

Notes of the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership (BWPP) Public Engagement Session held in Bothenhampton Village Hall on Tuesday 29th April 2025 at 11.00am

Present: Cllr Anne Rickard - *Bridport Town Councillor, Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward*
Cllr Andy Holdridge - *Bridport Town Councillor, Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward*
Jo Hughes - *Ward Clerk*

4 members of public

Apologies: Cllr Bridget Bolwell - *Bridport Town Councillor, Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward*

Cllr Rickard and Cllr Holdridge welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members of the public to raise any issues in the ward.

Hollow Way High Pavement

Residents wanted to know if anything is happening about the high pavement at Hollow Way which has been closed on the grounds on safety. The Clerk confirmed that the last update received from Dorset Council in March 2025 is that Dorset Council Asset Management have advised that the pavement is to be assessed for design, in the financial year 2025/2026. Cllr Rickard advised that Bridport Town Council responded very quickly to clearing away broken and fallen pieces from the closed footpath but unfortunately do not have the resources or money to do anything more, but the team are in contact with Dorset Council regarding the footpath. Cllr Holdridge advised that finances to carry out works will be an issue for Dorset Council.

UPDATE: Having requested temporary signage to alert motorists of pedestrians in the road at Hollow Way, Dorset Council have advised that *'this is not possible as it would set a precedent and likely increase the number of pedestrians using the road and create more safety risks than exists at this time'*. It has also been confirmed that there is no timescale as to when repairs will be carried out to the pavement due to the expense and complexity likely required of the repairs and so in the meantime the pavement must remain closed for the safety of all.

20mph

An update on progress of 20mph for the ward was requested, as residents feel that Bothenhampton and Walditch should be deemed high priority for 20mph. The Clerk advised that the application for Bothenhampton & Walditch has been submitted to Dorset Council but the 20mph scheme is a phased process with high demand and applications are being organised in phases based on the date they were received or when they were ready for consideration. A resident asked if Bothenhampton & Walditch could be moved higher up the scheme. The Clerk agreed to ask the question but felt this was unlikely to happen as all applications are dealt with in the order that they are received. Cllr Holdridge suggested a flashing slow down sign and pedestrian in road sign as the aim is to try and change driver behaviour. Clerk to speak with the Town Surveyor. The Clerk also advised that Dorset Police are working with Dorset Council and are providing free road safety signage in the Dorset Council area which might be worth looking into - Clerk to investigate.

UPDATE: Dorset Council confirmed that the 20mph traffic speed surveys required for Bothenhampton & Walditch are likely to take place in July/August and will be carried out by the road safety team at Dorset Council at three locations within the ward. Dorset Council have also advised that temporary signage is

not permitted (see above update) and as the ward is looking to progress 20mph, it is unlikely that a request for the road safety signage being offered by Dorset Police would be successful.

A35 Sea Road South

Cllr Holdridge advised that project works planned for the A35 Sea Road South have been paused for this year due to restricted funding but a 30mph speed limit should be introduced along Sea Road South where it is currently 40mph.

Bus Station Toilets

A resident advised that the toilets located at Bridport Bus Station have been out of action for some weeks now. Clerk to inform the relevant organisation.

UPDATE: Dorset Council have advised that they have recently had the gent's toilet closed due to maintenance issues, due to vandalism for a few weeks but that has been repaired, and they are now open. The West Street toilets opening times are 9am-8pm summer times 1st April til 31st October. Winter times are 9am-6pm 1st November til 31st March. There is also a 24hr toilet within the block.

Bothenhampton Church Coffee Morning

Due to the low attendance at the ward meeting, a resident advised that Councillors may wish to attend the Bothenhampton Church Coffee Morning which takes place on the first Saturday of the month, 10am-12pm, is well attended and provides a good opportunity for Councillors to chat informally with residents. Cllr Holdridge commented that he would try to attend the next one on Saturday 3rd May.

Meeting closed 11.35am