

Donna Curtis
Notes on 5 min Talk
on Inquiry Day 3rd
March 2020
Climate Emergency
Dorset

Frank LLyod Wright

“Study nature, love
nature, stay close to
nature, it will never
fail you”

I would add, we
already have and will
continue to fail
“nature”, and
ourselves,

if we don't take that
sage advice from
one of the most
brilliant and revered
of architects.

Introduction to
myself, I am just a
mother and
grandmother, and I

am not sure why I
have been invited
here. I am no expert,
but I am passionate
about the health of
wildlife, people and
our responsibility to
this beautiful planet.

I want to talk very
briefly about two
ideas that may be
taken seriously, they
may be seen as
crazy or hippeeish,
or in fact brilliant!!,
and why shouldn't
Dorset aspire to be
brilliant? More

brilliant than it
already is!

I have raised my
children, to respect
nature and other
people, to respect
we are part of a
wider environment,
showing them how

we don't steamroller
over others, or
indeed nature to get
what we think we
need or just plain
want. But as a
human collective
that's what we often
do isn't it ?

Steamroll over the
environment?

That is what we have
been doing isn't it?.

What are now more
well known
practises, such as
food fostery,
agroforestry,

permaculture,
rewilding, etc has
always been part of
my garden design
passion. It just made
sense to me even 30
years ago when I
had my first tiny
garden space, to
grow plants that not

only served me, but
gave back to the
natural world at the
same time.

Wherever I have
lived, in my 50 years
on this planet, I have
given to finding
unused or neglected

spaces and growing
plants there. From
large unused
agricultural fields, in
sussex and the
current $\frac{1}{2}$ acre plot I
am transforming into
a thriving food
productive and
wildlife rich land

owner in Charmouth,
not for money but to
do something to
increase the
biodiversity, and to
make the space
productive for the
people that live close
by.

Over the years I
have convinced
friends to let me
loose on their
unused outside and
indoor spaces, on
even tiny courtyards,
to create biodiversity
and health.

Whether in my own
home or a rented
space, I have
needed to plant, to
give to nature, as I
realise how much it
has nourished the
wildlife that move in
and share the space,
with me.and how in

turn that nourishes
me.

In my work as a
psychotherapist over
22 years, I have
seen more and more
the connection
between the
devaluing of the

natural world, and
the increase in poor
mental health. Can
we see this
emergency
declaration as an
opportunity to
rebuild, health,
housing and our
natural environment?

To declare a
commitment to
nourish people and
the planet?

I appreciate there is
link to the decline for
many in their mental

emotional health and
that of our
environment.

since I was in my
early 20's (erm 50
now), I never
understood why the
nature around us
wasn't more valued

and respected, why
we built
infrastructural
spaces and buildings
that did not shared
with nature, not just
given a polite nod.

I know there is a
climate emergency,
a mental health

emergency and a
housing emergency.

These emergencies
need us to embrace
new and incredible
changes within
decision making.

Because they are all
linked, all connected.

I am wondering what
would happen if
Dorset decided to
take some advice
from Frank LLoyd
Wright with regards
to planning laws.

Incorporating
Biophilic design, the

art of creating a
shared space with
nature, not clearing it
entirely, save for the
odd Rowan tree
plonked down or
some poor nod to a
shrub, to make way
for what we need.

It might be radical
but we need radical.
You may not like that
language, and I
appreciate that.

If we continue to
adopt a steamrolling,
dominating position
when it comes to

building homes,
workplaces and
infrastructure, we will
fail nature and
ourselves, if i dont
speak up I will fail
my children and my
grandson.

In both my
professional and
personal life I have
had the opportunity
to appreciate that
change, on the
whole, is a scary
dynamic for us
humans, often, and
can lead to

stagnation or indeed
panic, or both.

Or, change, can
create space for
bravery, to face
needed changes
with trust and
openness,
connection with each

other and pioneer
strong direction.

What if nothing was
built from this day on
in Dorset without
Biophilic Design
being the only base
blueprint, what would
happen?

Do you think that
would have an
incredible impact on
the increase of
biodiversity, and on
the wellbeing of
everyone in this
stunning county?

Do you think you
would be seen as or
called potty, radical?
or daring, serious
and brave?

Looking to the open
countryside, I
wanted to wonder
with you about ONE

PLANET
DEVELOPMENT
what would stand in
the way of Dorset
embracing One
Planet Development
Framework
applications?

A proven and
quantified template
for those people
wishing to make an
enormous difference
for people to benefit
from thoughtfully
grown. Local food,
whilst robustly and
vastly reducing their

personal footprint, at
the same time as
helping to reduce the
footprint of a village,
town, city?

OPD simply put is

quantified by ecological footprinting, which reveals how much of the Earth's resources people are consuming. When households reduce their own ecological footprints this helps their country reduce its overall footprint.

The One Planet Council provides a bridge between applicants and local planning authorities, with guidance and tools to support anyone making the transition to this more sustainable way of life. It works also with those who have already made that leap, and with policymakers, academics and landowners.

The aim of the One Planet Council is to enable a broad range of exemplar One Planet Development projects throughout the world, comprised of people from all walks of life. And to see these sites serve as an inspiration to all.

OPD farms have
been adopted world
wide as more people
realise the need to
ensure people from
all walks of life have

access to higher
quality, organic, local
food supply, whilst
creating and
increasing
biodiversity and
lowering personal,
professional, global
carbon footprints.

A framework that
has been embraced
by the Welsh
government.

OPD has a viable
framework which
could help vastly
improve the way
residents and visitors

to Dorset access
fantastic food, as
well as encouraging
all manner of
experienced land
workers, or
passionate younger
people wanting to
learn how to create,
highly productive,

low impact market
farms.

Closing off the
countryside and
sticking a load of
trees in without
thinking, is naive. Or
panicking that you
need to build a shed

load of homes and
double quick, never
mind the cost to the
environment, is not
going to help\ this
emergency.

But thinking about
how we produce
food, housing, and

wellbeing for people
alongside and
including the natural
world will.

There is an
opportunity right
now, for Dorset as a
county, to be truly
brilliant!!. More

brilliant than you
already are!

We could come
together and Adopt a
“US AND THEM”
NOT an “US OR
THEM” attitude in all
of the counties
environmentally

sensitive decisions.

“Them” being all the precious organisms, animals, food plants and fauna that share our environment with

end

More info check out :

One Planet Development (Wales)

Agroforestry

Food Fostery - Martin Crawford
(Devon)

Permaculture

Biophilic Design in Architecture

Charles Dowling - no dig