

Notes of the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership (BWPP) Public Engagement Session held in Bothenhampton Village Hall on Thursday 30th April 2026 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, Bridport Town Council*

3 members of public

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

Cllr Rickard and Cllr Holdridge thanked those present for attending the meeting. It was noted that attendance was lower than usual, despite the meeting having been advertised on six ward noticeboards, the ward Facebook page, and the Bridport Town Council website ward page. Cllr Rickard asked that the Ward Clerk provide a reminder to also promote future meetings via the Bothenhampton Bugle WhatsApp group of which she and many residents are members.

New speed limits

A resident noted that, although the new 30 mph speed limit is now in force on Sea Road South, in-car speed limit systems have not yet updated to reflect the change. As a result, some drivers are exceeding the new limit by relying on their vehicles displayed speed limit information. It was also noted that there are a lack of 30mph signs along Sea Road South to remind drivers of the new speed limit.

Action: Ward Clerk to refer these issues to Dorset Council Highways and the Road Safety

Team. UPDATE: Dorset Council have advised this is a National Highways scheme. Ward Clerk awaiting response from National Highways. Response received from National Highways 21st May: Drivers are advised to refer to the physical signs and not satnav systems, however we're looking into how this can be updated. Temporary 'new speed limit ahead' signage has been placed on all the approaches of Crown roundabout and East roundabout to warn drivers of the changes (as below). According to the Government Guidance, in areas of street lighting (other than on motorways), a speed limit of 30mph applies unless signs show otherwise. However, if drivers still don't adhere to the new speed limit, we'll be looking into the option of installing additional signage.

20mph Scheme Update

A resident noted they were pleased that the 20mph application for Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward has progressed to the next stage. The Clerk confirmed that this application, together with the other Bridport Town Council ward applications, has now moved to the formal public consultation stage. The proposal will be advertised in the local press and online, followed by a 21-day period during which residents may submit comments, expressions of support, or objections. The Clerk also advised that the consultation date has not yet been confirmed due to the high volume of 20mph applications currently being processed.

Action: Ward Clerk will keep residents updated on progress of the 20mph application via Facebook, website, ward noticeboards and the Bridge magazine.

Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Clerk - Jo Hughes

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Allotment Waiting List

A resident reported that they have been on Bridport Town Council's allotment waiting list for two years. During this period, they have progressed gradually and are currently 54th on the list. The resident stated that the inspection process and the removal of tenants from unworked plots does not appear to be effective, noting several plots that remain unworked but are retained by tenants who continue to pay the annual allotment fee. The Ward Clerk advised that a new team member has been appointed with specific responsibility for the allotments and confirmed that the residents comments would be fed back to the relevant officers. The resident also asked whether larger plots could be subdivided, whether there is scope to secure additional land for allotments, and whether residents with large gardens could potentially provide suitable space.

Action: Ward Clerk to relay comments to the relevant Town Council officers.

UPDATE: The Town Council Surveyor has confirmed that letters have been issued to allotment tenants who are not actively cultivating their plots and the Town Council is working closely with the Allotment Society Representative at each site to improve oversight and management of unworked plots. He also advised that, where feasible, existing allotment plots are being subdivided and this approach will continue in order to create additional allotment plots. Regarding the suggestion of utilising residents' private gardens, he noted that this would present significant challenges and is therefore unlikely to be pursued. However, the Town Council remains open to discussions about establishing new allotment sites should suitable land become available

Sea Road South – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing

Residents requested an update on the proposed pedestrian crossing on Sea Road South. Cllr Holdridge confirmed that, while the crossing has been approved in principle, funding is not currently available as it forms part of a wider highways scheme.

UPDATE: The Town Council Surveyor has confirmed that National Highways have informed the Town Council that the crossing is unlikely to happen this financial year as they go through changes in their organisation and relocate to the new Eype Depot. The Town Council will continue to push for the crossing and the works to extend the cycleway near the Crown Roundabout in the hope that these works get programmed in soon.

Other Issues/Comments Raised by Residents

- A resident enquired whether there were any plans to de-trunk the A35. Councillors advised that they were not aware of any such proposals.
- The Allington pinch point was also raised as a matter of concern. The issue is currently under review by Bridport Town Council.

Date of next meeting: The meeting will take place at Bothenhampton Village Hall in July, date and time to be confirmed. **Now confirmed as Monday 6th July at 6pm.**

Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Clerk - Jo Hughes

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