

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 13 November
2013 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: D.G. Rickard (Chairman)
G.J. Ackerman
Ms A-M.A. Vincent Ms S.J. Williams

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the public form.

33. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs E.T. Colfox and
Ms R.C. Kayes.

34. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 September 2013 were
confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

36. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE SHAPE OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES IN BRIDPORT

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2745.

It was noted that further consultation was to be undertaken in December and
January and that the Town Council and BLAP were to assist Dorset County Council
in circulating information.

In respect of the comments made in support of the Youth Service (in the Town
Council's initial response), it was asked if it could be clarified if the Youth Service,
and specifically the Youth Centre in Bridport, was within the scope of the review. It
would be important that the Council continued to reiterate its support for the Youth
Centre.

RECOMMEND: that the update be noted.

37. DRAFT JURASSIC COAST WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2746.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond, in
consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Leader of the Council.

38. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANELS UPDATE

It was reported that the project was now rolling out to Dorchester and the next Steering Group meeting would be in that town. Work was ongoing into looking at establishing the Steering Group as a Charitable Trust and additional funding support was being sought, to ensure that the project was able to continue next year. A meeting was also to be held in December with Oliver Letwin.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

39. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2744.

Members welcomed the extension of the powers under the Act, to local town and parish councils. It was noted that when the District Council offered communities the opportunity to put forward proposals under the original scheme (which at the time was not open to local councils), two local proposals came forward – licensing of Sat Nav. producers and comments on planning matters from the Highways Agency to be only advisory.

It was felt that these two issues could possibly be re-visited and it would also be helpful to invite the public to bring forward proposals that the Town Council could consider. The proposals had to be ones that aimed to remove legislative barriers that prevent councils from improving their area's well being.

RECOMMEND: that the opportunities available under the Sustainable Communities Act be noted and the public be invited to submit proposals for the Town Council to consider, within the criteria of the Act.

40. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

The Town Clerk reported that he was awaiting a template and guidance to begin producing a community resilience plan, to address current emergency issues (flooding, extreme weather etc). It would also be necessary to seek volunteers to implement the plan and it was proposed that this was done alongside the Communities Living Sustainably project, which was looking to work with communities on a resilience plan, to address future challenges from Climate Change. The two issues – current and future challenges – could be covered in the one plan.

RESOLVED: that work proceed on the production of a community resilience plan, for current issues, alongside work, in conjunction with the Communities Living Sustainably project, to ensure that the plan also included provision to respond to future challenges

41. OPEN SPACES TASK FORCE

The notes of the meeting of 2 September 2013 were considered.

RESOLVED: that the notes be received and the actions set out endorsed.

42. DORSET POLICE ENQUIRY OFFICE – CHANGE OF PROVISION

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2747.

Inspector Mike Darby from Bridport Police was welcomed to the meeting.

Inspector Darby explained that the Dorset wide review of station enquiry offices found that over 75% of the public prefer to contact the force by phone and that less people were using the public enquiry offices. The force had to make further savings in its budget and therefore it was necessary to look at the enquiry office provision.

The proposal for the whole of the county was that an enquiry office service would be maintained only at Weymouth and Bournemouth stations. At other specific sites, including Bridport, there would be a six month trial from April, with the enquiry office being open 6 hours a week - 2 hours for 3 days only. The police station in Bridport would remain fully staffed and operational and, at all other times, the public could use the yellow telephone outside the station, to call a central number. The central switchboard would then contact a member of staff in the station, to come out and meet the member of the public.

One possible option that had been put forward, through the consultation, was that rather than have a number of stations open with peripatetic staff, for just 6 hours a week, it might be preferable to have just one office open in one town in each corner of the county, providing a more extensive service. Other options to provide an enquiry service could be looked at, such as sharing space with other authorities. At this stage, it was open to stakeholders, including the Town Council to consider and put forward its comments.

Members discussed the proposal and commented as follows:

- there was concern that this would be a reduction in the service and many people preferred to speak face to face with someone, rather than use a telephone.
- it was asked if it could be possible for the Bridport station enquiry desk to be open for 2 hours a day, for five days a week?
- the cost of telephoning a central number (which would then contact the station for someone to come out) was questioned.
- could the doors be left open to allow people into the enquiry space, rather than waiting outside, whilst their call was dealt with?
- if people had to produce documents (car licence etc.) at the request of the police, would this be more difficult and require journeys to Bournemouth or Weymouth?
- members were reassured that the Bridport police station was to remain open, but hoped that there could be a way that the enquiry service could be retained and for more than just the 6 hours proposed in the trial period.

RECOMMEND: that the proposals in respect of police enquiry provision be noted and a response be approved, taking into account the comments above.

43. WEST DORSET CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY GROUP

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting of the Climate Change Strategy Group, that he had attended.

The meeting had received a presentation from Geoff Joy, Head of Housing at West Dorset District Council, on the emerging Housing Strategy. A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) had been completed alongside the development of the Strategy, and provided an assessment of the public health issues that could result from the condition of housing in the district. The results of the HIA were indicating a particular issue with housing in the private rented sector, and fuel poverty issues. This was an issue that would need to be looked at.

The update was noted.

44. DOG FOULING – UPDATE ON PROPOSALS

The Town Clerk reported that this was to be discussed with the West Dorset District Council dog warden, to see what support and guidance they could give, towards establishing a community scheme to advise dog owners.

It was generally agreed that this was a matter that West Dorset District Council should advise on, through the dog warden service.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

45. HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSIONING

There were no issues to report at this time.

46. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Transition Town – it was reported that there was ongoing participation in the Communities Living Sustainably Project.

47. FUTURE REPORTS

There were no further reports requested at this time.

48. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items raised.

The meeting closed at **8.10 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 19 March 2014