

Report on the Purbeck Transport Action Group Meeting

27th April 2023

Notes by Helen Sumbler, full minutes to come from Nick Ward.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Nick Ward (Chair, PCRP), Beryl Ezzard (Wareham Town Councillor and Dorset Councillor), Tony Smale (Wool), Mike Whitwam (Swanage Town Councillor, PCRP, Swanage Railway), Nigel Dragon (Corfe Castle Parish Councillor), Helen Sumbler (Corfe Castle Parish Councillor and Dorset CAN Transport Team Coordinator), Richard Wade (MoreBus), Elaine Glover (Purbeck Coast Radio), Alex Brocklesby (NT Purbeck Heath NNR), Rachel Martin (RSPB), Adrian Glover (Dorset Council Officer, Public Transport), Chris Morris and Mary (moved back from Canada to Purbeck, keen cyclists).

2. Action Plan responses

The draft Action Plan for Sustainable Transport was discussed. It was mentioned that Swanage Town Council recently held a Sustainable Tourism meeting. 5G travel messaging live updates was being developed, to provide live updates for electronic signs. A need to for a safe walking route / path between Herston Yard and St Marks school in Swanage was discussed. Nick asked all to email comments on the draft version to him.

3. International Car Free Day

Nick briefed that it has been suggested that we mark the Car Free Day on Friday 22nd September, possibly followed by events over the weekend too. Possible initiatives discussed were led cycle routes, discounted entry to tourist attractions, involving schools on the Friday, free parking at Purbeck Park (Helen to put motion to CCPC to request this from DC), City Cruises (Swanage – Poole) discount ticket, £2 bus fares (via discount code on the More Bus app), Slepe Road temporary closure (possibly funded via the Wytch Farm Access & Improvement Fund). Agreed to set up a sub-group to progress further, also involving Sustainable Wareham, Sustainable Swanage, Sustrans and Cyclexperience.

4. Purbeck Transport Plan

No updates at present, waiting for the DC Local Transport Plan consultation.

5. Purbeck Heath Sustainable Tourism Plan

Alex advised this was recently launched for 2023, and progress would be reviewed at an end of season review in October. The NNR team have produced a Car Free Days in Purbeck leaflet. An update on the status of Purbeck Park was requested.

6. Bus Service Improvement Plan

Richard provided copies of the Breezer timetables to distribute; the 30 / 31 / 35 buses services are operating again this summer. There was a discussion about providing priority for buses on the Sandbanks Ferry, providing priority was supported by all. The 2RN service will be running again this year, with all buses calling at Purbeck Park, and new for 2023 at Norden Farm. Rachel provided copies of a leaflet about the 2RN service for people to share.

7. Rail services

Mainline services and the Swanage service to Wareham were discussed. The Purbeck Community Rail Partnership have produced some very good videos, which can be found on their website. The lack of toilet facilities was discussed, with the disabled toilet at Wareham station being padlocked up when the ticket office closes at lunchtime, and not accessible even with a Radar key. Access to the toilet at Swanage was also perceived to be an issue, although it was stated that access will be provided to those with disabilities.

8. Active Travel

The offer to buy the land for the Purbeck Park – Corfe foot / cycle path has not yet been sent to the landowners, it is stuck in the DC land / legal department. Beryl advised the second part of the Wareham station cycleway improvements will not happen until next year at the earliest. Beryl also gave an update on the Cordite Way; it is hoped that after DC rangers and the working party clear the undergrowth, access might be available to the harbour viewpoint by early this winter.

9. Speed limits

Applications received by DC were being considered at a meeting today. Ian VH is not confident the Langton Matravers one will be accepted. He has offered to share his experience of the application process with anyone interested.

10. Other matters

11. Next Meeting Date

Thursday 6th July, 6.30 – 8.30, probably in Swanage Town Hall.