

SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL

Dr M.K. Ayres
Town Clerk

Town Hall
SWANAGE
Dorset
BH19 2NZ

24th March 2023

Dear Councillor

Community Services Committee

A meeting of the above Committee will be held at the **TOWN HALL** on **WEDNESDAY, 29th MARCH 2023** at **2.15pm** for the purpose of transacting the business mentioned in the Agenda.

Yours sincerely

M.K. Ayres

Town Clerk.

PLEASE NOTE: 15 MINUTES OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME WILL BE HELD AT 2.15 P.M. PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING.

Although legal restrictions in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic have been lifted, Swanage Town Council will, in accordance with advice issued by Public Health Dorset, continue to take appropriate precautions to limit the risk of transmitting the disease and politely asks those planning to attend this meeting to do the following:

- at the earliest opportunity notify the Council of your intention to attend by e-mail admin@swanage.gov.uk or telephone 01929 423636, because capacity will continue to be carefully managed;
- stay at home if you feel unwell and/or have Covid symptoms;
- wear warm clothing to the meeting as doors and windows will be open for ventilation purposes;
- be mindful of others and respectful of their personal space.

The latest advice from Public Health Dorset can be found here:
[News and updates - Public Health Dorset - Dorset Council](#)

To the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor,
Councillor Bonfield and Councillors Bishop,
Finch, Harris, Monkhouse, and Tomes

A G E N D A

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest
 - a) Apologies

- b) Declarations of Interest and consideration of requests for Grants of Dispensations (Councillors are reminded of their obligations to declare their interests in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct)
- 2. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 9th November 2022 (Copy enclosed)
- 3. Report on cases of anti-social behaviour in Swanage and statutory services response (Briefing note enclosed)
- 4. Wellbeing Project – To receive an update from Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust regarding progress on proposals for The Centre and adjoining facilities at Chapel Lane
- 5. Swanage Skate Park – To provide an update on works completed to date and proposals for further public consultation (Briefing note enclosed)
- 6. To consider responses to the Council's Corporate Plan consultation (Information enclosed)
- 7. Swanage Rights of Way Survey – To provide a progress report and results of footpath surveys undertaken by volunteers (Briefing note enclosed)
- 8. To consider a request for the installation of a noticeboard and seating at the Recreation Ground – Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust (Briefing note enclosed)
- 9. To consider a request from Cancare for a Memorial Garden at Prince Albert Gardens (Briefing note enclosed)
- 10. Review of Swanage Town Council's Memorial Bench Policy (Briefing note enclosed)
- 11. Swanage Cricket Club – to consider extension of lease of Lower Grammar School Field (Briefing note enclosed)
- 12. Cemetery Matters:
 - a) Death registration in Swanage – James Smith Funeral Directors
 - b) Poole Crematorium – James Smith Funeral Directors
 - c) Memorial testing and inspection – Godlingston Cemetery and Northbrook Cemetery (Briefing note enclosed)
 - d) Propose clarification of cemetery regulations regarding installation of memorials prior to interment (Briefing note enclosed)
- 13. Proposed addition to Allotment Tenancy Agreements – 2023/24 (Briefing note enclosed)
- 14. Former Swanage Grammar School Weathervane (Briefing note enclosed)
- 15. To consider a request from Swanage Croquet Club for use of part of Queen Elizabeth II (Forres) Field (Briefing note enclosed)
- 16. Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas.
 - a) Town Hall reception and use of Town Hall by other organisations
 - b) Proposals for networking for smaller sports clubs in Swanage
 - c) Beach Gardens – Joint working on future plans
 - d) Day's Park Sports and Social Centre - Update

17. Date of next meeting - Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 2.15 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of the **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage
on **WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2022** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor J Bishop

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Finch

Swanage Town Council

Councillor A Harris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Tomes

Swanage Town Council

Outside Representatives:-

Mr B Foster

Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust

Mr M Green

James Smith Funeral Directors

Mr M Norris

Swanage Museum

Also present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Mrs E Evans

Democratic Services Officer

Ms G Percival

Assets and Compliance Manager

Mr M Snowdon

Assets and Compliance Support Officer

Public Participation Time

There were two members of the public and one member of the local press present at the meeting.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Thanks were given to the Town Council for support whilst Poole Crematorium was closed and ongoing support for the longer-term retention of the crematorium.
- A query was raised regarding the interim report on works required at Burlington Chine public conveniences. In response it was stated that an update would be provided under agenda item 6).

1. Apologies

Apologies for her inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Foster. Councillor Monkhouse attended the meeting remotely.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3. Terms of Reference and Representation of Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to the draft Terms of Reference, which set out matters delegated to the committee and representation from outside bodies.

A query was raised regarding membership of the Fishermen's Association. In response it was noted that they had been included within the outside representatives of the Tourism and Local Economy Committee. It was noted that outside representatives would be contacted prior to committee meetings to discuss agenda content.

It was proposed by Councillor Moreton, seconded by Councillor Finch and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the draft Terms of Reference for the
Community Services Committee be brought forward
to the Council for adoption, following a review by
the Finance and Governance Committee of the draft
Terms of Reference for all Council committees.

4. Wellbeing Project – presentation from S&PDT regarding proposals for The Centre and adjoining facilities, Chapel Lane

A presentation was made by Mr Bob Foster, Chair of the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust, providing an update regarding proposals for improving the use of the Chapel Lane complex of buildings (The Centre, Children's Centre and Day Centre) to support residents' health and wellbeing. It was reported that an asset transfer application had been submitted to Dorset Council and it was anticipated that consideration of the application would take place within 12 weeks.

It was noted that Dorset Council had plans to operate a Family Hub from the premises and other partners had expressed interest in hiring space for purposes including child protection conferences and housing meetings. Discussions were ongoing with Lewis Manning regarding the potential of using the premises for the provision of a Day Hospice. Consideration was also being given to joint fundraising for the establishment of a local Community Bus to serve Chapel Lane. A three-year financial forecast was shared which detailed the capital and revenue costs associated with the Chapel Lane site. It was reported that the S&PDT would be ready for occupation as soon as Dorset Council granted approval for the asset transfer to proceed.

Following the presentation questions were raised which included the monetary contribution expected from both Dorset Council and the Town Council, and the timescale in which funding would be required. It was estimated that the first year's total operating cost would be in the region of £42,000.

Members expressed their support in principle for the Chapel Lane project, although it was acknowledged that additional information would be required to inform further discussions. It was proposed by Councillor Finch, seconded by Councillor Harris and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That, subject to additional information being made available by Dorset Council, the Town Council considers providing grant funding to Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust in support of the proposed Chapel Lane wellbeing project.

Mr Foster and his fellow Trustees from the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust were thanked for their hard work.

5. Cemetery Matters

a) Godlingston Cemetery Extension – Progress Report

The Assets & Compliance Manager reported that work had progressed well and that surface levels across the site were satisfactory. The next stage would entail grass cutting and targeted overseeding, in particular focussing on areas near to perimeter kerbs.

b) Godlingston Cemetery extension – Approval of Revised Regulations

It was reported that a formal review of the current Cemetery Regulations and the Meadowland Burial Ground Regulations, dated October 2017, had been conducted by the Assets & Compliance Manager with assistance from James Smith Funeral Directors, the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), two stonemason associations and two local stonemason companies.

Further to the review it was recommended that the Godlingston Cemetery Regulations be amended to ensure consistency with the Meadowland Burial Regulations and to provide greater clarity. It was noted that no significant amendments had been made to the Meadowland Burial Ground Regulations.

Following advice from ICCM, it was also proposed that there should be no ‘A’ and ‘B’ grave plots in the cemetery extension and that instead the ‘B grave’ rate for the exclusive right of burial should be applied to all grave plots within the extension.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Moreton and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

That the revised Godlingston Cemetery Regulations be adopted and implemented from January 2023, and that the fee for the exclusive right of burial in all earthen graves within the extension area of Godlingston Cemetery be set at the ‘B grave’ rate.

c) Godlingston Cemetery Chapel – Extension of use

Consideration was given to a briefing paper, prepared by the Assets and Compliance Manager, which outlined the proposal to permanently retain the current arrangements for use of the Godlingston Cemetery Chapel so that it can continue to be used for funeral services for those not being interred in the cemetery. It was reported that at the Council Meeting held on 14th March 2022, temporary permission had been granted for such services to be held there during the refurbishment of Poole Crematorium for a charge of £150. Members stated that the availability of the Chapel for services of any faith, or non-religious services, would be an asset to the community.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Finch, seconded by Councillor Tomes and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the current arrangements in respect of the use of Godlingston Chapel for services for those not being interred in the cemetery be made permanent, and that a fee of £150 be included in the draft scale of fees and charges 2023/24.

d) Northbrook Cemetery Gates – proposal from the Veterans’ Forge

The Assets and Compliance Manager introduced a briefing note which outlined a proposal from the Veterans’ Forge for a potential project to design, build and install iron gates at Northbrook Cemetery, to replace those removed during the second world war. Due to the heritage nature of the proposal, it was deemed appropriate for the project to be discussed by the Museum Working Party prior to further discussion at a future committee meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Bishop and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the potential project to design, build and install iron gates at Northbrook Cemetery be considered by the Museum Working Party and that any recommendations be brought back to a future committee meeting for consideration.

6. Burlington Chine Public Conveniences – Interim report on works required to Pipework and Building

The Assets and Compliance Manager reported that since the public meeting held on 7th September 2022 to consider the future operation of Burlington Chine public conveniences, the Public Conveniences Working Party had continued to liaise with specialist contractors to identify options that would secure the long-term future of this facility.

In respect of the drainage it was noted that several options are under consideration, including do nothing, annual inspections with reactive works, or proactive replacement and improvements to the pipework.

Attention was drawn to the condition report in respect of the WC block itself, undertaken by Dorset Property Services in 2021, which indicated that an estimated sum of £96,000 of expenditure is required to the property over the period 2025-2046. It was noted that discussions regarding the extent and type of refurbishment to the block remain ongoing at this time.

It was acknowledged that the Public Conveniences Working Party would continue to consider options in respect of both the drainage and improvements to the building and make a recommendation as to the way forward. Thanks was given to the members of the public and councillors for their attendance at the public meeting, which helped to inform discussions.

7. Skate Park Proposed Works

Consideration was given to a briefing paper, prepared by the Assets and Compliance Manager, which outlined proposed works to the Skate Park. It was noted that within the Capital Programme 2022/23, £25,000 had been allocated for works to the skate park, and £15,000 for the period 2023/24. It was stated that three items had neared end of life and due to their situation within the skate park an opportunity had arisen for the installation of a better riding surface and smaller 'plaza' style pieces of equipment, to be decided on in consultation with skate park users.

Further to a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Finch and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Quarter Pipe with flat bank (1600mm), the Fun Box with spine ramp, and the Quarter Pipe with centre ramp be removed from the Skate Park. Furthermore, that an improved and suitable riding surface be installed in this location, further to consultation with skate park users to identify the most suitable 'plaza' equipment to be installed in 2023/2024.

8. To consider request for installation of cable conduit and lighting - Swanage NCI Lookout, Peveril Point.

The Assets and Compliance Manager introduced a briefing note which detailed a request from Swanage NCI for the installation of a conduit and lighting near to the lookout building on Peveril Point. The request consisted of permission for the installation of a temporary 50 watt LED floodlight to be fitted on the metal fencing surrounding the WW2 fortification which would be directed towards the nearby lookout (away from local dwellings) and be used to illuminate it on special occasions. In addition, the installation

would require an underground cable conduit to be installed between the fence and the NCI building with all installation and ongoing maintenance funded directly by Swanage NCI.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Tomes and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That permission be granted to Swanage NCI for the installation of temporary lighting to the metal fence surrounding the WW2 fortification and an underground conduit, in accordance with relevant regulations and as agreed, prior to commencement of the works, by the Assets and Compliance Manager.

9. Draft Capital Programme 2023/24

The draft list of capital expenditure for the next three financial years was considered and projects relevant to the committee were noted. It was acknowledged that this would be discussed more fully by the Finance and Governance Committee as part of the budget setting process for the next financial year.

10. Budget Setting

a) Revenue Budget 2023/24

Consideration was given to the draft list of one-off items of revenue expenditure for 2023/24. A question was asked about funding for the potential works to upgrade the drainage at Burlington Chine public conveniences and it was reported that if the works went ahead this would be funded from the relevant earmarked reserve.

A question was also posed about potential funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy for a new footpath across the Lower Grammar School field to improve pedestrian safety at Washpond Lane. It was noted that no allocation of funds had been made as Dorset Council had not yet agreed to the construction of a footpath in this location.

It was noted that the schedule of one-off expenditure would be considered further by the Finance and Governance Committee as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process.

b) Scale of Fees and Charges 2023/24

Consideration was given to the draft Scale of Fees and Charges for 2023/24 in respect of services overseen by this committee. Concern was expressed about a proposed increase in cemetery charges, and it was noted that all fees and charges were due to be reviewed by a working party established at the meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee held earlier in the day. The working party's recommendations would then be considered by the Finance and Governance Committee.

11. Items of Information and matters for forthcoming agendas

a) Memorial Benches

A request was made for a review of the Council's Memorial Bench Policy and the very lengthy waiting list for commemorative seating. It was noted that the Assets and Compliance Manager would soon be writing to all of those on the waiting list to see if they still wished to purchase a memorial bench, following which a report would be made to a future committee meeting.

b) Outside Representatives

It was reported that all outside representatives would be invited to submit matters for the committee to consider in advance of the next meeting. Consideration could then be given as to how best such issues could be addressed in advance of the meeting.

c) Swanage Community Housing

It was noted that the Community Land Trust are seeking the Council's support for the allocation of a site on the corner of Washpond Lane and Ulwell Road for a community

housing development. This request would be put to the December Council Meeting.

12. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday 29th March 2023.

The Meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

Report on cases of anti-social behaviour in Swanage and statutory services response

Since December 2022 there has been a noticeable uptick in cases of anti-social behaviour in Swanage which have caused damage to a number of Council assets. The table below sets out a summary of incidents, all of which have been reported to the police and have crime numbers.

Date	Location	Summary
06/12/2022	Shore Road Toilets	Velux roof window damaged
08/01/2023	Shore Road Beach Huts	Light covers damaged
08/01/2023	Spa Beach Huts	Windows, locks and doors broken and damaged
20/01/2023	Shore Road	Benches broken
13/02/2023	Mermond Place Toilets	Fire setting in WC's and climbing on roof
16/02/2023	Main Beach Toilets	Climbing on roof – damage to velux roof windows
16/02/2023	Shore Road Toilets	Fire set in male toilets
17/02/2023	Skate Park	Graffiti and fire setting
17/02/2023	Sandpit Field	Cupboard door removed electric box
18/02/2023	Shelter 1 – near Mowlem	Attempt to set fire to bench in shelter
18/02/2023	Playpark King George's	Verbal abuse
22/02/2023	Toilets King George's	Fire setting baby change and sink
05/03/2023	King George's male toilets	Fire setting and graffiti
12/03/2023	King George's male toilets	Fire setting door and towel holder

In addition to the time and cost incurred by the Council in resolving the damage caused, there is a concern for public safety due to the number of incidents of arson. To note the table only refers to Council managed assets and two further incidences of arson are known to have occurred to local businesses within the same timescale.

The Swanage Station Commander of Swanage Fire Station, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has been informed and is discussing the issue with the service arson reduction team with a view to attendance at local schools.

These incidences have also been discussed with Swanage Neighbourhood Policing Team and individual Investigating Officers from the Dorset Police.

Dorset Council's Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Safety Team are aware of these incidences. In order to engage they require identifying information regarding the perpetrators and are liaising with Swanage Neighbourhood Policing Team.

For information

That Councillors note the content of this report and the information provided by the Council to relevant statutory services.

Gail Percival
Assets & Compliance Manager
March 2023

Swanage Skate Park – To provide an update on works completed to date and proposals for further public consultation

In January 2023 the Council advised residents via social media and signage placed in the skatepark that three items of equipment had reached the end of their useful life and that plans for their removal and resurfacing of a large area of the skatepark were proposed. Suggestions for replacement items were also provided based upon informal feedback that had been received in Summer 2022 at the time of installation of the new half pipe.

A significant response was received and Members of the Sports, Leisure and Wellbeing Working Party, along with officers, met skatepark users at a drop-in event at the skatepark on Monday 6th February 2023. Further to this, additional information was provided via social media and signage in the skatepark regarding the proposals.

The removal and resurfacing works are now completed and a further consultation event is proposed on April 15th at 11 a.m. at the skatepark. Skatepark users will be invited to provide ideas and suggestions for replacement equipment. The Council has budgeted £15,000 in 2023/24 for this purpose and is currently researching additional grant funding opportunities that may be available to supplement this sum.

For information

That Councillors note the contents of this report.

Gail Percival
Assets & Compliance Manager

March 2023

Corporate Plan - Summary of main comments

Relevant Objectives	Key issue	Total	Related comments
1/4/5/A	Improve supply of social/affordable housing	46	Housing for local people should be a point on it's own/without housing there would be no local workers/attaining the priorities needs local workers/More local control over plans, provision of affordable/social housing/Ensure local people are placed in local social housing/Local people should not be priced out of housing with high rents/Be tougher on developers to provide affordable housing not second homes.
3/5/	Shore Road - improvements for pedestrians	20	Increase to pedestrian safety/closure of whole of Shore Road/Creative use of closed section/more attractive to visitors/whole of Shore Road closed as pavements too narrow/proposed closure of southern section of Shore Road is excellent, safer for children.
1/6/A	Support for various environmental measures - climate crisis inc. solar energy/renewable energy/EV charging etc	16	Priority for all decision making must put climate crisis first/More emphasis on environmental impacts, car usage too high on seafront, more pedestrian oriented/explore opportunities for solar panel use on buildings/Introduce hydrogen refuelling station/cross benefits achievable from initiatives.
3/5/A	Shore Road - reopened	15	Requests for access to Shore Road out of season/Can't see the point of this stretch closed and empty in winter months and affects people visiting the Mowlem/Cuts off too much access to south Swanage/Not necessary, convert to designated disabled parking area.
4/5/A	Concern that housing development is not providing for local people & putting strain on local services & infrastructure	14	Crucial and important to support the development of socila housing for local people and vital to protect health services and library.
5/A	Support for NHP/retaining heritage	14	Conservation area protection is important and sea defences/Support preservation of WW2 gun emplacement at Peveril Point.
1/4/A	Protect local services, particularly health/hospital & library	13	Swanage hospital supported more/important to greatly improve medical facilities/Health and Wellbeing most important/increase medical provision.
3/	Clarify meaning of 'access from the sea'	11	Unclear about meaning of access from the sea/ Marina.
2/A	Improve promotion of/access to Council meetings	11	Zoom council meetings/More opportunities for residents to engage, residents with special needs are excluded/noticeboard in centre of town.
4/6/	Better cycling infrastructure	10	More focus on creating safe cycling and walking in the area/Support Shore road closure but open to cyclists off peak to access town.
3/	Don't radically change the Spa/Weather Station/Sandpit Field	9	Left as it is/don't detract from the green 'undeveloped' feel of the green spaces/do not convert Sandpit field into a flat park.
4/5/A	Better traffic management e.g. reduce parking on pavements, 20 mph zones	9	Concerns around parking on pavements/20 mph zones particularly around schools/20 mph for High Street/20 mph for all roads in town.
3/	Concern re 'year round tourism' - winter months should be downtime	7	Nature needs a rest from year round visitors/downtime for residents is needed/not sure all year round tourists are needed.
1/A	Put 'full time' residents first - not visitors or second home owners	7	Like to see more emphasis on residents not tourists/Have an additional priority to ensure sustainable and sensible housing policy.
1/6/A	Concern re sewage spills	7	Concerned about water quality/sewage better managed/sewage system and dumping should be a priority.
5/6/	Plant more trees	5	Plant more than 30 trees per year/Need to plant hundreds of trees a year.
4/5/A	Poor quality of repair of pavements/Improve disabled access/dropped kerbs	5	Footpaths need to be safe to walk on and roads with no potholes.
4/6	Retain Burlington Chine toilets	5	Burlington Chine toilets are a valuable facility for visitors and residents on North Beach.
2/5/	Improve co-operation between DC and STC	4	More co-operation between DC and STC/Work with DC, Env Agency and landlords to improve cliff stability.
4/	Concern re. increased development at Day's Park - noise nuisance	4	Not lighting Day's Park, distruption to wildlife.
4/A	Concerns re. Northbrook Rd/St Mary's	4	Concerns over pupil safety to and from St Mary's Primary School.

A=Additional comments

4. Encouraging Health and Wellbeing and Enhancing Community Safety - Comments:

As I said previously affordable housing for local people is a massive issue. I'd like to see the council strive to get developers in check about their plans - which as we've seen they try to renege on the social aspect - or simply cram to make more profit. The proposed plans for more flats in De Moulham Road is a case in point. With more housing - where is the infrastructure whether it's more supermarkets or Doctors. This town doesn't have a 24 hrs hospital and no police station - more households will just add a stress on the system if done without proper planning.

Promote walking children to ALL schools. Have a no parking buffer zone in place, Townsend Road/Queens Road are a nightmare at pick up and drop off times. Parents parking adhoc on double yellow lines, corners of roads etc is extremely dangerous.

The plans are not bold enough and need a higher level of thinking.

Need changing places for Shore road.

Broadly, but I disagree with lighting Day's park. There will be housing along the pathway anyway and I have yet to see anyone taking children to school through Journey's End. Better have a 20mph the whole length of Northbrook Rd. and a drop off system. The council needs to do a lot more to improve the housing chances of those young people who were born here and will struggle to afford to live here due to the outrageous house prices, driven directly by the 2nd home market or air B&B. Where I live only three out of the near by dozen residences are occupied year round.

It doesn't seem like much of an ambition for the next 3 years. How do you measure your success in 'working with', 'supporting other groups' and 'promoting'? the only 2 tangibles are safe route and install changing place facilities.

The provision of health care is a concern to me as Swanage is growing rapidly and the medical centre can barely cope as it is.

It is good that you are considering toilets in North Beach car park. It is also essential to retian the existing toilets near the beach on the access near the Grand Hotel. These are essential for tourists and residents using the north beach.

All essential aims. Local people must not be priced out of housing by high rents etc.
Both the health services and the library must be protected, both are vital assets to the community.

Other local sports should also be included, e.g. sailing, walking, running, rock climbing, swimming...

Affordable housing to both rent and buy should be an absolute priority especially for families and young people who want to live and work here. We will never have enough people to work in the care sector, health care, education, retail or tourism if people cannot find somewhere to live that they can afford.

We would like a strong emphasis on the young people of the town and the less well-off

Genuinely affordable and sustainable social housing must be a priority instead of poorly designed, developments which take insufficient account of climate change and often fail to address the real housing needs of the area. At the moment even people working in Swanage are unable to find affordable accommodation, and second homes proliferate.

Stop housing people that are local in local council housing. There are local school kids living in caravans at Herstone yards with no heating because of it.

The public conveniences must be preserved for beach users and walkers on the pathway to the beach from Burlington Road.

The Mowlem believe that our own objectives and actions support encouraging Health and wellbeing and enhancing community safety in the following ways:

The provision of Film, Theatre, Music all support the mental health, resilience and wellbeing of the population

Celebrating the towns community of sea swimmers, sharing their stories through an event for the betterment of all

Working with and involving the community increases broader cohesion

Developing the community through public lectures and public events

Specific activities such as working with Swanage area Dementia Friendly Group

We ask for the Mowlem to be added to the list of organisations that you actively support

Developing facilities and refurbishing toilets at Burlington Chine should be given priority too

Our toilet facilities are something to be proud of however taking a longterm view, if a supermarket were to be built at North Beach then maybe that should provide changing places facilities as part of the deal. With all the new housing in town one is desperately needed and North Beach car park would seem a good choice.

Social housing for LOCAL people is very important.

Some are necessary others not. Hopefully items will be carefully prioritised

While additional toilet facilities at North Beach Car Park would be welcome, these should not be at the expense of closing the existing toilets at the foot of Burlington Chine. The Burlington Chine toilets are a very valuable facility for residents and visitors on the North Beach, especially children and the elderly. Replacing these toilets with new toilets at North Beach Car Park would be no proper substitute. It is unrealistic to expect young children and elderly people who are spending the day at the North end of the the beach to leave the beach and trek all the way over to North Beach Car Park whenever they need the toilet.

There is no specific mention, in the listed priorities, of improving footpaths along Ulwell Road approaching Shore Road. There is no mention of creating footpaths from Northbrook Road along Washpond Lane to Ulwell Road. Provision is currently woefully inadequate. Increased footfall following recent housebuilding along Northbrook Road will magnify the risks to pedestrian safety along these roads.

Toilet facilities in Swanage, especially in winter months are appalling. On a Monday morning with goods on an open too truck for example.....where is there available ? Not King Georges as it's shut, not main beach as road shut and can't leave goods on open truck, not station, not Peveril as not enough room, not Burlington as shut, not Spa.....only option is Norden. Absolutely appalling. Shame on Swanage

Consider 20mph or less limit by schools

1. Why are people from out of the area allowed to buy the new Barratt's homes in the Northbrook Road area and when housing is so badly needed for local people? Do you do any monitoring of this at all, or is it just meeting quotas imposed from outside with no consideration for the quality of the town?
2. You must impose double Council Tax on 2nd / empty homes in the same way that other local authorities are doing.
3. Support for the Hospital is needed (see section 1 comment).
4. I disagree fundamentally with proposals to develop the football club and Day's Park further. Those who are pressing for this do not live in the area and are blissfully unaware of the serious noise nuisance from these areas. Music from the football club can be heard over a wide area. Visitors to Day's Park play music on radios. It's not on, and causes a lot of stress. If plans are in the pipeline you must discuss these on the doorstep with local residents within ½ mile, including as far as Durberville Drive.

Look at developing and promoting safe cycle ways. Increase cycle parking in and around town and other areas. Look at sporting provision and choose of different sports available and promote further or ensure provision is available if there is a demand. Increase out of season events of quality to encourage visitors. Increase planting on entry routes to Swanage to improve gateway locations and first impressions.

More focus on creating safe walking and cycling around the area in general - especially all the way from the ferry down to the beach. Once it reaches the outskirts of town the safety drops drastically - although not sure how far your remit reaches.

- 1) Police presence is needed now more than ever, during 2022 the level of Antisocial Behaviour from local young people has increased due to lack of guidance. This includes vandalism, robbery, drug taking to mention some. Ask any community member about these happenings after dark. These issues need to be addressed now by police and they need to be made aware of this ticking time bomb in Swanage.
- 2) Further work with involvement through the Allotments and Greengage Community Garden to encourage locals to grow food. Empty unused allotment plots should be revoked and given to a local family in need of feeding. The Allotment Association along with Swanage Town Council and Greengage Community Garden should not be seen as separate entities and work more closely together. It may seem as they already do but from experience they don't! Swanage Town Council should remove Allotment Association paid yearly members if they haven't utilised the allotment plot in the year. Then a member of the community whom needs help with feeding their family will receive the allotment plots and will be guided by Greengage Community Garden to grow food for their family.

The footpath between St Mary's Primary School and the Ulwell Road, is vital in the safe passage of children to and from school. The current narrow road is totally unsuitable for parents and young children to use, someone will be seriously injured or killed without a footpath.

Speak to Swanage Primary School about improving access at pick up/drop off times by using the South East entrance via the hospital grounds, to reduce traffic.

Transferring the Day Centre and Children's Centre is crucial because, if Dorset Council wish to close them, Swanage people would have to travel out of area to access these services.

The provision of affordable social housing is vital to stop people moving away from the town because they can't afford the rent to live here.

Crucial and urgent to support the development of social housing for local people and vital to protect health services and library.

As a resident of social housing we have very little security in our area in Queensmead. During season we are plagued by dog mess and dogs with people walking through it.

While a new safe route is being provided to St Mary's school the rather dangerous Washpond Lane needs to be looked at, having no footpath and the greatly increased number of houses being built.

Is changing places necessary? Toilets are good, all year round?

Within budget.

One most important issue is to deliver more social housing for local people. Developers should have to adhere to all requirements to include social housing with all future development schemes.

Stop loud live music outdoors at the Red Lion. Residents deserve peace and quiet.

Housing for local people should be a planning objective!

Lessons must be learnt about sale of new property. This refers to the Northbrook Road estates, that are being sold internationally and they preventing local young people staying in the town.

Why is it taking so long to put to good use the Day Centre?

Action should be taken to ensure local people take priority for housing, particularly young people and first time buyers. There are currently too many developments forcing people to move out of Swanage.

Reducing holiday homes. Grant funding - please do not waste money! The footpath through Day's Park should be lit at night and a footpath leading from the North carpark along the football field linking up with existing paths should be installed.

Not lighting Day's Park - pollution, disturbing wildlife although encourages parents to park more responsibly.

But the priorities will need careful consideration in the light of price increases and restricted funding.

Tighter time limits for trains being parked up for long times. As human being we have a right to clean air and to hang our washing out.

Drop kerb required for access to beach gardens for people requiring walking aids from DeMoulham Road/Greyhouse.

High CCT LED street lights are unpleasant and potentially unsafe. STC should demand that they are replaced by modern low CCT alternatives.

Include Swanage Cricket Club in encouraging participation in sporting activities.

Actually build social housing on public land.

Good luck with this! The deteriorating economy will delay much of those worthy aspirations.

Housing is not affordable and soon we will have no young people in town so there will be no need for sporting facilities. Losing GP's and no police.

Upgrade the entrance to the Mowlem.

Footpath - need more information. Chapel Lane - need more information.

Agree with supporting social housing but worried about overdeveloping Swanage area and and spoiling the natural beauty of the area and destroying views. Agree with extra safety i.e. policing and lowering crime esp. theft and drug issues.

Can anything be done about the amount of dog waste on the streets? Unpleasant for residents and visitors alike.

Social housing needed especially to encourage more staff to apply at Swanage Hospital. Library plays an important role in helping mental health esp elderly and young mums.

Not sure about the cost of safe route via Journeys end.

Supporting social housing is not enough. It needs to be leading the way.

More dropped kerbs - difficult to get about with pushchairs/wheelchairs.

Not so many second homes.

I am a supporter of SCLT and involved with the footpath initiative so fully support these in particular.

Strongly agree local housing for local people. Local services in Swanage very important.

Actions suggest the councils primary focus is around the old grammar school site.

Ensure developers are forced to have a percentage of social housing and if this is dropped during the build enforcement actions should be taken.

Need accomodation at £150K for first time buyers to stand a chance. Should restrict 2nd home ownership as per other coastal areas.

All essential.

Need stronger planning to ensure more affordable housing for locals. Need restrictions to prevent new housing all being 2nd homes. Need infrastructure e.g. more doctors etc.

More social housing needed but needs to be protected for future provision. Library and health services need more investment. Promotion of footpath access good but any lighting provision should consider wildlife impact esp. bats.

I live on Ballard Estate. A third of homes are 2nd homes and mostly unoccupied. Why not follow Cornwalls iniative and assume homes are empty to overcharge Council Tax and accept appeals only by applying like a planning application.

Can we also consider a track/path (like at Upton) round the bottom half of King George's field please so it is usable in winter.

This as above - requires more parking, doctors etc. The "affordable houses" at Compass Point all had two cars in the drive when I went passed. This, plus visitor parking, is creating saturation point.

Health and wellbeing would be better served with better and more services such as more GP's and dentists and protection of the hospital and ambulance car. And road safety (e.g. Northbrook Road) with DC.

Housing for those on low income but do not get support.

We need social housing!

STC may need to be more inventive to make these things happen - most of these projects have stalled and died.

Pretty words but how can the council ensure housing for local people will happen? Affordable housing at planning approval stage is later reversed with nothing the council can do about it.

Summer service - bus could include North Beach car park as an extra stop for the town bus.

Enhance community safety - by allowing Swanage Railway to cover medical centre in carcinogenic filth!

Council support for the retention and development of local assets and facilities is essential.

But make sure developers cannot wriggle out of building social houses, Old St Mary's site a case in point. Also ban dogs on Main beach as more people on beach out of season all year!

Affordable social housing for local people is a priority.

Strongly yes for social housing. Well done for installing a changing places toilet facility.

I know of a young couple, very active in Swanage life who have had to move to Yeovil to afford something to rent.

Social housing but also affordable housing. Create a footpath from Ulwell campsite to join footpaths/bridleways to Corfe and Studland, especially across the former golf course.

Priority No. 1 all roads and footpaths to be safe again.

Safe route to St Mary's - This has been a disgrace that no thought has been given to road safety to children, pedestrians and motorists. The corner of WPL needs to be removed for safety.

Consider whether the "Compassionate Community" project in Frome, Somerset might have useful lessons and ideas that could be applied in Swanage.

Can a proportion of the proceeds from the sale of the lease for the caravan park be used to finance houses for rent at affordable rentals.

Keep and maintain toilets at north beach. Have seen men urinating against Shore House wall by green metal cupboard. Children need close access. Improve pavements.

Council Meeting – 13th March 2023**Corporate Plan, 2023-25 – To consider consultation responses and adoption of revised plan**

Further to agreement at the Town Council meeting held on 27th July 2022, public consultation on a draft version of the Corporate Plan took place in the autumn. A summary of the plan was delivered to a majority of Swanage households, encouraging people to send in their comments, either in hard copy or via an online survey. Copies were also available from the library and the Swanage Information Centre.

The consultation was publicised via Facebook and the main posts on this subject reached approximately 500 accounts. Sadly, Swanage News deemed the matter to be of insufficient interest and therefore only covered the matter in passing. An engagement event was held at Swanage Market, publicity was provided by the Mayor and Town Clerk being interviewed on Purbeck Coast Radio and officers attended a meeting of Swanage and District Chamber of Trade. Local schools were also informed of the process and invited to respond.

A total of 181 responses were received. Although this is a small proportion of all Swanage households, the feedback received was in many cases detailed and thoughtful, covering a very wide range of topics. A detailed analysis of the comments received has been carried out. An overview of the key subjects raised is attached herewith and a more detailed summary will be presented at the meeting. Overall, very strong support was expressed for the Council's priorities (90% +).

In light of the comments received amendments were made to the draft plan and considered by the Finance and Governance Committee on 22nd February 2023. Changes to the pre-consultation draft plan are highlighted in yellow in the revised draft which is enclosed with these agenda papers. Members are asked to consider the recommendation from the Finance and Governance Committee to adopt the amended plan and engage a graphic designer to produce the plan in a professional and accessible format.

Finally, given the wide range of feedback received, the detail of which cannot be incorporated in the plan itself, the Finance & Governance Committee agreed that the detailed comments in respect of each corporate priority should be presented to a forthcoming meeting of the relevant Council committee.

Decision required:

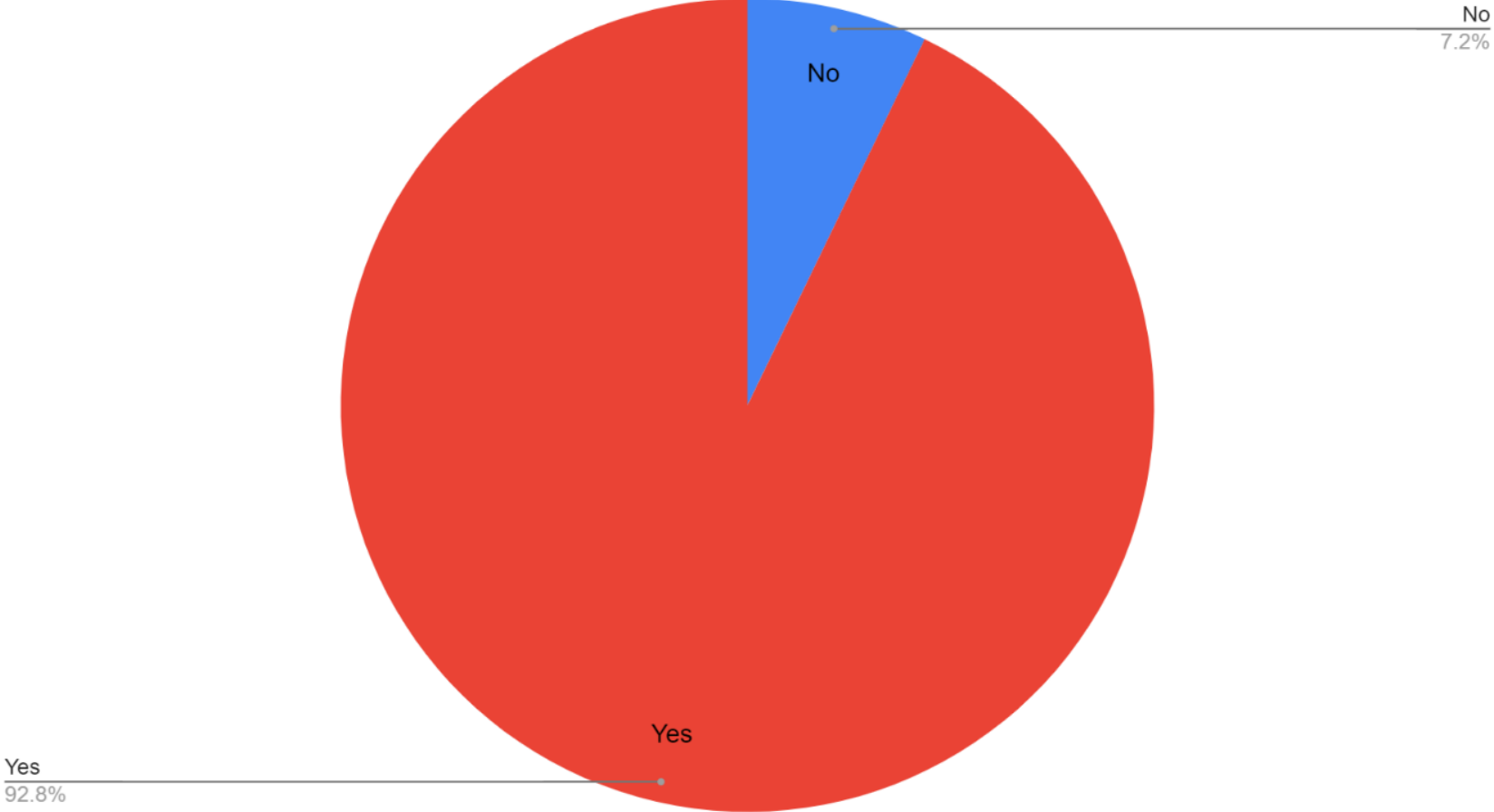
To consider the following recommendation from the Finance and Governance Committee:

That the amended post-consultation Draft Corporate Plan 2023-25 be adopted, and that a graphic designer be engaged to produce the plan in a professional format, meeting accessibility standards.

Martin Ayres, Town Clerk
March 2023

1. Do you agree with the priority headings?

Count of 1. Do you agree with the priority headings?



1. Do you agree with the priority headings? Additional comments (64) – topics:

Count

Promote sustainable tourism

2.3%

Promote tourism

2.3%

Affordable Housing

15.9%

Consider budget

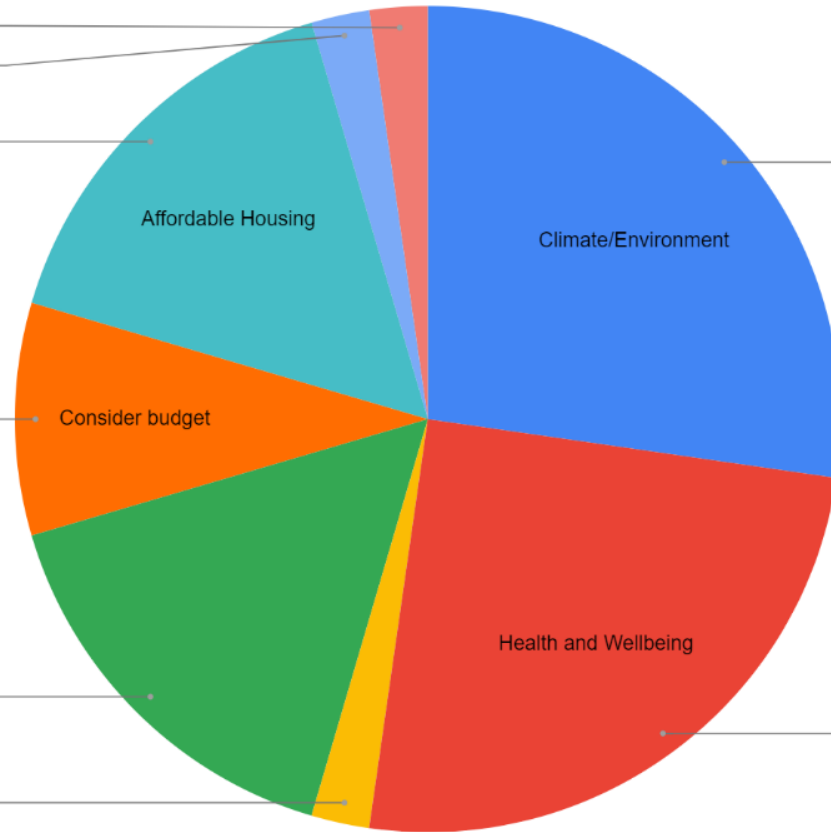
9.1%

Residents priority over tourism

15.9%

Employment

2.3%



Climate/Environment

27.3%

'I think housing for local people should be a point all on its own.'

'More emphasis on the environmental impacts.'

'Consider improving Health and Wellbeing the most important.'

'Supporting the local economy and full time residents needs to be the ultimate priority.'

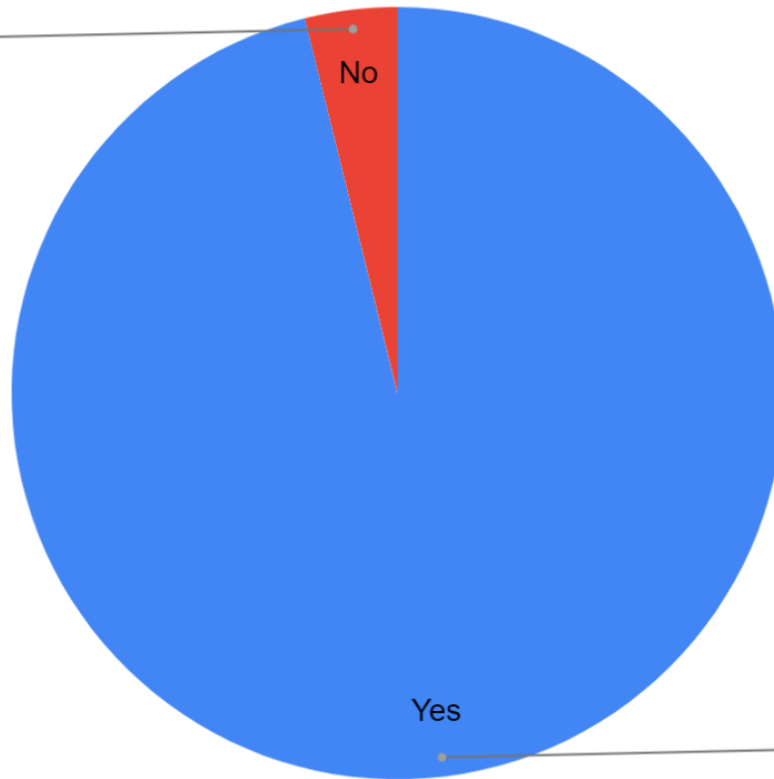
Health and Wellbeing

25.0%

2. Delivering Good Governance - Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

Count of 2. Delivering Good Governance
Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

No
3.9%

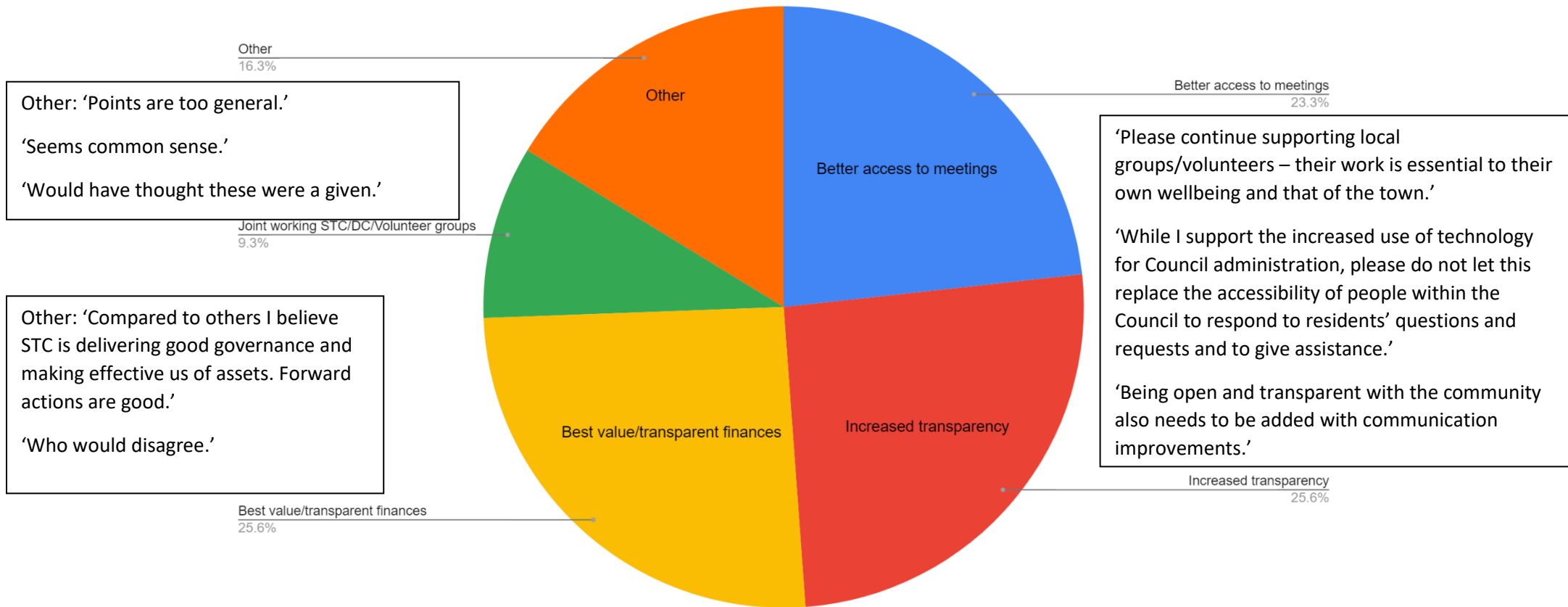


Yes
96.1%

2. Delivering Good Governance.

Additional comments (46) – topics:

Count of Q2

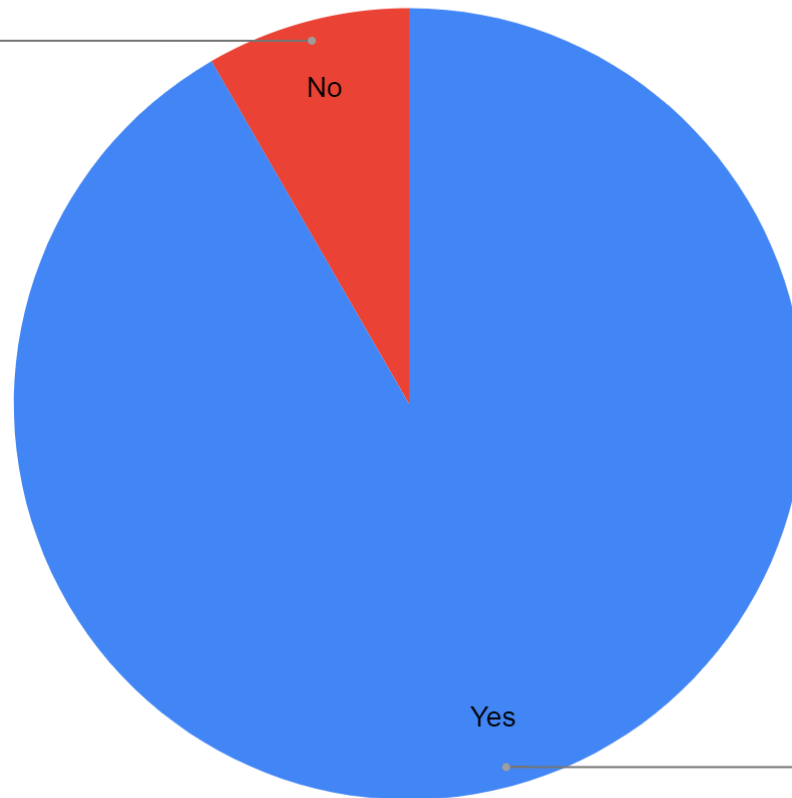


3. Promoting Sustainable Tourism and Supporting the Local Economy.

Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

Count of 3. Promoting Sustainable Tourism and Supporting the Local Economy.
Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

No
8.3%



Yes
91.7%

3. Promoting Sustainable Tourism and Supporting the Local Economy.

Additional comments (109) – topics

Count of Q3

Spa/Sandpit field/Weather station field
16.3%

Tourism - supported
11.6%

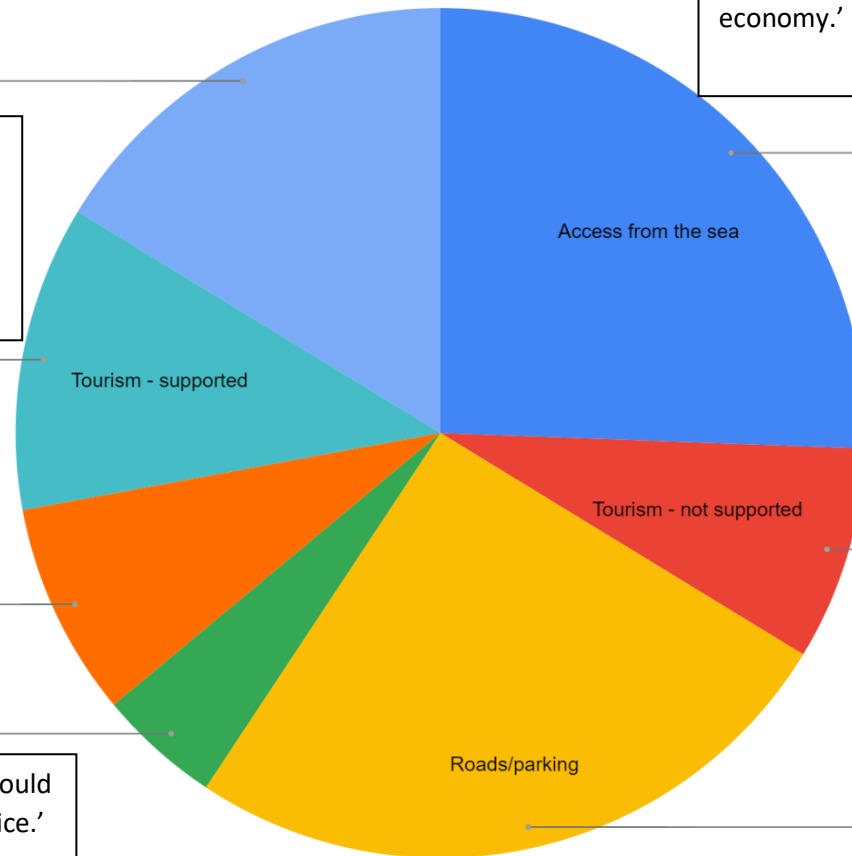
Local shops over chain stores
8.1%

Toilet facilities
4.7%

Access from the sea
25.6%

Tourism - not supported
8.1%

Roads/parking
25.6%



'Spa – don't overdevelop this site.'

'Spa, Sandpit field and Weather station field – keep as they are but maintain.'

'Spa, Sandpit field improvement – brilliant!'

'Businesses to thrive – admirable but I would like to know how we can do this in practice.'

'Tourism needs workers – workers need housing in the town.'

'I wonder what exploring opportunities to improve access from the sea means?'

'Access from the sea, what are you going to do?'

'Access from the sea needs more positive action. It opens an affluent market segment which is missing from the current tourism economy.'

'Too much emphasis on cramming too many holiday makers into Swanage during the main season when we do not have the facilities and it's damaging the environment.'

'Keep toilets open.'

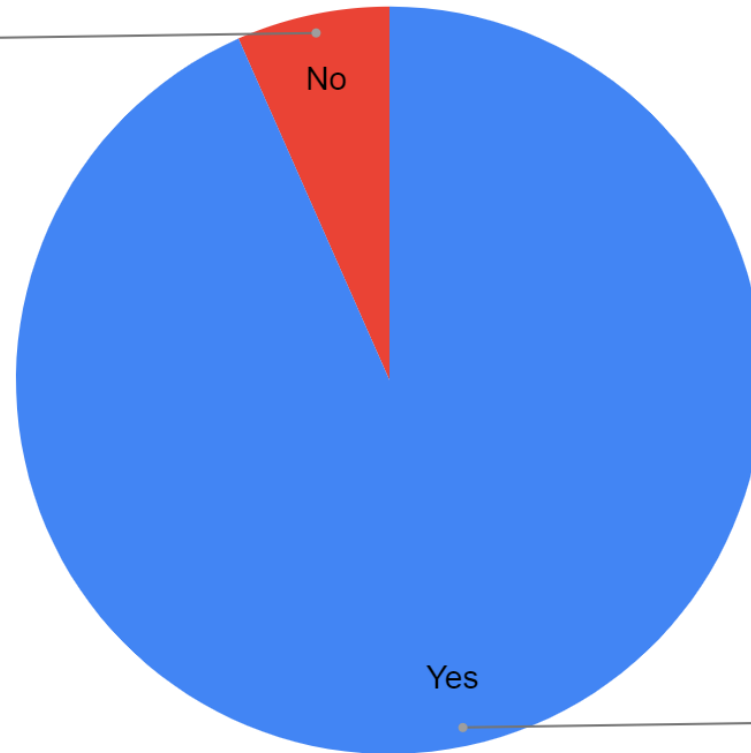
4. Encouraging Health and Wellbeing and Enhancing Community Safety.

Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

Count of 4. Encouraging Health and Wellbeing and Enhancing Community Safety.

Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

No
6.6%



Yes
93.4%

4. Encouraging Health and Wellbeing and Enhancing Community Safety.

Additional comments (92) – topics

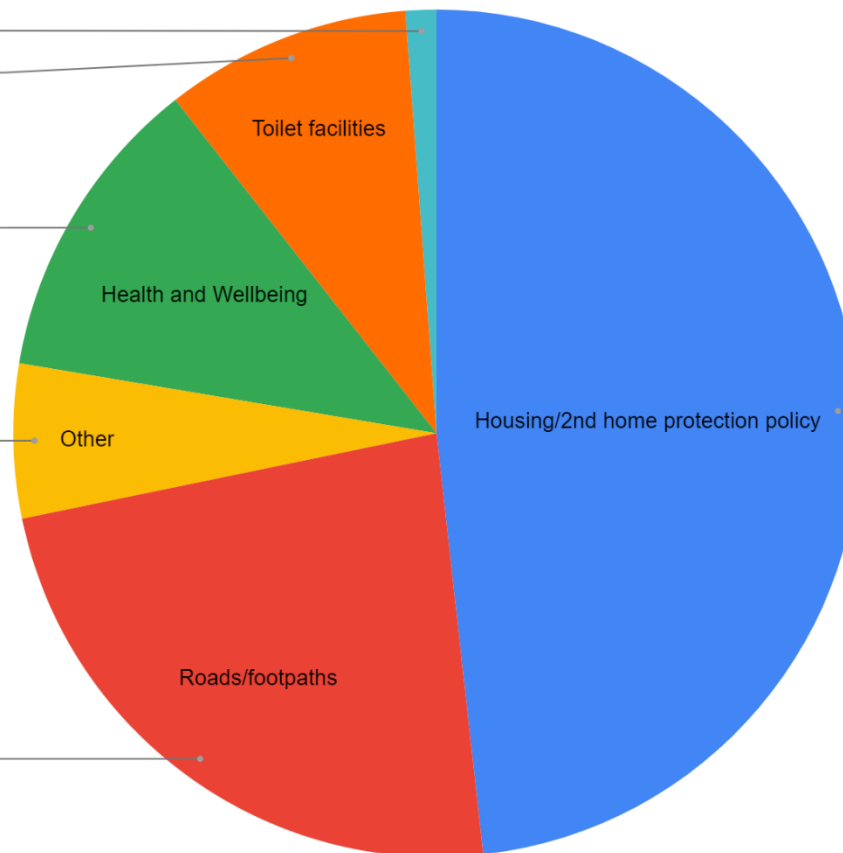
Count of Q4

Police/public services
1.2%
Toilet facilities
9.4%

Health and Wellbeing
11.8%

Other
5.9%

Roads/footpaths
23.5%



‘Affordable housing for local people is a massive issue, I’d like to see the council strive to get developers to commit to their obligations to provide social housing as part of their plans.’

‘The council needs to do a lot more to improve the housing chances of those young people who were born here but will struggle to afford to live here.’

‘All essential aims. Local people must not be priced out of housing by high rents.’

Housing/2nd home protection policy
48.2%

‘The provision of health care is a concern to me as Swanage is growing rapidly and the medical centre and other facilities cannot cope.’

‘Why is taking so long to put to good use the Day Centre?’

‘Reducing holiday homes. Grant funding – please do not waste money. The footpath through Days Park should be lit at night.’

‘Not sure about the cost of safe route via Journeys End.’

‘Developing facilities and refurbishing toilets at Burlington Chine should be given priority too.’

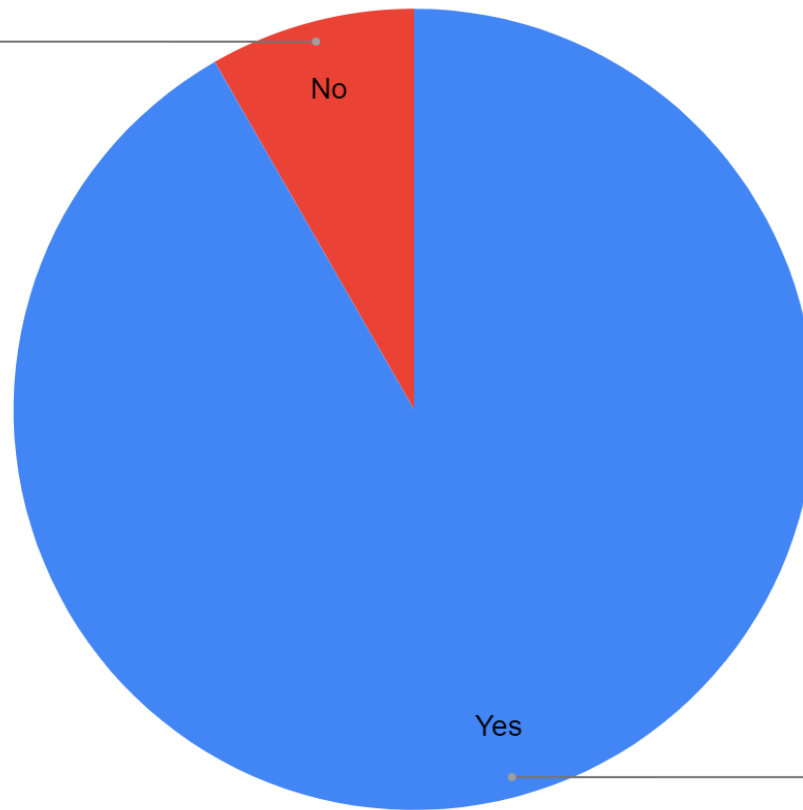
‘Police presence is needed now more than ever.’

5. Planning for the Future and Preserving our Heritage.

Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

Count of 5. Planning for the Future and Preserving our Heritage.
Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

No
8.3%



Yes
91.7%

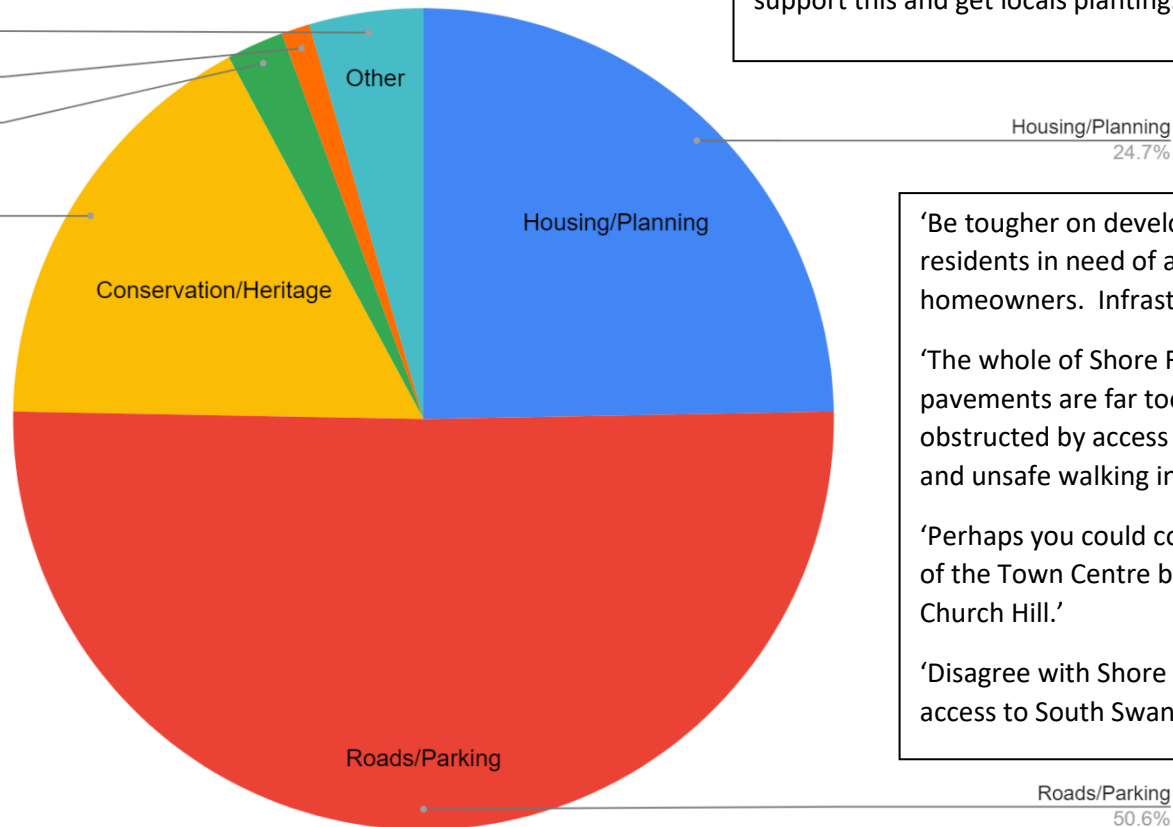
5. Planning for the Future and Preserving our Heritage.

Additional comments (93) – topics

Count of Q5

Other
4.5%
Finance
1.1%
Seafront
2.2%

Conservation/Heritage
16.9%



Other: 'This section can be amalgamated into other areas of the plan.'

'Need to plant more than 30 trees per year. Many people would support this and get locals planting. Connect with DC.'

'While interesting, I am not sure of the virtue in preserving the gun emplacement especially as the lower lookout on the cliffs is already lost.'

'Please keep Shore Road closed permanently as so much safer.'

'Planning comments – done well to date.'

'Good that we'll have a Neighbourhood Plan.'

'No more tiny boxes, no more second homes.'

'Be tougher on developers. Be more mindful of the residents in need of affordable housing not second homeowners. Infrastructure is also key.'

'The whole of Shore Road should be enclosed as pavements are far too narrow at North end and obstructed by access to parked vehicles. Unpleasant and unsafe walking in this area.'

'Perhaps you could consider taking through traffic out of the Town Centre by reversing the direction of Church Hill.'

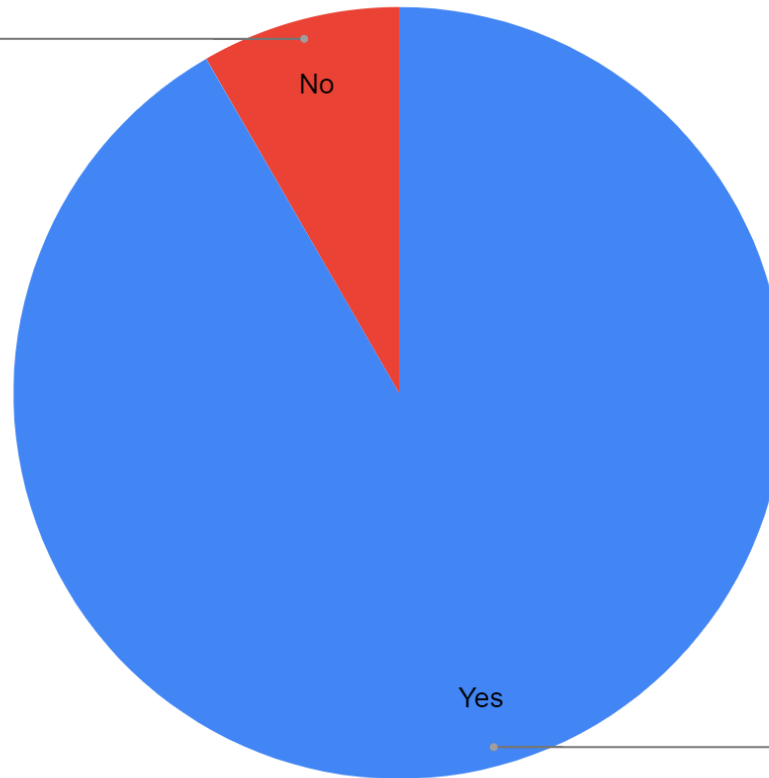
'Disagree with Shore Road closed. Cutting off too much access to South Swanage.'

6. Protecting the Natural Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis

Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

Count of 6. Protecting the Natural Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis
Do you agree with the priorities and actions?

No
8.3%



Yes
91.7%

6. Protecting the Natural Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis

Additional comments (72) – topics

Count of Q6

Housing

1.8%

Other

5.4%

Energy

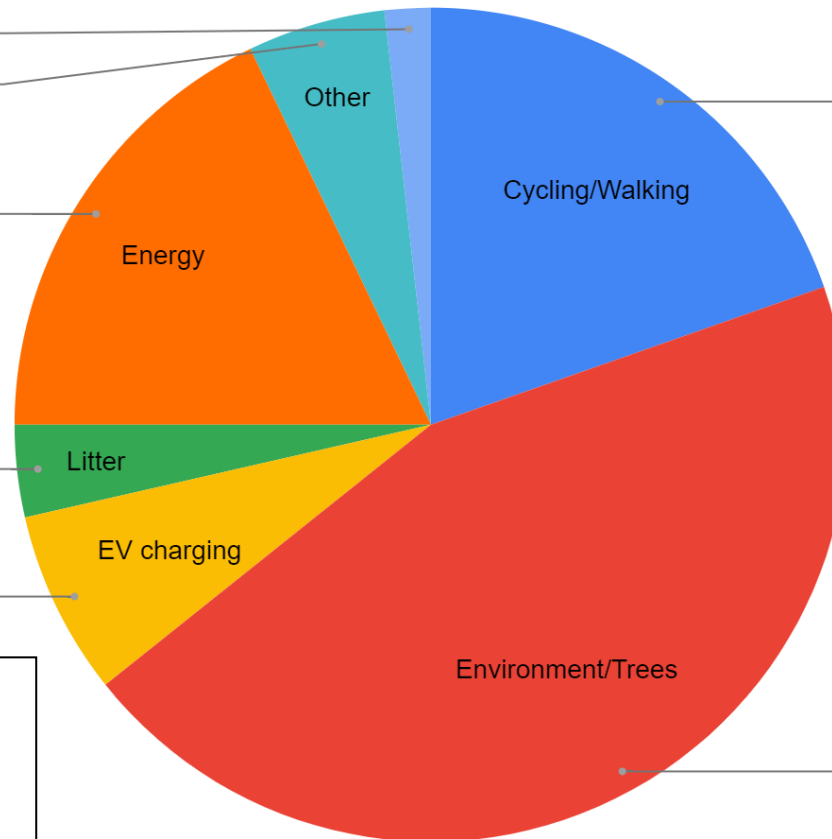
17.9%

Litter

3.6%

EV charging

7.1%



'In considering increased cycling and walking – the town demographic needs should be key.'

'More trees please. We need to plant hundreds not a meagre 30 a year.'

'Mostly agree but final point on increasing cycling and walking across the town is very woolly.'

'I believe that a local plan should look into the feasibility of a local energy hub. I believe there is a strong case in providing renewable energy as locally as possible.'

'Explore and implement the use of solar energy on buildings.'

'Going carbon neutral is just virtue signalling, pointless and a waste of money.'

'Tree planting needs ongoing management.'

'Please do what you can to protect the water quality, no sewage in the sea.'

Environment/Trees

44.6%



Post-Consultation Draft Swanage Town Council Corporate Plan



2023-2025

Introduction – N.B. text in yellow has been amended from the pre-consultation draft.

Swanage Town Council is the parish council for Swanage, Durlston, Herston and Ulwell. Its mission statement is to maintain and enhance Swanage for the well-being and prosperity of present and future generations.

Decisions of the Town Council are taken by 12 councillors who were elected for a five-year term in May 2019. There are two wards, Swanage North and South, each with 6 councillors. This plan covers the final 15 months of their term and the first year of the new Council to be elected in May 2024.

The Town Council delegates some of its decisions to its six standing committees: Finance and Governance; Planning & Consultation; Community Services; Tourism & Local Economy; Environment; and Personnel. The Council also has two sub-committees, focussed on Capital Projects and a Neighbourhood Plan, and two advisory committees, making recommendations in relation to Traffic Management and Beach Management.

The Town Council was established in 1974 as a successor to the former Swanage Urban District Council. Largely as a result of decisions taken at that time, the Council has a much wider range of assets and provides a broader range of services than most other town and parish councils. Its annual expenditure is in the order of £2¼ million per annum.

The Council's decisions are implemented by the Town Council's staff, headed by the Town Clerk. Four departmental managers lead the Town Council's finance and administration sections, operations department and visitor services.

Councillors and officers are united by a strong belief that Swanage is a very special place with a unique combination of beautiful natural surroundings, a fascinating heritage and an extremely active community with a remarkable record of volunteering.

This plan was adopted in March 2023, following public consultation on a draft version in the autumn of 2022. A summary of the plan was delivered to a majority of Swanage households, encouraging people to send in their comments, either in hard copy or via an online survey. Copies were also available from the library and the Swanage Information Centre. An engagement event was held at Swanage Market, publicity was provided by the Mayor and Town Clerk being interviewed on Purbeck Coast Radio and officers attended a meeting of Swanage and District Chamber of Trade.

A total of 181 responses were received and an analysis of these was considered by the Finance and Governance Committee prior to adoption of the plan. The detailed feedback on each of the Council's objectives has also been considered by the relevant committee to shape their future plans.

Why produce a Corporate Plan?

The Town Council has produced a corporate plan in order to:

- Give clear direction for financial planning and budget setting decisions;
- Assist in prioritising future capital projects;
- Promote transparency by being clear about what the Town Council's priorities are and what actions will be delivered over the plan period;
- Provide a basis for securing external funding;
- Guide discussions with the community and partner organisations;
- Aid in the assessment of grant requests from third parties.

This document should be read alongside the Town Council's **Medium Term Financial Strategy**, its Annual Budget Report and the priority project list approved by Council every six months. While the Town Council is committed to delivering on the priorities set out in this document, it can only do so within the financial constraints set out in its medium-term financial plan.

Swanage – Now and in the future

Swanage is a civil parish with a population of **9,429 permanent residents (2021 census)**, a reduction from its high point of 10,100 at the time of the 2001 census. Over a third of the population (35.5%) is aged over 65, compared to 29.6% across Dorset; by contrast, only 12.5% of residents are under 16 years of age.

In Swanage 17.4% of properties on the Council Tax register are considered second homes. 18% of all second homes in Dorset are in Swanage. This excludes those registered for business rates as holiday lets. The reduced supply of housing for local families as a result of second home ownership is recognised as a significant challenge.

The main employment sectors are 'wholesale, retail and repair' and 'human health and social work' which together employed almost 30% of residents in 2011. 'Accommodation and food services' employed 12.5% of the working population, and was the third largest employer.

The town acts as a hub for its neighbouring parishes. The town centre contains a good selection of independent shops and Swanage hosts a wide range of public services, including a community hospital, medical centre, library, museum, primary and secondary schools, post office and sports facilities.

The parish lies within the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is considered the Eastern Gateway to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. Agricultural land surrounds the main built-up area. The major landowners are the National Trust and Dorset Council (as owner of Durlston Country Park). The largest private landowner is the Scott family, formerly of Encombe House near Kingston.

Looking to the future, this is the Vision for the town contained in the Swanage Local Plan, which was adopted in 2017 with the support of the Town Council. Although STC has no statutory powers to deliver this vision, it can use its influence wherever possible.

Swanage has a dual role as a centre for local residents and seaside resort. The town will be enhanced through the provision of a range of facilities, services, shops and employment provision. Swanage will retain its status as one of Dorset's most self-contained settlements, whilst enhancing the special historic character of the town and its setting within the AONB and the Jurassic Coast. Opportunities will be considered to reinforce service provision through the improvement of health and sports facilities. New family housing and, in particular, affordable housing and extra care housing, will allow local people the opportunity to continue to live and work within Swanage.

A diverse, thriving and prosperous economy will be developed through the promotion of a variety of business uses, the development of niche businesses which reflect the specific character and culture of the town, and a broad business portfolio which will ensure a strong economy beyond the traditional tourist season. New development will be accompanied by areas of new green space that will improve access to the countryside and improve the setting of the town within the AONB. The town's role as a visitor destination will be developed through the provision of improved facilities and creation of enhanced public spaces along the seafront. The re-opening of the Swanage to Wareham railway line will improve accessibility to employment and educational opportunities along the A351 corridor and to Poole.

Who does what?

The Town Council is one of two tiers of local government. It is responsible for the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Bandstand • Bathing zone and RNLI lifeguards • Beach Gardens Sports Park & Tea on the Green refreshment kiosk • Main Beach and foreshore • Beach Huts – Shore Rd and Spa • Boat Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus shelters • Car parks • CCTV • Cemeteries • Children’s play areas • De Moulham Trust and grants • Festive Lights • Historic Monuments • Market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial benches and public seats • Public conveniences • Public gardens, green open spaces and playing fields • Public help desk (jointly with Dorset Police) • Skate park • Swanage Information Centre • Town Hall
---	---	--

Dorset Council is the principal authority for Swanage and Purbeck, with responsibility for:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Tax collection and benefit administration • Countryside services e.g. Durlston Country Park • Economic development • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Planning • Environmental health • Libraries and archives • On street parking • Planning • Public Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration Service • Refuse collection and recycling • Roads and footpaths • Social services • Street sweeping • Trading Standards
---	--	---

The Town Council works closely with Dorset Council on the following matters:

- Funding School Crossing Patrol at Swanage Primary School
- Funding Bay Safety Patrol
- Providing a civil wedding/partnership venue at the Town Hall
- Supporting seafront waste collection
- Commenting on all planning applications
- Considering changes to traffic management and on-street parking
- Planning improvements to the town’s sea defences
- Leasing land as part of Durlston Country Park

Working in Partnership

The Town Council works closely with a wide range of public sector partners and voluntary groups. A number have seats on Council Committees to provide advice and guidance, including Prospect Allotment Association, Swanage & Purbeck Chamber of Trade, Durlston Country Park and Swanage Railway. The Council's Beach Management Advisory Committee is attended by a large range of stakeholders to consider matters relating to the beach and Swanage Bay more broadly. The Town Council also administers the Swanage Town and Community Partnership which brings together a wide range of voluntary organisations with Town Councillors to consider issues facing local people and encourage co-operation.

The Council fully recognises the importance of helping other organisations to deliver their aims and objectives where they benefit the residents of Swanage and visitors to the town. The following list is not comprehensive, but gives some flavour of the range of groups that the Council works alongside.

East Dorset & Purbeck CAB • Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust • Swanage Regatta and Carnival Committee • Swanage Folk Festival • Swanage Coastal Change Forum • Litter Free Purbeck • Swanage Landers and Beach Buddies • Greengage Community Garden • Swanage Pier Trust • Mowlem Theatre • Swanage & Herston Football Club • Swanage & District Angling Club • Swanage Sea Rowing Club • Swanage Town Band • Dorset Coast Forum • Purbeck Transport Action Group • Swanage Community Housing Group • Swanage Museum • Swanage School • St Mary's Primary School • Swanage Defibrillator Partnership • Swanage Tennis Club • Swanage Bowling Club • Sustainable Swanage • Purbeck Art Weeks • Swanage Arts Club • Swanage Cricket Club • Swanage Rotary Club

The Town Council also supports the local services provided by a range of countywide and national organisations. As well as Dorset Council, the Town Council works with NHS Dorset, Dorset Police, Maritime & Coastguard Agency, RNLi and National Coastwatch Institution. The Town Council seeks to lobby and influence decision making bodies to protect and enhance the quality of services provided to the local community, as it has done most recently in respect of the Swanage & Purbeck Ambulance Car. **The Town Council also seeks to work together with its neighbouring parishes, and those representing other coastal communities, to pursue matters of common interest.**



RNLi Lifejacket Lockers, Banjo Pier

Priorities and Progress to Date

This document sets out the following priorities for the Town Council over the next three years:

- Delivering Good Governance
- Promoting Sustainable Tourism and Supporting the Local Economy
- Providing Opportunities to Improve Health and Wellbeing
- Planning for the Future and Preserving our Heritage
- Protecting the Natural Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis

These priorities are described in more detail on the following pages. **Each is considered equally important, and therefore they are not set out in order of priority.** Under each heading there are three boxes that set out the actions that the Council will take in broad terms, examples of what the Council is currently doing to deliver the priority, and a list of specific projects that are planned for the period 2023-25. Some of the projects are straightforward and can be delivered relatively quickly; others will be more difficult to achieve and may only be delivered beyond the lifetime of this plan.

Since its election in 2019, the Town Council has achieved the following:

Upgraded its three children's play areas

Funded improvements to Day's Park football facilities

Opened the former St Mark's School Playing Field as a public open space

Completed restoration of the Bandstand

Commissioned a survey of the parish's footpaths

Designated Peveril Point and The Downs as a Local Nature Reserve

Successfully worked with the community to protect the Swanage Ambulance Car

Installed a new astroturf tennis court at Beach Gardens

Agreed to renew the lease of Prospect Nursery to Greengage Community Garden Group

Established Swanage Community Housing Group as an independent CLT

Funded a Sustainable Swanage support officer

Adopted an Environmental Action Plan

Planted approximately 30 new trees per annum

Acquired new electric vehicles and installed new electric car charging points

Provided new cycle storage around the town

Taken the operation of Swanage Market in-house and expanded its operation year-round

Replaced and upgraded the Festive Lights

Installed water refill stations



The restored bandstand



Former St Mark's Playing field

Delivering Good Governance

The Town Council will deliver good governance by:

- Monitoring spending and minimising waste;
- Obtaining best value for the community from the Town Council's assets and investments;
- Working in partnership with community groups and other public sector bodies;
- Actively communicating, consulting and engaging with residents;
- Ensuring transparency about its actions;
- Positively representing the community;
- Making best use of new technology;
- Being an excellent employer;
- Upholding the highest standards of conduct in public life and championing **diversity**, equality of opportunity & treatment.



Town Hall, High Street, Swanage



Town Council Chamber, Town Hall

Between 2023 and 2025 the Town Council will:

- Increase opportunities for residents to engage with the Town Council;
- Take steps to improve remote access to Council meetings;
- Better promote the availability of grant funding to community groups;
- Apply under NALC's Local Council Award Scheme for Quality Council status to drive improvement;
- Deploy technology to improve efficiency in Council administration.

In support of Good Governance ...

The Town Council works extensively with voluntary groups, local businesses and public sector partners to benefit the local community.

A vast amount of information about the Council's meetings, services and activities is available via its website www.swanage.gov.uk

The Town Council provides a £10,000 budget each year for small grants to support community groups.

The Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee meets regularly to monitor Council budgets and investments.

The Town Council considers the views of local residents when making decisions. Councillors' contact details are available online and anyone is welcome to speak in public participation time, held at the start of all Town Council and Committee meetings.

Promoting Sustainable Tourism and Supporting the Local Economy

The Town Council will promote sustainable tourism and support the local economy by:

- Encouraging visitors to the town outside the main summer season;
- Ensuring Swanage is a high-quality visitor destination;
- Exploring opportunities to improve access from the sea;
- Providing an environment in which businesses can thrive, particularly providing employment opportunities for young people;
- Supporting 'Green Tourism' initiatives, such as car-free travel.



Swanage Information Centre, Shore Road

In support of tourism and the local economy the Town Council ...

- Operates a range of Visitor Services, including its award-winning Information Centre on Shore Road, Peveril Boat Park and 74 beach huts.
- Maintains the Beach to Blue Flag standards and employs RNLI lifeguards.
- Operates a number of long-stay and short-stay car parks, providing low-cost residents' parking.
- Operates Swanage market.
- Co-ordinates a programme of events throughout the year in its parks and open spaces.
- Funds the town centre and seafront Festive Lights, organises a 'Switch-On' event and the Artisans on the Beach each Christmas.



Swanage's award-winning Main Beach

Between 2023 and 2025 the Town Council will:

- Make a significant capital investment to enhance the Spa, Weather Station Field and Sandpit Field;
- Work with local businesses and accommodation providers to develop a marketing strategy for the town;
- Develop a Sustainable Tourism Vision;
- Improve the Town Council's website to provide a more interactive online presence;
- Develop an enhanced programme of events to attract visitors year-round;
- Undertake public consultation and publish a Seafront Masterplan to guide future development;
- Consider proposals to improve access from the sea.

Encouraging Health and Wellbeing and Enhancing Community Safety

The Town Council will encourage health and wellbeing and enhance community safety by:

- Supporting the development of social housing for local people;
- Encouraging participation in sporting and cultural activities;
- Protecting and enhancing the delivery of public services in Swanage, particularly health services and the library;
- Providing grant funding in support of educational, social and cultural activities;
- Working with partners to enhance community safety;
- **Implementing measures to improve accessibility.**



Prospect Allotments

In support of health, wellbeing and community safety the Town Council ...

- Funds a network of Town Centre CCTV cameras and a Speed Indicator Device.
- Leases the Town Hall Annexe to Dorset Police.
- Provides a range of community services, including allotments, cemeteries, public conveniences and bus shelters.
- Provides opportunities for sport and recreation for all ages, including children's play areas, a skate park, Beach Gardens sports park (tennis, bowls, putting and basketball), designated beach swimming zone and football pitches.
- Provides financial support **and office space** for the CAB advisory service.
- **Has commissioned a report to identify barriers impeding access for disabled people in Swanage town centre.**
- Works with partner organisations to protect public services e.g. Swanage Ambulance Car.



Tennis Courts at Beach Gardens

Between 2023 and 2025 the Town Council will:

- Provide a new safe route to St Mary's Primary School via Journey's End and Day's Park;
- Work with Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and Swanage & Herston Football Club to provide enhanced sporting and community facilities at Day's Park;
- Support the Swanage Community Housing Group in their efforts to deliver social housing for local people;
- Promote the town's footpath network and work with partners to increase access to the countryside;
- **Work with partners to implement recommendations from the Swanage town centre accessibility report, and** install 'Changing Places' toilet facilities at North Beach Car Park;
- Support Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust's Wellbeing Project, including the potential transfer of the Day Centre and Children's Centre to community ownership.

Planning for the Future and Preserving our Heritage

The Town Council will plan for the future and preserve our heritage by:

- Shaping planning policy and commenting on planning applications;
- Working with Dorset Council as the highway authority to consider proposals to improve traffic management;
- Championing the protection of the Swanage and Herston conservation areas;
- Preserving and promoting knowledge about the town's unique heritage.



To plan for the future and preserve our heritage the Town Council ...

- Comments on behalf of local residents on all planning applications in the parish lodged with Dorset Council.
- Makes recommendations to Dorset Council regarding proposed changes to parking restrictions and traffic flow.
- Organises meetings of the town's heritage attractions (Swanage Pier, Swanage Railway and Swanage Museum).
- Maintains the Town Hall with its ornate Grade II listed 17th-century frontage.
- Maintains three closed burial grounds and several historic monuments and memorials (Albert Memorial, Alfred Monument, John Mowlem's Memorial, Trevor Chadwick Memorial, War Memorial).



The iconic blue shelters, Shore Road



Prince Albert Memorial, Prince Albert Gardens

Between 2023 and 2025 the Town Council will:

- Lead the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan;
- Work with Dorset Council to implement a trial closure of the southern section of Shore Road and carry out a town-wide parking review;
- Explore options for the preservation of the WW2 gun emplacement at Peveril Point;
- Work with Dorset Council to protect the existing Swanage and Herston conservation areas and explore the designation of additional such areas;
- Work with Dorset Council and the Environment Agency to improve sea defences and public spaces between the Pier and the Mowlem Theatre.

Protecting the Natural Environment and Addressing the Climate Crisis

The Town Council will protect the natural environment and address the climate crisis by:

- Developing a Carbon Neutral Plan with the aim of ensuring that Council energy use is carbon neutral by 2030;
- Implementing projects from the Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Ensuring that all new construction projects, including the proposed seafront enhancement scheme, have sustainability embedded within the design;
- Managing its parks and open spaces to adapt to climate change;
- Identify opportunities to increase biodiversity.



Grassland, Peveril Point & The Downs Local Nature Reserve

In support of the natural environment and addressing the climate crisis the Town Council ...

- Funds and supports Sustainable Swanage to work with the community to deliver local environmental projects, including a Community Pantry, Repair Café and Greening Swanage.
- Has developed an Environmental Action Plan.
- Has installed a free water refill station on the seafront.
- Requires all events held on Town Council land to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment and prohibits single use plastics.
- Works with Dorset Council to implement waste management systems along the seafront.
- Manages some green spaces to enhance biodiversity.



Sustainable Swanage at the Market

Between 2023 and 2025 the Town Council will:

- Continue to support Sustainable Swanage;
- Develop and deliver the first elements of the Carbon Neutral Plan;
- Provide Climate Crisis training for all staff and councillors;
- Explore options to reduce reliance on fossil fuels;
- Continue its commitment to increase tree planting in Swanage;
- Increase the number of electric car charging points in its car parks;
- Consider ways to increase cycling and walking across the town.