

**Notes of a Meeting of West Bay Ward Matters held
at the Salt House, West Bay, on Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 6.30pm.**

Attendance:

Councillor: Ann Langridge (Chair)

Also present: PC Kirsty Frecknall, PCSO Pete Smith, Tom Hallifax, 45 members of the public, and Will Austin (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dave Bolwell, and James Radcliffe (Harbour Master). There were no declarations of interest.

2. Notes of last meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024 were agreed.

3. Ward Issues, including planning applications

The meeting discussed the following:

Antisocial Driving

- PC Kirsty Frecknall reported as follows:
 - Police patrols had increased as far as possible in response to reports of antisocial driving, and actions had included speaking to drivers, words of advice, and a Section 59 notice. This was a warning that if breached within 12 months the vehicle could be seized.
 - The preference was for education as the first line response, but two Section 59 notices had been issued.
 - Reports had subsequently reduced, but patrols were ongoing.
 - A leaflet had been issued to explain the reporting procedure. A vehicle registration was ideal, along with a description of the vehicle.
 - The public were urged to continue reporting via 999 if dangerous, otherwise online.
 - A proportionality assessment for CCTV purposes had been carried out on 8 January, for a temporary camera as a back up to other actions.
- PCSO Pete Smith advised that:
 - Witnesses should, if possible to do safely, record video to provide better information about behaviour. A Section 59 notice was possible on the basis of this alone.
 - Vehicle recovery for a seized vehicle incurred a fee of £150, but the Section 59 continued regardless.
 - Members of the public should not challenge offenders, due to the risk to safety.
- Attendees considered:
 - Concerns at a lack of Police response.
 - Difficulties capturing vehicle registrations in image or video form due to glare.
 - A desire for an on site patrol with cameras and a large presence.

- A request for road policing in unmarked cars. PCSO Smith confirmed that this approach had been adopted.
- Windows smashed in residences at East Cliff.
- A concern that locking Station Road Car Park would move the problems to East Beach Car Park.
- Windows smashed at the Station Kitchen.
- Whether the media could highlight Police actions, including the Section 59 notices.
- The location of the proposed temporary CCTV, confirmed as being by the Harbour Master's office.
- A desire for more cameras.
- Frustration at the lack of Police resources.
- Whether the additional camera would be connected to the Control Room – confirmed that it would.

'Pavilion' Proposal

- Tom Hallifax circulated designs for a proposed pavilion structure at the Welcome Hub, and presented as follows:
 - West Bay had its own coastal identity.
 - His proposal added a point of focus and a creative space.
 - There would be a permanent bandstand for events, seating, and space for bikers.
 - The result would be a natural plaza, with seating around.
 - The design referenced a Victorian theme which he hoped complemented West Bay.
 - It would make use of the existing surface materials.
 - A walkway around the bandstand would be included, providing a 1.8m gap between bandstand and seating for accessibility.
 - Tom was looking to fund the installation independently.
 - The structure would be lightweight but strong, with a tensile fabric roof made to purpose and adequate for all weather conditions.
 - It would need cleaning twice a year.
 - The site was under-used at the moment, and was a good potential performance space for a range of performers.
 - Installation on the greens would not be appropriate, due to the impact on the grass and other factors.
 - It could be seen from all around the harbour and would be iconic.
- Responding to the proposal, attendees discussed:
 - A concern from a kiosk owner that bikers might be deterred. Tom said that the design would allow sight of the bandstand over the bikers, so they could continue to use the area.
 - Whether the congregation of bikers, food and events in one place would be desirable.
 - A suggestion that weekly cleaning might be needed.
 - Concerns on behalf of bikers, and the knock-on economic impact if they were deterred.
 - Safety concerns with an event venue so close to the road.
 - A number of people expressing a preference for installation on one of the greens.
 - The impact on Harbour House.
 - Concerns about cleaning, maintenance, sustainability, and associated costs.

- Some expressions of support for the proposal and the design, with comments that it was a good use of the under-used area.
- The impact of seagulls, rust, and wind.
- Concerns about the impact of the current arrangements, the state of the picnic tables, and their proximity to the road.
- Some comments welcoming the idea of a multifunctional area.
- The Chair called for a show of hands in response to the proposal. This showed 16 in favour and 15 against.
- A separate show of hands indicated that 9 people preferred a location other than the Welcome Hub.

Speed Camera Survey

- The Chair reported that this had not taken place and would be pursued.

20mph Speed Limits

- The Town Clerk outlined a proposal to introduce a 20mph limit across the central area of West Bay.
- A show of hands indicated 22 in favour, 5 against.
- The Town Clerk advised that an application would be submitted. He further reported that plans were in hand to introduce a 30mph limit on Station Road/Marsh Barn Road leading out to Burton Road, and that work was ongoing on the arrangements for West Bay Road.

Stampede by the Sea

- The Town Clerk reported that this initiative would take place from 28 March to 22 May, with a base at the Salt House. As a consequence, the Salt House was 'block booked' from 24 March to 22 May.

Community Bus Pilot

- The Chair reported on a proposed pilot 'shuttle bus' service running between Bridport and West Bay at weekends.
- There was discussion of the route and experience from previous services.
- A show of hands indicated 18 in favour and 0 against the proposal.

4. Any other matters, including date of next meeting

The following matters were raised:

- Acknowledgement of a notice of the meeting now appearing in West Cliff, and an appeal for the website to be kept updated.
- Buses delayed by cars parking alongside the kiosks.
- Tents on Flood Lane field. The Town Clerk reported that the occupants had been engaged by the Homeless Outreach team, and Dorset Council had been asked to clear any rubbish or hazardous materials.
- Macarena Styles, Discovery Centre Manager, reported that she was recruiting volunteers, and gave an update on forthcoming activities and events.
- The meeting congratulated all involved in the iconic West Bay Christmas Tree.
- The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to Police officers for their attendance.
- The next meeting was scheduled for 12 March 2025 at the Salt House.

The meeting closed at **8.09pm**.