

Working in partnership to improve the local environment

Swanage Town Council has entered into partnership agreements with both the County and District Councils to help improve the local environment.

The Town Council receives many complaints regarding dog fouling in public areas. Whilst the majority of dog owners are responsible and clear away dog mess left by their pet, a significant minority create a problem of great concern to local residents.

Until recently only the District Council had powers to issue fixed penalty notices to irresponsible dog owners, which meant that the District Dog Warden had to be called to address a specific problem. Now, however, following recent training, the Town Council’s enforcement officers have been authorised to warn people of the consequences of their

actions and issue fines of £50 where appropriate. Any fines issued are enforceable through the courts.

The Town Council has also taken on a larger role in keeping the town’s footpaths, pavements and verges neat and tidy. It has entered into an agreement with Dorset County Council. Under this £10,000 is paid to the Town Council towards the salary of a lengthsman to undertake minor works including verge cutting, clearing blocked gullies and drains, trimming back overgrown branches and clearing leaves.

If you have any information regarding areas badly affected by dog fouling or that could benefit from the attention of the lengthsman then please telephone, e-mail or write to Swanage Town Council.

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
cinnners12@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: 01929 422093 (Office)
Gary.Suttle@GMsuttle.co.uk

CLlr Bill Trite (Town Mayor, D and County 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: 07774 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 Ali 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
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 your details below and return this slip to Swanage Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Swanage, BH19 2NZ.

Name and contact details:.....

Comments:

Have your
say -
reply slip



Winter 2012/13

Dr Martin Ayres
Town Clerk
Town Hall
High Street
Swanage
BH19 2NZ

Tel: 01929 423636
Fax: 01929 427888

Email: admin@
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Meeting Dates

All meetings are open to the public and commence with 15 minutes of public participation time.

Agendas are available on-line.

Full Council

7.00pm:

7 January
4 February
4 March

Policy & Planning

7.00pm:

21 January
18 February
18 March

Transport Committee

9 January – 2.15pm

Finance & Performance Management

14 January – 9.30am

Tourism

4 March – 10.00am

General Operations Committee

6 March – 7.00pm

Swanage Matters

The official newsletter of Swanage Town Council

A new PaTHway to local services

Swanage Town Council and Dorset Police have joined forces to provide a new facility in the Town Hall Annexe. This is known as Swanage PaTHway (Police and Town Hall information).

PaTHway has enabled the local Police to relocate from Argyle Road to this town centre location. The Town Council supported this move to ensure a continuing police presence in the town and make savings.

The level of policing remains unchanged, with Safer Neighbourhood Officers based at the PaTHway facility. Response Officers are deployed daily from Wareham Police Station, providing a continued policing presence in the Swanage area.

This joint reception area has been designed to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, and provides access to council services which could previously only be reached via steps into the main Town Hall building.

Services include a first point of contact for visitors; updates to victims of crime; recording of lost property and taking messages for officers; issuing residents’ parking permits; receiving payments; dealing with queries relating to car parks, cemeteries, allotments and parks; supplying application forms for the Dorset Concessionary Travel Scheme; and providing information about Council meetings.

Town Mayor, Councillor Bill Trite, said: ‘The opening of the PaTHway facility responds to the public sector budget restraints. Joint working between the police and Swanage Town Council will provide an improved service to communities in Swanage and neighbouring villages.

‘This development is a result of the hard work of councillors, Town Council officers and the local Police. Together they will ensure that it is a success’.

Contact telephone numbers

Swanage Town Council 01929 423636

Dorset Police 101 - please request connection to Swanage PaTHway reception desk during the advertised opening hours.

Opening hours, in line with current Town Council office opening:

Monday to Friday, April to September – 10.00am-1.00pm/2.00pm-4.00pm

Monday to Friday, October to March – 10.00am-1.00pm/2.00pm-3.00pm

Visitors can also use a direct telephone link to the Police Enquiry Centre where crime details will be recorded by dedicated call takers. All other services previously available in Swanage, including document production, bail registration, road traffic collision reports, surrender of firearms and ammunition etc continue to be provided by desk officers at Wareham Police Station.

Wareham Police Station is normally open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm, closing between 1.30pm and 2.30pm. You are advised to call 101 and ask the operator to confirm that Wareham will be open at the time of your intended visit.

Next door to the new PaTHway office, the main Town Hall building continues to provide office space for AGE UK advice surgeries on alternate Mondays between 10.00am and 2.00pm, the Dorset Registration Service on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, between 10.00am and 12.00pm, and the Citizens Advice Bureau on Wednesdays and Fridays between 10.15am and 2.00pm.

The Town Hall also hosts the weekly Town Band practice and is a popular venue for civil weddings and partnership ceremonies.The opening of the new offices is consistent with the Town Council’s aim of providing a hub for community services in the heart of Swanage.

Bandstand

Recently many local residents will have been disappointed to see the Recreation Ground Bandstand in such a poor condition. Unfortunately the Town Council has now had to recognise that the current structure, built in 1923, is beyond repair.

The condition of the Bandstand roof became critical following a storm earlier in the year and a contract was entered into to refurbish it, with the aim of reopening it in time for the Olympic Torch Relay. Sadly, the work was delayed following the discovery of asbestos and unsound roof struts and supporting brackets.

Reluctantly, the Town Council has agreed to remove the roof structure in order to make it safe, leaving the outer railings in place whilst replacement options are explored. As well as looking into alternative designs, the Council will investigate ways to raise the estimated £80,000 required. Grant funding is being researched and the Town Band have kindly offered to assist in fund-raising. A notice board will be placed next to the Bandstand to explain the situation to visitors.

New meadowland burial ground

As concerns grow about the fragility of the countryside, people are becoming more environmentally aware. With this, the popularity of natural burial practice is also growing, and Swanage Town Council has recognised the importance of giving people choice for their final resting place.

An area next to the formal cemetery at Godlingston has been set aside for a meadowland burial ground as a ‘green’ alternative to traditional interment and will see the development of an area rich in native meadow plants and wildlife. The meadowland will be maintained in a way that encourages and protects the trees, wildlife and natural wildflower seeds. The traditional ‘neat and tidy’ appearance of cemeteries will not apply to the meadowland burial area and the grass will be cut infrequently to encourage wildflowers to flourish



There is an ‘ashes bank’ for those who wish to scatter ashes. This will also be managed as a wildflower area. For those wishing to scatter ashes, a Book of Remembrance will be kept at the Town Hall and an entry will be made in the book as a permanent record.

As the meadowland will be kept completely natural, no memorials will be permitted, but each plot will be identified by an underground electronic marker peg that will record the details of the person interred. These details can be picked up with the use of a scanner which will be used by the cemetery ground staff. Any family member wishing to find the location of a grave will be able to contact the Town Hall and a member of staff will be pleased to locate the plot.

Seafront pay and display

Dorset County Council is set to introduce on-street pay and display parking along Station Road and Shore Road prior to the 2013 summer season.

The marked bays along Shore Road will be for cars and motorcycles only, to match the regulations in force along De Moulham Road and many of its side roads. This measure was introduced in response to the large number of complaints received regarding the number of camper vans parking on the seafront during Easter and early summer.

Although income from on-street parking is paid to the County Council, as the highway authority, charges on ShoreRoad will be in line with the Town Council’s long stay car parks. Blue badge holders can continue to park free for a maximum of three hours.

In summer 2011, the Town Council consulted local residents on these proposals in Swanage Matters and received 82 responses. 60% were in favour of pay and display parking along Shore Road and 68% approved of restricting parking to cars and motorcycles only.

Support for pay and display along Station Road was more finely balanced, with 50% of respondents in favour. Local shopkeepers expressed concern at the likely impact on their trade and our County Councillor took forward these concerns.

Nevertheless, on 7 November the County Council Cabinet opted to proceed with implementation in the current financial year.

Recognising local concerns, the County Council has agreed to introduce a ‘drop-in’ pay period on Station Road of 20p for 15 minutes and charging will not commence until 10.00am, in line with the Town Council’s shoppers’ car parks. A loading bay will be introduced outside Nixon’s Hardware to ensure that deliveries are not adversely affected.

Day’s Park

Swanage Town Council recently undertook a project to update the play area in Day’s Park. The old play equipment had come to the end of its life and, under the stringent playground health and safety guidelines, it was deemed necessary to close the existing play area.

As part of the Council’s wider programme to improve facilities in the town, councillors agreed to an investment from the capital budget to install new play equipment and move the area away from the trees to provide a safer play environment.

Following a tender process, overseen by Purbeck District Council’s project development officer, Sutcliffe Play South West was commissioned to install the play equipment. Children can climb, swing, slide and spin and work out difficulties for themselves, giving them confidence and the ultimate health boost of exercise and fresh air.

Next to the children’s area there is a range of outdoor gym equipment for teenagers and adults. This includes a ‘power push’ to build strength, ‘mini ski’ for balance and co-ordination, ‘health walker’ for flexibility and cardiovascular exercise, and a ‘ski stepper’ for co-ordination and cardiovascular exercise.

There is also a large area for dog walkers, with dog bins to keep the park clean for all, and seating around the park and in the garden inspired by the ‘Swanage In Bloom’ committee in 1990. There’s plenty of room for children to have free play and the added bonus of fantastic new areas for all ages to enjoy!

The picture below shows two members of Purbeck Runners demonstrating the outdoor gym equipment at the formal opening of the new play area, together with (left to right) Ms Cheryl Knight (Mayoress), Councillor Bill Trite (Town Mayor) and Robin Sutcliffe, Chairman of Sutcliffe Play.



De Moulham Trust grants

Over the last year, local groups have received grants from the De Moulham Trust. Sums of £50,000 have been pledged to Swanage Sea Rowing Club towards their new boat house project on Prince Albert Gardens, and to Education Swanage to help fund facilities at the new Swanage Free School.

Smaller grants have been made to local organisations including Swanage Scouts, Wareham and Swanage Air Training Corps, Swanage Museum, Purbeck Arts Weeks, Swanage Town & Herston Football Club, Purbeck Citizens Advice Bureau and Purbeck Film Academy.

The Trust recently opened a third grant funding stream for sums above £1,000 but less than £10,000. The application process is the same as for the Trust’s smaller grants and is open to any medium-scale project with charitable purposes that will benefit Swanage residents.

The Trust’s two existing funding streams will continue: applications for up to £1,000, can be submitted at any time and will be considered at the next quarterly Trust meeting.

Applications for sums over £10,000 (up to £50,000) can be lodged between 1 November and 30 April for consideration at the Trust’s June meeting; those received between 1 May and 31 October will be discussed in December 2013.

Application forms and guidance notes are available from the PaTHway office and on the Charities page of the TownCouncil’s website www.swanage.gov.uk/Charities.aspx

Town Crier

Swanage Town Council revived a colourful custom last year by appointing a new Town Crier, the first one since the late Derrick Fincham held the post.

Local resident Mrs Jean Gibbs thought it would be good for Swanage to re-instate the tradition and drew the Town Council’s attention to the possibility of acquiring Mr Fincham’s bells and outfit. Posters were displayed appealing for lusty locals to take up the challenge and two brave souls took part in a ‘cry off’ at the bandstand on Sandpit Field. Peter White, the Town Crier of Seaford in East Sussex, kindly made the journey to Swanage to give reassurance and tips and joined the judging panel with the Town Crier of Wareham, Jacquie Hall, and the lady who started the ball rolling, Jean Gibbs.

The Mayor, Mayoress and Deputy Mayor braved the elements to attend the ‘cry off’ which resulted in Mr Andrew Fleming being appointed as Town Crier. Andrew can be seen at local events and represents Swanage further afield. If you would like to enlist Andrew’s services for an event, he can be contacted on 01929 422479.



Part-night street lighting

Part-night street lighting is to be introduced in Swanage as part of Dorset County Council’s savings package. Street lights will be switched off between midnight and 5.30am, although main routes including the High Street, Victoria Avenue and Shore Road will remain lit all night.

In response to consultation, the Town Council suggested that it would be more appropriate in a busy seaside town such as Swanage for the switch-off to be an hour later (between 1.00am and 6.30am). It also proposed that lighting should remain on along the southern stretch of Ulwell Road, along Queens Road to the hospital, and that one in three street lights should be retained across the town. However, the County Council responded that these suggestions were unworkable and the switch-off will now proceed as initially proposed.

A Local Plan for Swanage

Purbeck District Council, Swanage Town Council and the Swanage Town & Community Partnership are working together to produce a Local Plan for Swanage. When completed, this document will sit alongside the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 (formerly known as the Core Strategy) as a statutory document, setting out policies to shape the development of Swanage until 2027.

In November, the Purbeck Local Plan was approved by a government inspector and subsequently adopted by the District Council. The Town Council was unsuccessful in seeking a reduction in the number of dwellings allocated to Swanage and neighbouring villages, which will have to accommodate more than 900 new dwellings over the entire plan period (2006-2027).

However, as a result of representations made by the Town Council and others, the Purbeck Local Plan now sets out the need to encourage development of family housing in Swanage, as opposed to continued flat development, and to respond to the threats of coastal change and flood risk. These themes will be taken forward in the Swanage Local Plan, which will address many other matters, including:

Finding sites for affordable housing;

Allocating sites around the edge of Swanage for 200 new homes;

Improving sports and recreational facilities and protecting open space;

Finding ways of expanding the town centre to accommodate more retail space.

Work on the Local Plan is getting underway, identifying the key issues and priorities and preparing the evidence base. Drop-in sessions are planned for early in 2013 to explore these issues with the community. These will be held across Swanage, Durlston, Herston and Ulwell and it is vital that as many residents as possible get involved to help shape the future of their town. For more information regarding the Swanage Local Plan please contact a member of Purbeck’s Planning Policy Team on 01929 557384 or the Town Clerk on 01929 423636.

If you require a version of Swanage Matters in large print, please call 01929 423636.