

Notes of the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership (BWWP) Public Engagement Session held in Walditch Village Hall on Tuesday 18th September 2025 at 6.00pm

Present: Cllr Anne Rickard - *Bridport Town Councillor, Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward*
Cllr Bridget Bolwell - *Bridport Town Councillor, Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward*
Cllr Dave Bolwell - *Bridport Town Councillor and Dorset Council Councillor*
Jo Hughes - *Ward Clerk*

14 members of public

Apologies: Cllr Andy Holdridge - *Bridport Town Councillor, Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward*

Cllr B Bolwell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Temporary Road Closure of Hollow Way, Bothenhampton

Cllr Rickard advised that a proposed road closure will be taking place on Hollow Way between its junction with Lansdowne Road and its junction with Crook Lane, a distance of approximately 245 metres. to allow National Grid to carry out LV cable overlay. The closure will take place between 3rd to 21st November. Cllr Rickard confirmed that she has contacted Dorset Council Highways to enquire if access for residents living in Westown, will be maintained during the works. National Grid have responded and confirmed that they will be writing to all Westown residents.

Action: The Ward Clerk to display the public notice for the road closure on relevant ward noticeboards once received from Highways.

Spinners Lane, Walditch

A resident advised that the drain across the lane at Spinners Lane is blocked and residents are no longer able to unblock it. It was noted that the culvert at Spinners Lane was unblocked last year. Clerk to report to Dorset Council. Residents were also advised that they can report such issues using fixmystreet.com. Clerk to advertise fixmystreet.com on ward noticeboards.

Action: The Ward Clerk confirmed that fixmystreet.com will be advertised on the ward noticeboards.

The unstable/leaning chimney at Spinners Lane and the fencing around the property was also raised.

Action: The Ward Clerk to report the drain to Dorset Council and to arrange another inspection of the chimney by Dorset Council.

UPDATE: Drain issue reported to Dorset Council Ref: 1296673 - enquiry raised 23/09/25. Response: Highways Officer Notes: Thank you for your enquiry. I believe you are referring to Spinners Lane. Site visit today (whilst it's raining) The drainage system is taped / coned off as a new cover is required, however you can clearly see the pipe is not blocked. There is no signs of flooding but I will continue to monitor as the wetter season approaches. At this time nothing found that reaches an intervention level.

The Town Council Surveyor has visited the site to look at the chimney and advised that it doesn't appear any worse than when inspected a year ago, but he has reported it again to Dorset Council Building Control.

Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

A resident queried if there is an obligation on landowners to replace a tree that has a TPO if it falls down as one such tree has recently fallen along Walditch Road.

Action: Clerk to seek advice from Dorset Council.

UPDATE: The Dorset Council Tree Team have confirmed that: *'there is an obligation on a landowner to replace a tree that falls. However, the landowner should notify us under regulation 14 of the association planning legislation for tree protection that a tree has failed. We would then officially respond detailing whether a replant is necessary.'*

Another resident queried the yellow crosses marked on two Ash trees along Walditch Road and asked if these were marked for felling.

Action: Clerk to check tree report for Walditch Road.

UPDATE: The Dorset Council Tree Team advised in May 2025 that: *'The trees here are within private ownership, so their management is ultimately down to the landowner. However, the trees have protection by means of a TPO and they are located within a Conservation Area so any work (tree removal or pruning) would need consent from the Tree Team in Planning prior to being undertaken.'*

The Dorset Council Planning Team advised in May 2025 that: *'We have not as yet received an application for any tree works in Walditch Avenue.'*

The Hyde Residential Home Stable Block Development

A resident queried if there was any update on the stable block development at The Hyde Residential Home. Cllr B Bolwell advised that the last update was that Dorset Council were waiting on a noise report.

Foundry Lee Roundabout

The roundabout at Foundry Lee was raised with a resident querying what trust there is between residents, the council and the developers - what checks and balances will the council put in place. Cllr D Bolwell advised that the development is governed by the National Planning Policy Framework, the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan, the policies of which must be followed. All applications for development are scrutinised so there are lots of balances and checks in place but once plans are passed, the development is out of Dorset Council's hands. Comments were also raised by residents in relation to the attenuation scheme, the electricity supply being insufficient and the need for infrastructure before housing – a bottom-up approach. Cllr D Bolwell, commented that the planning process is very complex and suggested that residents speak to their local MP as planning is dictated by central government.

Dorset Council Local Plan

Cllr D Bolwell advised residents that the Local Plan is a consultation that has to identify potential land sites for development opportunities to help meet the needs of Dorset. Across the Bridport area 17 sites have been identified, and Bridport Town Council are putting together a response that includes reasons for taking out unsuitable sites. Cllr D Bolwell advised that there would be a further consultation in August 2026. Residents then took the opportunity to raise the following queries and concerns:

- several residents were not aware of the consultation, not everyone is on social media. Cllrs advised that the consultation has been widely advertised including social media, libraries and the ward noticeboards but these comments will be fed back to Dorset Council.
- how well attended was the Local Plan town hall event. Cllr D Bolwell commented that the event was well received with around 400 people attending in five hours.
- transport was raised as a serious concern for all these development sites. Cllr D Bolwell advised that planning does not take account of the necessary infrastructure.
- it was commented that housing is needed especially affordable housing, but what is that? The area

needs housing that meets the requirements of the town.

- it was commented that it is not all about housing, what about jobs?

- the assessment of land grading was also queried in terms of what Dorset Council are doing about assessing land as it is essential that we preserve our best quality land for agriculture. Cllr D Bolwell advised that Dorset Council have no expertise for grading land and applicants need to seek expertise. Cllr D Bolwell confirmed that he understands people's concerns with the Local Plan but advised that it is essential that Dorset Council has a robust plan because the Planning Inspector can ask Dorset Council to look again at its plan if sites are missed. For policies to be effective, Dorset Council must be able to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply. This runs out in October 2025 after which developers can bring forward speculative development anywhere so it is essential to get the Local Plan in place.

Action: Cllr D Bolwell agreed to feedback to Dorset Council that a lot of residents were not aware of the Local Plan consultation.

A35

A resident highlighted that sat navs are directing heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) through Lower Walditch and Crock Lane which are not suitable for HGVs. It was also highlighted that the right turn out of Walditch onto the A35 is very dangerous.

Action: Cllr D Bolwell agreed to feed this back to Dorset Council.

Meeting closed 7.15pm

Date of next meeting: TBC