



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 16 July 2026
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

All members of Dorset Council are requested to attend this meeting of the Full Council.

Chief Executive: Catherine Howe, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic & Governance Services
Meeting Contact susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda. If you would like to attend this meeting and have any specific requirements please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

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5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS

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A period of 30 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to questions and statements on the business of the Council in the following order:

- (a) Questions and statements from Town and Parish Councils;
- (b) Questions and statements from those living or working in the Dorset Council area;

A person or organisation can submit either 1 question or 1 statement at each meeting.

You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for Full Council this will be circulated to all members of the council in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes of the meeting for the formal record, but it will not be read out at the meeting. The first 8 questions and the first 8 statements received by Democratic Services will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline below:

The full text of the question or statement must be received by

8.30am on 13 July 2026. All submissions must be emailed to susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit 1 question or 1 statement for each meeting;
- A question may include a pre-amble to set the context, each question, including the pre-amble can consist of up to **450 words** and you will be given up to **3 minutes** to read out your question;
- Sub-divided questions will not be accepted;
- When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for, i.e. the name of the Cabinet member;
- You will need to include your full name, address and contact details;
- All questions and statements will be published with the minutes of the meeting as a matter of public record.

Before submitting your question or statement please read the Council's Procedure Rules paragraphs 9.1 – 9.12 to ensure that your question/statement is compliant.

[Part 2 Rules of Procedure - Council and Committee Procedure Rules.pdf](#)

Full Council – 16 July 2026

Public Questions

1. Question from Cllr Leach – Ferndown Town Council

What was the total cost of operating the school crossing patrol in Victoria Road, Ferndown during the last financial year, and has Dorset Council undertaken a formal cost-benefit analysis before deciding to withdraw a post considered to be vital by our community?

2. Question from Geoff Middleton

You will be aware that the people are absolutely shocked and disappointed by the decision to remove the school crossing patrol in Church Road, Ferndown.

The argument that there is confusion caused by having a school crossing patrol on a zebra crossing does not sit comfortably with residents and believe this is a financially driven rather than evidence based decision.

With hundreds of young people using this crossing to access three schools in the road, will the Cabinet Member that made this decision using Executive Powers reverse his decision or would he rather see a child serious injured or killed in Church Road?

3. Question from Caroline Stamp

As a Grandparent of a child in Ferndown Middle School, who uses the crossing on Church Road manned by Sarah the crossing patrol lady.

My Grandson, his parents and myself along with other families who I have spoken with, have great concerns using this crossing in September with no patrol in place. We've witnessed vehicles and some bikes, failing to stop and even driving through when someone is on the crossing and the congestion at school crossing times leads to poor visibility when trying to cross. Sarah has been key to managing the flow of traffic and pedestrians, many a time I've seen her stop a child from running onto the crossing when it's unsafe to do so.

I've worked for 17years in a school with children across the same age range using the crossing and regularly had road safety teams in for practical and theory sessions. At the end of the day these are children not always visible due to size and not always focused, quite often distracted by conversations with friends etc. The zebra crossing gives them hierarchy, a right of way across the road, but they don't remember to stop look and listen, because their focus is on something else. The age range across these three schools makes them vulnerable road users as stated in

government papers and the Highway Code. Statistics show that a high percentage of drivers speed up before reaching a zebra crossing to pass through before the person steps out.

This particular zebra crossing is in a hazardous location, due to limited vision, multiple junctions, brow of a hill and heavy road use by work traffic and parents during school hours.

Several other counties/ areas have done a u turn on zebra crossings that are deemed hazardous during school hours. To prevent danger to life a crossing patrol person has been kept to man the zebra crossing as and where that extra safety measure is needed.

Is the Council willing to change its policy on this particular zebra crossing to prevent unnecessary casualties or fatalities?