

# TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Full Parish Council Meeting | Wednesday 11 March 2026

## TPPC response to Wild Beaver Release consultation

Minute reference: 26/03-12.ii

- 1. How did you hear about this proposed project? (choose one)**  
Other – through Toller Porcorum Parish Council and local involvement
- 2. What is your connection to the proposed project area? (tick all that apply)**  
Public body
- 3. Postcode (first 4 characters e.g. DT1 2)**  
DT2 0
- 4. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide details (name and role)**  
Toller Porcorum Parish Council
- 5. How do you feel about a potential beaver reintroduction in the River Hooke & wider River Frome Catchment area in Dorset?**  
Completely supportive
- 6. Please explain your answer to question 5**  
The council is in complete support of reintroducing beavers, a native species, to the wild. Beavers will be good for biodiversity and will provide natural management of water levels which could help with extreme flooding events in the future.
- 7. What benefits do you believe a beaver reintroduction could bring to the proposed area? (tick all that apply)**  
Biodiversity & nature | Climate change resilience (e.g. help with flooding/drought)  
Water quality | Fisheries | Farming | Connecting people with nature | Ecotourism
- 8. Please explain your answer to question 7. Is there a specific area or location within the catchment where you could see benefits being created?**  
Natural management of water levels by beavers could help with extreme flooding and support local flood defences already in place. The council believes there would be a benefit in reducing flooding to the parish of Toller Porcorum and both up and downstream of the parish if beavers are released in the River Hooke catchment.
- 9. What potential challenges do you believe a beaver reintroduction could bring to the proposed area? (tick all that apply)**  
Fisheries | Farming
- 10. Please explain your answer to question 9. Is there a specific area or location within the catchment where you see challenges arising?**  
While the council is concerned with the parish of Toller Porcorum and surrounding areas, it can see challenges arising from the farming community, not just locally but around other proposed release sites. Many rivers considered for wild release flow through productive farmland and exactly how this land will or could be affected is unknown and land agents may object.  
  
The council believes that any wild releases will require a high level of monitoring to ensure farmland remains productive. An open, honest and easy to access communication structure is vital to raise, discuss and alleviate concerns throughout the programme.
- 11. The Dorset Beaver Management Group is already set up to provide information, advice and support to communities living alongside beavers in Dorset:**  
<https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/dorset-beaver-management-group>.  
Yes

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**12. Does knowing about the presence of this support group help address any concerns you might have?**

Yes

**13. Please explain your answer to question 12**

The parish of Toller Porcorum is downstream from the captive release site on the River Hooke. The council and community organisations have hosted presentations from Dorset Wildlife Trust in the parish in recent years with the council and some residents very aware of the Dorset Beaver Management Group and the work it does.

Based on this past experience, the council believes the group is well placed to deliver a communication structure to ensure all those with concerns and interests are kept up to date with knowledge and facts.

**14. Would you like to be kept informed about the project in the future? If yes, please provide your name and email address below.**

By providing your contact details, you consent to being contacted by Dorset Wildlife Trust about beavers, conservation, fundraising, news and other activities by email. Your information will be stored securely and you can withdraw your consent at any time. Your information will be stored securely and you can withdraw your consent at any time.

No

**15. Would you be interested in taking part in local monitoring, if beavers were one day present in the area? (e.g. beaver surveys, wildlife/habitat surveys, water level checks)**

No

**16. Additional comments. Please tell us about anything else you would like us to be aware of or to take into consideration?**

Having seen the positive impacts of the captive release of beavers upstream from the parish of Toller Porcorum, the council supports expanding the programme to wild releases across the county.

The council wonders how wild releases are to be monitored and how beaver populations will be tracked in an unenclosed environment. This information does not seem to be available.