Report from Councillors
17/09/2024
Andrew Starr
Alex Brenton
Steve Robinson

As always, we have continued to keep a keen eye on working for Upton, Lytchett Minster and Morden. With the end of the "summer" period we are finally able to start settling into a regular rhythm of community work and our surgeries on the first Saturday of each month have become a regular feature where a number of issues affecting Upton are discussed. Not surprisingly the ongoing roadwork upheaval from Southern Gas Network has been a considerable annoyance for a number of residents but we are assured (again) that the Blandford Rd North works will be completed by 20th September.

This delay has meant that the planned improvements at the Upton Country Park junction has been delayed until 13 January 2025. SGN's current one-way system meant that they would be unable to introduce the road closure and diversion route at the same time as their work.

We have also been involved in a number of discussions concerning the placement of a crossing area opposite the school entrance in Lytchett Minster, as well as opposite Policeman's Lane and the potential for a consistent maximum speed of 30 miles an hour from Upton down to the Baker's Arms.

Councillors will be aware of the ongoing discussions concerning Huntick Road and we continue to monitor progress.

Visit from the Chief Executive
We were pleased to host a visit from Matt Prosser, CEO of Dorset Council on the 11th September. Matt visited the Upton Council offices to hear of the good work being done by the council and our ambitions for the future. We then visited a number of sites and met with local residents. We concentrated on discussing communication between Parish & Town councils and DC.



Surgeries
We continue to hold surgeries on the first Saturday of the month at the Upton Library. Our more general work has included supporting people facing eviction, obtaining reablement support to help people stay in their own homes and also linking young people to the mental health services.

Steve Robinson, Andrew Starr and AlexBrenton — September 24th 2024

Win on Waste continues on the second Saturday at Lytchett Matravers Scout hut 10-11.30am. We are still collecting pill blister packs though this is part funded by Arran Kenny and regular users donations.
The rules for recycling in Dorset are changing. One can now put Tetrapacks and clean foil trays in the kerbside collection.

Alex has attended the **Purbeck Transport Action Group** and stressed that the bus services to Lytchett and Morden were inadequate or non existant and that links between the villages were poor. Lack of transport reduces life chances for young people getting to work or Education. There is hope that the new government will give more powers to counties to commission other bus services but this will probably be hampered by lack of funding. Most of the talk was about the Studland ferry changes.

We have had conversations about the stalled Zebra Crossing by Lytchett Primary, but it seems very difficult to arrange a full meeting as the highways officers are taking holidays in sequence. The Lytchett Proposal to calm and restrict car traffic on Huntick road has not been received well by Highways officers even the Cycling promotion officer. They believe there would be too much opposition from drivers to get the plan through. The Safe Routes to School officer are still convinced that improving Foxhills lane and the bridleway would be much easier to achieve and cheaper. We have not had a comprehensive meeting with the team yet. But we continue to pester for one the week of 16October.

The Planet Purbeck presentation on Friday 20th was impressive, listing all the activities available for children in Purbeck, sponsored by National Trust and 10 other local organisations, however transport is probably and issue for North Purbeck.
At the LAG (**Local Action Group),**Transport to access many activities especially for young people, was discussed and we hope to set up information and a more active group which will concentrate on linking groups to community and local voluntary groups who may be able to help. One suggestion was that some villages could spend CIL money on their own minibus as it would class as infrastructure. To be discussed further!
Problems with mental health and wellbeing have been targeted by the LAG and there seem to be a lot of different counselling sessions available by the secondary schools and the surgeries. There are also after school drop in groups at the Wareham Family hub, behind the Purbeck school. Similar is being set up at Lytchett Minster, details will follow.

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