

Notes of the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership (BWPP) Public Engagement Session held in Bothenhampton Village Hall on Thursday 28th November 2024 at 2.00pm

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

10 members of public

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

Cllr Holdridge welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself, Cllr Rickard and the Ward Clerk, Jo Hughes. Members of the public were then invited to raise any issues within the ward.

Hollow Way High Pavement Closure

Several residents attended the meeting to raise the issue of the closure of the high pavement along Hollow Way with the following points raised:

- There is no signage displayed at the bottom end of the closed footpath highlighting an alternative footpath to be used. The Clerk confirmed that she would make a request for this. A request was also made for signage saying "caution pedestrians in road, dead slow" but Cllr Rickard advised that the Dorset Council Highways Officer she had spoken to about this already had confirmed that this type of signage is illegal.
- Is there a maintenance schedule for the pavement in the 2024/25 Bridport Plan? Cllr Rickard advised that the pavement is the responsibility of Dorset Council.
- A request was made for the contact details of those responsible for the pavement at Dorset Council. Cllr Rickard advised that any contact regarding the pavement should go through the Town Council Surveyor who is dealing with the issue (any contact to come via the Ward Clerk). Councillors also suggested that residents highlight the pavement issue on Fix My Street.
- Concern was raised about large stones on the edge of the wall that are loose and risk falling onto the road below and it was also noted that the footpath is one third of what it used to be due to vegetation encroachment and soil slipping from the bank.
- Concerns were also raised about the potential loss of the pavement and the resulting access issues if the pavement collapses.
- A resident advised that he wrote to the former Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council in October 2022 about the aggressive weeds and invasive trees growing in the footpath which have been a long-standing problem which strimming alone can't resolve.

It was confirmed that the Ward Clerk would follow up with the Town Surveyor for an update on the works required for the Hollow Way footpath.

UPDATE: *Dorset Council Highways have advised that "the high pavement has a closure on it and the correct signage is in place and has been closed on grounds of safety. It is with the Asset Management Team at present."*

20mph

A resident asked for an update on the 20mph survey for roads in Bothenhampton & Walditch. The Ward Clerk advised that 95% of those who had completed and returned the survey were in support of a reduction in the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph for certain roads within the ward. The next step will involve the Town Council submitting a list of roads for the Bridport parish to the Dorset Council road safety team for initial consideration based on the Dorset Council Priority Criteria Matrix - 20mph limit.

UPDATE: *Bridport Town Council are in the process of submitting a list of roads which will include Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward to Dorset Council for initial consideration.*

Church Road/Long Lane Parking Issue

Having raised the issue of parking along Old Church Road with the Town Council earlier in the year, a resident attended the meeting with a petition of support from several residents requesting that the Town Council take forward to Dorset Council Highways a request for a Traffic Regulation Order for parking restrictions (i.e. posts) on Old Church Road due to the parking issues along the road. It was noted that vehicles park on the blind bend and reduce the width of the road so that large vehicles, farm vehicles and emergency vehicles have difficulty passing. Ward Clerk to take the request to the Town Council.

UPDATE: The request for parking restrictions on Old Church Road, Bothenhampton went before Town Councillors at the Planning Committee meeting held on 24th June 2024, but Councillors resolved not to support the request.

Quarry Lane Flooding

A resident attended the meeting to raise the issue of flooding on Quarry Lane due to a blocked drain. It was confirmed that Dorset Council are aware of the issue, but further investigations are required. Cllr Rickard also confirmed this was the case as she had met a Dorset Council Officer that day who was inspecting the site.

UPDATE: The drain issue on Quarry Lane has been resolved. As the outlet for this gully runs under the play park and down to the river, the Large Jetter was required to attend, as it has the capacity to jet the entire pipework to the outlet. Highways have advised that the road surface issue will be addressed now that the water on the highway problem has been resolved.

As the meeting ended, Cllr Holdridge asked residents if they found the ward meetings useful and would like them to continue. There was agreement that residents are keen for the meetings to continue. It was confirmed that the next meeting would take place in January at Walditch Village Hall - date and time to be confirmed.

Meeting closed 3.00pm

Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Clerk - Jo Hughes
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