

Swanage Town Council

Public Notice

Swanage Town Council wants to hear your views on its future plans

Swanage Town Council has issued its draft Corporate Plan for the next three years for public consultation. The aim of the plan is to set out the Council's key priorities, act as a guide to decision making and help communicate the Council's vision for the town.

The consultation document asks residents and businesses to comment on a list of actions linked to five key priorities for the Council, as follows:

- Delivering Good Governance
- Promoting Sustainable Tourism and Supporting the Local Economy
- Providing Opportunities to Improve Health and Wellbeing
- Planning for the Future and Preserving our Heritage
- Protecting the Natural Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis.

The Council's plans primarily relate to the wide range of services that it provides for residents including allotments, cemeteries, car parks, public toilets, sports facilities, parks, gardens and play areas. Some of the Council's most ambitious proposals relate to its aim to become carbon neutral by 2030, which will require a significant investment in sustainable energy over coming years.

Successful delivery of many of the Council's aims will rely on continued close working with its partners in the public and voluntary sectors. For example, it is supporting Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's work to improve the wellbeing of local residents and to provide improved sporting and community facilities at Day's Park, together with Swanage & Herston Football Club. The Council is also working with Dorset Council and Swanage Community Housing Group to identify an appropriate site for the delivery of social housing for local people.

The Council spends approximately £2¼ million per annum on its activities, £840,000 of which is funded by householders through their Council Tax payments.

Councillor Tina Foster, Town Mayor, said 'The Town Council has ambitious plans to improve our services and facilities. We would like as many residents and businesses as possible to comment, to make sure that our priorities reflect their hopes and aspirations for our town and that the Council's plans carry their support'.

In order to maximise the number of responses, the consultation will be open until the end of November. An online consultation form is accessible now from the Town Council's website www.swanage.gov.uk/consultations.aspx and hard copies will be posted to every household and business in early November. Paper copies are available from the Information Centre on Shore Road and the Library. Representatives from the Town Council will also be at Swanage Market on 11th November and are planning to attend meetings of a number of local organisations, including the Chamber of Trade.

A report summarising the responses to the consultation will be considered by the Council and possible changes to the draft plan will be discussed prior to its adoption in either December or January.

The Corporate Plan consultation provides just one of a number of opportunities for residents to shape proposals for the future of Swanage. Dorset Coast Forum has recently invited comments on the seafront to inform the development of a masterplan, and over coming months the Town Council will be inviting local people to get involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan that will influence the development of the town for many years to come.