



Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
Swanage Town & Community Partnership held at
The Town Hall, Swanage on
THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2015 @ 3.30 p.m.

Present:

Kim Gallagher, Chairman ST&CP and Swanage Lions
Mike Bonfield, Vice Chairman ST&CP and Swanage Town Councillor
Martin Ayres, Treasurer ST&CP and Town Clerk, Swanage Town Council
David Bale, Mowlem Institute Charity
John Bishop, Swanage Town Councillor
Peter Bowyer, Studland Parish Council
Robin Brasher, Isle of Purbeck Model Railway Group; Purbeck Transport Action Group
Niki Clark, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council
Karen Delahay, Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association; Purbeck Society
Alan Dominy, Churches Together
Collette Drayson, Langton Matravers Parish Council; Purbeck Society
Laurence Gloyn-Cox, Swanage Coastal Change Forum; Probus 2
PC Kyle Hickman, Swanage Safer Neighbourhood Team; Dorset Police
Mel Norris, Swanage Senior Forum; Jazz Festival; Museum
Sarah Randall, Swanage Library
Anne Rothery, Swanage & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce
James Sinclair Taylor, Swanage Sailing Club; Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust
Carl Styants, The Swanage School

Also in attendance:

Nick Ward, Sustrans Volunteer Ranger

There were no members of the public present.

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman, Mrs Kim Gallagher, welcomed all Partners to the meeting, and introduced Mr Nick Ward, Sustrans Volunteer Ranger responsible for the Swanage area, who would be giving a presentation.

It was proposed by the Chairman and AGREED:

That Item 6) on the agenda be brought forward to
Item 2).

Councillor Mike Bonfield joined the meeting at 3.35 p.m.

2. **Dorset County Council Feasibility Study – cycle routes – presentation from
Mr Nick Ward, Sustrans Volunteer Ranger (responsible for the Swanage area)**

A presentation was given by Mr Nick Ward, Sustrans Volunteer Ranger, on the DCC Swanage & Langton Matravers Walking & Cycling Routes & Traffic Management Feasibility Report dated 27th November 2014. The report detailed the feasibility of improvements to the walking and cycling network in Swanage, and was supported by Sustrans. The areas which had been investigated were advised as follows:

- The walking and cycling route to and from the new St Mark's Primary School on the A351

- The walking and cycling route to and from the new St Mary's Catholic Primary School
- Shore Road and the surrounding areas
- The town centre and its adjoining road network
- Cycling and walking routes towards Studland
- Cycling routes to Corfe Castle

Mr Ward commented on the following points which had been raised in the report:

- Walking and cycling safety – safe routes to schools, and for commuters
- Healthier travel and environmental & health benefits - reduced pollution and congestion, less impact on the local environment, and exercise
- Business/tourism – attracting visitors, cyclists likely to stay and use local facilities

Details of cross-channel cycling routes were provided. These were circular routes from/to Weymouth using ferries (Poole, Cherbourg, Saint-Malo, Roscoff, Plymouth and Jersey), and it was noted that the route currently bypassed Swanage. Details of a further circular cycling route from/to Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, was given.

Mr Alan Dominy joined the meeting at 3.40 p.m.

A discussion ensued and concerns were raised, which included recent traffic incidents seen in the town, and the fact that the feasibility report had omitted any reference to The Swanage School. It was noted that the school had a number of children who liked to cycle to/from school, and some cycled a fair distance in view of the size of the catchment area for the school. It was felt that students should be encouraged to cycle to school, and Mr Ward agreed that it would be important to include The Swanage School in any plan for cycleways in Swanage.

Comments were also made that it would be important to integrate the cycleways, linking access routes between Langton Matravers, Swanage and Studland, and to provide improved signage. It was noted that none of the suggested improvements involved major works, and it was felt that the next step would be to generate interest at Town and District levels, and send a letter to DCC in support of progressing this initiative. It was therefore proposed by Mrs Collette Drayson, seconded by Mr Mel Norris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Swanage Town & Community Partnership write a letter to DCC in support of progressing/exploring the feasibility of improvements further as a matter of urgency, and send a copy of the letter to the Town Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ward for the informative presentation, and it was agreed that a copy of the presentation slides/report should be sent to all Partners to increase awareness of this important study.

3. **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Mo Andrews (Dorset POPP), Colin Brixton (CPRE), Anneliese Fay (Swanage Youth Centre), Councillor Caroline Finch (STC), Collete Ford (Swanage Children's Centre), Bob Foster (Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust), Neil Hardy (Swanage RNLI), Susannah Hill (Swanage Primary School) and Diane McLaughlin (Dorset CCG).

4. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th June 2015**

Proposed that these were a true record by Mr Mel Norris, seconded by Mr Laurence Gloyn-Cox and agreed.

5. **Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 27th August 2015**

Proposed that these were a true record by Mr Mel Norris, seconded by Mr David Bale and agreed.

6. **Matters Arising from Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th June 2015**

15) Swanage Local Plan – update on development of the draft Pre-submission Consultation Document

- **Housing Needs Survey** - it was reported that Purbeck District Council (PDC) had commenced production of the Housing Needs Survey literature which would be sent out later in the year.
- **DCC Transport & Traffic Flow Survey** – a follow-up meeting would be held in October 2015 and discussions with DCC were ongoing.
- **Town centre redevelopment** – the draft Swanage Local Plan public consultation period had commenced and the town centre brief formed part of this consultation. Clarification was requested regarding the proposals for the supermarket/health centre areas, and it was confirmed that the whole site was being considered for redevelopment. A comment was made that it would be important to retain health centre facilities in the town centre.
- **Herston Fields** – DCC had now decided to hold a public inquiry in Spring/Summer 2016.

A discussion ensued regarding the SLP process, and a question was raised as to whether Partners felt that this had been community-led in view of perceived competing priorities. A comment was made that it was felt that it had actually been 'Swanage-led'. The Chairman confirmed that ST&CP had contributed to, and had been fully involved with, the preparation and development of the SLP, and it was felt that PDC had appropriately guided the SLP Steering Group during this process as they had the necessary expertise and knowledge to do so, whilst working within national government guidelines. The Chairman further advised that ST&CP and PDC would continue to work together to implement the priorities identified.

A further discussion was held regarding concerns raised about the lack of affordable housing for local residents, the definition of social and affordable housing, and PDC's planning policy for Swanage. Concerns were again raised regarding the level of second home ownership in Swanage and the surrounding villages. It was reported that the Partial Review of the Purbeck Local Plan: Part 1 (PLP) was in process which could have an effect on implementation of the SLP. Partners were therefore encouraged to use the PLP consultation period to raise any further comments or concerns.

PC K Hickman left the meeting at 4.15 p.m.

7. Swanage2027 - feedback from the Inaugural Meeting held on 27th August 2015 and update on identified projects and priorities

A copy of the minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of Swanage2027 had been provided with the agenda paperwork, and an overview of the meeting was given by the Chairman. The role of the Swanage2027 Steering Committee would be to co-ordinate the delivery of priorities identified through the SLP, public consultations, and the Swanage Community Strategic Plan. The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust (S&PDT) had gained Charitable Status and would be able to explore funding routes for projects, if so required, on behalf of Swanage2027.

A copy of the draft list of priorities for 2015-17 was handed out to Partners, and it was explained that 'Theme Advisory Groups' would be established to take identified projects forward. A comment was made that a communication strategy was key to finding the right people/expertise for these groups. S&PDT would also be promoting Swanage2027.

A discussion was held regarding the proposed review of Conservation Areas. It was felt that STC, ST&CP and other local groups, e.g. The Purbeck Society, could work with Mr Ben Webb, the Design and Conservation Officer, PDC, to identify areas for review, e.g. buildings/features, to preserve the character of the town. A request was therefore made for the Design and Conservation Officer to be invited to the next Quarterly Meeting in December 2015.

8. Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust – update

Formalities had been completed and the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust (S&PDT) was all set up. As previously reported, the Trust was looking to purchase the Victorian part of the former St Mark's School building and had six months to submit a proposal to the Diocese of Salisbury. The purchase price would be £500k and a small fundraising team of five members had been established to research grant and private funding options. The Trustees would be holding an 'open evening' at the Crow's Nest, Swanage, on Wednesday 21st October 2015 from 7.00 p.m. to publicise and promote S&PDT.

A discussion ensued regarding the possible potential for an affordable housing scheme in the town, and the possibility of forming a Community Land Trust for this purpose was discussed. It was noted that advice had been sought from the Worth Community Property Trust. Reference was again made to the upcoming PDC Housing Needs Survey.

9. Swanage Local Plan – reminder of important dates

Swanage residents and businesses were being asked to comment on a final draft of the Swanage Local Plan (SLP) before it was submitted to an independent planning inspector for consideration as part of the examination process. A reminder was given regarding the public drop-in events being held by PDC:

- 6th October 2015 – Town Hall, Swanage, from 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
- 14th October 2015 – All Saints Church, Swanage, from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
- 15th October 2015 – Emmanuel Baptist Church, Swanage, from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

PDC Officers would be in attendance at these events to answer any queries. The public consultation period would run from 24th September 2015 until 4.00 p.m. on 6th November 2015. This would be the last chance to comment on legality, completeness and soundness of the SLP.

10. Any Other Business

- **Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils** – it was reported that meetings/conferences held by the Association were well attended/supported by local councils, and that they provided an important networking opportunity.
- **Habitats Regulations Assessment - 14th Onshore Oil & Gas Licensing Round** – it was reported that the consultation to seek comments on the Oil & Gas Authority's strategic plan-level Habitats Regulations Assessment of blocks taken forward for consideration of award in the 14th onshore oil and gas licensing round closed on 29th September 2015 at 11.45 p.m. There were four licence applications for the Purbeck area.
- **Coastal Forum** – the Chairman reported that she had attended a meeting of the Coastal Forum and had volunteered to assist in the coordination of the local Community Emergency Resilience Plan. It was explained that this would ensure that any community plan was properly co-ordinated, adding further resilience to the plans held by other statutory authorities and emergency services.
- **Swanage Fish Festival** – it was reported that the inaugural Swanage Fish Festival had been a great success this year. The dates had now been set for the 2016 event, which would be held from 10th - 12th June 2016.
- **Refugee Crisis** – it was reported that a support network had been formed at a recent meeting, which included representatives from Churches Together, Swanage Rotary, the Town Council, Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust, Swanage Senior Forum and Swanage Medical Practice. There would be an advert in the next edition of the local Gazette.
- **Town Twinning Association** – a successful visit from Rudesheim was reported. The visitors had been taken on a trip to Portsmouth, which had been enjoyed by all.
- **Swanage School** – it was reported that the school had received a 'good' rating from Ofsted. The Inspector had commented that the school had the potential to have a transformative effect on the town, attracting families to the area so that children could attend the school. It was noted that the school had employed a further 16 members of staff.
- **Churches Together** – a new scheme was being implemented to visit isolated residents in the area. Details of the scheme would be launched publicly in November 2015, and the organisers would be looking for names and addresses of residents to visit.

11. Date of Next Quarterly Meeting

The date of the next Quarterly Meeting had been scheduled for Thursday 10th December 2015 at the Town Hall, Swanage, at 3.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.55 p.m.
