

NOTES on the **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
TIME held on **MONDAY, 29th MARCH 2004**
in the Town Hall, Swanage at 7 o'clock p.m.

In addition to Members of the Council and officers,
19 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Councillor Miller (Town Mayor) welcomed those present, and invited questions from the audience.

MR. J. WOOTTON enquired whether consideration had been given to setting up a Joint Committee with neighbouring parish councils i.e. Langton Matravers, Worth Matravers, and Studland, whereby matters affecting all parishes could be considered at a joint meeting. The **TOWN MAYOR** explained the role of the Swanage Town and Community Partnership in this regard, and the composition of the Partnership, which comprised of representatives from all sections of the extended community (including neighbouring parishes).. A government grant of £5,000 had been awarded to the Partnership towards the cost of preparing a "Parish Plan", which would set out the aims and projects for the parish in the future. The Crime and Disorder Partnership also encompassed the neighbouring parishes.

MR. VANDEZANDE expressed his concern for the safety of pedestrians on Shore Road due to the increased drop from the pavement to the beach caused by the erosion of the sand, and enquired whether railings could be erected as a safety measure. He was informed by the **TOWN CLERK** that this risk had been identified and assessed. The risk was deemed to be so "obvious", similar to the area leading to the Stone Quay, that it was an individual's duty of care to take reasonable precautions in such instances.

MR. ROBERTS referred to the development of private beach huts at North Beach, and the subsequent restriction of the footpath along the sea wall. The **TOWN MAYOR** explained that the wall was not deemed to be a public footpath, but part of the sea defences, and that the land to which he referred was in private ownership.

MR. B. KNOWLES requested that consideration be given to the introduction of concessions for local residents, with particular mention of the car parks during the winter period.

MR. R. OWEN expressed his concern at the lack of police presence in the town, and the incidents of anti-social behaviour/vandalism that were occurring during the early hours of the morning. The **TOWN MAYOR** acknowledged the difficulties that were being experienced, and explained that the CCTV system was currently being upgraded and additional cameras introduced as a deterrent to such behaviour, with the aid of a £5,000 contribution from the Crime and Disorder Partnership.

Other items mentioned were:-

Parish Slipway
Traffic Flow - Church Hill
