



# Swanage Matters

The official newsletter of Swanage Town Council

## Autumn 2014

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## Meeting Dates

All meetings are open to the public and commence with 15 minutes of public participation time. Agendas are available on-line.

## Finance and Performance Management

9.30 am, Town Hall  
8th December 2014 &  
16th January 2015

## Council

7.00 pm, Town Hall  
15th December 2014 &  
5th January 2015

## Policy & Planning

7.00 pm, Town Hall  
19th January 2015

## Transport Committee

2.15 pm, Town Hall  
21st January 2015

## Swanage Local Plan Update

The Swanage Local Plan (SLP) is being produced by Purbeck District Council in partnership with Swanage Town Council and the Swanage Town and Community Partnership.

Work on the SLP began in 2013. This followed the adoption of the Purbeck District Local Plan (PLP1) in November 2012, which sets out the strategic requirements for development across Purbeck until 2027. It is a requirement of the SLP to allocate settlement extension(s) of approximately 200 dwellings (50% affordable) and make provision for the majority of the new retail floor space in the district.

**Building on the existing Community Plan, the Local Plan Steering Group has identified four main areas of work:**

Housing and the Built Environment; the Natural Environment; Economy and Employment; and Social and Community. The Steering Group has also agreed a vision to have:

- New affordable family housing allowing people to live and work in Swanage
- A thriving and prosperous economy with a variety of businesses
- Improved town centre with new shops
- Improved visitor facilities and attractions
- Improved health, sports and community facilities
- New green space and links to the countryside that fit with the historic character and setting within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and
- Improved access to employment and education through the Swanage to Wareham rail link.

## Swanage Local Plan - Issues and Options Consultation

The Issues and Options stage of plan production includes drawing together the main requirements of the plan and presenting the range of possible options for their delivery.

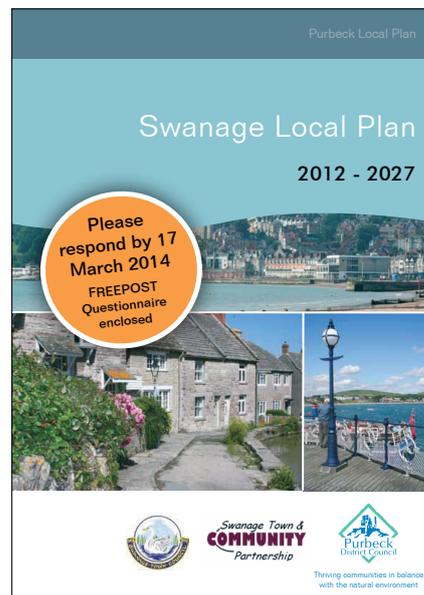
The consultation for this stage of the Plan was held for six weeks between 3 February and 17 March 2014. A leaflet was widely distributed to residential and business addresses across Swanage, which set out eight themes and raised

13 specific questions (a copy of this leaflet is available on the Dorset for You website, details below). A series of exhibition events was also held at various venues across the town, on different days (including some weekends and evenings), in order to help enable a wide range of people to attend. All of the events were well attended by local people.

A total of 883 responses were received. This represents a return of around 8% of the total population, which is very good for a planning consultation.

**Local residents' top suggestions for improvements and/or new facilities were as follows:**

- Additional employment space should be directed to Prospect Business Park
- Pedestrianisation of part/all of Shore Road for part/all of the year
- No parking on Shore Road
- Redevelopment of Pierhead Café site/area
- Provision of all-weather facilities & sports/leisure facilities (including public swimming pool)
- Creation of new open space and creation and maintenance of public footpaths
- New housing and care home facilities for the elderly
- Retain and improve Swanage Hospital
- Retain and improve public transport/cycling and access
- Support for exploring improved sea defences.



## Turning to the questions regarding housing and the built environment:

- 532 responses (60%) agreed with the proposed changes to the settlement boundary.
- The most favoured locations for development were Northbrook Road West and Herston, which were both supported by 170 responses. However, these sites also saw significant levels of opposition: 101 responses stated that Northbrook Road West was the least favoured option and Herston was the least favoured option of all, with 243 responses placing it bottom of the seven areas consulted on.
- The question of whether to explore the construction of affordable housing on the site of Prospect allotments, subject to the provision of a suitable alternative site, was supported by 433 respondents (49%) and objected to by 343 (39%).

## Overall, the response to the Issues and Options consultation has been very useful, with good representation and many interesting suggestions made. The next steps will include:

- Conducting further technical assessment of the various housing development options currently under consideration.
- Producing a report to detail the results of the technical assessments and to confirm the options to take forward.
- A further round of consultation and public engagement, most likely in early 2015.

The consultation report is available to view at the Town Hall, Swanage or from [www.dorsetforyou.com/swanage-local-plan](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/swanage-local-plan)

## Swanage Town Council leases land to extend Durlston Country Park

**The Town Council is pleased to announce that all of the land in its ownership south of Swanage Bay View Holiday Park has been leased to Dorset County Council, to be managed as part of Durlston Country Park.**

The land concerned comprises the former tip site, two grazing fields and a restored quarry. The lease is for a term of 21 years at a peppercorn rent. In return, Dorset County Council will preserve and improve the boundary dry stone walls, which are in a very poor state of repair. It will also complete the final stages of the restoration work of the former tip and quarry sites, ensuring that any planting schemes are appropriate for this location. The County Council aims to fund this work by accessing grant-funding.

Under the County Council, the land will be administered by an organisation with expertise in agricultural estate management, ensuring its return to grazing land and natural habitat.



## Proposed Gas Exploration at California Quarry

**In December 2013, Dorset County Council granted temporary planning permission for the construction of a well site to facilitate the drilling of a borehole for oil and gas exploration. This will take place in a field to the south of the land described above, owned by local quarry operators Suttle Stone Quarries.**

The permission was granted to InfraStrata, a company that holds a number of oil and gas exploration licences in England and Northern Ireland. Under the terms of the planning permission, drilling can only take place between September and March and it had been intended for the drilling to take place this winter. However, InfraStrata recently announced that this would be delayed until 2015/16.

Concerns have been raised that hydraulic fracturing 'fracking' may be used to extract the oil or gas. However, such methods are forbidden under the terms of the planning permission and in recent weeks the company has publicly stated that 'fracking' will not form part of this project, either now or in the future. Wider concerns have also been expressed and a group of residents has regularly attended recent Council meetings to continue to voice their fears about the impact of such activity in a place of such environmental sensitivity and in close proximity to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site.

If the outcome of the temporary drilling is deemed a success by the company and they wish to establish a well site on a longer-term basis, that will be the subject of a further planning application which will again be determined by Dorset County Council as the local Minerals Planning Authority.

Information on the initial planning application is available on the Dorset for You website and a question and answer sheet prepared by the company is available on the Publications and Downloads page of the Town Council's website. Other information is available both on the InfraStrata website and on a number of sites raising concerns about the proposal, including Frack Free Dorset.

## Access to Regionally Important Geological Site at California Quarry

**Under the terms of a 2007 agreement, quarry operator Suttle Stone Quarries and the Town Council agreed that the public could be granted access to a quarried rock face at California Quarry in order to view the world-renowned beds of Purbeck stone.**

Recently, as a result of the planning application for gas and oil exploration at California Quarry, concerns have been raised about access to this Regionally Important Geological Site which immediately adjoins the proposed well site.

The operator and Town Council can confirm that access to the site will be maintained throughout the

duration of the drilling project. As always, given its proximity to a working quarry, it is important that individuals or groups only access the site with permission and guidance from the quarry operator to ensure the safety of all visitors.

Further information about the site and how to arrange a viewing is set out on the Dorset's Important Geological Sites website [www.dorsetrigs.org.uk/southeastrigs/californiafarm/](http://www.dorsetrigs.org.uk/southeastrigs/californiafarm/)

## **Peveril Boat Park Temporary Closure - update**

**Peveril Boat Park closed on 31 October this year to enable the RNLI to commence the rebuilding of their boathouse. It is anticipated that the boat park will remain closed for approximately 18 months and will re-open in Spring 2016.**

The Town Council is pleased to advise that following a recent meeting between the Council's Boat Park Working Party, the RNLI and their contractors, it has been agreed that the boat park slipway will remain open to the public during the construction works. Some trailer storage may also be made available at North Beach Car Park; a further update will follow on the Council's website in due course.

Temporary closures of the slipway may be required from time to time and this information will be advertised via a new webpage which has been developed by the local RNLI team, please see [www.swanageboatpark.co.uk](http://www.swanageboatpark.co.uk). Via the website, boat users can also opt to be kept up to date via email or by following [@Swanageboatpark](https://twitter.com/Swanageboatpark) on Twitter.

## **New changing facilities at King George's and Forres Fields**

**The plans for new changing rooms and public conveniences are progressing well, and the architect is currently in the process of drawing up detailed designs for the submission of a Planning Application at the earliest opportunity.**

Estimated budget costs are in the region of £450,000. The Town Council will be funding a significant proportion of this but will also be seeking additional grant contributions.

Praise is to be given to the Swanage Town & Herston Football Club for the promotion of youth sports activities in the town; they now run 12 youth teams ranging from Under 8s to Under 18s for both boys and girls. Anyone interested in either playing for a team or helping to fundraise for this project can contact Mrs Alison Newell, Youth Secretary via the contact page at [www.swanagefc.com](http://www.swanagefc.com)

Although the facility is being designed primarily with youth football in mind, it will be available for hire by local schools and other clubs and societies. The Town Council would be keen to hear from anyone interested in using the changing rooms in the future.

It is anticipated that building work will commence during 2015. Further updates will be given in future newsletters.

## **Seafront Stabilisation Scheme Update**

**Since our last newsletter was issued in June work has been ongoing to complete the Seafront Stabilisation Scheme. Work is due to be finished by the time this newsletter is delivered, and Shore Road re-opened on Friday 24 October 2014 in time for the Half Term holidays.**

A number of sections of work have already been completed, including the stabilisation works at Broad Road which were finished in late June, the new seafront public conveniences which were handed over in time for Carnival week and the reconstruction of the war memorial which was finalised in mid-July.

Along the way there have been a number of obstacles to overcome including not only the wettest winter on record, but a tidal surge, an unrecorded gas main, Second-World-War phosphorous 'SIP' grenades buried in the soil and the discovery of a skeleton buried in the sand (which turned out most likely to be that of a horse).

In line with the statement in the last Swanage Matters, it is anticipated that the total construction cost will be in the region of £2.85 million. That is £¾ million higher than the initial contract sum, largely due to the additional works that had to be undertaken to the land below the war memorial.

Upon completion of the scheme a number of beach huts will be available for winter hire and bookings will soon be invited for summer 2015. For enquires or further information please contact Swanage Tourist Information Centre, Shore Road, Swanage. Tel: 01929 422885 or e-mail: [mail@swanage.gov.uk](mailto:mail@swanage.gov.uk). Alternatively, you can visit [www.swanage.gov.uk](http://www.swanage.gov.uk)

It is anticipated that a celebratory event to mark the official opening of the scheme will take place in spring 2015.



## **Roles and responsibilities of local government**

**The Town Council is one of three tiers of local government and works with Purbeck District Council and Dorset County Council to provide a wide range of services for residents and visitors.**

## Swanage Town Council has direct responsibility for:

- Allotments
- Off road car parks
- Cemeteries
- Public gardens
- Children's play areas
- Sporting facilities
- Main beach
- Boat park
- Public conveniences
- Tourist Information Centre
- Pathway public helpdesk, jointly with Dorset Police



Unlike the District and County Councils, the Town Council receives no direct government grant. It raises its income through the parish precept element of the Council Tax and the charges it makes for its services.

## Dorset County Council is responsible for:

- Education
- Social services
- Highways and footpaths
- Parking, parking restrictions and enforcement on public highways
- Libraries
- Trading standards
- Concessionary travel schemes (e.g. bus passes)

More information can be found on their website: [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com) or via telephone on 01305 251000.

## Purbeck District Council has responsibility for:

- Council tax collection
- Planning
- Environmental health
- Economic development
- Benefits

**Refuse collection and recycling comes under the jurisdiction of Dorset Waste Partnership.**

More information can be found on their websites: [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com) and [www.dorsetforyou.com/dorsetwastepartnership](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/dorsetwastepartnership) or via telephone 01929 556561.

## Public participation time at Council meetings – An opportunity to have your say

Members of the public have a legal right to attend meetings of the Town Council and its Committees, except where they are excluded (by a resolution of the meeting) for specific items which need to be discussed in confidence, for example, staffing matters or tenders for contracts. Although there is no legal right to speak during the meetings of the Council or its Committees, the Town Council is keen to hear from local residents and therefore sets aside specific time for public participation prior to the start of every meeting.

## What can I do?

Public participation time is an opportunity for you to raise issues of concern or interest. You may ask a question, make a statement or present a petition. Following recent changes in legislation you may also film or record the meeting, subject to compliance with the Council's adopted protocol on recording, photography & use of social media at meetings of the Council which is available from the Publications and Downloads page of the Council's website.

A schedule listing dates and times of Council and Committee meetings, together with the agendas for forthcoming meetings, can also be found at:

[www.swanage.gov.uk/Meeting-Agendas.aspx](http://www.swanage.gov.uk/Meeting-Agendas.aspx)

Participation should normally relate to matters where the Council has powers or duties or which directly affect the town. The Chairman is unlikely to allow any participation which is of a personal nature or which relates to individual issues.

Please note, for participation on planning applications being considered at the District Council's Planning Committee, a separate leaflet is available. Please call Purbeck District Council on 01929 557206, or visit [www.dorsetforyou.com/planningboard/purbeck](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/planningboard/purbeck)

## How do I participate?

You will be invited to address the Chairman, who may ask an appropriate Councillor or officer to reply in the case of a question.

## How long do I have?

Fifteen minutes will be allowed for participation at the start of the meetings, although exceptionally this may be extended. Each question should not normally exceed three minutes.

The Chairman may permit supplementary questions relating to the original question, taking account of the length of your original question and answer and any other anticipated public participation.

## What happens then?

When you ask a question the answer may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral response; or
- b) where relevant information is contained in a publication of the Council, reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply to your question cannot conveniently be given orally, an undertaking to provide a written answer.

When you make a statement or present a petition, the Chairman may allow a brief response. Alternatively the issue you have raised may be referred to an appropriate meeting for debate and any Councillor may propose this during the meeting under the item 'Matters for Forthcoming Agendas'. The Minutes of the meeting will contain a brief summary of the issues raised during public participation time.

Of course questions and matters of concern can also be raised via e-mail, telephone or letter at any time. If you have any queries about public participation time please get in touch.

## Register of Potential Suppliers

**Swanage Town Council is once again inviting businesses based in the Purbeck District Council area to register their interest in being a potential supplier of goods, works or services to the Council.**

**The Town Council operates a large number of services relating to a wide range of property across the town. Here are some of the typical purchases that the Council makes:**

- **Goods** - IT hardware and software, stationery, office equipment and furniture, building supplies, corporate and protective clothing.
- **Works** - Property maintenance and construction, including electrical and plumbing work, tree maintenance, resurfacing and ground works.
- **Services** - Training, printing, CCTV and vehicle maintenance, insurance, cleaning, telephone and other utilities.

The register will be available to Town Council officers when they need to source quotes and talk to relevant potential suppliers. However, please note that this register is not an approved suppliers list and your expression of interest does not mean that your business is guaranteed to be notified of tendering opportunities when they arise.

Businesses wishing to express an interest can download the registration form from [www.swanage.gov.uk](http://www.swanage.gov.uk), Publications and Downloads page, under heading Newsletters/Information, or you can request a paper copy by contacting the Council's reception team either by telephone on 01929 423636 or by e-mail to [admin@swanage.gov.uk](mailto:admin@swanage.gov.uk)

## Seagull Posters – please refrain from feeding the gulls!

**At a recent meeting of the Town Council's Beach Management Sub-Committee concerns were raised regarding seagulls and the increasingly aggressive behaviour displayed by them. They are being encouraged into the town centre by being fed and cause nuisance by noise, excrement (which can pass on bacterial and fungal infections to humans), ripping open refuse sacks and can display aggression for food.**

Seagulls often attack people during the nesting season to protect their nests, and problems also extend to swooping at people. They have adapted well to urban environments on the UK coastline and can fly up to 100 miles inland to urban areas - scavenging our waste as a food source and sometimes even taking the food we are holding! This often happens during the summer season when visitors eating out of doors provide an easy target for a free meal.

The problem is exacerbated by people feeding the gulls and some years ago the Council put up signs along the seafront advising people not to do so.

Unfortunately, however these appear to be frequently ignored.

The Beach Management Sub-Committee has, therefore, given consideration to a request for new, more informative, seagull signs, similar to those displayed by other Councils in the area and it was agreed that these new advisory posters would be put up at a number of seafront locations to increase awareness of the problem.

## What you can do to help:

- Don't throw the remains of your packed lunch to the gulls, they have their own food sources.
- Don't be tempted to feed any birds outside cafes, tea gardens or seaside kiosks.
- When feeding birds in the garden, don't throw loose bread or scraps onto the ground, it could result in a line of noisy Herring Gulls parked on your roof permanently. Confine bird food to wire containers or covered feeding stations.
- Place discarded takeaway remains into a litter bin, not onto the street floor.
- Do not disturb cliff nesting gull colonies during the breeding season.

Further information and/or advice can be found at: [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)



## Navitus Wind Farm update

The examination process for the proposed Navitus Wind Farm is now underway following an initial Open Floor Hearing on 11 September 2014. The deadline for the close of the examination is 11 March 2015 and over the coming months a number of Hearings will take place.

Any registered interested party wishing to attend any of the Hearings or site visits should notify Jackie Anderson of the Planning Inspectorate Case Team, by post to: 3/18 Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN, by phone on: 0303 444 5000 or via email to: [NavitusBay@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NavitusBay@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk)

There is more information on: [www.navitusbaywindpark.co.uk](http://www.navitusbaywindpark.co.uk) and [www.challengenavitus.org.uk](http://www.challengenavitus.org.uk)

## Forthcoming items and consultations:

- Update on King George's Skate Park and new Art Wall
- North and South Wards – changes in boundaries and Polling Stations in 2015
- North Beach Recycling Centre – have your say
- Swanage Bandstand Consultation

## Dates for your Diary

Durlston Castle – Stargazing Event

7 December 2014

[www.durlston.co.uk](http://www.durlston.co.uk)

Swanage Railway – Christmas Luncheons & Santa Specials

9 November – 24 December 2014

[www.swanagerailway.co.uk](http://www.swanagerailway.co.uk)

Swanage Railway – Christmas Carol Train

12 December 2014

[www.swanagerailway.co.uk](http://www.swanagerailway.co.uk)

Putlake Farm Christmas Market

13 December 2014

[www.putlakeadventurefarm.co.uk](http://www.putlakeadventurefarm.co.uk)

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## Contact your Councillors

You may contact any of your Town Councillors to raise any issue of concern to the local community.

### North Ward

Cllr Miss Cindy Harris  
The Sidings, East Burton Road, Wool,  
Wareham BH20 6HF  
Tel: 01929 405491  
[Cinders66@outlook.com](mailto:Cinders66@outlook.com)

Cllr Mrs Gloria Marsh (D)  
35 Mariners Drive, Swanage BH19 2SJ  
Tel: 01929 422015  
[Cllr.Marsh@purbeck-dc.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Marsh@purbeck-dc.gov.uk)

Cllr Gary Suttle (D)  
C/o Suttle & Co, Unit 1, Plot 2, Victoria Avenue Industrial  
Estate, Swanage BH19 1AU  
Tel: 01929 422093 (Office)  
[Gary.Suttle@GMSuttle.co.uk](mailto:Gary.Suttle@GMSuttle.co.uk)

Cllr Bill Trite (CC) (D)  
134 Kings Road West, Swanage BH19 1HT  
Tel: 01929 481461  
[swanbase.w@virgin.net](mailto:swanbase.w@virgin.net)

Cllr Mike Whitwam  
21 Swanbrook Mews, 68 Kings Road West,  
Swanage BH19 1HR  
Tel: 01929 422555  
[michael.whitwam@btconnect.com](mailto:michael.whitwam@btconnect.com)

(D) = District Councillor  
(CC) = County Councillor

### South Ward

Cllr Mrs Ali Patrick (Town Mayor) (D)  
54 Steer Road, Swanage BH19 2RX  
Tel: 01929 426534  
[ali@patrickswanage.co.uk](mailto:ali@patrickswanage.co.uk)

Cllr Mrs Cherry Bartlett  
4 Panorama Road, Swanage BH19 2QT  
Tel: 01929 421061  
[cherrybartlett@talktalk.net](mailto:cherrybartlett@talktalk.net)

Cllr Mike Bonfield  
55 Priests Road, Swanage BH19 2RJ  
Tel: 07774 997974  
[mikebonfield24@gmail.com](mailto:mikebonfield24@gmail.com)

Cllr Ian Brown  
56 Steer Road, Swanage BH19 2RX  
Tel: 07855 058486  
[ian@brownsw196.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:ian@brownsw196.fsnet.co.uk)

Cllr Steve Poultney (Deputy Mayor)  
38 Rabling Road, Swanage BH19 1EF  
Tel: 01929 425959  
[stevepoultney13@gmail.com](mailto:stevepoultney13@gmail.com)

Cllr Mike Pratt (D)  
21 Princess Road, Swanage BH19 1JG  
Tel: 01929 475608  
[marmike24@hotmail.com](mailto:marmike24@hotmail.com)

Cllr Angelo Wiggins  
Flat 3, 31 De Moulham Road, Swanage  
Tel: 01929 421655  
[angelowiggins@live.co.uk](mailto:angelowiggins@live.co.uk)

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The Town Council is keen to hear your views on any issue featured in this newsletter. You can email comments to [admin@swanage.gov.uk](mailto:admin@swanage.gov.uk). Alternatively, send a letter, or complete your details below and return this slip to Swanage Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Swanage, BH19 2NZ.

Name and contact details: .....

Comments: .....

Have your  
say -  
reply slip