

## Minutes of the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership (BWPP) Public Engagement Session held at Bothenhampton Village Hall on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 at 11.00am

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

4 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.

### **Hollow Way**

Prior to the meeting, a resident attending the meeting had raised the following concerns regarding Hollow Way:

- Overgrown vegetation is narrowing the High Pavement in Hollow Way. The resident asked whether Dorset Council operates a scheduled maintenance programme.
- The condition of the High Pavement, including potentially loose stones and deteriorating mortar. The resident also asked whether routine inspections are undertaken.
- Vegetation is encroaching on both the carriageway and pedestrian areas of Hollow Way, causing difficulties for pedestrians, pushchair users and cyclists. The resident asked which authority is responsible for maintenance.

**Action:** The Ward Clerk advised that she has raised these matters with Dorset Council and is awaiting a response and will report back to the resident.

**UPDATE:** Dorset Council have recently appointed a new Community Highways Officer for the Bridport area, and they will look into the matters raised regarding the Hollow Way high pavement and surrounding vegetation as soon as possible. As part of the review, the officer will assess the condition of the structure, identify any defects requiring attention, and consider the vegetation concerns that have been raised. The inspection will also help establish responsibility for any vegetation encroaching from adjacent land. The high pavement is inspected twice yearly as part of their routine inspection regime. Residents can report Highway related matters through the Dorset Council website: [Report a problem on a road or pavement](#).

### **Community Resilience**

The resident also raised questions regarding local emergency planning arrangements, including the Town Council's role in community resilience, the availability of emergency planning documentation, and information on emergency shelters. During the meeting, residents also asked how emergency information is communicated to the community. It was noted that WhatsApp and the Bridge magazine are useful communication channels.

**Action:** The Ward Clerk advised that the Bridport Community Emergency Response Plan is available to view on the Town Council's website and she will liaise with the Town Council's Project Officer regarding how information contained within the Plan is communicated to local communities.

Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Clerk - Jo Hughes

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**UPDATE:** Bridport Town Council has an Emergency Plan (available to view on the town council website) and would work with Dorset Council, the emergency services and other partner agencies in the event of an emergency. In a widespread incident such as a major power outage, the Council would use the communication channels available at the time, which may include website, social media, noticeboards, email contacts and coordination with partner agencies. The Town Council would always aim to provide the most up-to-date and practical information it could. If any council building or community facility were to be used as a temporary point of refuge or support, this would depend on the circumstances at the time, including whether the building was safe, accessible and available. The Town Council would only direct people there if this had been confirmed as appropriate during the incident. For wider emergency welfare arrangements, Dorset Council and the emergency response partners would lead the overall response. The Town Council are running a desk top exercise later this month to test out an emergency scenario which will highlight any gaps in the council's Emergency Plan.

### **A35 to Crock Lane and 20mph**

A resident raised concerns about increased traffic on Crock Lane especially during the summer months, noting that drivers diverting from the A35 frequently use the lane as a rat run. The resident asked when the proposed 20mph speed limit would be implemented.

The Ward Clerk advised that Dorset Council have just confirmed that the 20mph application for Bothenhampton and Walditch, submitted as part of the Bridport and West Bay scheme, had been authorised to progress to the Traffic Regulation Order stage. The next phase will involve finalising signage and road marking designs and agreeing installation dates with contractors. The resident commented that signage associated with existing 20mph limits in Bridport is inadequate and not correctly spaced.

**Action:** The Ward Clerk will feedback comments to Dorset Council regarding existing 20mph signage.

**UPDATE:** Dorset Council have advised that they must follow strict speed limit signing guidelines set by the Department for Transport so that there is consistency across the country. The existing 20mph signage in the town meets these guidelines and is adequate.

### **Sea Road South Pedestrian Crossing**

A resident requested an update on the proposed pedestrian crossing on Sea Road South, noting that the road's reduction to a 30mph speed limit removes any justification for further delays. The resident added that a pedestrian crossing would help improve pedestrian safety and encourage compliance with the speed limit.

**Action:** The Ward Clerk will seek an update on the progress of the scheme.

**UPDATE:** Bridport Town Council were informed by National Highways 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. Bridport Town Council will contact Highways England to see if their budgeting plans will see the scheme included for the next financial year.

### **Slades Green & Green Lane Management Plan**

A resident referred to page 10 of the 'Slades Green & Green Lane Management Plan', which states that hedge cutting will be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (March to August). The resident noted that tree and hedge cutting took place in Area 1 of the Plan on 1<sup>st</sup> July, between 11.00am and 2.30pm, and asked whether the works were carried out by Bridport Town Council and, if so, why they were

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undertaken contrary to the Management Plan.

**Action:** The Ward Clerk will seek clarification from the Grounds Maintenance Team regarding the works undertaken.

**UPDATE:** The Grounds Maintenance Team has confirmed that the works carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> July were not undertaken by the Town Council, as the Council does not carry out hedge cutting during July. The only hedge maintenance in Area 1 relates to a public right of way, which Dorset Council is responsible for. Residents who observe any cutting-back work during the bird nesting season are asked to report it to the Town Council.

### **Jubilee Tree & Sorbus Tree**

A resident reported that the Jubilee Tree on Valley View is thriving but would benefit from grass clearance around its base. It was also noted that the Sorbus tree on Valley View would benefit from grass clearance around its base.

**Action:** The Ward Clerk will raise both maintenance requests with the Grounds Maintenance Team.

### **Other Comments**

It was noted that British Gas is undertaking road survey works in Walditch.

Members requested that positive feedback be passed to Dorset Council Highways regarding:

- the resurfacing works on Boscombe Lane, Walditch; and
- the rubber aggregate road repair outside Wisteria Cottage, Bothenhampton, which has proven particularly successful.

Positive feedback was received regarding the ward reports published in the Bridge magazine, which are well received by residents.

Positive comments were also made on Bridport being a vibrant and welcoming town, particularly in comparison with other towns experiencing decline.

**Meeting closed:** 12.10pm

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

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