

Waste Collection

We recognise that waste collection has been poor in some parts of the ward. Part of your council tax pays for your bins and recycling to be collected every week and that hasn't been happening consistently of late out of the Purbeck depot at Wareham. So, we have made it very clear that we aren't happy about it. We've spoken to the Cabinet member responsible for this area who has done a huge amount of work on our local depot and put an improvement plan in place. There's no reflection on any particular staff, they do an good job, it's just circumstances that have led to services being less than what we would want for our residents. We will be checking in with this improvement plan in four weeks to see what progress has been made and reporting back to you.

Please do keep us up to speed on how it's going during that time so we can feed it back. Thank you for your patience. Things do go wrong and it's up to us to help to resolve it.

Traffic Survey Equipment

Whilst this item refers specifically to Bere Regis it applies all across our ward. I was asked by a concerned resident why a traffic monitoring strip had been put across North Street in Bere Regis and what was it was hoping to find. I enquired of our Highways department and found out that not only had DC not installed it but that the installer had not applied for a license (it is after all your road!) and had not therefore paid a license fee. They were subsequently removed and the applicant is now in the process of applying for a license to put one in North Street and West Street, with the corresponding payment. I am sure it just slipped their mind. If Dorset Council install a strip I can find out the reason but private developers or landowners don't have to give us their reasons – just their money! So if anyone sees a strip being laid down feel free to contact me and if it is Dorset Council I will find out what it is for and if it is someone else we can all help to defray our Council Tax by ensuring they have a paid up license and that it will be installed correctly and safely! I learn something new every month.

Dorset Local Plan Review

The consultation of the Dorset Council Local Plan has been scrutinised by a working group of elected councillors that is making sure that the project keeps to its objectives

The executive advisory panel (EAP) looking into this is a working group of elected councillors, supported by officers that were tasked by Dorset Council's Cabinet to focus on areas of work to make sure that it is carried out according to the council's priorities. Any recommendations that the group makes have to be agreed by the council's Cabinet.

The first consultation for the Dorset Council Local Plan took place earlier this year and received over 60,000 comments via the web form, posted paper copies or via email, around 7,000 individuals responded. There was a good cross section of residents from all age groups, from 11 years old to 85 years old. All the comments are being considered within the framework set by National Planning Policy which informs all planning decisions. We aim to publish the comments on the consultation in July. A reminder of the current nine stage timetable.

Stages 1 to 3, prepare a consultation plan from previous work and gathered evidence. Consultation January 2021 – Complete. Stage 4, review the consultation responses, gather the necessary evidence and review the local plan March 2021 to January 2022 –

underway. Stages 5 and 6 prepare the submission version of the plan and supporting material and submit to the Secretary of State for examination in public May to October 2022. Stages 7 and 8 public examination by planning inspector 2022/2023. Stage 9, plan is adopted and used as part of the development plan 2023

Dorchester Road Wool - Roadworks

Between 20th July and 9th August 2021, Dorchester Road in Wool is scheduled for surface dressing. This will form a rolling programme that is weather dependent and may change if a major roads issue occurs elsewhere. For safety reasons, work will be carried out under a temporary speed restriction of 10mph and convoy working. During the work periods there will be no on street parking available. Parking restrictions will be imposed to prevent waiting or parking on the road. Working times will be between the hours of 7am and 5pm, works will not take place at night or over the weekend. Where we know of school transport, we will ensure this is able to pass through the site or alter working hours accordingly. Businesses and local farms affected by the works will also be notified two weeks before work starts.

Purbeck Transport Strategy

There is a review of the strategy being undertaken. I show below one minor part of it relating to cycleway and pedestrian schemes that are being actively progressed via developer funding or other local input:

Wool – East Burton Road footway and traffic management.
Lytchett Matravers - Huntick Road Cycleway and related activity.
Norden P&R to Corfe Castle cycleway/pedestrian link (with Perenco funding).
Norden to Studland cycleway (with Perenco funding).
Corfe Castle – A351 upgrade signalised crossing near primary school.
Swanage – improving pedestrian link from Ulwell Road to Northbrook Road and Primary School via Days Park.
Wareham - pedestrian and cycle link via A351 over bridge.

Town & Parish Councils to receive Developer Contributions

Dorset Council has agreed a protocol that will allow Section 106 funds from developers to be transferred to town and parish councils and community groups to spend on agreed community facilities. Section 106 funding is a legal agreement between developers and planning authority (Dorset Council). It is used to make a development acceptable in planning terms where it would otherwise be undesirable. It is based on the specific needs of the local community and can be used for facilities such as village halls, schools, or for affordable housing and roads. Any money that is transferred will be the responsibility of the council or community group to manage. These funds, usually, must be spent within 10 years of receipt and, if not, the funds may be returned to the developer.

Police meeting re the management of visitors

Laura and I are holding regular meetings with the Police, landowners, Highways, Traffic Officers and others to review the arrangements for handling visitors in the hotspot areas in our ward - particularly in Lulworth. The meeting is chaired by a Senior Officer within the Police and Parish Councils have provided significant input to these meetings. The summary minutes from our June meeting is below.

1. The emergency response appeared to go relatively well and was received well within the community. Social media seems unusually complimentary.

2. Any negativity appears to have been focused on the need for a fence, which has been unfortunately fed by a Daily Mail article giving large amounts of detail.
3. Police radio and mobile communication was poor on the beach, meaning that commanders couldn't get reliable updates. In the interim, we are looking into police borrowing the estate radio for incidents like this (it would have to be located in the info point). Longer term, I've been made aware of a 5G plan for coverage in the coastal margins. This would be immensely helpful for all emergency services and would support our airwave (the radios we currently use) replacement which is mobile data-based.
4. The Police have been in touch with DWFRS, Coastguard and SWAST and have invited them to future Working Group meetings.
5. Roads are slightly busier than a 'normal' (pre-covid) year, but the system is coping. No vehicles have yet been towed-away, but the facility is there if required
6. The police have patrols frequently in the area, and it is a 'priority location' for staff on overtime shifts at the weekends. However demand on Dorset Police has been much less in this area than last year. Only 5 incidents of interest so far since April.
7. The Estate reports much less rubbish (1-4 bags rather than 200) compared to the equivalent time last year. Some BBQs confiscated from visitors, but very few and the roadside banners and signs appear to have had an effect.

Overall, community tension is lower, but has the potential to spike if we have further serious incidents. We're all doing what we can, and it's important that residents and visitors know this. We will hold a further meeting in August if there are significant additional problems otherwise, we will be holding a wash up meeting in September/October.

Working Together protocol with Town and Parish Councils

We are currently working with the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DATPC) to prepare and provide clarity on how Dorset Council and Town & Parish Councils will work together positively to deliver services locally while respecting mutual rights as separate and sovereign democratic bodies. When this is complete, I will publish the complete document.

Climate Change Progress

Dorset has been cited as a national leader in council climate change and ecological policies. Councillors have recently been told of how Dorset Council is to spend a £19 million government grant to reduce its carbon footprint – initially with 35 projects, which could be expanded later to 50. These mainly involve council buildings, schools and other assets and this equates to more than £50 per head for Dorset's population, well ahead of the amounts given to other councils on a per capita basis. In Greater Manchester where the Government grant was highest overall it worked out at £28 per head and in Kent, £14 per head. Design work is now underway on decarbonisation work for 35 council sites including County Hall, education and leisure centres, with another 15 sites likely to be included later. The work was based mainly around heating systems and would include a move towards 'greener' methods including air and ground source systems, improving building efficiency through insulation and generating local energy where possible. All will be subject to ongoing evaluation by government as the council will have to spend the money by January 2022.

St Mary's School – Approval to become a new SEND School and a centre of Excellence

I am delighted to report that we now have approval for this to be a Special Educational Needs establishment (SEND) as a centre of Excellence within Dorset. Children attending St Mary's will be from all areas in Dorset. Many children with special needs are unable to access the support they require to develop and are placed in schools outside Dorset. Each out of county

place costs £60,000 on average but placements within Dorset are a third of that cost, making it more economical in the long term. A third of the children currently needing a SEND place live within a 45-minute drive of Shaftesbury.

Cultural Strategy

An outline cultural strategy has been developed and it is available to view on the Dorset Council website. The culture sector encompasses organisations, freelancers, artists and creatives, public venues, institutions, and activities. For this strategy, this includes: – Performing arts including dance, music, comedy and theatre; Visual arts, design, craft and makers; Digital media and film; Museums, collections and archives; Libraries, literature, writing and publishing; The natural, historic and built environment; Cultural tourism, locally produced food and drink, outdoor festivals and attractions. Amateur and voluntary run arts for example fetes, carnivals and knitting circles. The next steps will be to conduct further research and develop delivery plans and a framework to make sure all communities in Dorset can benefit from the strategy where we can help. This will help us when applying for grants for new investment into Dorset and to maximise the leverage value of the council's own investment in arts, heritage and culture.

Reduced Rail Provision

Below is a summary of a letter we recently sent to the Transport Minister expressing our concerns about the much-reduced rail service in Dorset provided by South Western Railway.

Prior to the pandemic we had 2 trains per hour (tph) running between Weymouth and Waterloo, one fast, one stopping. During the pandemic this was reduced to 1 tph plus a shuttle between Weymouth and Bournemouth to allow connection to other services. This has now been reduced to 1 tph between Weymouth & Waterloo. We are sympathetic to this as a temporary measure whilst the rail industry recovers after what has been a period of turbulence in unprecedented times, however we do not consider it to be appropriate or acceptable in the longer term. This summer we are anticipating higher than usual levels of tourism in Dorset as the government promotes and encourages holidaying in the UK this year. We are concerned that the reduced rail service will mean that more tourists will resort to travelling to Dorset by car, something that does not match with the national commitment to reducing traffic in both the Dorset Council area and across the country. As a matter of urgency, we would ask you to reconsider the current plans and to reinstate the two trains per hour as soon as possible

Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission for England has recently published its initial proposals for new constituency boundaries. The proposals and maps for the nine English regions have been published on their website today. The eight-week public consultation period has commenced. This will be the first time the public will get a chance to see what their new constituencies might look like and give the Commission their views on the proposals.

For the 2023 Review, the Commission is promoting use of a specifically-designed consultation website as the primary tool for displaying our proposals, and receiving comments on them. This is available at www.bcereviews.org.uk. If you have any queries please contact the Commission team on 020 7276 1102, or information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk

Surgery

We are not holding face to face meetings for the moment. However, we would be more than delighted to talk to you on the telephone or via Zoom. Please ring or email us with the subject matter so that we can prepare ourselves. Peter's email address is peterwharf@hotmail.com

telephone 07986 600799 and Laura's is clrlaura.miller@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk telephone 07814 569563.

Peter Wharf & Laura Miller, Dorset Councillors for West Purbeck