

NOTES on the **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
TIME held on **MONDAY, 31st MARCH 2003**
in the Town Hall, Swanage at 7 o'clock p.m.

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

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

MR. FOOKES referred to the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 17th February 2003, and enquired whether there had been any further developments regarding the provision of indoor sports facilities at Days Park. He was informed by the **TOWN MAYOR** that the sports centre initiative was not Councilled, but had been encompassed by the Swanage Town Partnership. The preferred site for the new sports facilities was at the existing Football Club, but the Council was still looking to purchase the former Grammar School field as an additional facility, in order to secure its future.

MR. VANDEZANDE enquired whether the Council had a policy regarding the age of retirement for its employees, as it may be that elderly persons were holding posts that could be filled by younger people. The **TOWN CLERK** explained that the Council did not operate a policy regarding retirement. Employees were assessed on merit and suitability for the post undertaken, irrespective of age. Examples were given of how the Council's training policy incorporated employees of all ages.

MRS. M. IMTHURN drew attention to the nuisance caused by speeding traffic and heavy lorries on Court Road, and was concerned for the safety of pedestrians wishing to cross the road. Concern was also expressed at the effect the heavy traffic was having on residential properties in the area. The **TOWN CLERK** said he was meeting with representatives from Dorset County Council the following day and would raise the matter at the meeting. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR, MR. D. HIETT,** also agreed to make representation to Dorset County Council on the matter.

MR. HIETT referred to the recent flooding problems that had occurred in Court Road, and informed the Meeting that the culvert had now been partially cleared. The works should hopefully be completed by the summer. Marker posts had also been erected to define the edge of the stream.

MR. C. BRIGHT enquired whether a financial appraisal had been undertaken in respect of the proposed market, bearing in mind the loss of car parking spaces in Main Beach car park. He was informed that this would be offset by the additional revenue from the market traders and additional car spaces on the King George's Field site.

MRS. P. BISLEY congratulated the Council on its financial management, which had resulted in the reduction of the long-term debt, but expressed concern that the pruning of

expenditure may reflect in the standard and maintenance of the Council's assets. The **TOWNMAYOR** gave a brief appraisal of the Council's financial position over the past three years, together with details of sums allocated for repairs and renewals.
