



Swanage Matters

The official newsletter of Swanage Town Council

Spring 2015

Dr Martin Ayres
Town Clerk
Town Hall
High Street
Swanage
BH19 2NZ
Tel: 01929 423636
Fax: 01929 427888
Email: admin@swanage.gov.uk
Website:
www.swanage.gov.uk

Meeting Dates

All meetings are open to the public and commence with 15 minutes of public participation time.

Agendas are available on-line.

Council

7.00 pm, Town Hall
13 April * & 18 May

Policy & Planning

7.00 pm, Town Hall
16 March &
20 April *

Finance and Performance Management

9.30 am, Town Hall
27 April

General Operations Committee

7.00 pm, Town Hall
18 March

Transport Committee

2.15 pm, Town Hall
20 May *

* Dates marked are provisional



Local Elections on Thursday 7 May 2015 - Stand and Deliver!

The local elections provide a once in four years opportunity for local people to stand for election and deliver high quality local services. If you wish to make a difference to your community, why not consider becoming a Town Councillor now?

The Town Council has a vital role to play in enhancing the quality of life for local residents maintaining large areas of parkland and gardens, playing fields, cemeteries, allotments, a skate park, children's play areas, shoppers' car parks and sporting facilities.

It works to ensure that the town is an attractive and inviting place for visitors by providing a Tourist Information Centre, beach huts, public conveniences and long-stay car parks. It also ensures that the main beach is maintained to Blue Flag standards.

As well as directly delivering services, the Town Council is the one voice in local government that can speak up solely for the best interests of local residents on issues such as planning and health services.

The Notice of Election for the Town Council will be published on Monday

16 March 2015 and this date signals the beginning of the pre-election period.

If you wish to stand for the Town Council, nominations must be received by the District Council by 4.00pm on Thursday 9 April 2015. There is a requirement that nomination forms are delivered by hand and cannot be accepted if they arrive in the post. If you would like further information about becoming a Councillor, please visit www.dorsetforyou.com/elections/become-a-councillor

If you require a nomination form, or wish to vote by post, please telephone Electoral Services at Purbeck District Council on 01929 557219.

Alternatively, you can visit www.dorsetforyou.com/elections for full information about the local elections.

The elections will take place at the following Polling Stations in Swanage between 7.00am and 10.00pm: the Catholic Hall, All Saints Church, Methodist Church and Herston Hall. The count for District, Town and Parish Council seats will take place on Saturday 9 May 2015. The results will be posted on www.dorsetforyou.com and www.swanage.gov.uk

North and South Wards – changes in boundaries and Polling Stations with effect from the May 2015 Elections

Please note that the following changes will come into effect for the 2015 Elections with regard to the Town Council's wards, arising from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of Purbeck's electoral arrangements:-

- The boundary between the two wards moves to the centre of the High Street
- There will be a change of polling station for the eastern half of the Swanage South polling district to the Methodist Church
- Both the North and South parish wards will return six seats each to the Town Council and three seats each to Purbeck District Council

Official Opening of New Beach Huts – Saturday 14 March 2015

The Town Council is pleased to announce the date of the official opening ceremony for the new beach huts in Shore Road on Saturday 14 March 2015, which is being supported by Westover Group.



Come along and visit the beach huts between 11.00am and 2.00pm. A raffle will be held with a chance to win prizes including the use of a beach hut for a week out of season and a full valet with a voucher for a free MOT at any Westover location. Information boards will be on display telling the story of the Seafront Stabilisation Scheme which was completed in December 2014.

Bookings are now being taken for the 2015 summer season. For enquiries please contact Swanage Tourist Information Centre by telephone on 01929 422885, or via email to mail@swanage.gov.uk

Swanage Tourist Information Centre – Dorset Tourism Awards 2014

Swanage Town Council is delighted to report that Swanage Tourist Information Centre achieved a Bronze Award at the Second Annual Dorset Tourism Awards Ceremony at the Bovington Tank Museum on 16 October 2014. Along with this award, the Centre will also receive PR benefits, the use of a winner's logo and, for matching categories, the chance to go forward to the South West England Tourism Excellence Awards & VisitEngland Awards for Excellence (held in February 2015 and May 2015 respectively).

The judging took account of the Tourist Information Centre's completed entry form, along with a combination of web searches, review sites, emails, telephone calls and visits to the Centre, and any other available additional evidence. For the finalists, the judging panel was looking for all elements of the business to be excellent, with some of them outstanding. It is therefore a very significant achievement. The Award's organisers also provide free courses, e.g. social media, and other training opportunities to Award winners. Local businesses are encouraged to enter the Awards in 2015 and the Tourist Information Centre will be actively promoting this.



Congratulations are also to be given to Swanage Railway, Purbeck Folk Festival, Studland Stables and other local businesses who also received Awards.

For further information on the Awards and the application/entry process, please contact Swanage Tourist Information Centre, Tel: 01929 422885, or email: mail@swanage.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can visit the official website: www.dorsettourismawards.org.uk

Tourist Information Centre & Coastguard Station Defibrillator Machines

In mid-2013 a grant was approved by the De Moulham Trust for the supply of two automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The Trust provides grants which benefit the community of Swanage and these life saving devices certainly fit the criteria.

At the time the town only had one AED, which is situated on the outside of the Masonic Lodge in Marshall Row. After thorough research two devices, along with a vital training device, were chosen for their simple design, but vital use.



Fundraising for the AEDs was also undertaken by local business, Ocean Bay Watersports, which enabled the additional purchase of the training device.

The two defibrillators are located inside the buildings of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC), Shore Road, and the Coastguard Station at North Beach Car Park. Whilst the original plan was to install them externally on the respective buildings discussions are still on-going with the Ambulance Service to get the devices formally adopted so that they can be fully publicly accessible.

In the summer months the AED at the TIC is available for use by the beach wardens, and the local Coastguards, when on duty, carry the second device around with them in their vehicle for the benefit of the community.

Local Coastguard Station Officer and Town Councillor, Ian Brown, was motivated to lead this project by the sad death of local assistant Pier Master, and Coastguard Volunteer of some 30 years, Michael 'Spike' Williamson who collapsed in the town in October 2004. Ian remarked: 'I always said that in his memory we would provide the town with an AED in the hope that it saves a life'.

Ian further commented 'In the event of an emergency it is vital that '999' should still be dialled to call for urgent assistance from the ambulance service and their advice followed accordingly'.

Swanage Sea Rowing Club – new boathouse update

Swanage Sea Rowing Club has reported that 2014 has seen the club transformed by the opening in December 2013 of their new boathouse. The club now has a permanent base from which to operate which provides:

- secure storage for the gigs and equipment
- space to carry out maintenance and repairs
- space for six indoor rowing machines allowing additional year-round land-based training for members
- changing, shower and toilet facilities
- space to host club social events

The club has been able to continue their junior sessions into the winter months, rather than suspending them between September and May as in past years, which has helped to provide continuity throughout the year. The boathouse also provides a secure environment for the club's youngest members.

The club has seen an 18% increase in membership, is continuing to attract new members, and as a result the number of rowing sessions, both recreational and competitive, have increased as has the range of rowing events the club has attended. Regular Open Rowing sessions can now take place all year round and last year the club provided rowing for 430 visitors to the town.



In addition, the new facilities have allowed the club to extend an invitation to various community groups to use the facilities including:

- A Learn to Row course for the University of the Third Age
- A weekend of rowing for the French rowing club, ACVP
- Taster rowing sessions for Wareham Youth Club
- A range of indoor rowing competitions for Swanage Carnival
- A wedding reception for two of the Club's members
- An impromptu dance space for Morris dancers during the Folk Festival

Following the successful year in 2014, club members are confident that the club's future is secure and that

they will be able to continue to attract new members to sustain and grow the organisation. The boathouse will continue to act as a focus for the club's rowing and other community-based activities. Thanks are given by the club to all funders and sponsors, including Swanage Town Council and the De Moulham Trust for the 'leap of faith' that led them to support the club's efforts from the start and so helped to make their dream a reality.

Swanage Dementia Friendly Community

A diagnosis of dementia is often devastating to the person concerned. Dementia is a disease for which there is no known cure and can affect any age; it is not just a side-effect of getting older.

The symptoms of dementia are progressive and on an unknown timescale. It could be months or many years before the symptoms become advanced. Therefore whilst the condition can have a profound effect on a person's life, many people with early stage dementia can live full lives with little or no assistance.

According to the Alzheimer's Society, in 2015 there will be 850,000 people with dementia in the UK, with numbers set to rise to one million by 2025. It is estimated that around 400,000 people have dementia but do not know it. By raising awareness about this condition, it is hoped that more people will be diagnosed earlier, giving more time for them to come to terms with future symptoms.

Swanage Dementia Friendly Community (SDFC) is an alliance of local community organisations and services that are working together to raise public awareness and understanding of this disease so that people with dementia, and their carers, are encouraged to seek help and are supported by their community. SDFC has become a member of the Dementia Action Alliance.

The Dementia Action Alliance is a movement with one simple aim: to bring about a society-wide response to dementia. It encourages and supports communities and organisations across England to take practical actions to enable people to live well with dementia and reduce the risk of costly crisis intervention.

Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Ali Patrick, commented: 'I would encourage readers to take the time to read the enclosed leaflet. SDFC have produced this leaflet to launch the group and raise awareness locally in time for National Dementia Awareness Week which runs from 18 - 24 May 2015. The Town Council fully supports this worthwhile initiative and has made a donation of £700 towards the project'.

Dementia Awareness Week is supported by the Alzheimer's Society, a UK charity which provides support and research for those affected by dementia.

For further information about the National Dementia Action Alliance, please visit the website:

www.dementiaaction.org.uk

Swanage Skate Park

Swanage Skate Park is now in its 11th year and continues to serve the young people of Swanage, the surrounding villages and, of course, visitors alike. It has been reported that more children are coming to Swanage on holiday with their families because there is a skate park.



Mrs Lorna Haines, long time fundraiser for the Y-Axis Skate Park Club, comments 'Our community stall at the Swanage Market continued to raise substantial funds in 2014 and provided a useful opportunity to engage local people with the project. Thanks go to the Town Council and Market Manager for allowing me to continue, and to any residents who supplied my stock and often found themselves tempted to make a purchase!'

Three new pieces of equipment were installed for the August 2014 holiday at a cost of £23,500 and have been much appreciated by all who have waited so patiently. One BMX rider has confessed that he has been challenged by the new ramps and now wears a helmet!

Whilst the park is looking good, it is still not finished and Y-Axis are hoping to order and install at least five more items to complete the recent 'street course' and provide some smaller jumps for learners, at an estimated cost of £45,000.

If you are able to contribute to this final phase or if you would like to donate a specific piece of equipment, Lorna would love to hear from you. Lorna can be contacted on telephone number: 07790 549553.

Graffiti/Street Art Wall

The Town Council is delighted to report that construction of the new Street Art Wall at the Skate Park has been completed and has been well received by the town's young residents and visiting street art artists alike.



An official opening ceremony was held on 28 November 2014 and was attended by representatives from the Town and District Councils, Raymond Brown Construction Ltd, Y-Axis Skate Park Club, the Head Teacher and pupils from the Swanage School and Dorset Police.

The wall was built by Raymond Brown Construction Ltd, at no cost to the Town Council, as a community project arising from their work on the seafront stabilisation scheme.

The project had been championed by the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Ali Patrick, who, after many months of planning, proudly cut the ribbon at the ceremony.



Dropped Kerbs

As advised in a previous newsletter, a number of new and improved dropped kerbs were installed in the town during 2014/15. Dorset County Council Highways Department has now made a request to Swanage Town Council for further suggestions for new dropped kerbs in the town. Funds have been set aside for this work during the financial year 2015/16 and the Town Council would be grateful for any assistance in identifying possible locations for these.

Please send suggestions via email to:

admin@swanage.gov.uk, or alternatively please contact the Council's reception team at the Town Hall on: 01929 423636. Thank you.

Difficulties of on-street parking

Consideration is currently being given by Dorset County Council to a review of on-street parking restrictions in the town.

One of the issues to be considered, which has been raised with both the Town and County Councils, is whether to introduce double yellow lines along Victoria Avenue between the two junctions with Prospect Crescent. This would address some congestion in this area in the summer months. Your views would be most welcome on this subject and should be sent to the Town Council via email to admin@swanage.gov.uk, or by post to the Town Hall.

Recent discussions have also highlighted the amount of inconsiderate and obstructive parking in the town. There are a number of 'hot spots' including the Lower High Street in which parking often creates dangerous situations. The practice of parking on pavements also leads to difficulties for pedestrians, and especially for those with pushchairs or wheelchairs, forcing them out into the road. Local Councillors therefore make a plea to drivers to please be considerate of other residents in the town who are being put at risk by those activities. Thank you.

Bus Services routes 40 & 50 - 'use it or lose it'

The winter timetables for the 40 and 50 local bus route services, and the proposals for the reduction of funding by Dorset County Council of subsidised bus routes in the County, have recently been discussed at Town Council and Transport Committee Meetings.

The Town Council has previously lodged its objection to reductions in these services, (to both Poole Borough Council and Dorset County Council), particularly the evening buses, the loss of which would seriously impact on those relying on the later services to return home from college or work. It was also pointed out by the Town Council that the residents of Studland, particularly the elderly and the disabled, rely heavily on this service as there are limited shopping facilities in the village.

In the current economic climate the Town Council accepts that savings are necessary, but felt that a

reduction in the subsidy of some seasonal services would be preferable to the loss of an important late night link with the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation.

Information and a flyer was provided at the Transport Committee Meeting by Purbeck Transport Action Group which stated that the bus company could change timetables, and remove a non-viable service, with only eight weeks' notice. The Group has also been campaigning to keep the winter services and has been in contact with the Manager of the bus company.

The information and flyer have been circulated by the Town Council to local groups, associations and Parish Councils to increase awareness, to encourage local residents to make more use of these valuable services, and to advertise the Group's flyer slogan 'use it or lose it'.

For up to date bus services timetables, please visit: <http://morebus.co.uk/bournemouth-and-poole>

Dates for your Diary

Purbeck Strings Festival www.purbeckstrings.com/	14 – 15 March 2015
Purbeck Mineral & Mining Museum – opens for 2015 season www.pmmmg.org	15 March 2015
Swanage Railway – Mothering Sunday Luncheon Train www.swanagerailway.co.uk	15 March 2015
Partial Solar Eclipse viewable in Swanage www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/uk/swanage	20 March 2015
Swanage Market - returns to Main Beach Car Park on a Friday www.marketsjc.com	3 April 2015
Easter Sunrise Service – Main Beach www.visit-dorset.com/whats-on/easter-sunrise-swanage-beach-p1487323	5 April 2015
Swanage Railway – Spring Steam Gala www.swanagerailway.co.uk	17 – 19 April 2015
The Swanage Charity Day & Classic Car Display www.visit-dorset.com/whats-on/swanage-clasic-car-rally-and-charity-day-p1812513	26 April 2015
Great Dorset Spring Beach Clean www.visit-dorset.com/whats-on/annual-great-dorset-beach-clean-p1173623	26 April 2015
UK Government & Council Elections www.dorsetforyou.com/elections	7 May 2015
Swanage Railway – 10th Diesel Gala www.swanagerailway.co.uk	8 – 10 May 2015
Anglers Afloat Kayak Fishing Competition www.anglersafloat.co.uk/New-Page-2.html	16 May 2015

Dates for your Diary continued

Swanage Railway – 130 years since Swanage Branch opened on 20th May 1885	20 May 2015
www.swanagerailway.co.uk	
Purbeck Art Weeks Festival	23 May – 7 June 2015
www.purbeckartweeks.co.uk	
Swanage Lions Summer Fete	24 May 2015
www.visit-dorset.com/whats-on/swanage-lions-summer-seaside-fete-p575183	
Swanage Carnival May Bank Holiday Fete	25 May 2015

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

Cllr Mrs Gloria Marsh (D)
35 Mariners Drive, Swanage BH19 2SJ
Tel: 01929 422015
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

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

Cllr Mike Whitwam
21 Swanbrook Mews, 68 Kings Road West,
Swanage BH19 1HR
Tel: 01929 422555
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. 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

