

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices
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23rd November 2016

To: All Members of the Partnership

MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP

Dear Member

You are hereby summoned to attend a **MEETING** of the **MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP**, to be held in **EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON, PORTLAND** on **WEDNESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER 2016**, commencing at 7.00 pm when the business set out below will be transacted.

It is the Council's intention that all meetings of the Council and its Committees be recorded aurally.

Yours sincerely

Ian Looker
Town Clerk

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Declarations of Interest** – to receive any declarations from Councillors or Officers of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests regarding matters to be considered at this meeting, together with a statement on the nature of those interests
- 4. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 31st August 2016** – to approve and sign (see attached)
- 5. Minute Update and Matters Arising** (see attached)
- 6. Neighbourhood Plan** – to receive a report from Mr Matthews
- 7. Japanese Knotweed** – to consider a letter from DEFRA and any further action to take (see attached)
- 8. Overgrown Pavements etc. on the Island** – to consider any further action
- 9. Pebbles Signage** – to receive a report from Mr Matthews and consider how Community Partnership money might be used
- 10. Broadband Provision** – to consider a response from the County to our letter (attached)
- 11. Palm Trees** – to consider the offer received (attached)
- 12. Fingerposts** – to consider the present situation and any action to be taken (see attached)
- 13. Dog Waste Bags** – to consider making provision
- 14. Portland Maps** – to consider financing a further reprint

- 15. Standard Agenda Items** (by exception)
- (a) Disused Quarries (Portland Town Plan 2B)
 - (b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material (PTP 2C)
 - (c) Run-Down Areas (PTP 2I)
 - (d) Open Spaces, Hedgerows, Footpaths and Dry-Stone Walls (PTP 2E, 2F)

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Marine, Environment & Tourism Partnership will be held on Wednesday, 1st March 2017, at Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre, Reforne starting at 7.00 pm.

MEMBERSHIP:-

Cllr. Sue Lees (Chair)	Portland Town Council
Cllr. Sandy West (Deputy Chair)	Portland Town Council
All Town Councillors	Portland Town Council
Simon King	Economic Regeneration, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Derek Luckhurst	Agincare
Jen Reeves	CRAB / Agincare
Cllr. Sue Lees	Chesil Equestrian Centre
Philip George	Crown Estate
Tara Hansford	Dorset Local Access Forum
Leo Henley Lock	Dorset Wildlife Trust
Alison Smith	Jurassica
Victoria Webbon	Land Trust
Geoff Peters	National Coastwatch Institution
Ruth Carpenter	Natural England
Andy Matthews	Portland Community Partnership
Sandie Wilson / Frank Cox	Portland Port Ltd
Hannah Sofaer / Paul Crabtree	Portland Sculpture and Quarry Trust
Cllr. Rod Wild	Portland Seafarers Support and Association for Portland Archaeology
Rowena Riley	The Churches Conservation Trust
Paul Glover	The History Society
Peter Allam	Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy
Mike Deadman	Weymouth and Portland Tourism Board
Peter Staddon	Working for a Better Portland

Requests for agenda items are welcome from all members of the Partnership. They should be sent to the Clerk no less than two weeks before the date of the meeting.

MINUTE UPDATE

a) Minute 1152 – Japanese Knotweed

The owner of the market site has not replied to our letter of 4th August. See also Agenda Item 7.

b) Minute 1153 – Overgrown Pavements etc. on the Island

Our records show that letters were sent to Stone Firms and SNT Ltd of Birmingham about overgrowth in August 2014 and a response was received from Albion Stone later that same month. Help in identifying the various landowners along Easton Lane and in other areas of concern would be appreciated. See also Agenda Item 8.

c) Minute 1154 – Pebbles Signage

Mr Matthews has intimated that £2,000 might be available from the Partnership. See Agenda Item 9.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Lord Gardiner of Kimble
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural
Affairs and Biosecurity

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17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Richard Drax MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

409
19 OCT 2016

Our ref: MC412270/KW

13th October 2016

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your letter of 13 September to Thérèse Coffey on behalf of Mr Ian Looker, Town Clerk of Portland Town Council, about Japanese knotweed. I am replying as the Minister responsible for policy on invasive non-native species.

Japanese knotweed causes significant problems in the UK, particularly on riverbanks, road verges and railway embankments and can be a major issue for homeowners by causing structural damage to buildings. It is estimated that Japanese knotweed costs the UK economy more than £165 million every year.

As Mr Looker rightly states in his letter, there is no statutory requirement for any public body or for landowners to remove the plant from their property or to control it; nor is strategic widespread control the sole responsibility of any statutory authority. It is, however, listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to allow the plant to escape or cause it to grow in the wild.

Local councils and police have the power to issue Community Protection Notices (CPNs) under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. CPNs can be used against individuals or businesses who are acting unreasonably and who persistently or continually act in a way that has a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. The issue of a CPN requires an individual or business to stop the anti-social behaviour identified in the notice, for example to control or prevent the growth of Japanese knotweed or any other invasive species. A breach of a CPN is a criminal offence.

The Government takes the problems caused by Japanese knotweed seriously, which is why Defra provided funding to assist with the start-up of Local Action Groups, to tackle and raise awareness of invasive non-native plants, including Japanese knotweed.

Defra has also provided funding of £390,000 (2008-present) for biocontrol work to tackle Japanese knotweed, including rigorous laboratory testing to identify a possible biocontrol agent to control the plant. The psyllid *Aphalara itadori* was identified and a closely monitored licenced trial release programme has been ongoing since 2010 to assess the impact of this psyllid, although no significant and sustainable impacts have yet been seen, because the psyllids have yet to become established.

The psyllid will not eradicate Japanese knotweed; the aim is for it to retard the plant's growth significantly and therefore its ability to spread and regenerate so vigorously, thus reducing the damage it causes, the management costs and generally making it easier to deal with. The rate of progress with the psyllid is not unexpected: other classical biocontrol programmes have taken five to ten years from release to achieve successful biological control.

I note that you have already referred Mr Looker to the Environment Agency. Mr Looker may also wish to consult its document "Japanese knotweed: managing on development sites", which although aimed primarily at developers, provides information about dealing with Japanese knotweed which may be useful. This is available on the GOV.UK website.

I regret that I am not able to provide any information on any action being taken in Japan, where uncontrolled growth of the plant is prevented by its natural enemies.

I hope that Mr Looker finds the above information useful.

*I am well aware of the Japanese Knotweed problems,
and constant control can make a real difference.*

Yours ever,





331
6 SEP 2016

Telephone: 01305 [redacted]
Minicom: 01305 [redacted]
We welcome calls via text Relay

Email: [redacted]
DX: DX 8716 Dorchester
Website: www.dorsetforyou.com

Mr I D Looker
Town Clerk
Portland Town Council
Council Offices
52 Easton Street
Portland DT5 1BT

Date: 1 September 2016
Ask for: [redacted]
My ref: [redacted]

Dear Mr Looker

Re: Broadband Provision on Portland

I write in follow up to your letter of the 24th August concerning broadband provision on Portland, with particular reference to Portland Port and Osprey Quay.

With respect to Portland generally, significant work has been undertaken under the BT commercial and Superfast Dorset programmes to improve connectivity and Portland was one of the first locations in Dorset to benefit from fibre broadband. The vast majority of premises on Portland are served by Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) services. This technology permits speeds of up to 80 Mbps to premises served by enabled cabinets.

Superfast Dorset is currently completing works on two installations on Portland, serving the Tradecroft Industrial estate and Osprey Quay (now live) with Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) capable of speeds up to 330 Mbps.

Osprey Quay – The sixteen premises able to benefit from FTTP services at Osprey Quay are served by BT Cabinet 26. The remainder of premises at Osprey Quay are served by Cabinet 27 which is not part of the Superfast Dorset programme and was not picked up by BT under their own commercial programme. However discussions were advanced last year between BT and the Homes & Communities Agency, Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy, the Lands Trust and estate tenants concerning a self build scheme which is currently being progressed. This will provide FTTC services to the remainder of premises on Osprey Quay served by Cabinet 27.

With respect to Castletown, while again this does not form part of the Superfast Dorset programme, most if not all of the premises there appear to be served by Cabinet 17 which is FTTC enabled.

According to the information from our latest Open Market Review exercise completed in August 2016 based on data supplied by BT, of the 6015 premises on Portland only 211 currently achieve less than superfast speeds (< 24Mbps). This equates to 96.5% superfast availability which is excellent coverage.

No further work on Portland is currently programmed under the Superfast Dorset programme and we are unaware of any plans for further commercial build by BT. However, the limited number of premises not currently achieving superfast speeds will be visible to tenderers under our forthcoming Ultrafast procurement as being situated in a priority (higher weighted) build area as part of the Western Dorset Growth Corridor.

Businesses can check what speeds are available to them by using BTs Broadband Availability Checker (www.dslchecker.bt.com) or enquiring with an ISP directly. It is important to note that speeds do not upgrade automatically and a fibre service must be ordered.

Should you have concerns about specific businesses that are not addressed by the above, please contact [REDACTED], Project Lead for the Superfast Dorset team with further details who will be able to comment further.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Service Director - Economy

PALM TREES

From: Jerome Young
Sent: 8 October 2016
To: Portland Town Council

Hi, I am a keen Gardener and grow Palm trees. With Portland having an exceptional climate for growing plants such as this I was hoping to donate a few Palms for yourselves to plant on the Isle. They might need some shelter from the wind but otherwise would thrive in your climate. I can pop down to deliver them if needed.
Thanks

FINGERPOSTS

We have been informed by a resident that a fingerpost has been removed from the Pennsylvania end of Weston Street, whether officially or unofficially is not known. The note I made at the time also mentions a sign in Easton near the Boots shop and public conveniences and pointed to "Wakeham". Presumably it was mentioned because that too has disappeared.

It would be good if members could confirm that this too has gone, see if anyone has more knowledge about them than the resident or I and thirdly trawl through their knowledge in case other signs have disappeared similarly.