



Cabinet

Date: Tuesday, 6 October 2020

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: MS Teams Live Event

Membership: (Quorum 3)

Spencer Flower (Chairman), Peter Wharf (Vice-Chairman), Ray Bryan, Graham Carr-Jones, Tony Ferrari, Laura Miller, Andrew Parry, Gary Suttle, Jill Haynes, David Walsh, Cherry Brooks, Piers Brown, Simon Gibson, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Byron Quayle and Jane Somper

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, South Walks House, South Walks Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UZ (Sat Nav DT1 1EE)

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AGENDA

Page No.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3 - 12

To receive questions or statements on the business of the committee from town and parish councils and members of the public. Public speaking has been suspended for virtual committee meetings during the Covid-19 crisis and public participation will be dealt with through written submissions only.

Members of the public who live, work or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area, may submit up to two questions or a statement of up to a maximum of 450 words. All submissions must be sent electronically to kate.critchell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by the deadline set out below. When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for and include your name, address and contact details. Questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.

Questions will be read out by an officer of the council and a response given by the appropriate Portfolio Holder or officer at the meeting. All questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The deadline for submission of the full text of a question or statement is 8.30am on Thursday 1 October 2020.

5 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

13 - 14

To receive any questions from members in accordance with procedure rule 13.

Cabinet 6 October 2020

Public Questions and Statements

1. Question from Catriona Ross

What are Dorset council doing to encourage less car use around the main towns? The safe streets map was very helpful to let the public identify issues but I have not seen any updates or signs of change around Bridport. In the last few weeks two cyclists have been injured after being hit by vehicle drivers in Bridport. Vehicle use has to be reduced to combat climate change but the only way to do that is to make people feel safe cycling or walking. Why can't all town centres speed limits be reduced from 30mph to 20mph, a simple and cheap way to make roads safer.

2. Question from Caz Dennett

In a recent article in the Dorset Echo (14th September 2020), local residents and marine conservationists raised concerns about air pollution from cruise ships idling in Weymouth Bay. Emissions from ships' funnels (exhausts) are easily visible to on-lookers and smog is now a regular sight over the bay. Air pollution from cruise ship emissions are amongst the most deadly, due to the poor grade 'dirty' heavy-fuel oil the ships burn. This contains high levels of sulphur oxide (a known cause of acid rain and lung cancer), nitrogen dioxide and Particulate Matter (PM). Greenhouse gas emissions from cruise ships, even when idling or manoeuvring in port or anchorage are also extremely high.

The need to control air pollution at ports is a widely acknowledged concern, and Weymouth Bay currently has the characteristics of a busy port (with 5-8 cruise ships present most days).

In the same article on 14th September an unnamed spokesperson for Dorset Council dismissed concerns about air pollution from the cruise ships and stated the smog was caused by temperature inversions trapping pollutants from local sources in Weymouth ("vehicles, fires, industrial activities"), not due to air pollution from ships' emissions.

www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/18717749.dorset-council-claims-cruise-ships-weymouth-bay-not-causing-smog/

Q. What evidence does Dorset Council have to state publicly that the air quality in Weymouth Bay is unchanged by the presence of the cruise ships between March–September 2020 and that residents are unfounded in their concerns over cruise ships emissions?

Q. Assuming that the unnamed Dorset Council spokesperson is correct, and the smog in the bay is caused by temperature inversions trapping air pollution from vehicles, fires and industrial activities and not from cruise ship emissions, what measures are Dorset Council taking to reduce the acknowledged air pollution in Weymouth?

3. Question from Cleo Evans

The Climate Emergency

- When presented with stats and facts it is sometimes too overwhelming to get one's head around it, so it is important to focus on how to get people to engage with aspects of climate change, which in turn can help behaviour change.
- We therefore suggest a county wide rolling arts programme of site-specific work, that engages people in a different ways and includes outreach projects that utilise the talents and teamwork of communities. The work would be specific to that community, so for eg where there is a threat of more flooding we would work with those communities on that subject. And likewise, for other elements, such as air pollution. We want this work to be truly collaborative, utilising our environmental partners' expertise and resources, to include events, such as talks, seminars, practical workshops and popups. This is not about lecturing people and telling them what to do; but sparking conversations, provide information, and inspire community action – and we want people to have fun!

For the whole programme, and to make an impact – we'll be looking for work with a WOW factor. And we don't want to just reach out to people already concerned about climate change – we want to work directly with communities and reach people who aren't yet thinking about it.

Please can you ask the Counsellors, what the Council can do to achieve this with us ,The Arts Development Company? And what timeline are we looking at?

4. Question from Julie-Ann Booker (on behalf of Extinction Rebellion Dorset)

Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Delivery Plan

Good to see the draft Action Plan (Delivery Plan) coming before Cabinet in preparation for going out to public consultation.

We note the plan is still only a Summary Action Plan. So at this stage Appendix A represents more of a 'wish list' of 187 actions. We understand that when it goes out for consultation there will be a detailed delivery plan for each of the 10 themes listed. Appendix B being an example of a delivery plan for the theme of 'Buildings'.

It's a shame Cabinet aren't receiving a full draft of the delivery plan. The 'devil' as the saying goes, is in the detail.

At this stage it is actually impossible to get a real grip on the detail, or the shape of the final detail that will be presented for consultation, for a number of reasons, including, but not exclusively that:

- Neither the summary plan (Appendix A), or the example detailed action plan (Appendix B), include any explanations and definitions on the metric's and measures being used

- The metrics and measures used are different between the two documents, so very difficult to 'read across'
- Visual graphics are always helpful in visualising priorities and progress. So a red, amber, green, colour code is helpful. But is meaningless without an explanation of what the colours stand for. There are a lot of green boxes and generally we all feel happy with green and think it is good. But that might not be the case and we can't work out what the colours mean in this summary plan
- Value for Money disappears in appendix B. But there is a 'cost' metric, symbolised with £ signs. But no 'value' for the one, two or three pound signs. Without knowing this, no judgement or comment can be made on whether the carbon saving (the footprint signs) and any other co-benefits are worth the cost and the priority given to the action
- In the Buildings example there are no green leaf signs indicating that none of the actions improve ecology. We would like to think that this is surely not the case. But without having a clear definition of the green leaf 'measure' it is impossible to know or comment

It's likely there will be a two year gap between Dorset declaring an emergency, and the production of its strategy and delivery plan. It's important the public consultation is meaningful, transparent, accessible and productive. Cabinet should expect nothing less. This cannot happen without clear metrics and measures being included in the documentation.

Question:

When exactly will the metrics and measures be published and available so they can be included in the communications plan for the public consultation?

5. Question from David Warren

1. It appears that one of the Indirect Actions listed in the published version of the Climate Emergency Strategy paper has not been included in the action log that will be presented to the public.

The action, listed under the Waste section of the report, aims to "Establish appropriate infrastructure to support the circular economy as part of Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset 2008 – 33" . This tacitly refers to the Council's identification of Direct Energy From Waste (EfW) as it's number one sustainable choice for managing its residual waste and acts as a catalyst for the Council to identify a number of possible sites for the development of an EFW Incineration plant.

EfW activities are notoriously CO2 intensive, please could someone outline why this item has not been included in the action log?, as the public should be given the opportunity to discuss this subject.

2. Other than the above mentioned tacit support in the Climate Emergency Strategy paper for EfW activities, how does the Council justify its failure to mention EfW or EfW activities in its report, while others, possibly the contributors to this paper, have, for years, discussed this subject, assessed its sustainability, and even selected it as the preferred method of managing the County's waste? It appears that representatives from within the Council have, for several months, been evaluating the monetary value of offsetting EfW CO2 emission levels with a

potential developer that are so significant that the developer may have to pay £100,000 pa to atone for their carbon sins? (this information was disclosed during BBC Solent's interview with Steven McNab a Director of Powerfuel Portland). Perhaps it's time to stop filibustering and clearly document the Council's position on the environmental impact of EfW activities in the Climate Emergency Strategy document. The Public deserves to be properly informed.

6. Question from Jane Fuhrmann

Prior to Covid, I had actively been working to promote responsible dog ownership and the beneficial effect dog walkers have on our environment. I am also a committee member of 'Dog Friendly Weymouth'.

I had attended meeting with Tara Williams from the Parks Department looking at ways to encourage dog owners to bag and bin and help keep our open spaces free of mess. We had discussed the use of Poo Bag dispensers in certain areas and it had been agreed for the go-a-head to install them in various locations.

Meetings with Friends of the Rodwell Trail, Radipole Gardens and Castle Cove beach had been attended to look at how we could work together to promote responsible dog ownership. As well as a meeting with 'Dorset Dogs'.

Meetings had also been attended with local Beaver Scout groups to encourage children to become involved. This had been warmly greeted by the pack leaders and a start date for projects to begin was given.

My Facebook group 'Paws on Weymouth Beach & Open Spaces,' represents 320 members of like minded dog owners who are concerned with and act on environmental issues locally and nationally. This is evidenced within the group as members visit beaches and open spaces daily with their dogs, cleaning and clearing rubbish from our streets and parks and plastics washed up on our shores. Our dog walking members alert the appropriate department when there are bins requiring emptying, report occurring problems to the authorities and pinpoint issues of concern.

I had also been in talks with 'Litter Free Coast & Sea' and organised for the Nurdle 'Trommel' Machine to come to Weymouth to be operated by members of this dog walking group.

My question is-

As there are many dog owners and representatives already willing and actively working with the authorities and groups on issues affecting the public where dogs are a concern. Will the dog warden department and DCC take this into account in their decision and in future include, advise and consult where appropriate, to promote a good working relationship to benefit the general population?

7. Question from Linda Stevenson

Can you please ask these question here's a backstory to my questions I applied for this FOI 42786 request from the Dog Warden Department who I have been in contact with since 2016.

As a concerned dog owner I wanted to understand why the problem remains with people reporting dog fouling

Over this time I've met with Jane Williams and Kevin Good trying to find an answer to this problem, to be able to see what action the Dog Warden Department were taking to resolve this I needed these figures.

I have requested an updated Freedom of information request as you can see this covered the period from 2016 till January 2019. Unfortunately I have been unable to provide this to date.

The dog warden for the Weymouth and Portland has been regularly contacted by me, Ian Lewis and I attended a information day held at Littlemoor community centre, to try and help resolve the problems and share ideas.

He kindly gave me a range of stickers I could place in the area where I live, as these are often placed in a position where, to high above head height, in locations where no problems have been reported.

I decided I would take ownership of the area I live in Lodmoor Hill Weymouth, and as mentioned by one respondent to the consultation, as I cleared an area, I popped up empty biodegradable bags carrying a message to bag and bin it. Which proved successful until someone began to take them down again, and a rumour went around the area I was tying full poo bags up.

Increasing the fine to £1000 in my experience would make little difference, I belong to worldwide group of dog owners who litter pick every time they walk their dogs, many 3 times a day, I asked a question on the group (18000) they all agreed having regular patrols where dog owners will be fined is the only answer to stopping this,

Does Dorset Council have updated figures for dog fouling, and fines issue and will they be employing dog wardens to enforce this and work with local groups of dog owners who are trying their best to raise awareness in all areas?

	Enforcing authority	Issued	cancelled	prosecuted	complaints received	complaints upheld
dog fouling	W&PBC	5	1	0	1	0

8. Question from the Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland Group

Dog Friendly (Weymouth and Portland) would like to say that while we are glad that the results are now being discussed, that we remain disappointed in the narrow date options put forward in the consultation and the lack of a question on early access to beaches during restricted times. We note that there was a large number of comments relating to this.

We have reviewed the draft PSPO and note that the dogs on leads section has a specific section for Studland and for Lyme Regis. There are no dates for Studland and a dogs on leads instruction for Lyme Regis. The National trust site for Studland states that dogs are welcome at all times with dogs on leads during the summer months (May to September). The PSPO should reflect this.

The overall view the council gave was that they wanted to have one PSPO for the council area. The fact that Lyme Regis beach stands out as the only area with a dogs on leads instruction goes against this aim. Considering that the results across Dorset was NOT in favour of dogs on leads outside the summer restrictions (including Lyme Regis by a small margin), we feel it would be more consistent to include Lyme Regis with the other named beaches.

Having one beach with that restriction could easily lead to visitors to Lyme falling foul of a rule that they believed applied across Dorset.

It applies equally to studland and lyme regis.

Will the council respect the consultation results and allow dogs off leads outside the restricted times, and will the council undertake to provide a wider range of time and date options on any future consultation?

9. Question from the "Paws on Plastic & Rubbish Lyme Regis Beaches" and "Lyme Regis's Loving Dog Owners & Friends" Groups.

Question One

As representative of the Facebook Groups "Paws on Plastic & Rubbish Lyme Regis Beaches" and "Lyme Regis's Loving Dog Owners & Friends" I wish to challenge the comments published in the Dogs on Beaches Consultation by asking for evidence that the Lyme Regis Sandy Beach is "covered in dog poo".

We have documented daily evidence for the period Oct 2019 to March 2020 (up until the pandemic hit) in the form of both videos and photographs to show the beach isn't "covered in dog poo" but sadly as featured on both the Paws on Plastic & Rubbish Lyme Regis Beaches and the Lyme Regis's Loving Dog Owners & Friends Facebook Groups, we can prove there is a huge issue with littering and human antisocial behaviour, in the form of taking Nitrous Gas, vandalism, breaking glass bottles, and general hazardous littering (smashed glass bottles, cigarette butts each one polluting 7.5 litres of water, plastic / nylon rope / bio beads and Nurdles which cause harm to marine life and other litter items as documented) which until the pandemic were being cleared away each daily by caring dog owners from the Lyme Regis Front Beach to keep both marine life, animals and humans safe from harm.

Therefore without solid evidence that the Lyme Regis Beaches are “covered in dog poo” could we please request that this unsupported statement is removed from the consultation?

For reference the groups are:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PawsOnLymeRegis>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lymeregisdogowners>

Question Two

As representative of the Facebook Groups “Paws on Plastic & Rubbish Lyme Regis Beaches” and “Lyme Regis’s Loving Dog Owners & Friends” we would also like to ask how many fines were issued for dog fouling on Lyme Regis Front Beach for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 April 2020?

For reference the groups are:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PawsOnLymeRegis>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lymeregisdogowners>

10. Question from Debbie Conibere

Question 1

Given that the recent Dogs on Beach Consultation resulted in a higher percentage of 49.2% for those specifically responding to Lyme Regis, in which they stated, “No - I think dogs **should not be** required to be kept on a lead” referring to the out of season Winter period, and given that Dorset Council wished to have the same restrictions for all of the beaches listed in the consultation, why is consideration being given to not allowing dogs off leads on the Lyme Regis Front Beach when dogs are allowed off lead on the other beaches listed in the consultation?

Question 2

Could the Cabinet please inform of a safe accessible beach / dedicated dog exercise area in Lyme Regis Town that can be used by dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead during the permitted period that dogs are allowed on the front Lyme Regis Beaches (1 Oct - 30 April), given that Monmouth Beach and Black Venn Beach are away from the main town and the town’s facilities, Monmouth Beach is uneven with large rocks leading to known falls by members of the public, a Town Council Worker and a Lyme Regis Town Councillor, Church Beach and Black Venn Beach are only accessible by steep steps, have large boulders to contend with and are tidal therefore these beaches get cut off at different times of the day making them unusable by the public plus Black Venn has warnings of rock falls, and Back Beach again is cut off at high tide, has uneven surfaces and slippery rocks therefore the alternative dogs off lead beaches are unsuitable for the vulnerable, elderly, pregnant women and those with mobility and sight issues? Please bear in mind most dog walkers stick to set walking times, mainly early mornings when most visitors are not up and children are being taken to or are in school, therefore tidal beaches cannot be used at e.g. 8.30am every day of the week.

11. Question submitted by Sarah Locke-Lavell

I would like to put forward my questions to the council regarding the above order.

1. I was shocked to hear the statement from Lyme Regis town council stating their view that the town would like dogs to be banned year round on the front beach. I also noted that all the other councils were happy to continue the current position of dogs either excluded or on leads in the summer whilst larger numbers are using the beaches and dogs allowed off leads during the winter off season months, to encourage tourism for dog owners throughout the quieter winter months. I would like to ask the question why has Lyme Regis taken the view that dogs are to be excluded from the only family and disabled accessible beach during quiet months when the towns business's rely on this tourism income to survive. This is incredibly relevant during the current pandemic and I also believed that having a unitary council, would mean the majority view would win over. Please can you clarify the councils overall position on this ?

2. Should each individual town council have held some sort of widely known referendum to find out the public's views, as i did not hear anything about this in Lyme Regis. I was only aware of the 10,000 Signatures on the petition that the public signed in favour of allowing dogs on the front beach of the lead to continue during the winter months. I would like to ask, will the petition in Lyme Regis be taken into account when Dorset Council make their final decision?

12. Question from Helen Freeman

The anti 'share policy 'some people seem to have re dogs and beaches.

I am reg disabled Over 60 years old ,and look forward to being able to walk on a safe beach in the winter . I feel we all need a safe place to free run our dogs off lead. I cannot walk very well I use a stick for balance and have tripped and fallen , on all the other beaches due to uneven surfaces

I often study the web cams at Lyme Regis , and quite frankly in the winter off season time very few use the beaches apart from the dog people . The Day visitors , holiday makers and locals . Over the 13 years we have lived on the Lyme Road, I have spoken to lots of people visiting the Dorset Beaches. Most dog visitors do time holidays to visit the area when the beaches are open for dogs . Also the wonderful local pubs, cafes and shops are nearly all dog friendly . In fact many a time only with dog folk in them during the Winter mornings.

In fact our visits to Lyme Regis in the winter months , is one of my years hi lights . The beaches have been badly effected by a huge amount of visitors this year . I believe dogs are being blamed for poo littering when it has been human . I can tell the difference .For over 9 years I have been documenting Facts re dog poo at Burton Bradstock asPooo pin . We are in process of a re brand Currently to help More when we come past cv19 and it is safe. So I have in that time gained experience on this

subject . I feel that this year we have seen far more human litter of all sorts . During this summer I have been visiting all the coastal areas at sunrise to exercise our dogs .

So please do consider those like me who are older and unable to walk . We need our turn on the beaches with our dogs . I believe off lead time is needed by dogs to , on walk ways yes need To be on leads leads . but we all need to share this world , sadly some folk don't want to do this .

Finally during this year many of us suffered , it is not the right time to alter any arrangements as many have not been able to come out . If like me have been staying away due to cv19 , we need time to heal before things change .

13. Question from John Calvert

Given the shortfall in the budget, could the Council Cabinet confirm that it will recommend that the Council minimises the use of consultants and, more important still, minimize the creation of bespoke IT systems and instead use current software that works for lots of other councils.

14. Question from Linda Nunn, Director, Cranborne Chase AONB, Rushmore Farm

Dinah's Hollow is in the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty where the purposes of designation are conserving and enhancing natural beauty. The Dorset Council scheme to stabilise the banks would entail converting extensive tree and fern covered habitats into exposed areas of geotextile and 'soil nails' [similar to the photograph in Appendix A para 2.4 of your report]. How is the Dorset Council Cabinet seeking to fulfil its obligations under section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 when it has not consulted or engaged with the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership on Dinah's Hollow since the formation of Dorset Council?

15. Question from Richard Burden

Dinah's Hollow and Melbury Abbas are on a C class road within an nationally designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty where tranquillity is a key characteristic. Why is Dorset Council actively routing HGVs onto this C class road through the AONB when there are obvious bottlenecks in the village, the vibrations from HGVs could increase the risks of landslides in Dinah's Hollow, and HGVs disturb an extensive area of the AONB?

16. Question from Peter Bowyer

1 Can the Council please answer question 7 that was asked at the Cabinet meeting of 08.09.20? A directly relevant and meaningful reply is requested in the interests of maintaining confidence in the exercise of the planning function by the Council. The full question and the earlier response from the Council are contained in the minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 08.09.20 (contained within the papers for the Cabinet meeting of 06.10.,20).

2 Given that houses are financial assets, and that building more houses in Dorset shows no evidence of falling prices, how does the Council consider that proposals in the Planning White Paper (if adopted) will ensure that local housing need is the driver for the Dorset Local Plan?

Cabinet 6 October 2020

Questions and Statements from Councillors

Statement from Councillor S Jespersen

The proposal for the Dinah's Hollow Slope Stabilisation includes the requirement to close the C13 for seven months.

You may recall, as I most certainly do, that during the previous work on Dinah's Hollow the road was closed from April 2014 to July 2015. I also recall the impact this had on the lives of the residents in the villages in the area, which bore the burden of the displaced traffic.

So bad was this damage and disruption that DCC eventually suggested, in 2015, that the risk associated with the continued road closure was greater than the risk of the slopes collapsing.

The Report to DCC Cabinet in May 2015, on *The Risk Comparison Analysis of the Decision to Close the C13*, stated:

"The closure of the C13 at Melbury Abbas ...has had significant ramifications on the community and the local road network in terms of both the size and the number of vehicles now using unsuitable roads to circumnavigate the road closure and also the subsequent impact this increase in traffic is having on the roads themselves.

...a number of neighbouring hamlets and villages are now experiencing an increase in traffic volumes. This is having a dramatic effect on residents' quality of life and has led to considerable disquiet from those living in these communities.

It has been suggested that the damage and disruption caused by the road closure outweighs the perceived damage of the slopes collapsing"

The Report further refers to increase in collisions, damage to vehicles and property and serious damage to the highway itself resulting from the road closure, and describes how vehicles, including HGV, avoiding the diversion route are having a disproportionately high impact on those living alongside these roads.

The residents in these same villages are now to be asked to endure this disruption and serious impact on the quality of their lives once again.

Could I ask, therefore that the lessons learned during the previous closure of the C13 are used to

- i. Provide all possible mitigation measures to reduce the impact of the road closure on the neighbouring communities
- ii. Introduce, in good time, a wide and full communications plan to keep the local communities informed of plans and progress

- iii. Plan and budget for the inevitable repair work to the surrounding road network
- iv. And, above all, make it a priority to keep the length of the road closure as brief as possible.

Question from Councillor Jane Somper

I have read both the cabinet report and previous reports from 2013/14 in relation to the works to the slopes at Dinah's Hollow where a geotechnical engineer identified potential complete failure due to the instability of the slopes. The report delivered by Brody Forbes did state the chance of this is rare with no significant slippage where the slopes have existed for hundreds of years.

However the report also states that there is chance that changes due to climate change with extreme weather becoming more frequent and the impact on the vegetation conditions, damage caused by intense periods of rainfall could trigger a major collapse of the slopes and the concrete barriers currently in place would not be sufficient to hold back the tonnes of soil that could fall.

The decision to put on hold the original scheme to provide the required stability of soil nails and mesh in 2015 was due to a discussion on funding bids in relation to the North South corridor of the M4 and ports of Poole and Portland. This has of yet not moved forward although at the last cabinet meeting approval was given for DC to join the Western Gateway Partnership where this and other potential routes are to be looked at in a Government funded strategic transport report.

I recognise and fully accept that this Council must take all measures to protect all road users who drive through the hollow and cannot allow any risk to life.

My question to the Portfolio Holder is:

This is an extremely sensitive and protracted issue for all residents living in Dinah's Hollow, Melbury Abbas and as a result of this, and in order for me to fulfil the commitment that I have made to my residents I expect to be kept fully informed of all developments leading to the decision as to how the council intends to proceed with Dinah's Hollow. My engagement with officers must enable me to report to residents on the progress being made at every stage. Can you kindly confirm that this will be in place.

Question from Councillor Nick Ireland

The recent comments by a Dorset Councillor at the Police and Crime Panel have highlighted the need for at least some councillors to receive Equality & Diversity training.

Will this council's leader organise an appropriate course for those in need of such training?