

Notes of the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward Partnership (BWWP) Public Engagement Session held in Walditch Village Hall on Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 11.00am

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

11 members of public

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

Cllr Rickard welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided all those present with the opportunity to introduce themselves before inviting members of the public to raise any issues within the ward.

20mph

An update on progress of 20mph for the ward was requested, with the resident highlighting that Walditch should be considered high priority for 20mph due to the number of pedestrians, horse riders, joggers, and residents of the Hyde care home using the current 30mph roads. The Clerk advised that having completed the 20mph survey which went to all households in Bothenhampton and Walditch, a map is now being generated to provide a visual of all the roads in the ward that are been recommended for a speed reduction to 20mph. The Clerk confirmed that this information will be submitted to Dorset Council in a joint application alongside roads being requested for the West Bay ward. The Clerk advised that the 20mph process is not a quick and the next step will be for Dorset Council to carry out speed surveys of the requested roads as a key criteria for achieving 20mph is that existing mean speeds must already be at or below 24mph to provide a realistic opportunity for compliance. The Clerk agreed to find out who will be carrying out the speed surveys and a likely timeframe for the 20mph process.

Pedestrian Pathway - Walditch Road

Following on from the discussion on 20mph, the suggestion of pursuing a pedestrian footpath from the Hyde Care Home down to the seat was raised. This suggestion had previously commenced under the Parish Council with permission obtained from the Hyde Care Home for a permissive path on their land of approximately 100m subject to the funding of fencing, gates and path surfacing from the Council. It was commented that the suggestion for a footpath seems even more necessary now that the care home have a current planning application to provide 11 additional care beds. If approved, this development will result in construction traffic using the road and upon completion, increased road traffic from additional staff and visitors to the care home. Current ownership of the care home was queried. The Clerk will raise with the Town Council.

Field - Potential Development?

A resident raised concerns over the hardstanding that has appeared in the entranceway to a field in Walditch, next to the John Gundry playing fields. The field is currently used for grazing but there was concern that the field may be being developed. Cllr Rickard confirmed that no planning applications had been received for the field. Cllr Bolwell agreed to find out more.

Walditch Trees

Concern was raised regarding the Platinum Jubilee tree that was planted on Valley View in 2022 by the Parish Council. The tree has shown little growth in three years, and it was therefore requested that a one metre circle of grass is removed from around the base of the tree, a mulch applied, the side shoots on the trunk removed and a fertiliser high in nitrogen applied. The Clerk agreed to submit this request to the town council's ground's maintenance team.

A request was raised that the grass cutting contractor avoids mowing the grass around the Horse Chestnut tree on Walditch Green until the Snowdrops and Crocuses have fully finished flowering. The Clerk agreed to submit this request to the town council's ground's maintenance team.

Road drains and ditches

A resident advised that the drains outside the Hyde Tennis Courts are blocked causing water to run across the road. Cllr Bolwell advised the resident to report using www.fixmystreet.com and reminded everyone to use this reporting system to raise issues with Dorset Council because the more reports received, the more likely it will be actioned. This advice for residents to report issues was also provided regarding the ditches that are appearing along either side of the road near the tennis courts and the Clerk recommended submitting photos as well.

Entrance to Jellyfields Nature Reserve

It was noted that a replacement noticeboard has been installed at the entrance to Jellyfields Nature Reserve which is locked when the previous noticeboard was accessible to all. The Clerk advised that she will find out about community access to the noticeboard. It was also requested that either the bench or the dog waste bin that currently sit side by side at the entrance to Jellyfields is moved to the other side of the entrance. The Clerk agreed to speak to the town council's ground's maintenance team.

Walditch Allotments

A request was made by two allotment tenants for removal of the trees that sit within the John Gundry play area as the trees are encroaching on the allotments causing overhanging and shadowing. The Clerk agreed to speak to the town council's ground's maintenance team.

Hollow Way High Pavement

The Clerk confirmed that the closure of the high pavement along Hollow Way is due to safety reasons and the Asset Management Team at Dorset Council are currently dealing with although there was no update at present on the future of the pavement.

Bothenhampton Nature Reserve - Collapsed Lime Kiln

Following reports that the Lime Kiln at Bothenhampton Nature Reserve collapsed in January, the Clerk advised that this has been reported to Dorset Council who are investigating the issue but there was no further update at present.

Main Street, Bothenhampton

A resident raised concern about Main Street which is showing signs of subsidence. It was noted that a new water main was installed 30 years ago, and the resident is concerned that it could have been

installed incorrectly resulting in a fracture of the pipe due to traffic vibrations resulting in a water leak which is washing away material beneath the road. The resident highlighted that it is an important public highway issue and Dorset Council and Wessex Water need to liaise regarding the matter. The Clerk agreed to take the issue to the town council.

Spinners Lane - Fallen Tree

A resident requested an update on the fallen tree at Spinners Lane which Dorset Council have advised is too dangerous to move. Clerk agreed to speak with the Town Surveyor for an update.

The Bridge Magazine

A resident commented that they were very pleased to see the monthly ward articles in the Bridge magazine. Cllr Rickard agreed and highlighted that the Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward also have a Facebook page and a ward page on the Town Council website.

Meeting closed 12.00pm