



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
Swanage Town & Community Partnership
held at The Town Hall, Swanage on
WEDNESDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER 2016 @ 3.30 p.m.**

Present:

Kim Gallagher, Chairman ST&CP
Councillor Mike Bonfield, Swanage Town Council; Vice Chairman ST&CP
Martin Ayres, Town Clerk, Swanage Town Council; Honorary Treasurer ST&CP
Councillor John Bishop, Swanage Town Council
Peter Bowyer, Studland Parish Council
Robin Brasher, Isle of Purbeck Model Railway Group; Swanage Walking Group
Colin Brixton, CPRE; Photographic Society; Purbeck Society
Niki Clark, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council
Collette Drayson, Langton Parish Council
Collete Ford, Swanage Children's Centre
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Laurence Gloyn-Cox, Swanage Coastal Change Forum; Probus 2
Neil Hardy, Swanage RNLI
Dave Morton, Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme; Swanage Youth Centre
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre
Sarah Randall, Swanage Library
Carl Styants, Education Swanage; The Swanage School
Mark Watson, Swanage & Herston Football Club

Also in attendance:

Mrs Sandra Brown, Dorset and East Devon National Park Proposal Team (until 4.20 p.m.)
Mr Benjamin Webb, Design and Conservation Officer, Purbeck District Council (until 4.00 p.m.)

There were no members of the public present.

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Mrs Kim Gallagher, welcomed all Partners to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Mr David Bale (Mowlem Institute Charity), Councillor Caroline Finch (STC & Chamber of Trade), Mr Rob Foster (WAVE Kids), Mrs Jean Gibbs (SADFC), and Mrs Di McLaughlin (NHS Dorset CCG).

3. Conservation Areas and Local Listing – presentation Mr Benjamin Webb, Design and Conservation Officer, Purbeck District Council

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr Ben Webb to the meeting.

A presentation on the local Conservation Areas, what they entailed, and the impending review

of the areas, was given by Mr Webb, and this was followed by a question and answer opportunity for Partners. It was noted that Swanage was one of the areas currently listed as 'at risk'.

It was reported that regular reviews of the areas were required, and discussions were ongoing with Historic England, the public body that looked after England's historic environment. Concerns had been raised regarding the loss of detail/unsympathetic changes to the Victorian character/heritage of the town (e.g. windows, doors, shop fronts, and the loss of Purbeck Stone walls and gardens), and the next step would be a review of the areas deemed to be 'at risk'.

An explanation of local listing (the identification and designation of heritage assets) was given, and details of the 'Oxford Criteria' were provided, which was a document/system used to nominate/register a heritage asset, and set out the criteria required. A copy of this document would be sent round to Partners for information purposes. However, if anyone felt that a building/feature should be considered for listing, then contact should be made with the District Council who would refer the matter to the Conservation Area Advisory Panel if appropriate.

Mr Webb also discussed the possibility of producing a local 'management plan' with community involvement, and comments were again made that the Purbeck Society was keen to be involved with the Local Listing & Conservation Areas Working Group/had expressed an interest in leading the review locally, and that the ST&CP was willing to include this as a community 'project' in the future.

The Chairman thanked Mr Webb for the enlightening presentation, and for taking the time to answer Partners' questions.

Mr Webb left the meeting at 4.00 p.m.

4. Dorset and East Devon (D&ED) National Park Proposal – presentation from Mrs Sandra Brown, National Park Proposal Team Member

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mrs Sandra Brown to the meeting.

A presentation on the D&ED National Park proposal was given by Mrs Brown. It was reported that the aim of the Proposal Team was 'to secure National Park designation for the outstanding and internationally important landscapes of Dorset and East Devon'. It was felt that National Park status would restore and improve the economic value of the environment, and had three purposes:

- To conserve and enhance the natural environment and heritage
- To promote enjoyment and understanding
- To foster the economic and social wellbeing of communities

Based on evidence from the South Downs National Park, it was estimated that the D&ED National Park would bring in additional funding of around £10m p.a. from central government. Working in partnership with local people, and the Local Enterprise Partnership, it was reported that the National Park Authority would invest and spend resources to benefit the local economy. It was further reported that National Parks had a good track record in promoting the provision of affordable homes, and keeping such homes affordable and available for local people.

Comments were made that local residents were excited about the proposal. However, it was noted that it could take five to six years to establish a new D&ED National Park, and that such a timescale would allow expected governmental changes (devolution) for Dorset to 'bed down'.

If Partners had any questions, required further information, or would be willing to assist the Team in any way, contact could be made through the 'Contact Us' page of the D&ED National Park Team website: <https://dorsetandeastdevonnationalpark.wordpress.com/>

The Chairman thanked Mrs Brown for the informative presentation, and for taking the time to answer Partners' questions.

Mrs Brown left the meeting at 4.20 p.m.

5. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th June 2016

Proposed that these were a true record by Councillor Mike Bonfield, seconded by Mr Bob Foster and agreed unanimously.

6. Matters Arising

There were no matters raised.

7. Swanage2027 (S2027) – update

Minutes of the S2027 Committee Meeting held on 18th May 2016 had been circulated to Partners for information purposes. A further meeting had been held on 7th September 2016, and a brief overview of the meeting was given. A copy of the minutes of the meeting would be provided to Partners at the next ST&CP Quarterly Meeting in December.

A brief update was also given on the Theme Advisory Groups, and actions taken to date.

8. Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust (S&PDT) – update

It was reported that Membership of the Trust continued to grow. Partners were reminded of the benefits of becoming a member of the Trust, and brief updates were given on the following existing projects:

- Fresh Prospects
- Art Workshop
- Defibrillator Project
- Swanage Area Dementia Friendly Community
- The Link Visiting Scheme

It was further reported that Trustees had recently met with Wareham & District Dementia Friendly Community who had also agreed to join the Trust. Future projects proposed for the Trust included:

- ‘The Centre’ – which would be one of the Trust’s key projects
- Proposals for a combined Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre and Tourist Information Centre
- Sea defence proposals - in partnership with the Swanage Coastal Change Forum
- Swanage Town & Herston Football Club, and proposals for a ‘multi-function’ centre

During the update Mr Mark Watson, Chairman, Swanage Town & Herston FC, gave an overview of discussions held to date regarding proposals for the redevelopment of the club site. It was reported that the existing club building was in urgent need of updating, and proposals for a multi-function centre, which would be more of a community ‘hub’, were being put together. The club was looking to secure a lease from STC, which would also open up funding streams. A further update would be provided at a future meeting.

It was noted that the Trust’s AGM would be held during October 2016, and details would be issued to Partners in due course. Application forms for organisations to join/become members of the Trust could be obtained from Trustees, Mrs Kim Gallagher or Mr Bob Foster.

9. Swanage Youth and Community Centre (SY&CC) - update

It was reported that Dorset County Council had approved the transfer of the freehold of the building to the S&PDT. The legal paperwork was now ready for signing, and once completed the keys would be handed over. The Trust was looking forward to forging ahead with its vision to create an improved ‘community centre and social hub’, and was currently in the process of applying for funding.

Trustees were excited about the potential of ‘The Centre’, and had already received a number of enquiries from interested parties (including the Purbeck Film Festival). Its first ‘letting’ had

been agreed, the priority being to secure income as quickly as possible to cover running costs, and if anyone was interested in the facilities on offer at The Centre, S&PDT looked forward to hearing from them. The next steps would be as follows:

- Redecoration of the building
- Recruitment process for a new Centre Manager, and Youth Worker
- Contact to be made with local schools regarding future plans

It was further reported that The Centre was short of equipment at present (e.g. media facilities/projector/screen), and Trustees would welcome any contact/assistance in this respect.

10. Any other business

a) Swanage Local Plan (SLP) – update

An update was given on events to date. The Planning Inspectorate hearing had been held over three days in July 2016, during which the inspector had interrogated the Plan. Local residents, and representatives from ST&CP, STC, PDC (and other organisations), had attended the hearing to provide background information and evidence to the inspector, and to answer any queries raised.

During the hearing the inspector had suggested a number of modifications to the Plan to enable it to be found 'sound'. PDC Officers had now compiled a 'Schedule of Main Modifications' to the SLP Pre-submission Document, and would be seeking approval of PDC's Policy Group at its meeting on 21st September 2016 (and at PDC's Monthly Council Meeting being held on 11th October 2016), to publish the schedule, and invite representations over a further six week public consultation period between October/December 2016. Any comments received would be passed to the planning inspector.

A brief overview of the key amendments proposed was given. It was anticipated that approval would be given in early 2017, and the town could therefore have an adopted Local Plan in place within six to nine months thereafter. Comments were made about the areas of protection the plan would provide, particularly in respect of future development, infrastructure, and SANGSs.

It was also reported that PDC's Draft Housing Needs Survey Report had now been received and would be considered/discussed at STC's next Monthly Council Meeting being held on 26th September 2016.

b) DCC - Herston Fields, Swanage, Village Green Application, Public Inquiry

It was reported that the inspector's report had not been received as yet. Comments were made that the outcome of the Public Inquiry would have an impact on the SLP, and a question was raised as to why Planning Inspectorate hearings and decisions took such a long time to be finalised/reached.

c) Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) – the Greengage Project

A flyer giving details of the Greengage Project had been received from Briony Baxter, Community Conservation Officer, DWT, and circulated to Partners for information purposes. The DWT was renting land from STC at Prospect Nursery which would enable them to offer a wide range of gardening activities. Any produce grown would be available for participants of the project to buy in order to promote healthy eating. It was reported that the land had been underused in recent years, and STC was very supportive of the project.

d) Local Government Reorganisation – Public Consultation 30th August to 25th October 2016

It was reported that the public consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation would run until 25th October 2016, and that it was important for local residents to review and respond to the online questionnaire. There would be a series of 'roadshows' held across Dorset for local people to find out more about the proposals, the nearest being at the Co-op Supermarket in Swanage on 21st September 2016, from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., and at the Sainsbury Supermarket in Wareham on 15th October 2016, from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

The Senior Forum would also be holding a debate on the proposals at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, on Thursday 12th October 2016 at 7.00 p.m. District Councillors would be in attendance and a presentation on the proposals would be followed by an opportunity for a 'Q & A' session.

e) Partner updates:

- **Swanage Coastal Change Forum** - concerns were again raised regarding the possible loss of expertise due to the impending retirement of the District Engineer. Further concerns were raised regarding the Shoreline Management Plan, and the Forum would be looking into what the future proposals would be regarding the possible beach recharge. A further update would be given at a future meeting.
- **The Swanage School** - it was reported that the first student examination results had been received, the school had performed very well (against schools which were considered to be in very different social/economic environments), and was currently near the top of the results table for Dorset. Partners congratulated the school on its superb achievements to date.

11. Date of Next Quarterly Meeting

The date of the next Quarterly Meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 14th December 2016, at the Town Hall, Swanage, at 3.30 p.m.*

The meeting closed at 4.55 p.m.

*Please note that, subsequently to the above, the next Quarterly Meeting was rearranged for Wednesday 21st December 2016, at the Town Hall, Swanage, at 3.30 p.m.
