

Snippets from County Hall

Dorset Council set its annual budget on 14th February - how romantic! In her speech as Green Group Leader, which you can watch here tinyurl.com/BudgetStatement or read here tinyurl.com/DorsetDoBetter, Clare focussed on the need for a step change in:

• Social and affordable housing

Dorset Council needs to do MUCH better on this, to keep our young people and essential workers in the county, and should consider providing social housing directly. This received some support from members of all parties.

• Public transport

We need to reverse the ongoing decline of public transport to improve the mobility of mainly younger, poorer and elderly residents and think Dorset Council should seriously consider running some of this directly. Again, this received some cross-party support.

• Supporting Youth Clubs

SO many Youth Clubs in Dorset, including 6 in Weymouth and Portland, have closed since the swingeing cuts in 2016. Those that remain need more help as running costs escalate.

• Surplus Dorset Council-owned Assets

A more commercial (and far swifter!) approach to this is needed to resource greater ambition in the above areas.

There are Rodwell and Wyke examples of the need for all these things on page 2 and we continue to press for not more words but action. Ever the optimists, we look forward to reporting on progress in our autumn newsletter.

Planning applications are often poor in relation to **insulation and putting solar panels on roofs**. Legally, applications only need to comply with building regulations but Brian has suggested that developers should at least explain at Planning meetings what they have considered in terms of energy performance. Dorset Council is now consulting on a checklist for developers to complete on all larger developments.



Dorset Green Councillors' Business Lunch. From left, we lead on: Belinda, Climate & Ecology; Clare, Children's Services; Jon, Adults' Services & Health; Brian, Transport & Finance; Kelvin, Planning

Tennyson Green to...remain green!

Built just after World War I, Bradford, Tennyson and Emerson Roads form a distinct community off Chickerell Road with two public greens. These are well-loved by residents, who tended them during lock down, where young children have played safely for many decades. Residents were horrified when landowner Aster submitted a planning application to build new houses - just two, not even affordable ones, with four parking spaces - covering the whole of Tennyson Green. They organised a fantastic campaign against this, which Brian and Clare fully supported, and were delighted when Aster withdrew their application. The campaign showed what a strong community this is and they have since formed the Bradford, Emerson and



From left: Campaigners Ian, Pauline and Kirsten with Clare and Brian

Tennyson Residents' Group. The Group is seeking protection for their green spaces in the new Weymouth Town Council Neighbourhood Plan and are planning a 'Picnic on the Green' for Coronation Day May 6th. Power to the people, again!



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RODWELL & WYKE GREEN MATTERS



SPRING 2023

Dear Resident

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. All details are correct as we go to press but there's a lot happening at the moment so by the time we've delivered to all 6800 households some details may have changed. If you'd like to lend a hand with deliveries please contact Val on val654@icloud.com and, as always, do contact us if there's anything we can help with.

With all good wishes

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Portland Incinerator: Power to the People - but not from Waste!

Dorset Council's Strategic Planning Committee unanimously rejected Powerfuel's application for a giant waste incinerator at Portland Port on 24th March. Many local people spoke with expertise and eloquence on a range of issues including:

- Inconsistency with Dorset's Waste Plan
- The blight on our landscape, for both residents and visitors
- The potential damage to wildlife, the arts, and as a sailing venue

Brian and Clare's objections (see <https://tinyurl.com/WasteIncinerator>) included:

- Air pollution in general, and the impact of up to 80 extra (huge!) HGVs per day on those walking or cycling to our local schools, shops, doctors etc.
- The impact on Dorset's World Heritage Coast and local heritage assets
- That, given the need to generate less waste rather than burn it, it would become a 'white elephant'

Following a three year campaign, Stop Portland Waste Incinerator's Coordinator Paula Klaentschi, a Rodwell resident, said, "The applicants may appeal the decision so it's not over yet but this is a great result for Weymouth and Portland. We've shown that, by mobilising public opinion and expert scientific arguments, communities can win against well-funded developers."



Campaigner and former Olympic sailor Laura Baldwin, who lives with her children behind Portland Port above chimney height, said: "England should follow Wales and Scotland with a ban on any new incinerators, phase out existing incinerators, and work towards manufacturing waste out of production. Alternatives to plastic packaging exist, and shifting to a circular economy would make people feel good about their consumer choices."

Rodwell and Wyke Round Up

Dorset Council has signed off work commencing at **Brewers Quay** to ensure that the 2020 Planning consent does not lapse. Clare says, "The developers have an excellent track record and are a joy to work with, keeping disruption to a minimum and responding rapidly to any local concerns. After the failures of *Brewers Quay Investment LLP* and then *Versant* I feel very confident that this project will be a success, rescuing an iconic building and providing a valuable community resource, including a fitting home for *Weymouth Museum*".



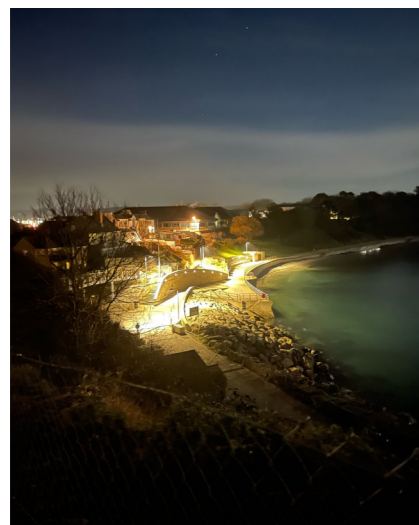
Behind the scenes...

Many readers will know that £19m was allocated to Weymouth from the Government's 'Levelling Up' fund in January. This will largely fund expensive and necessary (if not very exciting!) infrastructure work such as securing the harbour walls and a new sewer. And Dorset Council has just re-applied for planning permission (see <https://tinyurl.com/NorthQuay>) to demolish the old council offices at **North Quay**. In 2021 they published an indicative plan with shops, restaurants and community spaces on the ground floor; flats above, with an affordable housing 'trade off' at the former bowling alley site in town, and the road re-routed behind the new building. Brian says, "This is the kind of re-development envisaged in the current local plan, but whether Dorset Council will find a developer wanting to deliver this to a high environmental standard remains to be seen. In the meantime though, I'm very pleased that, at last, there is the prospect of something creative happening here."

Clare's been in touch with First's Dorset Operations Manager since January about their new **no. 9 bus serving Wyke**. It got off to a good start, cross-subsidised by school provision, but on 23rd March he informed her the service is losing money and will cease on 27th May. This is a massive blow to residents who depend on it and we are sorry we weren't able to influence First's decision.

Users of **Castle Cove** steps were delighted that Dorset Council recently replaced the footbridge, for safety reasons, with minimal disruption. However, news on the reopening of the Underbarn Walk is disappointing. While trying to cut through to the steps, the team hit a ravine and any further work cannot commence until after nesting season. Friends of Castle Cove Beach (contact Chair steveelseworth@mac.com) are liaising between Dorset Council and local residents in search of a solution acceptable to all.

STEPS Youth Club on Chickerell Rd has seen a worrying increase in young people affected by violent attacks, mental ill-health and County Lines. We need our youth clubs more than ever. Clare's call for more resources across Dorset was reported in the Echo here: <https://tinyurl.com/FundingYouthClubs>



Newton's Cove:
Let there be light!

Sometimes just asking actually works! Two examples:

- A resident contacted Brian about the hedge overgrowing the pavement on Wyke Road
- A resident who regularly litter picks at The Nothe (thank you!) contacted Clare about lighting

...both swiftly resolved, with thanks to Wessex Water and Dorset Council's Coastal Risk Team. We've also tried to help with, among other things, a number of housing issues, mainly concerning mould and damp; various planning, waste collection and road issues, and concerns about places at Wyke School...and have had quite a good success rate in recent months. We can't always resolve your issues, but we always do our best.

Make a difference and join the Green Party today!

Contact Val Graves: val654@icloud.com

News from your Green Weymouth Town Council (WTC) Councillors

WTC councillor for Wyke Helen Toft (tel. 07790 536963, email cllrhelentoft@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk) writes:

"For a long time I have wanted to tidy up the area at the **bottom of Rylands Lane**, leading to *The Rodwell Trail*, which is overrun with brambles and weeds. Many residents pass this spot every day. There is a limited budget for such improvements so I have enlisted the help of **Southern Gas**, who own the small square building. Once cleared the site can be assessed to see if it's suitable for some decorative planting and perhaps even a new bench.

"As part of the preparation of the new *Neighbourhood Plan* I have asked local residents to fill in a form to help list the **green spaces** that are regularly and historically used by the local community so they can be given some protection against future development. Please contact me if you are concerned about a green space near you.

"I have an idea to **celebrate the children of Weymouth and the first term of the new Town Council** which ends next year. I'd like to see daffodils planted all along *Weymouth Way* in autumn, contributed to by the children. It's an idea in its infancy, but watch this space.

"Finally, if you are feeling overwhelmed by how everything is going 'online' and need help to get to grips with a particular task you can pop into **Wyke Regis Library** on a Thursday morning where some really friendly Digital Champions are happy to help."



Helen's new project!

Weymouth Library Digital Help

tel. 01305 221048

- **Mon am/Thurs pm:** Get Online
- **Tues pm:** Help with using your own laptop, smartphone or tablet
- **Weds am:** Basic computer skills

Weymouth East WTC Councillor Graham Lambert (tel. 07935 221983, email cllrgrahamlambert@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk) supported a sensible compromise so **Weymouth Funfair** can continue this year whilst trying to ease the burden on local hoteliers, and secured an amendment to ensure that all alternatives are explored before the 2024 season starts.

Thanks in part to Green Councillors, the first WTC-funded **solar panels** have now been installed: look at the Swannery car park toilet block next time you pass! Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing Council income and therefore helping to hold down your Council tax payment - good green benefits for all!



Claudia, Graham and Clare
wombling free!

Litter Pick

Do join us for our next Litter Pick, meeting at **Chapelhay Playground** 10am Saturday 6th May. All equipment provided

More residents have contacted Clare about getting the right school placement or support for their **SEND** (special education needs or disability) children and she's doing her best to help. She says, "This is incredibly important because it has such a huge impact on the child's future and also on the wider family. Please get in touch if you are facing similar challenges."

