**West Bay Ward Matters Drop In Session**

**10th July 2025, 6.30pm at The Salt House**

**Notes**

 **Attendees - 18 plus Jane Powell from West Bay Swimmers Action Group**

1. Jane gave an update on the progress with testing of the water at East Beach. 6-7 tests have been made so far and all have been good. Unfortunately, there has been no rain but there is funding for the next 29 weeks which should cover at least one rainy period. The group has started the process to get East Beach bathing water status which will ensure monitoring of bathing water quality will continue. This is a lengthy, involved process and includes:
* A local consultation covering as many individuals, community groups as possible. BTC support would be useful
* A map of the area and local facilities for DEFRA
* Counts of the number of swimmers, by day etc.
* Permission from the Crown Estate
1. **There were two big issues discussed at length at the meeting:**
* Parking on Meadowlands.  Although a conclusion wasn't reached on the best option to restrict free parking, the parking survey will help to establish the favoured option. Sue Pollock very kindly volunteered to deliver the forms. The issue of Dorset Council refuse workers parking on the estate was also raised. There is daily noise at 6:30 am which is unacceptable. Needs another request to Dorset Council for the workers to find somewhere quieter to park.
* Boy racers, motor bikes, e-bikes, e-scooters, anti-social behaviour and growing intimidation. This has been escalating in recent weeks. It is a blight that is now affecting people's lives, even their health and a feeling they are not safe to walk alone in the evenings. Examples of physical intimidation were provided by residents. The Ward Councillors will continue to pursue measures to deal with this. A speed camera on West Bay Road would be welcomed and it was suggested that this should be an average speed camera.
1. **Other Issues Raised**
* Black Hut - Concern that the black hut keeps its character after the planned alterations. The plans are at the pre-planning stage, but residents will be able to comment as part of the planning process (residents need to be alerted when this happens). The West Bay Swimmers Action Group would also like to be informed of the progress of the plans (which include a changing room for swimmers).
* Bins – they need to be more prominent for holiday makers. A sign at eye level on top of the bins would be useful. Although the litter situation is generally much improved, the exception to this is the Station Road car park where levels of litter have increased.
* Biker parking – more management is needed to control numbers when the 32 allocated places are exceeded. More enforcement is needed.
* Proposed pavilion in Welcome Area. General support although concerns were raised about potential conflict between audiences for the performances and the bikers.
* George Street – a request to have this street cleaned. This would need parking restrictions on the day of cleaning due to the permanent presence of parked cars.
* Chesil House – disabled parking on the double yellow lines outside Chesil House restricts visibility for cars exiting the block’s car park. Pips are needed to prevent any disabled parking other than drop off.
* West Bay Days – request to open up the fields used for the Melplash Show for parking for this event. This did not happen last year, and visitors found it difficult to find parking as all the car parks were full.
* Dog signage – the no dogs on East Beach sign is too small for dog owners to notice. Dogs are regularly seen on the beach and often off their leads. A large sign on East Beach at the entrance was requested. It was noted that anyone with a dog walking along the beach from Freshwater is not made aware of the ‘no dogs’ rule.
* The ‘don’t walk under the cliffs’ sign - has been removed. This needs to be put back.
* Cut by the George – can bicycles and e-bikes and e-scooters be banned from using the cut?
* Trailway – where this crosses Meadowlands a warning sign that there is a road up ahead would be useful. There was also a query whether the noticeboard advertising the trailway consultation could be moved to a slightly less prominent location, but will it be a permanent fixture?
* Grow Slow Café Music events – the noise levels at the last event were excessive. Can a restriction be imposed when the event licence is given? (The licence was for music to finish at 11pm. The relevant noise regulations would only come into play after 11pm.)