

Minutes of the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership (BWWP) Public Engagement Session held at Walditch Village Hall on Monday 6 July 2026 at 6.00pm

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

9 members of public

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

Cllr Rickard welcomed residents to the meeting and invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern within the ward.

Vegetation Overgrowth

Residents reported overgrown vegetation in the following locations:

- Walditch Road junction with the A35, where nettles and vegetation are obstructing visibility;
- Spinners Lane, which is currently impassable; and
- Jelly Fields Nature Reserve, where the path is now unsuitable for prams and wheelchairs.

Action: Clerk to report these issues to Dorset Council.

UPDATE:

- Walditch Road Junction with the A35 - update from Balfour Beatty - 'your enquiry has been passed to us by the National Highways Central Team. SWHBBIS can confirm that they will inspect the area but can advise that grass cutting within the area is on-going until September.'
- Spinners Lane - a report with photos was submitted to Dorset Council. Enquiry no: 1325845, Current status: enquiry raised
- Jelly Fields Nature Reserve - a report with photos was submitted to the Ranger Team at Dorset Council who have confirmed they'll get a team on site as soon as possible.

Heavy Traffic

Residents commented that holiday, weekend and bank holiday traffic is causing Walditch to be used as a cut-through route to avoid the A35, with satellite navigation systems contributing to the issue. A request was made for "Access Only" or "No Through Road" signage to be installed.

Action: Although signage is unlikely to be permitted, the Clerk will enquire with Dorset Council.

UPDATE: Awaiting response from the Dorset Council Road Safety Team.

Trees

Walditch Road - A resident raised concerns about the trees on the parkland along Walditch Road, many of which are subject to Tree Preservation Orders, and asked whether trees are replaced if they fall. A member of the Bridport Tree Planting Group advised that the field directly in front of The Hyde Nursing Home belongs to The Hyde, while the other fields are owned by another landowner. The resident agreed to speak with the Bridport Tree Planting Group about a possible tree planting scheme for the Hyde which had previously been progressing before ownership of the Hyde changed.

Platinum Jubilee Tree - It was noted that the Platinum Jubilee tree located on Valley View is making good progress after having snapped in half in September. The new leader branch is growing well and is producing several side branches. It was noted that the fruit will need to be removed next year.

Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Clerk - Jo Hughes

Email: b&w.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

Website: [Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward - Bridport Town Council](https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/bothenhampton-walditch-ward)

Mountain Ash Tree - It was noted that the Mountain Ash tree, also located on Valley View, would benefit from pruning to improve its shape.

Action: Clerk to speak with the Town Council Grounds Maintenance Team.

UPDATE: The Grounds Maintenance Team have confirmed they will take a look at the tree to see what can be done.

Slades Green & Green Lane Management Plan

The Management Plan for Slades Green & Green Lane, Bothenhampton, was briefly discussed. The following comments were made:

- It was suggested that a botanical survey is carried out to avoid destroying existing wildflowers;
- It was commented that there is potential for more trees to be planted in three of the areas identified in the plan;
- The importance of trees in helping to lower temperatures was noted, particularly as higher temperatures are being experienced.

Residents were reminded that the consultation closes on 30th August and can be accessed online or from the town council offices.

Hollow Way Pavement

Cllr Rickard reported that the Hollow Way high pavement had been closed again after a person had a serious fall caused by one of the paving stones on the edge giving way underfoot. The pavement has been inspected, and further major works will be required to make it safe. This relates to the upper section of the high pavement, which had not previously been rebuilt when the rest of the works were completed. Cllr Rickard confirmed that barriers were in place to prevent access; however, a resident reported that the barriers had been removed and it was possible the pavement was open again.

Action: Cllr Rickard and the Clerk will obtain the latest update from Dorset Council.

UPDATE: Cllr Rickard reported that the recent damage to the pathway has been tidily repaired, greenery cleared and the high pavement has been reopened.

20mph Public Consultation

The Clerk advised attendees that the 20mph public consultation remains open until 17th July and residents were encouraged to respond.

Bridport Town Council Ward Arrangement

A resident who had recently moved to Bothenhampton commented on Bridport Town Council's proactive approach, noting that the Council remains consistently engaged with local matters rather than responding only when issues arise.

Meeting closed: 6.45pm

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will take place at Bothenhampton Village Hall in September; date and time to be confirmed.

Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Clerk - Jo Hughes

Email: b&w.ward@bridport-tc.gov.uk

Website: [Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward - Bridport Town Council](#)