

Work starts on beach

You may recall that at an early meeting, the Mayor demanded approval then and there for a scheme involving stone groynes. Mike Hadley initiated a campaign for wooden groynes, which has proven successful.

Work has now begun on replacing the old groynes with new wooden ones. Once this is done, sand from dredging in Poole Harbour will be deposited to 'recharge' the beach. The contractors say the whole exercise should be over by the spring.

Thankfully all the cost will be met by the government, so nothing directly falls upon council tax payers in Purbeck. It is fair to ask why the existing groynes were not properly maintained, so avoiding the need for this massive capital outlay.

It was surprising to hear Mike Goater, Chief Engineer of Purbeck District Council, say at the last meeting that there was no requirement to budget for regular maintenance! This seemed to surprise the audience so much that we hope the Chief Executive of Purbeck District Council took note and will include an allocation for annual maintenance, to avoid future generations paying all over again for a massive capital scheme.



Lib Dems help stop camping on Ferry Road

The Liberal Democrats may take some credit for this. Councillor Hilary O'Donovan presented Purbeck District Council with a petition of 963 signatures gathered in just 2 weeks. On 1st July PDC and Dorset Police issued Direction Notices to 20 owners of illegally parked motor homes.

Penny Lawrence, leading campaigner on this matter, says: "Although considerable success was achieved in the summer, a number of people continue to set up camp along the roadside. We hope this will stop completely when the proposed red lines are there to show that no parking is allowed after midnight.

Let us hope the police remain vigilant to this unsightly and hazardous practice.

Swanage Town & Community Partnership?

We are concerned that this initiative seems to be dissolving into nothing, as so many feared. Despite valuable input from many residents, and many positive suggestions — some of which would cost little or nothing to implement — nothing has been published about the consultation phase, let alone any direction indicated on outcome and actions.

There appear to be a variety of schemes under way at the moment.



Multi-purpose community centre?

The proposal for a community centre that may accommodate various recreational (and possibly even business) needs is still in hand. A week-long exhibition is apparently to be held at the Tourist Information Centre on Shore Road from 11 December. This should give us all more information.

We would be delighted if a scheme along these lines proves viable. But we would like to see how it integrates with the various suggestions made during the consultation process for the Community Partnership. It seems illogical to consider such an expensive project without proper consideration of all the existing facilities in the town.

We must not end up with a white elephant that simply lines the pockets of some consultants.

Sea Court: the campaign continues



John Wootton, Chairman of the Swanage Buildings Preservation Group, outside Sea Court

Congratulations to the Sea Court Action Group for doggedly trying to stop a five-storey block of flats being built next to the fine 1894 Victorian villa Sea Court. The latest plan is virtually the same as previous plans rejected by appeals inspectors, except the balconies at the fifth floor have been changed to windows - overlooking neighbours even more!

The objections are supported by the Swanage Building Preservation Group and by the Victorian Society — an eminent national body. Their Dr. Kathryn Ferry says "This is another example of a developer trying to wear people down by putting in repeat applications".

A petition against the latest plan has been signed by over 1200 people.

John Wootton. Chairman, Swanage Buildings Preservation Group.