are exciting times to get involved and make a difference.



Which way now for the Poundbury Community?

## Keep in touch

Sign up for our weekly Community e-news at [lovepoundbury.org/news/](http://lovepoundbury.org/news/)



What do you think of the Big Conversation results? How do you feel about this newspaper?  
Share your thoughts by emailing [bigconversation@lovepoundbury.org](mailto:bigconversation@lovepoundbury.org)



## Community Meeting: 10th October

We'll be continuing the Conversation next at our Community Meeting on 10th October, 6.30pm at Damers School. We'll summarise the results and open the discussion on what the community would like the priorities to be.

All welcome - but please book so that we can ensure adequate seating: [www.lovepoundbury.org/bigconversation](http://www.lovepoundbury.org/bigconversation). If we run out of space, or lots of people email us asking for a daytime or weekend option, we can arrange that too. If you can't come, but would like to make a suggestion, ask about volunteering, or just want to find out more, email us on [bigconversation@lovepoundbury.org](mailto:bigconversation@lovepoundbury.org)

Thank you for reading, and to all those who have taken part already.

Big Poundbury Conversation Volunteer Team - September 2023



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