

Full Council – 4 December 2025

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 - submitted by Cllr P Kimber

[DT5 1DB, Powerfuel Portland Limited, EPR/AP3304SZ/V002: environmental permit consultation - Environment Agency - Citizen Space](#)

At a public meeting on the 20th of November 2025 at the social club on Portland, many Portlanders and People right across Dorset expressed their deep concern and worry regarding the variation that Power Fuel have submitted to the application. This green site is very sensitive with people living and working at the Verne Prison and the Verne Housing estate. Also, this variation is very concerning for the health of our Dorset community.

The public meeting requested air quality monitors to give the public accurate measurement of the air quality in and around the plant before and after it is built will Dorset council undertake this process?

Has Power fuel provided any new information to Dorset Council regarding the variation and how they will control the discharge from the chimney and how will this be monitored and has Dorset Council made any objection regarding the Environmental Consultation, and will we be submitting an objection?

The application contains information in support of the variation, but if this is considered to be insufficient, this will form part of the Council's response.

Question 2 – submitted by Cllr S Holland

HGV Traffic through Rural Villages

Introductory Statement: Thank you, Chair. I'm raising this on behalf of residents and parish councils along the Portland–Weymouth–Bridport corridor — from Wyke Regis through Portesham, Abbotsbury, Burton Bradstock, Little and Long Bredy, right out to Winterbourne Abbas. These communities are dealing daily with the consequences of heavy goods vehicles forcing their way through roads that were never designed for them. Damage to property, safety risks, noise, vibration, and the strain on older infrastructure — it's all taking a toll on both the physical environment and residents' wellbeing.

With the proposed incinerator at Portland Port, alongside wider development and investment under the Weymouth Town Masterplan, people are rightly demanding to know what Dorset Council is going to do to protect these historic rural villages and the wider Weymouth, Chickereil and Chesil Bank area. The impact is already being felt now, long before any future developments arrive.

Question

Villages such as Portesham and Abbotsbury are already suffering regular damage, congestion and danger to pedestrians from HGVs using routes that are wholly unsuitable for vehicles of that size. This is not an isolated problem. It affects the entire corridor: Wyke Regis, Portesham, Abbotsbury, Little Bredy, Burton Bradstock and Winterbourne Abbas all feel the pressure of freight movements linked to Portland Port.

Despite repeated reports and concerns raised by residents, ward councillors and parish councils, the current advisory routes remain unchanged and unenforced. Communities feel they are being left to absorb the consequences of poor route planning and lack of enforcement.

With the proposed incinerator at Portland Port set to increase HGV movements significantly — on top of other developments and the ambitions set out in the Weymouth Town Masterplan — will Dorset Council now take responsibility for safeguarding these communities?

Specifically:

Will Dorset Council guarantee that any traffic management plan connected to Portland Port or future Weymouth development actively diverts HGVs away from narrow, historic village streets such as those in Portesham and Abbotsbury, and deliver a clear, enforceable HGV routing strategy for the entire corridor?

And critically — while long-term plans are discussed, what immediate actions will Dorset Council take to protect these villages from further deterioration right now?

Question 3 – submitted by Cllr S Flower

Dorset Local Plan – Regs 18 Land Allocations Public Consultation

You will recall I asked this question at Full Council on Thursday 23 October:

Waiting until August 2026 to reveal such information would be unfair and hugely concerning for those in our communities who are anxious about the significant loss of green belt and undeveloped land caused by new housing being ‘pepper potted’ across the Dorset Council area. What action will be taken to make members, and the public aware of which sites will not be taken forward. And will a list of these sites be created supporting evidence and submitted along with the draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State.

Your response was that a list of sites that are no longer available will be created and placed on the council's website, and that there would be an assessment as to whether identified sites are deliverable before inclusion in the next iteration of the draft Local Plan.

Can I take the opportunity to thank the Cabinet Member and planning officers for fulfilling this commitment in such a timely manner.

On behalf of residents however, I must reiterate my concerns about when the many other potentially undeliverable sites are likely to be removed during the sifting process and added to the list. This is hugely important to our residents given the level of public concern [confirmed by over 10,000 responses to the consultation] regarding the number of sensitive sites with expectations that these will be removed from the draft plan; particularly if they do not comply with the NPPF and/or other statutory planning guidance.

My concerns remain that it would be grossly unfair to expect the public to have to wait for the next draft Dorset Local Plan being brought for Cabinet in June next year and further public consultation in August 2026.

My question therefore is to seek an assurance that the public will be made aware of the sites which have been screened out and removed from the draft local plan at the earliest opportunity and further that the council has sought to investigate best practice from other councils in this regard.

Thank you, madam chairman

Question 4 – submitted by Cllr C Jones

Following a day of filming with Channel 4 with families being represented by the Send Nurture Group, and on visiting and talking to parents on their day of protest outside County Hall, one stand out area appears to be poor communication with parents. Parents feel that every step is a battle, they chase constantly and often do not receive updates. They even find out actions taken by chance on occasions that affect their child. Working closely with so many such parents at our Family Hub, the stress is huge, this often affects their not being able to work set hours, they are often on medication for anxiety themselves. My question is simple - what more can we do as a council to provide a better and more proactive service for the parents.

Question 5 – submitted by Cllr B Quayle

What assessment has the Cabinet Member for Children's Services made of the emotional and educational impact on children and families when delays, miscommunication, or misapplication of guidance occur, and how is this factored into service improvement plans?

Question 6 – submitted by Cllr B Quayle

How many formal complaints have been raised in the past 12 months regarding SEND provision and inclusion officer conduct, and what proportion have resulted in upheld findings or changes to practice?

Question 7 – submitted by Cllr C Tomes

Two aster-owned flats at Sentryfields in Swanage have now been put on the open market, adding to a growing list of previous disposals Aster has sold homes in our town rather than keeping them as social housing. These repeated losses are steadily and permanently eroding Swanage's already fragile supply of social homes.

The impact on local families, many of whom are now being forced out of the community they have lived in for generations is impossible to ignore and demands urgent proactive intervention.

Can the portfolio holder for housing outline what discussions Dorset council has had with Aster group regarding both the current Sentryfields sales and the repeated pattern of past property disposals? Was the council consulted at any stage before these latest homes were put on the market, and is the council actively tracking and responding to the continuing loss of homes in Swanage.

Given the acute and worsening housing need in Swanage, what steps will Dorset council take to ensure that these sales do not further erode local housing availability within the town?