

Snippets from County Hall

At Dorset Full Council in July Green councillors proposed a motion committing Dorset Council to working with government and water companies to prevent sewage discharges into our rivers and beaches, which was passed almost unanimously.



Dorset Council's five Green councillors lead on: Belinda, Climate & Ecology; Brian, Transport & Finance; Kelvin, Planning; Clare, Children's Services; Jon, Adults' Services & Health

Clare says, "This is a total disgrace. Weymouth's economy relies on visitors being confident of the quality of our seawater and within our ward it's also very important to those who swim at Smallmouth, Sandsfoot, Castle Cove and Newton's Cove. Given the vast profits Wessex Water and others have made since privatisation, government must ensure that it's the shareholder not the customer who pays. There's a limit to what Dorset Council can do but if every council in the country puts the pressure on I hope it will make a difference."

At the same meeting, a motion condemning the government's decision to house 500 asylum seekers on the now infamous **Bibby Stockholm barge** was supported by councillors from all parties, including an amendment proposed by Labour Councillor Paul Kimber and



Swimmers at Castle Cove

seconded by Brian. Brian says, "All of us oppose the barge but we felt it was important to say that Dorset welcomes refugees, and that they should be treated with dignity and respect."

Two significant planning applications have been approved since our last newsletter. On **North Quay**, Brian argued for renovation over demolition because we need to save the carbon emissions now rather than over a 50 year period, and because there is no guarantee that Dorset Council will find a developer willing to deliver to a high environmental standard. Since it's going ahead, he'll be focusing on this, affordable housing, and elements of the indicative 2021 plan - shops, restaurants and community spaces, the rerouting of the road behind the new building etc. - being delivered. On **Newton's Cove**, Clare argued for further conditions relating to affordable housing and the Underbarn to ensure that local residents would see some net gains, but unfortunately these were not adopted.

Clare has been working hard behind the scenes with Independent Group leader Les Fry to secure support for **youth clubs** which have faced massive increases in running costs due to the cost of living crisis. We are delighted to report that this has finally been agreed and will be in place by the end of the year.



Clare was presented with an award for "outstanding service to STEPS Club for Young People" at their AGM

RODWELL & WYKE GREEN MATTERS



AUTUMN 2023

Dear Resident

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. All details are correct as we go to press but some may have changed by the time we've delivered to all 7000 households. If you'd like to lend a hand with deliveries please contact our coordinator Val Graves on val654@icloud.com and, as ever, do contact us if there's anything we can help with.

With all good wishes

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Portland Waste Incinerator decision goes to Appeal

In our Spring newsletter we reported that Dorset Council's Strategic Planning Committee unanimously rejected Powerfuel's application for a giant waste incinerator at Portland Port. Objections raised by Stop Portland Waste Incinerator (SPWI), Brian, Clare and many others included:

- Inconsistency with Dorset's Waste Plan and the need to generate less waste rather than burn it
- The impact on wildlife, Dorset's World Heritage Coast and our local economy
- Air pollution in general, and the impact of up to 80 extra (huge!) HGVs per day trundling through Wyke

We are hugely disappointed that Powerfuel has appealed the decision and note that they have provided no substantial new arguments. Brian says, "If you'd like to get involved in ensuring their appeal fails, please contact SPWI via stopportlandwasteincinerator.co.uk or contact me. Clare and I will of course be addressing the Planning Inspectorate Enquiry, due to commence in December".

Cost of Living Crisis

This is hitting many residents really hard. For help or advice, contact:

Weymouth Food Bank (The Hub): Baptist Church, 18 The Esplanade

If you're struggling to put food on the table visit www.weymouthfoodbank.co.uk, ring 07531 167465 or email weymouthfb@outlook.com to find out how to claim

Household Support Fund

If your household has an annual income under £30,000, savings of less than £16,000 and has not applied to the HSF within the last 6 months go to www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/household-support-fund, ring 01305 221000 or email hsf@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Citizens Advice

If you need debt advice and qualify for their free service (vulnerable clients, those with more complex debt cases and/or debt relief orders) ring 0800 144 88 48. Help for those living with cancer can be accessed via 08454 9000 42. For assistance with benefit claims, through the Income Max project, ring 0800 144 88 48



dorset.greenparty.org.uk



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Rodwell and Wyke Round Up

The re-development of **Brewers Quay** continues apace. As well as minimising disruption, responding rapidly to local concerns and keeping residents up to date via the **Brewers Quay Weymouth Facebook page**, the developer has commissioned a local archaeologist whose historic building record will be added to the Dorset Historic Environment Record.



The steam engine room will be preserved and become part of the museum area

Clare is aware of (and has contacted the police about) some very worrying ASB issues which have occurred on **Chapelhay Steps**. Cutting back the overgrowth around the 'secluded' bench will not solve this, but making it more visible will hopefully help. Dorset Council will do this in the next few weeks.

Residents keen to see further progress on the **Underbarn Walk** are understandably frustrated by how long this is taking. As we go to press, following a site visit with Dorset Council's Senior Ranger on October 3rd we are very close to an agreement between all interested parties on where the path will go given the terrain, and work should start soon. Please contact Chair of Friends of Castle Cove Beach Steve Elsworth on steveelsworth@mac.com or Clare on cllrcclare.sutton@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk for up to date information.



Brian at the collapsed steps in Wyke

Further along the South West Coast Path, sadly the **bridge and steps in Wyke**, erected in 2021, collapsed earlier this year due to further instability of the beach. Brian is pressing Dorset Council to find a solution but the only answer may be to move the path further inland, which will require the cooperation of several private landowners.

We've also tried to help with, among other things, various housing, planning, road safety, parking, benches and disability access issues which residents have raised with us. We can't always resolve these, but we always do our best!

Dorset leads the way on local climate talks

More than 250 people, including representatives from over 100 Dorset-based organisations, came together in Dorchester on the hottest day of the year, September 9th, for the UK's first ever community-led Conference of the Parties (COP). Organised by Dorset CAN, Sustainable Dorset and Zero Carbon Dorset, participants explored where and how we can take action to address and respond to climate change through various discussions and workshops. Clare says: "According to the UN we are fast running out of time to prevent runaway climate change. Obviously Dorset residents and organisations can't 'solve' this but it was really encouraging that so many want to play their part".



Update from Helen Toft, Weymouth Town Councillor for Wyke Regis



You can contact Helen on 07790 536963 or cllhelentoft@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Helen writes:

"It has been a frustrating summer for Wyke residents with overgrown verges across the area as well as the 'Wyke Whiff' from the Wessex Water Sewage works.

"Many people contacted Wessex Water, and eventually one of the tanks was given a deep clean which seems to have relieved the problem for now. Please ring Wessex Water on 0345 600 3600 every time there is a smell that persists for more than a day or so. Perhaps we can wear them down with complaints so they make a permanent change to deal with the issue.

"The problem with the Dorset Council mowers was due to parts for broken mowers being unavailable from abroad. They have now purchased new machines from local suppliers with UK parts and we hope there will never be a repeat of this summer. Unfortunately for Wyke we were one of the last areas of Weymouth to be cut so

several areas were not mown until the end of August despite repeated reporting to the Dorset website. Councillors will be seeking assurances that the machines are all in working order ahead of the first cut next year.

"It is extremely disappointing that Powerfuel has appealed the Dorset Council Planning decision on the Portland Waste Incinerator. Local feeling has not changed and campaigners are delivering flyers which explain the process and how we can help defeat Powerfuel. For full details of how to comment please contact Stop Portland Waste Incinerator at stopportlandwasteincinerator.co.uk.

"On a more positive note, in our Spring newsletter I said I wanted to tidy up the area at the bottom of Rylands Lane which leads to The Rodwell Trail. With the help of councillors and volunteers earlier in the year it is now looking much prettier and with continued work will be even better by next summer."



Blooming marvellous!



Local Coordinator Val Graves

Elections to Weymouth Town Council and Dorset Council will take place in May 2024. If you think you might be interested in standing as a Green candidate do contact our coordinator Val Graves for a chat on val654@icloud.com or 07940 702703