



Highcliffe Residents Association Community Interest Company

Quarterly Members' Meeting

**Thursday 28 September 2023 at 7.15pm following the AGM, at
The Old School, 254 Lymington Road, Highcliffe BH23 5ET**

Present:

HRA Chair - Joan Rose

HRA Directors - Anne Bassett, Carol MacBean

BCP Councillors - Paul Hilliard, Andy Martin, David Martin.

Parish Cllr – Adam Sofianos.

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair, Joan Rose, welcomed BCP and Parish Cllrs, and also our speaker Matthew Carruthers who is going to provide an update on the new Traffic Regulation Orders.

2. Apologies for absence

HRA Director – Ben Lock

Chair of PC and BCP Cllr – Lesley Dedman

HRA members – Richard and Mary Reader, William McNeil, Roger Lounds, Greg Jones, Judie Burman, Malcolm Eastwood.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 23 March 2023

The minutes of the last meeting are posted on the HRA website and hard copies were available at the meeting.

Roger Lounds has commented that his suggestion that all members recruit another member to HRA was not recorded in the minutes. This change will be made.

The minutes were proposed (Peter R), seconded (Susan Smith) and agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Financial and Membership Report.

Members are referred to item 4. of the minutes of the AGM meeting which immediately preceded this meeting.

5. Matthew Carruthers, BCP -Traffic Regulation Orders

Matthew took residents through his presentation, which can be found on the HRA website.

The key points were:

- that the new scheme is expected to be in place by the end of October.
- safety has been the key consideration.
- The speed limit on the Lymington Road will be reduced to 30 mph approaching the Milestone Roundabout.
- The current scheme cannot now be added to or increased, but it can be scaled back if it proves inappropriate. Any new comments will be kept for future reviews.

Residents can use the BCP web pages to report issues with regard to traffic and parking. They will then be ranked and prioritised. In 2021, 8000 requests for traffic restrictions were made, but funding was only available to put in place 80 schemes under the Safer Routes to School initiatives. (Follow the link for the current consultations. The list is down the side of locations under the consultation. Click on location then press 'Send a Comment'
<https://bcp.traffweb.app/traffweb/2/Haveyoursay>)

Where schemes are proposed residents can make comments by using a QR code or the website. The point was made that many residents do not routinely use the web; in which case they can make written comments to:

BCP Council, Traffic Team, BCP Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue, BH2 6DY

BCP is currently working on a Safer Routes to School Scheme with local secondary schools. They also have a good relationship with Dorset Police and Matthew urged residents to use the road safety pages on the Dorset Police website to report concerns about safety.

(Follow the links below to report any road safety issues:

- road.safety@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
- dorsetroadsafe@dorset.pnn.police.uk)

Q. A question was asked about a local petition for a crossing for pupils at Highcliffe School.

A. Cllr Andy Martin replied that he was not aware of this and asked the resident to let him have information about it.

Q. With regard to the new loading and unloading restrictions at the Cliffhanger, where will delivery lorries park?

A. They can use the car park, however if this is not possible this can be looked at.

Q. Can restrictions on loading and unloading before 10.00 am be brought back for the High Street?

A. This is difficult to enforce. Businesses generally have 10 minutes in which to unload outside their premises before this becomes a legal issue.

Q. Can we have a pedestrian crossing at Stuart Road?

A. This will come under road safety and there is currently a long list. It will depend on the

priority given according to the data available. Each crossing costs £60K and only 3 a year are installed.

Q. Due to changes by Hampshire CC, large lorries are being diverted over the Watersplash Bridge at Chewton. Can they be diverted along the Ringwood Road?

A. The three towns which now comprise BCP all used different systems for recording and managing traffic schemes. This is now being consolidated into a single system across BCP and will take some time before an overview of the whole area is available on which to take these types of decisions.

Q. Are there any plans to re-surface the pavements?

A. Matthew's Team does not deal with this, but he will pass on the comments to the relevant Team. He accepted that pavements had suffered after all the road and infrastructure work over the last two years and there was a view that we should wait for this to finish before embarking on any refurbishment work.

Q. Are there any apps to let you know where you can park?

A. The <https://bcp.traffweb.app/> provides this information.

A resident thanked Matthew for the prompt response to his request to re-paint the white lines around the dropped kerb on his drive.

Drawing the item to a close, the Chair thanked Matthew for the positive way in which he had addressed the issues raised when he met with the HRA.

Cllr Martin also commended Matthew and thanked him for all the work he has done to introduce the new scheme to Highcliffe.

The following links to report or make comments on traffic issues were provided after the meeting:

Access Protection Marking(White H bar marking) across drive

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Roads-and-transport/Dropped-kerbs/Apply-for-an-Access-Protection-Marking.aspx>

Vehicle parked over dropped kerb

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Roads-and-transport/Dropped-kerbs/Report-a-vehicle-parked-in-front-of-your-dropped-kerb.aspx>

Information on parking restrictions

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/Parking/Parking-restrictions/Parking-restrictions-in-the-Bournemouth-Christchurch-and-Poole-area..aspX>

6. Update on Current Issues and Recent HRA activities

Members are referred to item 3. of the minutes of the AGM meeting which immediately preceded this meeting. Most of our current activities are in co-operation with the local Parish and BCP councillors, whose reports follow.

7. Update from Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council, followed by questions from Members to Parish Councillors

Cllr Adam Sofianos, Deputy Chair of the PC.

- Adam reflected that it is now 4 months since the new PC was sworn in, with new leadership, a new Clerk and new Cllrs. There is a lot to plan for and the PC has made a start on its Business Plan for the next 4 years of activity.
- The PC will use the precept and grants from the Community Infrastructure Levy to invest in community projects. It already manages 2 allotments and Wingfield, Nea Meadows and Lakewood and is close to taking responsibility for the Highcliffe Recreation Ground.
- Future plans will include a Bio-Diversity Strategy to give more support for the local environment, to protect our natural spaces and wildlife and improve facilities for enjoying them, including a nature trail and sensory garden and play park. The PC will work on this with the BCP Cllrs.
- There are plans to revisit the Re-vitalize the High Street project, including improvements to pavements, traffic calming and crossings.
- The PC already supports community groups such as Highcliffe Toddlers Group and Highcliffe in Bloom with grants and Adam invited residents to let the PC know about other community groups in the area. Finally, the PC will continue to liaise with the HRA, especially to provide more opportunities for consultation and engagement.
- Everyone is invited to the PC meetings, generally held every second Wednesday of the month, the next being on 11 October at 7.00 pm at OS.

Q. A resident asked if Cllrs knew anything about a planning application for the buildings in the High Street opposite Tesco.

A. Cllr Sofianos replied that he is not aware of one but that as the PC is a statutory consultee, any application will be notified to them.

If residents want to ask questions or make comments in writing they can use the postbox for the PC in the porch of OS.

8. Update from BCP Councillors, followed by questions from Members

Cllr David Martin, BCP Cllr

- The new Traffic Regulation Orders have been well covered by Matthew so he did not repeat them. He thanked Matthew for his excellent work.
- The planning application for Wharncliffe Road has been rejected on a number of grounds, one of which was of being too visually intrusive and dominant.
- The graffiti at the Cliffhanger shelter has been reported and dealt with.
- In response to concerns being raised about crime rates a public meeting has been arranged with the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner on 30 November 2023.

- As a member of the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee of BCP, Cllr Martin is to initiate a Youth Surgery covering Highcliffe School, Twynham School and the Grange; to help understand the challenges faced by young people in the community and how they can engage better with wider community.
- Cllr Martin also emphasized the power of reporting issues on line which means they can be logged and followed up and which also gives important data for managing priorities.

Cllr Andy Martin, BCP Cllr, Cabinet Member for Customer, Communications and Culture

- Cllr Martin gave an update on Jesmond Wood. The developer has appealed against the rejection of his application. He has now applied to cut down some of the trees, which the BCP Tree Team have approved. However, Cllr Martin is taking this up with them as he feels it is a poor application and he has made a formal complaint.
- As a Christchurch Independent on the Cabinet, Cllr Martin is able to advocate strongly for more capital investment in the local area, including making the seafront more accessible with beach paths and steps.
- More widely, Christchurch Civic Offices is soon to be sold, releasing some capital to be ploughed back into the community. Although BCP needs to make £44m of savings this year it does not intend to declare itself bankrupt but will take decisions to manage the position.
- BCP Future Places is to be scrapped.
- It is likely that the Day Centre will be declared surplus to requirements and BCP may be able to find a new tenant for the building.
- The BCP Council Local Plan is being re-written, and in particular will ensure that no change of character is envisaged for Highcliffe, but that its environment, and diversity, including the seafront will be strengthened.

Q. A resident asked about the £11m unsecured loan taken out by BCP Future Places.

A. BCP Future Places has spent £4.5m, but the regeneration function will now be taken back into BCP and BCP Future Places wound up.

Q. A resident asked about the cutting back of vegetation along the beach paths. A volunteer had been doing this.

A. Regretfully, there are too many risks involved in volunteers using power tools, with no risk assessment or insurance in place. If there was an accident BCP may be liable.

Q Who is responsible for cutting the vegetation?

A. BCP is responsible and this will be addressed.

Q. A resident commented that she understood no buildings over 3 storeys were allowed.

A. There are some buildings over 3 storeys in the area; this is not a legal requirement. However, the Local Plan will identify that buildings over 3 storeys were not in the local character.

Cllr Paul Hilliard, BCP Cllr

- Cllr Hilliard reported that BCP is currently consulting on its priorities and that this is a key document for the future and everyone should respond in as much detail as possible.
<https://haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/our-vision>
- He confirmed that no schools in the area are affected by RAAC concrete issues.
- The tender for Highcliffe Castle Tea Rooms is on line and until the contract is awarded the temporary arrangement will continue. There is some work to do with regards to making the kitchens fit for purpose.
- Cllr Hilliard was positive about the forthcoming meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner and noted that Boscombe Police Station is to open as a hub. Christchurch Police work out of the old Fire Station building but the public cannot call in. Those wishing to report any issue to the Police should dial 101 for non - emergency issues or use the on-line reporting facility.
<https://www.dorset.police.uk/reportcrime>

9. Any Other Urgent Business

None.

10. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 14 December 2023 at 7.00pm