



Best wishes for 2022 to all our members!

We hope you are keeping well and thank you for your continued support for Wareham Town Trust.

Whilst the past year has been rather different, the Town Trust has continued to be active and kept abreast of developments affecting our Town. In view of the uncertainty over recent months we have not arranged to hold an AGM this year. However, I hope you will find this newsletter helpful and look forward to when we hold a Town Trust event again.

Wareham Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Trust continues to have been involved in helping shape the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan which meets the housing requirement for Wareham wholly within the existing settlement boundary. Following examination of the Neighbourhood Plan by an independent examiner, a referendum was held of all residents living in Wareham on 30th September 2021. The Town Trust worked with North Wareham Action Group and local residents to produce a leaflet encouraging residents to vote 'Yes' in the referendum which were delivered to all households in Wareham. There was a good turnout at the Referendum with almost 30% of residents (1268) voting. The result was in favour of the Plan with:

YES – 1145 votes – 90.5%

NO – 120 votes – 9.5%

The Wareham Neighbourhood Plan was made (adopted) by Dorset Council on 8 November 2021. It now forms part of the statutory development plan for Dorset.

The Wareham Neighbourhood Plan will shape future development of the whole of Wareham up to 2034.

The main features of the Plan:

- Shaped by local people through consultations throughout the Plan's development
- Meets housing needs set by Dorset Council including affordable housing
- Protects the Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty from development
- Concentrates future development on brownfield (already developed) land
- Supports retention of a ground level railway crossing at Wareham Railway Station

Wareham Town Council awarded The Honoured Townsman for 2022 jointly to Dr David Evans and Mrs Hilary Evans for their work towards Wareham Neighbourhood Plan, the Rex and Wareham Town Trust.

Purbeck Local Plan Review

Further modifications to the Purbeck Local Plan were published in December 2021. The Purbeck Local Plan Review is consistent with Wareham Neighbourhood Plan and recognises the constraints which would prevent development in the Green Belt, north of Northmoor Park and in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, west of Wareham.

Dorset Local Plan

Work started on the development of a Local Plan for the whole of Dorset during 2020. This also recognises the constraints on development around Wareham and concludes that there are no exceptional circumstances that would justify the modification of the Green Belt around Wareham. The draft Plan published in Jan 2021 mirrors the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan.

Railway Crossing

A policy to retain the ground level railway crossing is included in the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan which now forms part of the Development Plan for Dorset. As reported last year in March 2020 Michael Tomlinson MP announced 2 meetings to take place with Network Rail concerning the future of the level crossing. However due to the announcement of the first Lockdown it was not possible to proceed with the proposed meetings. An update has just been received from Michael Tomlinson MP and Cllr Ray Bryan (Dorset Council Portfolio Holder for Transportation) which states

“Michael Tomlinson has secured a meeting in Westminster with the new Minister for Rail, Wendy Morton.

We are aware that new technology has been rolled out on other parts of the rail network nationally that may provide a solution to the question of automation of the crossing in Wareham. We will be fully exploring this with both Network Rail and the Office of Rail and Road. As well as the local concern surrounding the future of the at-grade level crossing there are strategic aspirations for the rail network, including linking services to Swanage and providing a metro service between Wareham and the BCP conurbation, that are hampered by the current situation. Dorset Council also continue to spend a significant amount of money annually to provide guards at the crossing which is not sustainable in the longer term.

Dorset Council wish to reiterate that the works to improve cycling infrastructure in Wareham is not linked to the ongoing issues with Wareham Level Crossing.

Once the meetings with Network Rail and with the Minister have taken place, a chance to meet with community representatives would be welcome. Dorset Council and Michael Tomlinson remain committed to finding a solution and are determined to work hard for a permanent solution to the benefit of the whole community.”

The Town Trust will continue to promote the retention of the ground level crossing with the installation of electronic gates linked to the signalling system which is included as a policy in the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan.

Footway/cycleway over the flyover

Dorset Council has recently started work on a footway/cycleway over the flyover. The Town Trust is disappointed that this scheme has proceeded without any public consultation and will continue to press for talks to be reopened regarding retention of the ground level railway crossing, as referred to above.

Former Middle School

At its Cabinet Meeting on 1st March Dorset Council approved the taking of the former Middle School site forward to procure the development of extra care housing. Dorset Healthcare Trust will be considering a report at its meeting on 1st June recommending that the Trust continue to operate from existing sites in Wareham. The report states “the development of a new Purbeck hub cannot proceed at this time due to issues of partner consensus on the plan, capital constraints and value for money.” Also that the Dorset Health care Trust “will continue to deliver a range of services from Wareham Hospital, which currently include physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, podiatry, new-born baby health checks, audiology, pain management, mental health services. The Wareham Hospital still has sufficient space to offer us scope to develop and enhance our services as required in the coming years.”

A presentation on the future of the former Middle School site was given to Wareham Town Council at the meeting of Full Council on Tues 12th April at 7pm by Adam Fitzgerald, Housing Programme Manager at Dorset Council and all members of the public were welcome to attend.

The Wareham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has written to Dorset Council urging them to put on hold plans to market most of the Middle School site for housing until a full feasibility exercise of the former Middle School site, the Hospital, the GP Surgery and Ambulance Station site, has been undertaken in conjunction with partners and that a public consultation be undertaken to ensure that the public's needs in the community project can be taken account of in shaping it. The Steering Group has also written to Dorset Healthcare Trust urging them to put on hold plans to drop the Health Hub until a full feasibility exercise has been undertaken with partners and to carry out public consultation.

Planning applications

A planning application for the erection of 9 dwellings at 1 Westminster Road was submitted in March 2020. Following a long period of indecision of over 80 weeks by Dorset Council, the application was refused on 1st October 2021 due to at that time there being no affordable housing contribution proposed. A planning application for 9 dwellings was submitted on 1st March 2022 which would be in accordance with Wareham Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Trust is supporting this application.

National Park

We are grateful to Richard and Sandra Brown for their ongoing work on the case for the designation of a National Park for Dorset. The Town Trust are fully supportive of a Dorset National Park and are keen that Wareham is included within the boundary.

We look forward to making further progress on many of these issues during the coming year.

5th May 2022 Nick Fagan, Chair, Wareham Town Trust

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for the year are attached and show a healthy balance. Our thanks to Tony Thomas for auditing the accounts which are attached. Our expenditure has been cut to the minimum and our income has remained stable. Our cash surplus for the year was £250. Our bank balance at close of business on 31st December 2021 was a healthy £1793.13.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder that subscriptions are now due as follows:-

Single subscription - £5.00 Household subscription - £8.00

You can pay by standing order or send a cheque to the Treasurer, Chris Miller, at 30 West St Wareham, BH20 4JY. It is more efficient for the Trust (and easier for you!) to set up a standing order for your subscription. The form is attached.

COMMITTEE

Our grateful thanks to Graham Baynes for serving on the Committee for 9 years and for all his hard work on the Committee and as Membership Secretary.

We will need another Membership Secretary – please contact Hilary Evans if you are interested.

The current officers and other committee members are content to continue for another year, as follows:

Officers: Nick Fagan as Chairman; Ben Buxton as Vice Chairman

Chris Miller as Hon Treasurer; Hilary Evans as Hon Secretary.

Committee members: Graham Baynes, Maxine Humphries, Robin Humphries, Judith Price

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Using email is more cost effective and efficient for the Trust than paper copies and postage (which has become expensive). If we are not currently contacting you by email, and you have an email address, please can you let us know and we will send future information by that route.

For further information please contact:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Nick Fagan (Chair) | Tel: 01929 551047 email nickfagan@talktalk.net |
| Hilary Evans (Hon. Sec.) | Tel: 01929 551828 email: hilary@east-street.co.uk |
| Chris Miller (Hon. Treasurer) | Tel: 01929 551500 email chrismiller99@btopenworld.com |

Or visit our website: www.warehamtowntrust.org.uk

Wareham Town Trust Financial Account 2021

Statement of income and expenditure for the year 1st January 2021
to 31st December 2021

| | 2021 |
|--|-------------|
| Opening bank balance at 1 st January 2021 | 1543.13 |
| Income | |
| Subscriptions and donations | 635 |

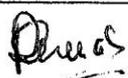
| Expenditure | |
|--|---------------|
| Printing leaflets for Wareham Neighbourhood Plan | 225.00 |
| Website hosting and renewal charges | 85.00 |
| Insurance: British Association for Local History | 75.00 |
| Total Expenditure | 385.00 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Operating balance (income minus expenditure) | 250.00 |
|--|--------|

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|---|---------|
| Closing bank balance 31 st December 2021 | 1793.13 |
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Auditors statement

I have been given access to all relevant information and received adequate explanation for any points arising for the purpose of this Audit. In my opinion, this statement is a fair representation of the finances of Wareham Town Trust for the stated period.

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| Signed  ARTHUR THOMAS F.C.A. | Date 15th March 2022 |
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WAREHAM TOWN TRUST MEMBERSHIP

Join us in helping shape Wareham's future.

Subscriptions are £5 single and £8 for joint membership

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| Tel Number | |
| Email address | |

Payment can be made in cash by cheque payable to Wareham Town Trust or preferably
Standing Order Mandate (see below)

by

Standing Order Mandate

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| To (Your Bank) | |
| Bank Address | |
| Bank Sort code | |
| Account Number | |
| Name of account holder(s) | |

Please pay Lloyds Bank PLC, 3 South Street, Wareham, Dorset (Sort Code: 30-99-12;
Account Number 00621540) For the credit of Wareham Town Trust

The sum of *£5.00/£8.00 Five pounds/Eight Pounds commencing Now and thereafter
every January 1st annually until you receive further notice from *me/us in writing and
debit *my/our account accordingly

**(Please delete where not applicable: £5.00 for single membership; £8.00 for joint membership).*

Please cancel any previous standing order or direct debit in favour of Wareham Town Trust.

Signature

Date

Please return to Hilary Evans (Hon Secretary) 37 East Street, Wareham BH20 4NW