

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Dry Stone Wall Policy**

#### **Natural Stone and Dry Stone Walls - Preamble**

Dry stone walls are the main form of boundaries in upland areas. They are also a characteristic feature of the Portland landscape and represent examples of craftsmanship. Many are now threatened by neglect or removal and the majority of developments on the Island do not seek to use this traditional form of boundary treatment. Similarly mortared natural stone walls are a common form of boundary treatment in the urban areas, blending in with the traditional built form and materials on Portland and sometimes being of historical interest. Walls often provide habitats for wildlife and plants. They provide shelter for animals and often house unusual or rare plants and lichens. The Council wishes to protect both forms of boundary wall as an important element in the character of the district and will encourage their retention, repair and use in development. Accordingly the following policy applies:-

#### **Council Policy on the Protection of Stone Walls**

The construction and retention of all natural stone walls (including natural dry stone walls in areas of countryside and mortared stone walls in urban areas) in the local traditional style will be encouraged. In particular a development proposal that would result in the removal, or would threaten the future survival, of a natural stone wall will only be permitted where the developer has demonstrated that the benefits of the development will outweigh the harm caused by the removal of the wall and an appropriate replacement stone wall is provided in a suitable location in the local traditional style.

July 2012