

**Notes of a Meeting of the West Bay Ward held
at the Salt House, West Bay, on Wednesday 18 September 2024 at 6.30pm.**

Attendance:

Councillors: Dave Bolwell and Ann Langridge (Chair)

Also present: Nine members of the public and Will Austin (Town Clerk)

1. Introduction, apologies, and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed attendees and advised that the meeting would be informal and aimed to consider issues raised by residents.

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Notes of last meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 30 May 2024 were agreed, and the Chair updated on issues raised.

The meeting agreed to bring forward item 4 (Ward issues, including planning applications) as the next business.

3. Ward Issues, including planning applications

The meeting discussed the following:

- Joyriders. Attendees considered:
 - Uncertainty over when the West Bay Road Car Park gates would/would not be locked at night.
 - The problems caused by this activity at both West Bay Road and Station Road Car Parks.
 - A recognition that Police officers had been seen patrolling.
 - An estimate of three or four cars per night engaging in joyriding.
 - West Bay being used as a meeting point for the activity, which also impacted other areas.
 - That the 'Welcome Hub' area was now a particular location for congregation of joyriders.
 - Speeding on West Bay Road by both cars and motorcycles.
 - The importance of reporting all instances to the Police to ensure full data is recorded, regardless of the response at the time.
 - The possibility of a reduced speed limit and traffic calming measures on West Bay Road.
 - The desire for a balance that made West Bay both motorcycle-friendly, and resident-friendly.
 - The potential for use of speed and noise cameras.
 - The use of West Bay Road, Station Road, and Burton Road as a triangular circuit by joyriders.
 - The impact of motorcycle parking on bus access.
 - An allegation that enforcement officers ignored motorcycle parking offences.
 - Coaches blocking bus access, making them late.

The discussion resulted in the following agreed actions:

- The issues of response, speed and noise cameras, and regular patrolling would be raised with Dorset Police.
 - The issues of parking enforcement and locking of car parks would be raised with Dorset Council.
 - BTC would consider support for traffic calming on West Bay Road.
 - BTC would review the use of the Welcome Hub area.
 - BTC would contact coach companies, with help from residents to identify those causing problems.
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- Parking. Attendees raised parking problems, and the absence of residents' parking provision in George Street. Cllr Dave Bolwell advised he was looking into these matters, at both George Street and outside Seagulls Restaurant. To date Dorset Council had refused residents' parking on the grounds that there was a car park within 200m. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had supported improvements to on-street parking for residents of George Street and Meadowlands, but that Dorset Council had declined to take this forward. It was reported that residents were raising a petition.
 - West Bay Beach Wheelchair Scheme. The Town Clerk reported on the success of the scheme to date, and current difficulties in maintaining the input of Parkdean and volunteers in its management. A request for the Town Council to take on the running of the scheme in full would be considered in the coming months.
 - Harbour wall. The Harbour Master reported that works were not now expected to commence before October 2025. There was a possibility of stabilisation works only prior to that date, and the area had been tidied a little. The toilets at The Mound remained closed, with temporary alternative on Fisherman's Green.
 - Impact of reduced parking charges. The Station Kitchen reported that custom was up 40% over the past four weeks, compared with the same period last year. The harbour was reported as seeing a reduction in footfall compared to September 2023, which may have been due to poor weather.
 - Harbour Green and the Welcome Hub. Attendees welcomed the fact that picnic tables were being well-used. Ward councillors agreed to consider charging motorcycles for parking at the Hub.
 - 20mph speed limits. In addition to West Bay Road which had been raised earlier in the meeting, attendees suggested that the entire central area of West Bay, including The Esplanade, be considered for a 20mph limit. Cllr Ann Langridge reported that she had received a suggestion at Melplash Show that The Esplanade be pedestrianised.

4. Future clerking of ward meetings and activity

The Town Clerk reported that town councillors had approved additional capacity to provide dedicated clerking support for West Bay, and apologised that he had not been able to provide the same level of support as was the case for three other wards with designated ward clerks. Members also discussed the need for publicity of meetings and activity, and the relative merits of ward meetings and surgeries.

5. Any other matters, including date of next meeting

A resident reported an incident where youths had kicked in a door. The Police response had been good, including victim support. However, problems with this type of antisocial behaviour persisted. It was suggested that Bridport Youth & Community Centre be asked to consider outreach work in West Bay.

Attendees considered the need for public awareness of ward meetings and suggested inclusion in The Bridge and the Bridport News.

The meeting closed at **8.10pm**.