



Purbeck Transport Action Group – notes of online meeting

Wednesday 25 February 2026

Present: Debbie Weller (Wareham St Martins PC & PTAG Treasurer); Tony Smale (Friends of Wool Station); Stephen Yeoman (Studland PC); Helen Sumbler (Corfe Castle PC); Chris Kwantes (Langton Matravers PC); Shane Pryke (North Dorset Travel); Cllr. Cliff Sutton (Swanage TC); Katie Black (Durlston Country Park & DC Rights of Way); Richard Wade (More Bus); Stewart Palmer (DTAG); Colin Morgan; Cllr Beryl Ezzard (DC Wareham & PTAG vice chair); Giles Watts (DCAN); Mike Whitwam (Swanage Railway & PCRP); John Williamson (Wareham St Martin PC); Nick Ward (PTAG Chair).

Apologies: Jason de Toit (Ferry Co); Rob Waitt (PP); Tim Christian (DCT); Chris Morris; Mary Weller; Cllr Alex Brenton (DC Upton); Vicky Charles (Sustainable. Wareham); Steven Booth (PCRP); Matt Richter (Wareham St Martin PC/PTAG); Alex Brocklesby (NT/PTAG); Nick Hurrell (WATAG).

1. **Welcome, Introductions & Apologies for absence.** NW welcomed participants and thanked Debbie Weller for setting up the zoom call. Those online introduced themselves and NW read out the list of apologies.
2. **Review notes of previous meeting (AGM 12/11/25).** NW reported on actions from the AGM: updates on Purbeck Park had been added to the minutes; JW was to provide information on proposals to relieve congestion on A35; TS to provide contacts for Dorset Innovation Park; the report from Studland PC had been included with AGM minutes.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – available balance: £758.30.
4. **SW Rural Mobility Workshop**
TS & BE attended this event set up by DC to discuss their proposal to the Western Gateway sub-national Transport Body. TS reported that the consultants WSP would collate the input from the working groups and present the feedback; WSP will then model the various proposals/solutions, which included buses and paths with an emphasis on connectivity. Recommendations would be presented at a follow-up meeting on 26 March, which TS would attend on behalf of PTAG. The final report was due at the end of April.
5. **Purbeck Transport Survey**
NW reported that a draft had been prepared, but was awaiting formatting. There was considerable interest in this survey, indicating that distribution should be brought forward **Action NW**
6. **Purbeck Park Progress**
NW reported that Cllr Ben Wilson and Peter Sills (SR) had been asked about progress and their responses were included as post-meeting notes in the AGM minutes. BE reported favourably on the refurbishment of the facilities at Purbeck Park.

7. Active Travel

- A progress Report on Cycleways had been received from DC Highways and this was summarised in the February PTAG News. Progress was being made on the routes from Norden to Rempstone and Corfe Castle, but there were still significant obstacles to overcome. BE mentioned the planned cycleway by the A351 from Holton Lea to Sandford.
- Developments with the Purbeck Shuttle 200 had been mentioned in PTAG News, but BE gave an update reporting significant progress. DCT was planning a 3 year funding arrangement, with year-round services and increased frequency.
- Other Walking & Cycling matters: CM suggested that with the apparent increases in government funding for active travel, priorities should be agreed for cycleways and links in the area. NW said that these should come out of the planned survey. CS mentioned two routes in Swanage that needed improvement: Priests Way and Ulwell Road. Swanage was improving signage for pedestrians, adding dropped kerbs and proposing a 20 mph limit in the centre. BE mentioned that the Cordite Way was well-used and maintained. There was some discussion about the missing bridge over the railway line and the possibility of a bridge across to Rockley, which was considered too long-term for current funding by Dorset Council.
- Sandbanks-Studland active travel tunnel: NW mentioned a proposed scheme for a pedestrian and cycle tunnel under the entrance to Poole Harbour. This was a competition entry for funding and the suggestion that PTAG should encourage it was met with general support. The proposal would be circulated with these notes **Action NW**

8. Public Transport

Buses

- BSIP funding: A Bus User Group meeting scheduled for 9 March will include an update on BSIP progress and delivery of the 2025/26 Bus Grant programme. An outline of plans for the 2026/27 Bus Grant programme will be given, in the context of the Department for Transport's new 2026–30 multi-year bus grant funding stream. TS had kindly agreed to represent PTAG.
- More Bus – RW reported their current position, including BSIP aspects. The Breezer services are planned to expand again this summer with 30 and 31 running between Weymouth and Swanage via Lulworth and Wool and the 35 operating again to the Wareham Touring Parks. The extra 50 services will be put on during the summer peak period and it is hoped to provide 40 services half-hourly, with alternate ones via Harmans Cross. Proposals are in hand for modernising the fleet, with the possibility of electric buses, although these are significantly more expensive. The First service between Weymouth and Swanage was mentioned. RW said that this competition was perfectly acceptable in the deregulated environment and these routes did not receive subsidy.
- Community buses: A very upbeat report from Dorset Community Transport was included in PTAG News. This announced relaunch of PlusBus and a network connecting 174 villages with their local towns across 35 routes on a weekly or fortnightly basis.
- The proposed Swanage circular route was discussed, including a response from KB stating that the previous service funded by Durlston Country Park was mainly used by locals and was missed. HS gave an

update on the planned Corfe service, now the subject of a feasibility study.

Trains

- Swanage Railway: MW reported that services had been suspended at the beginning of the year to deal with the major landslip at Harmans Cross. The Furzebrook Halt for the Blue Pool would be included in the summer timetable, served by DMUs. BE mentioned the Road to Rail event in June and the Beatrix Potter weekend coming up. She also said that the recent Community weekend with half-price fares had been very good and complimented the new management team.
- There was no report from SWR, but TS mentioned that consultation on a revised timetable for 2027 was expected later in the year.
- Purbeck Community Rail Partnership: The last report had been circulated to PTAG and the next steering committee meeting was on 3 March. BE said that the improvements to Dorchester South station were very impressive.
- BE reported for Friends of Wareham Station, which had received 'In Bloom' awards and coverage for Railway 200 exhibits, especially the Stephenson Rocket model, which would be featured in the Waterloo mural and Network Rail publication.
- TS reported for Friends of Wool Station, where links with the transport of tanks were featured on plaques and signs. He also mentioned that car parking charges were being introduced, although the 10 DC spaces would still be free.

9. PTAG organisation and communications

NW reported that Matt Richter had set up a PTAG website, but there was more work to do to complete the site.

10. Any other matters

BE proposed a vote of thanks to Alex Brocklesby for all her hard work as secretary of PTAG. NW seconded this, reporting that Alex had given notice that she would have to step back from involvement with PTAG and other bodies, such as PCR, because of pressure of work. As a consequence NW invited expressions of interest from anyone willing to take over as secretary.

11. Next meeting

This was proposed for early May, possibly at Swanage Town Hall and it was planned to invite representatives from the Ferry Co. to encourage consultation. It was mentioned that the Ferry Co. was holding a meeting on March 11 and BE planned to attend.