

## **Councillor Questions for Cabinet 27 July 2021**

### **Question from Cllr C Sutton**

We are all aware of the economic importance of the South West Coast path to Dorset. In Weymouth specifically, residents and visitors are delighted by the fantastic new bridge and steps constructed by Dorset Council in Wyke, circumventing a landslip at the eastern end of the Fleet, and that the landslip towards Osmington is now passable. However, the Coast Path remains blocked between the Nothe and Castle Cove, depriving residents and visitors of one of Dorset's loveliest walks.

Fixing this on this unstable part of the coast may not be straightforward, but I'm sure Dorset Council has the creativity and ingenuity to resolve this, as it did in Wyke. Myself and others have been in discussion about this with officers for nearly two years now. Can we please have an assurance that it will be fixed for the 2022 season?

### **Response from the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment**

The Southwest Coastal path between Nothe and Castle Cove is open and in use. It runs along Belle view road and Old Castle Road. The section Cllr Sutton references is path S1/125 which was closed about 20 years ago.

Today S1/125 is open at each end but closed in the middle. The Rangers in the Greenspace team will cut a way through the undergrowth this autumn / winter, (after bird nesting season) so there will be walkable route joining both ends. The path will not be on the old definitive line as this has slipped too far, but will be within the Coastal Access margin, providing the public with right of access. If this new route slips again, we will cut a new path through the undergrowth within the Coastal margin so that public access is maintained.

So in summary a route will be open for walkers by the beginning of 2022.