

Dates for Your Diary

Summer Music at St Mary’s Church Swanage
Swanage Carnival Week
Swanage Lights Committee Music and Fireworks
Swanage Triathlon
Lifeboat Week
Swanage Lights Committee Music and Fireworks
Swanage Folk Festival
Guinness World Record Diving Attempt in Swanage Bay
Swanage Comedy Festival
Swanage Blues and Roots Festival
Purbeck Film Festival

14th July - 25th August 2011
30th July – 6th August 2011
13th August 2011
14th August 2011
14th - 21st August 2011
27th August 2011
9th - 11th September 2011
24th September 2011
24th September 2011
7th - 9th October 2011
14th - 29th October 2011

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
Cinners12@yahoo.co.uk

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: 01928 422093 (Office)
Gary.Suttle@GMSuttle.co.uk

Cllr Bill Trite (Town Mayor and C. Councillor)
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

South Ward
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: 77774 997974
mike@bonfield.eclipse.co.uk

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

Cllr Mrs Alison Patrick (Deputy Mayor) (D)
54 Steer Road, Swanage BH19 2RX
Tel: 01929 426534
ali@patrickswanage.co.uk

Cllr Steve Poultney
38 Rabling Road, Swanage BH19 1EF
Tel: 01929 425959
Steve2441@ssesurf.co.uk

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 BH19 1NT
Tel: 01929 421655
angelowiggins@live.co.uk

(D) = District Councillor

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 the slip below and return it to Swanage Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Swanage BH19 2NZ.

Name and contact details:.....
.....

Comments:
.....
.....



Summer 2011

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

Policy & Planning

7.00 pm, Town Hall
15th August, 19th September, 17th October
Council
7.00 pm, Town Hall preceded by a topical presentation at 6.30pm
1st August, 5th September, 3rd October

Finance and Performance Management

9.30am, Town Hall
25th July, 24th October
Transport Committee
2.15pm, Town Hall
12th October

Swanage Matters

The official newsletter of Swanage Town Council

Proposals for pay & display car parking - Shore Road and Station Road

Dorset County Council has recently written to Swanage Town Council seeking its views on proposals to introduce on-street pay and display parking along Shore Road and Station Road. The County Council’s letter giving details of the proposal, together with a map, can be found on the consultation page of the Town Council’s website at www.swanage.gov.uk. Alternatively, a copy can be collected from the Town Hall.

The letter also proposes the prohibition of camper van parking along the seafront all year round. This is in response to the large number of complaints received regarding the number of camper vans parking and camping on the seafront during Easter and early summer, safety concerns associated with so many of these vehicles, and the blocking of sea views to the occupiers of beach huts on Shore Road.

The marked bays along Shore Road would be for cars and motorcycles only, to match the regulations in force along De Moulham Road and many of its side roads. This means that all other vehicles, including works vans, would not be able to park. Blue badge holders would continue to be able to park free for a maximum of three hours.

Along Station Road, research carried out by Dorset County Council showed widespread abuse of the one-hour restriction. On one day in August, three vehicles each stayed for over five hours and one was parked all day. Under the new proposals, the maximum stay would remain one hour, with the option to pay for shorter periods. Additional parking spaces would be created on the north side, outside Nixons Hardware.

Parking charges, which will be set to match those of the Town Council’s car parks, will be retained by Dorset County Council; any operating surplus from on-street parking must be spent on highway improvements in the county. Although it is unlikely that these funds would be directed to Swanage, it is anticipated that usage of local car parks would increase, thereby bringing additional funds to the Town Council. This would support the provision of local services including the public conveniences, tourist information centre and maintaining parks and gardens.

The Town Council has been invited to comment on these proposals, but before doing so it would like to hear the views of

local residents and business people. These will be considered at the full monthly Council meeting on Monday 1st August. **Comments can be sent in by e-mail to admin@swanage.gov.uk or by completing the reply slip on the reverse of this newsletter and returning it to the Town Hall.** The Town Council’s views, and those of other consultative bodies, will be considered by Dorset County Council’s Roads and Rights of Way Committee later in the year.

Website Launch

The Town Council has recently re-launched its website with a vibrant new look created by local web-designers Blue Level. The site has been designed with ease of use as its guiding principle, so that information about the Council’s activities and services can be easily accessed. Improved communication is also key, and from the front page visitors can post complaints and questions, responses to consultations and comments on agenda items or planning applications. Direct contact details are also provided to all councillors and members of the management team.

The website pages provide information on allotments, the boat park, car parks, the tourist information centre, sporting facilities, cemeteries and parks and gardens. The Festivals and Events page provides links to information on all of the main events including the Regatta and Carnival, Jazz, Folk and Blues Festivals and the newly established Comedy and Walking Festivals.

For those interested in the detailed background of Town Council administration, meeting agendas and supporting papers are available, together with the Council’s key policy documents and financial reports.

The aim is also to provide an online one-stop shop for local government services. Although funded solely by the Town Council, it is recognised that residents deserve easy access to all three tiers of local government. Therefore there are easy links to information on services provided by Dorset County Council, such as the reporting of defects with roads and pavements, and to those overseen by Purbeck District Council, such as planning.

Any feedback on the new website and suggestions for improvements would be welcome.

You can visit the website at www.swanage.gov.uk.

Have your say on the Shore Road and Station Road pay and display proposals here

Have your say - reply slip

Ring and Go Parking

In April, Swanage Town Council introduced a new way to pay in its car parks. RingGo is a quick and easy mobile phone service, which makes it easier for you to pay for your parking by credit or debit card. Paying with coins is still an option, but RingGo offers an excellent alternative for those who prefer otherwise.

To use the service, simply park as usual and look for the RingGo signs nearby. These provide the standard rate telephone number, **020 3046 0010**, you need to call. If you haven't used RingGo before, you will be asked for details of your vehicle, your four digit location code (from the sign) and your payment card. Alternatively, you can save time by pre-registering for the service at www.myRingGo.co.uk. Once registered, the service recognises your mobile phone number, and you can use this service in other neighbouring towns which offer this facility. A convenience charge of 20p is made for using RingGo, on top of the car parking tariff.

The Town Council has introduced this service to make visiting the town more convenient and it anticipates that enabling visitors and residents to extend their parking time whenever they want will assist local businesses.

Town Hall registered as a wedding venue

The Swanage Town Council chamber is now available for hire for weddings and civil partnerships, following its registration as a ceremony room by Dorset County Council. The light and spacious Victorian council chamber can hold up to sixty people and provides an attractive alternative to Poole Registry Office as a venue for civil ceremonies. The beautiful wooden staircase leading up to the council chamber and the ornately carved seventeenth-century frontage of the building provide impressive backdrops for photographs.

The council chamber can also be used for the renewal of wedding vows and for naming ceremonies for children. The latter provides an alternative way of celebrating the birth and naming of a child for those who do not wish to have a religious ceremony.

All enquiries should be made to Dorset County Council's registration service on 01305 225153 or e-mail registrationinformation@dorsetcc.gov.uk



Election Results May 2011

At the Council's Annual Meeting on 16th May 2011, Swanage Town Council welcomed four new councillors following the local elections earlier in the month. Three of the new councillors, Mrs Cherry Bartlett, Mike Bonfield and Ian Brown, were elected for the south ward, Mrs Bartlett having served a previous full term between 2003 and 2007. Miss Cindy Harris was newly elected to represent the north ward. Angelo Wiggins was also elected for the first time, having been co-opted to the Council in December 2009 following the sad death of Mrs Constance Gainsborough.

In contrast to these new members, three councillors were elected to serve for an unprecedented sixth term. Councillors Mrs Gloria Marsh, Gary Suttle and Bill Trite were all first elected to the Town Council in 1991. They are the three longest serving councillors in the Town Council's history and together have served for 57 years, Mrs Marsh having been re-elected in 2006 after a three year break.

At the Annual General Meeting, Cllr Trite was re-elected Town Mayor for a second term, with Cllr Mrs Patrick re-elected as Deputy Mayor.

A full list of Town Councillors and their contact details can be found on the reverse of this newsletter. Elections to the Town Council are held once every four years and the next is scheduled to coincide with the General Election in (we are told) May 2015.

Civic Events

The Town Council has recently hosted a number of civic events. Back in March the annual town meeting at the Mowlem community room was better attended than for many years. As well as enabling local residents to raise issues of concern, presentations were made on the work of a wide variety of organisations in the town, including the Hospitality Association, the Chamber of Trade, Education Swanage and the Swanage Senior Forum.

June was a particularly busy month with the Town Council hosting a welcome event at the Mowlem community room for 38 visitors from Swanage's twin-town of Rudesheim-am-Rhein. This visit marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the twinning and saw the Mayor receive a presentation of a Rhineland vine which has been planted near the Tourist Information Centre.

Saturday 25th June saw the Mayor take the salute on the seafront as the 11th Signals Regiment exercised their freedom of the town for the third time. The Regiment has a strong connection with the town, having assisted Swanage Railway with a number of important projects over many years. The following day saw a combined parade to mark Veterans Day and Civic Sunday, followed by the annual Civic Service at St Mary's Church. This was attended by the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant Giles Sturdy, the local MP, Richard Drax, together with civic dignitaries from other Dorset towns and representatives from many local organisations.

Blue Flag

Swanage Town Council is proud to have, once again, been awarded the European Blue Flag and Quality Coast awards for the Main Beach. Swanage is the only town along the Jurassic Coast to achieve both awards. This not only recognises the high quality of the bathing water, but also the beach's excellent safety record, cleanliness and ease of access.

The award is also recognition of the wide range of educational and environmental activities that the Council and other bodies in the town undertake. On 14th May children from St. Mark's CE VA First School and their families took part in a beach clean and educational event at the Tourist Information Centre. This included collecting nurdles (small plastic pellets) from the beach, which were washed up following the sinking of the Napoli off the Devon coast and are a risk to wildlife.

Maintaining the seafront as the jewel in Swanage's crown is one of the Council's top priorities and it funds litter picking, seaweed collection and beach raking. The Council also employs the seasonal beach wardens who work in partnership with the local coastguard and police to ensure a safe environment.

Stony Bones Community Banners Project Completed

You may have noticed six new brightly coloured banners flying from the flag poles in the Town Square. These are the product of the Stony Bones project, a collaboration between renowned local artists Annie Campbell and Antonia Phillips and students from each of the four local first schools, Swanage Middle School and The Purbeck School. The banners were inspired by the natural and cultural heritage of the Jurassic Coast, following visits to Durlston Country Park, a boat trip and a creative workshop at each school.

A launch event was held in the Square on Thursday 9th June, when children from each of the first schools performed poetry, music and dance. The event was organised by representatives of the Jurassic Coast Trust who were lead sponsors of the project. Other sponsors and partners in the project were Swanage and Wareham Rotary Club, Harrow House, Swanage and Purbeck Hospitality Association, Friends of Durlston, the Town Council and the De Moulham Trust.



Projects and Improvements

As part of the management of its finances Swanage Town Council has agreed a major works programme to improve facilities in the town over the years ahead. Although the majority of the funds received from the sale of Swanage Bay View Holiday Park have been invested to generate a return that will support the day-to-day running costs of providing services to local people, a proportion of the proceeds have been allocated to improving the facilities that the Council operates in the town.

Top of the priority list is the provision of new changing facilities for youth football teams at King George's Field. After lengthy deliberations it is planned to combine this facility with a refurbished set of public conveniences in Main Beach Car Park, bringing improvements to both residents and visitors alike. Consideration is also being given to improvements at the main seafront toilet block on Shore Road, including the installation of showers. It is anticipated that this will be welcomed by extra visitors to the town during Olympic year.

The Town Council is also planning improvements at the boat park and car parks, including better lighting and signage to welcome visitors. Stabilisation works on the Downs and the seafront land are also being explored to ensure that serious land slippage is avoided in the future. The replacement of the roofs on the fishermen's huts at Peveril Point has already been completed, to help support the local fishing industry, and a meadowland burial ground at Godlingston Cemetery is being prepared. **Full information on the Town Council's financial planning can be found via the Publications and Downloads page on its website www.swanage.gov.uk/Downloads.aspx.**

De Moulham Trust grants available

The De Moulham Trust has funds available to any project with charitable purposes that will benefit the inhabitants of Swanage. The Trust has two funding streams available. Applications for up to £1,000 can be sent in at any time and will be considered at the next quarterly Trust meeting. Applications for between £1,000 and £50,000 can be lodged between 1st August and 31st October for consideration at the Trust's December meeting. Applications for these larger grants received between 1st November and 30th April will be discussed in June 2012. Further details, including application forms and guidance notes, will soon be available from the Town Hall and on the Charities page of the Town Council's website.

Keeping Swanage clean

The Dorset Waste Partnership (a partnership of all the Dorset Councils) is currently contacting Swanage businesses by letter regarding their waste disposal arrangements.

Littering and dog fouling in public areas are also being monitored. Swanage welcomes responsible dog owners but there is a small minority who do not pick up after their dogs, seriously affecting the appearance of the area and posing a public health hazard.

The aim is to improve the overall appearance of the town centre, making it a pleasant place for residents and visitors.