**BRIDPORT WEST AND ALLINGTON WARD MATTERS**

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 14th January 2025**

**Present:** Cllr Sarah Carney, Cllr Julian Jones, Cllr Bev Thornton, PCSO Pete Smith, 4 x members of the public. Ward Clerk Amy Stephenson made notes

**Apologies:** Cllr Jonathan Bourbon

1. **Introduction**

Ward Clerk Amy Stephenson introduced herself and others to those members of the public present.

1. **PCSO Pete Smith**

PCSO Pete Smith was invited to attend the meeting to discuss any ward related issues or wider issues that would/could affect residents.

Pete spoke about the various parking issues that were happening around the Ward and advised that these are not a police matter but are down to Parking Enforcement at Dorset Council. The Police have previously undertaken newsletter drops to problem areas and put notes on windscreens etc and obviously any criminal activity like someone purposefully scratching a vehicle should be reported to the Police.

Hospital Lane does have an issue with parking as this is a prime dog walking location and also convenient for those areas nearby that may not have their own parking e.g. North Allington etc. Some vehicles have been damaged on purpose when parking in this areas as those living there feel it is their right to park there and not for others. Any criminal damage should be reported to the Police.

Drug issues – always need as much information as possible in order to issue warrants/investigate etc. Ideally report when things are happening although appreciate this may not always be possible so any information you can give is welcome even if you feel it is only a small amount of information. Information can help to build a picture e.g. time of day things happen, any licence plate numbers etc. You can report via 101 both on the phone and online or you can also report online to [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) You can also report to Crimestoppers but this information does not necessarily go back to the Police.

Speeding vehicles – Pete spoke about the potential for Community Speed Watch Volunteers and how this works.

Liaison with Housing Associations – Pete spoke about the difficulties they find in engaging with the Housing Associations when there used to be a good rapport and teamwork. It is now much more difficult to work with them and they find that the Housing Associations just don’t take the lead as Landlords like they should. Cllr Sarah Carney mentioned that next week there was a meeting with Town Councillors and a Magna representative where she would bring this matter up.

Policing Bridport in general is extremely hard due to a lack of staff and the large area they cover. Therefore a lot of the policing has to be reactive rather than proactive.

Pete said Bridport Police would be happy to attend future meetings as and when they could, if required.

1. **Cathy Harvey – Allington Hillbillies**

Cathey was invited to attend the meeting to talk about Allington Hillbilly News

Cathey advised that they were looking at seating ideas in various areas to accommodate larger groups being able to sit round a table – this could involve removeable planks across the wheelchair spaces to accommodate temporary extra seating.

This year they are looking at doing micro activities and events which the public will be invited to as always. They will also be launching a project for May 1st 2026 with regards to commemorating the 40 year anniversary of Allington Hill being purchased by the Woodland Trust. It will be a Bridport wide project. Cathy has a meeting with Dave Dixon from Bridport Town Council next week to look at what can be achieved to celebrate this and to celebrate nature and wildlife. Cllr Sarah Carney suggested that maybe the Environment Committee could help champion this. Any further ideas Cathy would welcome asap. It could be as big an event or as small an event as Bridport wants to make it.

 **4. Ward Issues / Topics / Information**

 20mph Update was given by Ward Clerk Amy Stephenson – traffic data surveys have

 been undertaken for the 6 roads in question (North Allington, St Swithin’s Road, Hospital

 Lane, West Allington, Magdalen Lane and Alexandra Road). This information has been

 received by the Ward Clerk which has meant that the application form has been finalised

 and submitted to the relevant department at Dorset Council for their consideration. The

 three Bridport Town Councillors who are also Dorset Councillors have been approached

 by Dorset Council for their views on the application and all were in support of it. We await

 the decision by Dorset Council.

 It was suggested by PCSO Pete Smith that throughout areas with 20mph limits, it would

 be very good to have this painted on the road as well as the small signs as unfortunately

 the small signs are not always visible – especially on market days – and people tend to

 focus on the road.

1. **Future of Ward Meetings**

Ward Meeting frequency and venues were discussed with all present. It was felt that meetings should move to one every three months rather than every two months. This would mean that the next meeting would potentially be in April. It was felt that meetings should remain within the Ward rather than being held at Mountfield (for example). It was suggested that the timings of meetings could vary to daytime also to try and help capture more people.

1. **Details of next meeting**

To be confirmed

Meeting closed at 7.50pm