

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 1 September 2025 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark (in the chair)

Cllrs:	Nigel Amor	Anna Killick
	Jonathan Bourbon	Anne Rickard
	Sarah Carney	David Worthington
	Kelvin Clayton	

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Ann Langridge (not a committee member)  
Sally Freemantle (Town Clerk), Daryl Chambers (Town Surveyor/Deputy Town Clerk) 39 members of the public and two members of the press.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to speak as summarised below:

Application 3936, erection of a 7 metre internally illuminated sign

It was understood that this sign would be to highlight electric vehicle charging points which is unnecessary as a separate sign and could be included on the existing sign which lists the services that Morrisons provides. It was felt that the sign would be harmful to Bridport conservation area which is in close proximity, and disrespectful to the listed building opposite the Morrisons site. The illumination is unnecessary and unwelcome by residents.

Agenda Item 7(v) Jessopp Avenue- 20mph and Speed Indicator Device

It was explained that cars and vehicles exceed the speed limit regularly which was particularly concerning as elderly people resided in the area, with some using mobility scooters. On street parking was causing vehicles, which included larger vehicles such as vans and lorries to drive on the wrong side of the road, but it was felt that the addition of yellow lines would help mitigate this.

Agenda Item 6 Dorset Local Plan Consultation

13 members of the public commented on this agenda item:

It was questioned whether any of the sites are sustainable as identified sites were green site land/farmland and the beautiful landscape and wildlife would be affected. Concern was raised that the housing identified would attract more of the existing demographic - jobs were not available to support younger people and the infrastructure and poor transport network made the quantities of proposed properties and the locations unviable. The CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) manifesto was quoted, *"The right housing in the right places"*.

A landowner commented on the parcel of land number 004 – the Local Plan proposed the building of 372 houses in this location. The site had been purchased for agricultural use to grow food sustainably whilst embracing nature and being sympathetic to the natural environment. Planning permission for a shed or even a post on the land had been met with resistance from the planning authority and the landowner explained that it felt hypocritical that the proposal to develop the land had now been included in the Local Plan.

The sites identified in the proposed Local Plan were described as urban sprawl. Hundreds of houses were proposed on green field sites which should have higher protection from development. It was commented that the site assessments were all wrong and the Local Plan should be discarded and started again.

The roads were designed for horses and carts, not the volume of traffic Bridport was now facing. More houses and homes for younger people were required along with employment opportunities for new residents. If this is not addressed, further increases in traffic would ensue as people we need to commute to other towns,

The Local Plan has a surprising lack of detail, particularly with regard to transport and infrastructure. Issues would be compounded ten-fold by the proposals. It was also questioned why no brownfield sites had been identified.

A question was raised about the level of involvement of Bridport Town Council in the creation of the document. It was suggested that the timing was suspicious (due to the consultation process commencing in the summer holidays and only lasting for a limited period). It was commented that this was a real opportunity for the Town Council to look out for the interests of the town.

It was felt that the proposed Local Plan had no vision but was driven by national targets. With reference to the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) quote again it was stated that the proposals were for the wrong type of houses in the wrong places and that urban sprawl should be avoided. Bridport developed a Neighbourhood Plan and we need the Local Plan to reflect what Bridport needs. An appeal was made for a robust response to this scattergun approach to planning.

It was noted that 1000 houses had been identified for Symondsbury with no infrastructure proposed. Brownfield sites that we are aware of locally should be put forward as it is necessary to find and add positives to the plan.

In light of the fear of Atlantic currents closing down and the national and international threat to food growing action needed to be taken for more national transport, fewer and smaller cars and more viable homes including rental property.

It was commented that a call was made for development sites nationally and the Local Plan has been driven by landowners wanting to capitalise on development.

Concerns were raised regarding viability of small farms due to climate emergency, inheritance tax, and poor infrastructure. Housing was needed for poorly paid rural workers. People are needed to work the land.

It was suggested that Bridport Town Council reaches out to other councils to address the random massive quotas which will ruin the countryside and the county.

A question was asked: Does Dorset have a target for new builds within the whole county?

In answer to the question, it was stated that 55,000 houses were required over 15 years in Dorset and that all communities will be affected.

In answer to an earlier question, it was confirmed that Bridport Town Council did not have any part in developing Dorset Local Plan.

\*\*\*22 members of public left the meeting and did not return\*\*\*

**20. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Paddy Mooney.

**21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**22. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 July 2025 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

**23. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

RESOLVED: that the recommendations set out in column 4 of the attached [Schedule A](#) be forwarded to Dorset Council.

**24. PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Chair reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 4030.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

\*\*\*6 members of public left the meeting and did not return\*\*\*

**25. DORSET LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

Bridport is a great place to live, work and retire and as a coastal/seaside town was particularly appealing to those heading into retirement years. It was recognised that a clear vision was required for the future of Bridport including, but not limited to an access and movement study, a housing needs assessment and a plan for future developments. Councillors were encouraged by their peers to read and consider the whole plan and consider a response. Concern was raised regarding the imbalance of employment availability and housing needs, lack of infrastructure and transport links to support proposals for housing development and provision for future generations.

It was noted that the consultation period was very short and had commenced in the summer holidays which meant that action was required swiftly to ensure that a Town Council response was available ahead of the deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

RESOLVED: (1) that an extension of time to respond to the plan be requested from Dorset Council and that DAPTC be contacted to ask whether the request for the extension could be supported, particularly if similar requests had been received from other Towns and Parishes; and (2) that a Local Plan Response Working Group be formed to work on a summary response to the Local Plan from Bridport Town Council

with Councillors Ian Bark, Jonathan Bourbon, Sarah Carney, Kelvin Clayton, Anna Killick, Paddy Mooney and David Worthington as members.

## **26. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION MATTERS**

i) West Bay road markings.

The committee received an update from the Town Surveyor/Deputy Town Clerk regarding the request for hatch markings opposite Seagulls restaurant in West Bay ward.

RESOLVED: that the proposal for the road markings be supported.

\*\*\*Cllr Jonathan Bourbon left the meeting at this point (8.27pm)\*\*\*

\*\*\*Cllr Sarah Carney left the meeting at this point (8.27pm)\*\*\*

(ii) West Allington 'Pinch Point' Further update and to consider a camera survey for the area.

Following a discussion on the issues surrounding the pinch point and recognition of a lamp post which exacerbates the problem it was

RESOLVED: that a camera survey be conducted to identify the cause(s) of the problem.

\*\*\*Cllr Jonathan Bourbon returned to the meeting at this point (8.29pm)\*\*\*

\*\*\*Cllr Sarah Carney returned to the meeting at this point (8.29pm)\*\*\*

(iii) West Bay anti-social driving.

Following a brief discussion summarising these issues it was agreed that an extension of the Public Spaces Protection Order would be considered.

RESOLVED: that the Public Spaces Protection Order be investigated.

(iv) Request for extension of double yellow lines in North Allington to include the area of road outside the dental practice.

RESOLVED: that the issue be noted.

(v) Jessopp Avenue – 20mph and Speed Indicator Device.

It was noted that a request had been received for a 20mph speed limit and Speed Indicator Device installation.

RESOLVED: that it be noted that (1) the 20mph speed restriction application process was in progress; and (2) that the possibility of a Speed Indicator Device was being considered.

(vi) Requests for 20mph and Speed Indicator Devices in ward areas.

Ward Clerks were applying for 20mph speed restrictions in their areas where appropriate and requests for Speed Indicator Devices were noted.

RESOLVED: that the matters be noted.

**27. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Town Surveyor/Deputy Town Clerk distributed a press release regarding the regeneration of St Michael's Trading Estate in Bridport.

The meeting closed at **8.46 pm**.

**The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 29 September 2025**