

NOTES on the **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
TIME held on **MONDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER**
2004 in the Town Hall, Swanage at 7 o'clock p.m.

In addition to Members of the Council and officers,
21 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Councillor Miller (Town Mayor) welcomed those present, and invited questions from the audience.

MR. M. HADLEY referred to the recent article in the Swanage & District Advertiser regarding the proposal contained in the Purbeck Transportation Study to introduce accommodation and congestion charges in the Isle of Purbeck. He expressed grave concern at the proposals, and the apparent lack of consultation on such an important issue. The **TOWN MAYOR** endorsed his comments, and explained that the Town Council had not been consulted on the matter, but as a result of the article referred to above, the Purbeck Transportation Study had been referred to a meeting of the Council's Tourism and Marketing Committee held earlier that day. **COUNCILLOR G. SUTTLE** stated that Purbeck District Council had also not been afforded the opportunity to discuss the Transportation Study, but his personal view was that the proposals to introduce accommodation and congestion charges were totally unacceptable. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR DONALD HIETT** also expressed his concern at the proposals and the lack of public consultation, and informed the Meeting that he had obtained an extension of a further 28 days for the consultation period. A public meeting would be arranged during this time.

MRS. P. BISLEY referred to a recent article in the local press reporting the clearance of the Town Council's debt. The **TOWN MAYOR** explained that, as a result of prudent management, the Town Council was well on course to repay £700,000 by 2011, in accordance with the agreement reached with the District Auditor. However, they were committed to the refurbishment of the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park (at a cost of approximately £500,000), which when completed, would result in strong income streams for the future. The Council's ultimate aim was to be in a healthy financial position, whereby hopefully it would not be necessary to levy a precept on the residents of the town.

A LOCAL RESIDENT drew attention to the chain that had been installed, restricting access to Folly Knap. He expressed concern at the difficulties experienced by wheelchair users etc. in gaining access to the area since the installation of the chain, bearing in mind the lack of dropped kerbs in this vicinity. The **TOWN CLERK** explained that the chain had been installed by Wessex Water as a deterrent to unauthorised "travellers" – the Town Council had taken similar action, whereby bollards could be installed at the entrance to their car parks at very short notice, if necessary. With regard to the dropped kerbs, he reported that an audit of these had recently been undertaken in the town centre and submitted to Dorset County Council for consideration. The **TOWN MAYOR** suggested that the restricted access be referred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matter.
