

Public Participation – Cabinet 28 March 2023

Question from Mike Hall

Madam Chair, my name is Mike Hall, owner of Silton Mews, Church Road, Silton. On the 12th Jan '23, out of the blue, Silton Parish Meeting was notified of a provisional Area Tree Preservation Order relating to Silton Mews.

By way of background, we have been in dialogue with Dorset Planning for almost 2 years with regards to extending our property, for which Planning permission has now been granted. At no point in this process has the Tree Team or Case Officer raised any concern for a TPO until the 11th hour.

This TPO has come as a shock to us and has caused alarm in the Parish of Silton too. An Extraordinary Parish Meeting was held on 21st February where our provisional TPO was Agenda item 3. Cllr Belinda Ridout was present for this item, having kindly conducted a full site visit of our garden and Application site.

It is important to note that no trees in our garden are at risk or will be impacted by the extension or parking.

We value our trees, we have planted 27 trees to date and we've been instrumental in planting 3 English oaks in the village to honour our late Queen's Green Canopy Initiative in 2022.

We were taken aback to receive an Area TPO, particularly because much of the area designated is nowhere near the Application site.

There is no logic to a non-specific Area TPO that, for example, includes fruit trees and a diseased ash tree. **Several objections to this Area TPO have been lodged including one by Silton Parish Meeting** - the final paragraph of the latter's objection sums up the prevailing situation:

"This Area TPO will not help the trees at Silton Mews to contribute positively to the amenity of Church Road and the Parish of Silton, indeed it will do exactly the opposite as it will impose a completely unnecessary layer of bureaucracy on the management of these trees. This TPO is arbitrary, unjustified and completely unnecessary.

Silton Parish Meeting strongly objects to the imposition of this TPO and requests that it be withdrawn".

Our key concerns regarding this provisional TPO are as follows:

- The imposition of a TPO order of this nature will be counter productive and rather than protecting trees, once news of this Area TPO spreads, it is more likely to prompt the felling of trees prior to planning applications being submitted.
- There has been no consultation with us from the Tree Officer about the Area TPO to date.

- Silton is not in a conservation area nor is it in an AONB. There is no other existing TPO in our parish.
- This TPO will inevitably generate an unnecessary level of bureaucracy for all parties, since the TPO encompasses a large number of trees that require regular tree management and remedial pruning to ensure their optimum health.

LPA's have powers to cancel confirmation of TPOs or else vary or revoke them. I request that such action is taken in respect of the Area TPO due to be imposed on our property.

Public Statements for Cabinet 28 March 2023

1. Statement from Bob Foster in support of Agenda Item 9 – Swanage Capital Asset Transfer

My name is Bob Foster, I Chair the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust. I am providing a brief introduction to our Trust and an overview of our track record and plans for this site.

We are a registered Charity, established in 2015, with the objectives of supporting the most needy, in the local Community, by protecting and enhancing community services and making the best use of Community property assets. We achieve these by facilitating the sustainable use of owned property and providing an umbrella Trust for small voluntary organisations, sharing similar objectives. We now have 21 local voluntary organisations under our umbrella, sharing our governance. We work as a team to achieve the best outcomes for local people.

Under our Wellbeing Swanage initiative, we organise and run, in Herston, a toddler group, a successful Youth Club, a Community Café, and a Community Pantry, and a signposting service. The objectives of Wellbeing Swanage are to build resilience in the Community and to help people to help themselves and others. We describe this as a bottom-up approach.

Our sustainable financial model is property based. We deliver low-cost accommodation, for use by service providers, and local groups, whilst building a surplus for reserves. The Youth Centre, the subject of an Asset Transfer, in 2016, is now a thriving 5 days per week Childcare nursery, employing 26 local people. It is available as a Community Centre and Events Venue, at weekends. Herston Village Hall, another of our owned assets, has become a central focus for Community activities in the Herston area. Both properties produce surplus income over cost, whilst maintaining an affordable, cost based, hiring charge. Surpluses generated are reinvested in our charitable projects.

Our proposal for Chapel Lane is to integrate the site and attract Community service providers to operate in the proposed new Health and Wellbeing Hub. These services will be based upon recognised, unmet service needs, whilst enhancing and securing existing services. We are working in Partnership with Children's Services to manage the Swanage Family Hub. The Trust will work with Adult Services Commissioners to generate managed activities for adults, locally, in a friendly, welcoming, environment.

The planned integration of the buildings, on site, will provide social benefits of enhanced services, intergenerational activities, new local employment, increased Community resilience and support for local people to help themselves and others.

Statement from Tracee Cossey & Giles Watts on behalf of the Action Team (steering group) for Dorset Climate Action Network.

2. Statement from Tracee Cossey & Giles Watts behalf of the Action Team (steering group) for Dorset Climate Action Network.

DCAN Statement in response to:

Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy 2023-2025 Refresh (NECES)

Tracee Cossey & Giles Watts 23rd March 2023

On behalf of Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN), I would like to express our strong appreciation and support for Dorset Council's new "Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology Strategy" (NECES) 2023-2025 Refresh. This document is a positive step with some important improvements – in particular, the new emphasis on the *ecological* emergency and on the topic of adaptation to global warming and climate change.

We have been impressed by the professionalism and commitment shown by members and officers of Dorset Council with the NECES Refresh and we applaud other initiatives that Dorset Council is promoting:

- the comprehensive environmental decision-making tool,
- the "Thirty-by-Thirty" metric
- the Climate Planning Policy Statement and Sustainability checklist
- making the NECES one of the 5 key priorities in the Council Plan.

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Dorset CAN is confident that it can support Dorset Council in addressing Dorset's environmental and emissions targets. In particular, we would like to work more closely with Dorset Council to address the 98.5% emissions outside the direct control of the council. The best way to tackle these longer-term issues is through better engagement, better communication and better cooperation amongst the many organisations in Dorset that share this common goal – and Dorset CAN is well placed to help with these efforts.

DorsetCAN has a number of its own environmental programmes such as the "Great Big Dorset Hedge" initiative for building a stronger network of ecological pathways through our hedgerows and the "Open Greener Homes" initiative which is helping people to retrofit their homes with better insulation and to live more sustainably.

We also support a growing network of local organisations, for example through the "Dorset COP" this September, a networking event modelled on the international COPs. This event is organised alongside Zero Carbon Dorset and Sustainable Dorset and will bring together Dorset organisations with international speakers in a locally-led event to network, spread good practice and share expertise.

We invite Dorset Council to make use of our networking with residents and other local organisations and to make use of our expertise to extend the reach of Council programmes.

In an accompanying letter we explain how we might enhance the current measures in the NECES and accelerate the programme. We hope that Dorset Council will consider these suggestions and we invite Dorset Council to set up a Partnership Forum in which Dorset CAN and other county-wide environmental and climate change organisations can work together to help tackle the long term environmental and emissions challenges we face together.

Thank you for your consideration.

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