

SUPPORTING PAPERWORK

4TH SEPT. 2017

SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED	
07 JUL 2017	
REF:	170154
FAO:	MA

AGENDA ITEM 5a)

TOWN HALL
SWANAGE
DORSET
BH19 2NZ

Hardy House
Mount Pleasant Lane
Swanage BH19 2PN

7.07.2017

Dear Dr Ayres,

I attended the Extraordinary meeting at the Town Hall on 20th February and as part of the public involvement at the beginning of the meeting, spoke about the Dorset CCG Improving Dorset's healthcare consultation and the downgrading of Poole Hospital A&E, Maternity services and changes at Wareham Hospital.

The meetings specific purpose was to formulate a response to this consultation and the council decided it was to be via a letter rather than the consultation form, partly because the Council did not feel that the consultation documents provided enough information to enable a detailed response to be made to each of the questions asked. It was also felt that the issues were too complex to answer with a simplistic tick box format.

Now having looked at the results I am concerned that there is a serious misrepresentation of the stated views of residents. The report logs the number of petition signatures under 'qualitative data', rather than under 'quantitative data'. Can a credible argument really be made that something that clearly has been counted - petition signatures - is not quantitative data? This effect of ORS doing this is that petitioner signatures are not properly accounted for, leading to incorrect conclusions being drawn.

For example: 36,910 petitioners oppose the downgrading of Poole A&E and closure of Poole Maternity (page 25 "Options A+B in EAST: Qualitative Themes" green list). Please note ORS have not numbered pages: my numbering is from print view.

Yet page 23 ("Options A+B: Quantitative Results" - blue pie charts) reveals a total of only 10,624 (less than a third of the 36,910 petitioners) answered this question from all 4 CCG generated sources, assuming there is no overlap between CCG generated sources.

Another serious misrepresentation of the stated views of residents occurs when those who have chosen 'another option' are apparently not counted as against the CCG's proposal.

I hope that the Town Council will provide Swanage Residents another opportunity to hear the views on this matter before final decisions are made?

Yours sincerely,

Thelma Deacon (Mrs)

Dr Martin Ayres
Town Clerk

Tel: 01929 423636

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TOWN HALL
SWANAGE
DORSET
BH19 2NZ

27th February 2017

Dear Sirs

Improving Dorset's Healthcare Consultation Response

Thank you for inviting the Town Council to respond to the Improving Dorset's Healthcare consultation document, which was discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 20th February 2017 for the specific purpose of formulating a response to this consultation. It was agreed at that meeting to respond via a letter rather than the consultation form, partly because the Council did not feel that the consultation documents provided enough information to enable a detailed response to be made to each of the questions asked. It was also felt that the issues were too complex to answer with a simplistic tick box format and that reliance on answers gathered by such a system could form entirely the wrong understanding of people's actual response. The Council therefore requests that this letter be treated as a formal consultation response.

A number of the proposals set out in the document have caused significant anxiety amongst local residents, and the Town Council shares many of these concerns, as set out below. The Town Council is the only elected body with a responsibility to represent the views of the people of Swanage and therefore these comments relate directly to the impact of the proposals in the consultation document on local residents.

Two of the greatest concerns relate to the proposed reduction in the range of services currently provided by Poole Hospital, and their transfer to the Royal Bournemouth. The isolation of Swanage, which sits at the end of a 10-mile cul-de-sac from Wareham, is widely recognised, as is the high level of congestion on roads between Swanage and the conurbation. In these circumstances the preservation of both A&E and maternity services at Poole, rather than Bournemouth is of the utmost importance to residents in Swanage and Purbeck.

More than 8,000 signatures have been gathered in Purbeck in support of a petition against the downgrading of Poole A&E and maternity services, 4,000 of which are from Swanage residents. The petition has been presented to the Dorset CCG.

It is feared that the loss of full Accident and Emergency Services at Poole would place lives at risk by reducing the chance that patients will reach hospital in the all-important 'golden hour' following a life-threatening incident. Page 29 of the travel time analysis provided as part of the consultation documents indicates a 15-20 minute increase in travel times if these services are focussed in Bournemouth.

Whilst the travel time evaluation set out on page 32 of the main consultation document suggests that a greater proportion of Dorset's residents can access services at Bournemouth more quickly than at Poole, this is not consistent with some of the evidence set out in the more detailed travel time analysis document. For example, the table on page 6 of the latter demonstrates that a higher proportion of the population can reach services at Poole within 30 minutes and that the maximum time for all the

population to reach the services there is 10 minutes quicker than at Bournemouth. This suggests that there is a case to preserve full A&E services at Poole General Hospital.

The impact of increased travel times will also be felt by expectant mothers who require urgent hospital care. It is recognised that complications at birth can lead to serious life-limiting conditions and that delayed transfer to hospital care threatens to increase such instances in Swanage and neighbouring parishes. This proposal will also make it almost impossible for local families to drive themselves to the nearest maternity hospital in the early stages of labour given the limitations to the local road network set out above. The concern in this area caused by the proposed loss of more local maternity services cannot be overstated.

Overall, although page 15 of the main consultation document states that the CCG see 'travel time as a key evaluation criterion for future service delivery', this does not appear to have been the case in relation to the people of Swanage. This will not only impact on the patients themselves, but also on their carers and families; those reliant on the much-reduced public transport network may well be unable to visit their seriously ill relatives, which will in turn have a negative impact on their recovery.

The concerns over the proximity of these services to Swanage are underpinned by serious doubts over the efficiency of the local ambulance service in reaching Swanage patients. Incidents in which ambulances have taken 45 minutes or more to reach Swanage patients are widely known by local residents. The case of a 96-year old lady who collapsed in the main shopping street and had to wait in the torrential rain for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour for an ambulance to arrive was reported in the local press in October 2014 and a similar incident was experienced last week. The Town Council now intends to raise this matter directly with the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, and it is imperative that the CCG also does so, whether or not the consultation proposals go ahead.

The Town Council welcomes the proposals to retain our excellent Community Hospital in Swanage, which together with our medical practice will constitute one of the county's seven community hubs with beds. The services provided at Swanage Hospital are prized by the Purbeck community and the Town Council looks forward to seeing these develop further over coming years.

However, the Council is concerned at the loss of beds at Wareham Community Hospital and the possible impact that this will have on the resources available at Swanage. Whilst the Council welcomes the overall aim to care for people in their own communities, the Council has serious doubts over the capacity of the system to deliver high-quality care in people's own homes. In order to determine whether this is deliverable the Town Council requests further information about how this could be achieved in Purbeck, and how this improved level of care would be financed. This information should be considered in detail prior to any decision being made about a reduction in community hospital beds in Purbeck.

Whilst writing I would also add that the Town Council recognises that it has an important role to play in promoting the health and wellbeing of local residents. The Council maintains most of the open spaces in the town, supports many of the town's sports' clubs and recreational facilities and can fund health-related projects via its grant making powers.

The Town Council has recently entered into a tenancy agreement with Dorset Wildlife Trust for use of its former plant nursery as a therapeutic garden for those with mental health problems and has made a grant of £5,000 towards the employment of an Admiral Nurse to improve dementia care in the town. The Town Council therefore welcomes any opportunity to work with partner organisations to achieve the CCG's aims of improving prevention and self-help within the community.

Yours faithfully

Martin Ayres

Town Clerk

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Our Ref: SLP

Date: 15 August 2017



Dr Martin Ayres
Town Clerk
Town Hall
Swanage
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BH19 2NZ

Dear Dr Ayres

Swanage Settlement Boundary – Inclusion of Cliff Cottage

Thank you for your letter dated 11 August 2017 and addressed to Bridget Downton, which has been passed to me for a response. I understand that the Town Council is disappointed that Cliff Cottage has been included in the Settlement Boundary. This is not something which can be changed at this stage, but I hope the information I have provided below may help to reassure the Town Council in regard to this matter.

Firstly, I can confirm that the inclusion of Cliff Cottage within the Swanage Settlement Boundary was not an error. The proposed changes to the Settlement Boundary were set out in the Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document which was published for consultation in September 2015. A Settlement Boundary Review Background Paper was also published alongside this consultation, and explains the reasons for each of the proposed changes. The background paper includes the following recommendation in relation to Cliff Cottage: 'Realignment of boundary to include cottage and curtilage that relates more closely to built form of settlement'.

As you are aware, concerns were raised about this matter at our Council meeting in June 2017. Following that meeting, we separately asked two planning officers, who were not involved in the preparation of the background paper, to give their views on whether or not Cliff Cottage should be included in the Settlement Boundary. Both were of the view that this was a reasonable change to the Settlement Boundary. As you know, the Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document was also considered by an independent planning inspector, who did not raise any concerns about this proposed change. As such, having looked into this matter, we remain confident that the inclusion of Cliff Cottage within the Settlement Boundary is justified.

Secondly, it is important to explain that inclusion of a site within the Settlement Boundary does not automatically mean that planning permission will be granted. Any planning application will be determined on its merits, taking account of all relevant Local Plan policies and any other material considerations. Your letter refers to comments made by the Design and Conservation Officer in respect of the recent planning application to construct an additional dwelling on this site. These comments relate to a specific planning application, and do not address the question of whether or not Cliff Cottage should be included in the

Settlement Boundary. However, the comments from the Design and Conservation Officer will be an important consideration for the District Council's Planning Committee, when they determine the application. The Planning Committee will consider the extent to which the application meets all policy requirements, including those set out in Policy D (Design) of the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1, which states (amongst other matters) that the Council will expect all proposals for development to positively integrate with their surroundings.

I note your request for your letter to be treated as an appendix to the Swanage Local Plan. It is no longer possible to make any substantive changes to the Swanage Local Plan, which has now been adopted by the Council following a successful independent examination. As such, we are not able to comply with your request. However, we can confirm that your letter will be treated as a representation from the Town Council in relation to the current planning application for a new dwelling to the rear of Cliff Cottage, and key points from your letter will be summarised in the planning officer's report. The letter will also be available in full on the website in relation to the planning application

I appreciate that we have not been able to fully meet your request, but I hope this letter will go some way towards addressing your concerns. Please feel free to contact me on 01929 557339 if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Anna Lee
Planning Policy Manager

Dr Martin Ayres
Town Clerk

Tel: 01929 423636

E-Mail: admin@swanage.gov.uk



TOWN HALL
SWANAGE
DORSET
BH19 2NZ

11th August 2017

Dear Bridget

Swanage Settlement Boundary – Inclusion of Cliff Cottage

I am writing to express the Town Council's grave concern regarding the inclusion of Cliff Cottage within the recently revised Swanage settlement boundary. This follows discussion at a recent full Town Council meeting, the minutes of which are enclosed for information.

The Council acknowledges that the review of the settlement boundary followed a clear process, and formed part of the public consultation on the Swanage Local Plan. The Council's representatives on the Steering Group recall discussion about the most significant changes, including the revisions to incorporate the planned settlement extensions.

However, the Council is concerned that not enough attention was paid to the longer list of minor amendments, amongst which the Cliff Cottage proposal was erroneously placed. At no point do the Council's representatives on the steering group recall being made aware that the proposed inclusion of Cliff Cottage had been the subject of pre-application advice in respect of a planning application which, if approved, will have a stark impact on the character of Swanage seafront.

The view that this site should never have been included in the revised boundary appears to be supported by the comments of the Design and Conservation Officer in respect of the recent planning application to construct an additional dwelling on this site. He remarks: 'In townscape and visual terms Cliff Cottage has some landmark quality and is an important feature of the historic seafront. Though landscape setting to the south has been compromised by modern use, alteration and development, the sense of open space and continued existence of undeveloped land along the seafront is itself a distinctive and attractive feature of Swanage, to which the garden and grounds of Cliff Cottage make an important contribution'.

Mr Webb repeatedly makes this case, stating that: 'The proposed development would harm the distinctiveness of the Swanage seafront in terms of both its adverse impact on landscape character, and the harm to the historic, architectural and landmark qualities of Cliff Cottage which make a positive contribution to the Swanage townscape. This would be by virtue of the loss of open space, the overbearing form and location of the development, and its visually obtrusive jettied design'.

He continues: 'The development would encroach upon and erode the sense of space and landscape quality of the seafront, undermining its distinctive character. This would be accentuated by the cramped relationship it will have with trees on the site'. These repeated comments regarding the importance of the sense of space and landscape character make it clear that it is not only this proposal that should be rejected, but also that the District Council should acknowledge that any intensification of development on this site would be entirely inappropriate. Therefore, the first opportunity should be taken to rectify this error and once again place Cliff Cottage and its grounds outside of the settlement boundary.

The Town Council requests that this letter of concern should be treated as an appendix to the Swanage Local Plan. Whilst it is acknowledged that it cannot carry legal weight as part of the adopted document, Councillors wish it to be a matter of public record that they would have wished to object to this amendment to the settlement boundary had their attention been drawn to it at the time of the consultation. Furthermore, they believe that this step was a mistake and that this error should be publicly acknowledged by the planning authority.

I must also request that a copy of this letter is presented to members of the Planning Committee at their August meeting, which I understand is due to consider the proposed new dwelling at the rear of Cliff Cottage. Should planning permission be refused, and the application proceed to appeal, the Town Council also requests that this letter be provided to the Planning Inspectorate.

Despite these concerns in respect of this specific issue, I would like to put on record the Council's thanks to you and all members of the planning policy team, both past and present, who helped to deliver the Swanage Local Plan. Their considerable effort, always delivered with cheerful professionalism, was much appreciated by all members of the steering group.

Yours sincerely

Town Clerk

Encl. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 24th June 2017.

cc. Mrs Anna Lee, Planning Policy Manager
Mr James Clements, Planning Case Officer

Ms B Downton
General Manager – Planning and Community Services
Purbeck District Council
Westport House
Worgret Road
WAREHAM
Dorset
BH20 4PP

Nicola Clark

Subject: Prospect Farm Footpath Diversion

From: Anna Lee
Sent: 30 August 2017 13:12
To: Nicola Clark
Subject: Prospect Farm Footpath Diversion

Dear Niki,

Thank you for submitting Swanage Town Council's comments on the Prospect Farm planning application (6/2017/0359).

As part of the comments, I noticed that members raised a question about whether they should have been consulted on the proposed diversion of the public footpath which runs through the site.

I just wanted to confirm that the proposed diversion of the public footpath will be subject to a separate consultation process. Following consideration by our Planning Committee this morning, notices are due to be published in a local newspaper and at both ends of the footpath, as well as served on those with an interest in the land. If there are no objections, the Council can proceed to confirm the footpath diversion order. If objections are received (and not subsequently withdrawn) the order cannot be confirmed by the Council and must be referred to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will invariably hold a public inquiry before making his decision whether the order should be confirmed.

I hope this will reassure the Town Council that it will have the opportunity of making representations in respect of the footpath diversion order.

Kind regards
Anna

Anna Lee
Planning Policy Manager

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