

SE Purbeck Chairs and Clerks Meeting

(Post-summer meeting with National Trust)

Friday 8th September 2023 @ 10.00 a.m.

Present: Cllr Tina Foster (Chair), Martin Ayres (Swanage), Cllr Steve Clarke (Corfe), Michelle Harrington (Corfe and Langton Matravers), Cllr Pete Christie (Langton Matravers), Roger Khanna, (Worth), Tracey Churcher (National Trust) and Tom Clarke (National Trust).

Apologies: Nick Boulter (Studland PC), Tim Watton (Clerk Studland PC)

Transport links

It was noted that work around 'car free days' was being led by Alex Brocklesby (National Trust). Sustrans and Community Rail Partnership provided promotional material.

The National Trust have net zero targets and therefore looking at alternatives to car parks full of cars. Car parks will be shrinking – coastal squeeze on SSSI.

The following challenges were identified:

1. The ferry company wedded to car travel
2. Wareham to Swanage Road - congestion
3. Local holidaymakers

Potential way to address this include Norden functioning as a Park and Ride and Swanage to Studland 'hop on hop off' buses.

Improved/increased bus services/routes noted as an important part of the solution.

Ferry Road congestion - as the ferry company were not supportive of a cycle path on Ferry Road will need to explore options of a cycle path across designated heathland.

Beryl Bikes scheme – the expansion of this dependent on support of ferry company.

It was agreed that PTAG is an existing partnership and therefore should be the focus for future discussions on this subject in order to avoid duplication of effort. It was suggested that consideration could be given to providing funding for PTAG to support specific pieces of work. It was noted that PTAG meetings need to be held where and when they are most accessible.

Visitor numbers this season

National Trust reported 15% downturn on car parks at Studland; on budget at Corfe Castle.

Data collection from car parking, from the bus company and Swanage Railway would be useful to obtain baseline for trends and monitoring sectors. It was suggested that at the next meeting of the SE Purbeck Tourism Forum the bus company be invited.

It was noted that National Trust, Durlston, Rempstone, Encombe & Smedmore were completing an application for Landscape Recovery Funding. The application will require data, harvested from mobile data. 50-60 individual landowners and farmers working on this. Businesses will have to sign up to demonstrating a range of outcomes in terms of sustainability, accessibility and social benefits.

National Trust plans

Purbeck Coast National Nature Reserve – potential designation 2025-26. Extend Durlston's designation westwards to include MOD land.

Links to Landscape Recovery Funding – need to improve some of this land for nature.

Corfe Castle – affected by climate change – promotes Valerian causing lumps of stone to fall off. Three years of scaffolding and work – funding appeals.

15th and 16th September – free entry – cultural heritage. NT expressed willingness to build relationships with local community museums.

Studland – Heritage Statement put together on WW2 landscape.

Studland Masterplan – working around coastal change. Most biodiverse area (10 km²) in the UK. Public consultation to include making clear constraints on the National Trust.

Studland Bay Marine Partnership working well. 100 Eco-moorings installed and the sea grass recovering well.

A request was made for an updated NT map of land ownership in Purbeck to be circulated to parish clerks.

A question was asked about NT's policy on conversion of farm buildings for residential use. It was confirmed that the NT do not have a local policy on this matter, but that there are no plans to increase residential accommodation at Weston Farm, Worth.

Currently are a small number of National Trust residential properties unoccupied in Purbeck due to repairing requirements - funding currently being sourced. Hope would be to house local families where possible.

Footpaths – issues with landowners but slowly piecing land and routes together. Query was raised around powers to acquire land.

Long-term vision for local tourism economy

It was noted that Tom was liaising with Culvin (STC). The Purbeck Heaths Sustainable Tourism Plan could be shared.

The use of A boards was queried and National Trust would look into what was permitted.

All thanked Tracey and Tom for their attendance and agreed that it had been a very helpful and constructive meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.

DRAFT