

Report on the Purbeck Transport Action Group Meeting

Wednesday 25 February 2026, from 6.00 to 8 p.m.

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

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

2. Review notes of previous meetings

The minutes of the AGM on 12 November 2025 were agreed

3. Treasurer's Report

Unchanged with funds at £758.30

4. SW Rural Mobility Workshop

Tony Smale and Beryl Ezzard fed back about the workshop held recently. WSP will be coming back with the results to a meeting next month.

5. Purbeck Transport Survey

MS Word form being produced by Matt Richter to enable easier assessment of the responses. The survey will go out in the next couple of weeks with responses being requested from recipients in approx two months.

6. Purbeck Park Progress

Beryl Ezzard advised that the Purbeck Park retail unit was being used by Swanage Railway successfully during the community weekend as a welcome hub.

7. Active Travel

Progress Report on Cycleways

Not doing the Wareham flyover phase 2, too expensive (£2m) but money being used for Holton Heath to Sandford route instead. Cliff Sutton advocated for a cycleway along Ulwell Road to Studland, as well as Priests Way. Debbie Weller mentioned the Cordite Way extending to Hamworthy, and Beryl advised there is a meeting in the next week about this, but it is unlikely to happen within the next 10 years, ie beyond the current LTP lifetime.

Purbeck Shuttle 200

The proposal for this is hopefully for a 3 year, all-year-round service grant one day a week, plus extra services in the peak season, which Tim Christian has applied for, which will need 25% match funding. The request will come out for Parish Councils to contribute. It is also proposed for it to go to Wareham Leisure Centre.

Other Walking & Cycling matters

The paths at Purbeck Park are progressing.

Cliff Sutton advised Swanage has had money from DC for 10 dropped kerbs. Swanage TC are also looking into 20mph limits in the town centre roads. There are also plans to improve walking signage. Nick Ward advised about a competition (Tunnel Vision) for a <1 mile tunnel so an entry has been made for pedestrian and cycle tunnel from Studland to Sandbanks. Apparently there is money for the winning competition entry to progress the tunnel.

Cliff Sutton also advised there is an unused Victorian tunnel under the railway at the railway bridge which might be a possibility for use in the future.

8. Public Transport

Buses – BSIP funding, More Bus, DCT

Nick Ward advised there is Bus User Group meeting on 9 March which Tony Smale is going to, which will provide an update of BSIP and the 25-26 bus grant, and an outline of 26-27 bus grant funding.

Richard Wade advised DC has had a 3-year bus grant fund, while not as large as needed it is the largest to date. Richard is also going to the Bus User Group meeting. He thinks the funding could be used to kick start an increased frequency of the 40 service, but things are still up in the air. Summer service this year will start on the start of May half term, hoping to repeat the 30, 31 and 35 services again. BSIP capital funds could be used to help modernise the Swanage bus fleet, with the extra cost of electric buses and charging infrastructure, on top of the cost of new buses which More Bus would fund.

Community bus funding - W Gateway; Swanage circular; Corfe shuttle

I mentioned the SPDT meeting on Friday at 10.30, and Nick is going to try to attend.

I advised that the DC grant we have has now been refocussed away from a Corfe Shuttle service to completing a Purbeck wide feasibility study to identify what is needed across the whole of Purbeck, which the PTAG survey will feed into.

Rail – Swanage Railway; SWR; PCRP; Friends of Wool Station; Friends of Wareham Station

Mike Whitwam advised that during the shutdown the landslip at Harmans Cross has been successfully addressed. There was a community day the weekend before last, and was very well supported, although the weather was not that good. The Inspiration train was at Corfe Castle Station last Tue / Wed and there were positive comments about it. Swanage Railway are working on a Bue Pool / Furzbrook halt, which has been included in the summer timetable. The shuttle will operate 7 days a week and also provide a Norden / Purbeck Park to Corfe Castle shuttle.

Tony Smale advised that there will be consultation on a new SWT timetable through Dorset from December 2026.

PCRP has a steering group meeting on 3 March. There are a lot of projects in progress at present across the area.

Tony reported Friends of Wool Station have put up 3 large displays about the links between the station and the Army base and Bovington tank museum. There used to be a railway line to Bovington. Parking charges of £2 a day are being introduced.

Beryl reported Friends of Wareham Station won a silver guilt award for the planting last year and have received accolades for the Rocket model produced by the Wareham men's shed. Holton Heath is celebrating its 110-year anniversary and Sandford school children are being encouraged to get involved with the celebrations.

9. PTAG organisation and communications

Matt Richter is progressing with a PTAG website which hasn't yet gone live. Alex Brocklesby has had to step back as secretary due to other commitments, and Nick will seek a replacement for this role. Tom Clarke will represent NT at PTAG meetings in future.

10. Any other matters None

11. Next meeting

Nick is going to approach the ferry company about coming to the next meeting, likely to be in early May.