

## HENGISTBURY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (HENRA)



### Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in St. Nicholas'

**Committee members present:** Abigail McMullen (Chair), Nick Clarke (Treasurer), Colin Baker (Secretary), David Freed, Pat Butler, Sean McMullen, Hilary Baker, Deborah Bergson

**Apologies:** Stuart Dickie, Max Buttinger, Ray Hatchard

**Attendance:** ~ 60



### **1. Opening remarks from Abi McMullen, HENRA Chair**

Abi welcomed everyone and provided a summary of what has been achieved over the summer recess including:

- ✓ A successful Hustings event with the Southbourne Forum on 21<sup>st</sup> June
- ✓ An enjoyable Summer Fayre at St. Nicholas' on 6<sup>th</sup> July (which raised 60% more this year thanks to many HENRA members coming along and enjoying the HENRA pop-up bar (which alone raised £252 towards the roof fund) thanks to the generosity of Hall & Woodhouse and Drop the Anchor
- ✓ The traditional HENRA boat trip around Christchurch harbour followed by a BBQ at Tuckton Tea Gardens on 18<sup>th</sup> July (this year in perfect weather)
- ✓ The purchase and installation in August of a defibrillator in the entrance to St. Nicholas' (joint purchase between HENRA, the Church and Regency Living)
- ✓ HENRA members engaging with the Community Garden project at St. Nicholas' which has hosted some well received afternoon tea sessions over the summer months. Next working party is on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Abi then summarised developments around our 'hot topics':

**Sobo Beach:** BCP have imposed restrictions on music events; noise now less of a nuisance but traffic, parking, toilets and waste disposal remain concerns.

**Marina Court:** Large number of objections registered largely around raising the level of the site, lack of drainage provision and construction disturbance.

HENRA continues to grow with 557 members representing 336 households and new members are very welcome. Members are reminded to adjust their bank standing order such that the revised annual membership of £5 is paid at the start of January rather than in September in accordance with the decision ratified at our AGM in May.

## 2. Local Policing Update

Police Constable Sarah Dutton kindly provided a summary of the current issues known to the police in HENRA's area including someone sleeping in a car\* on the Southbourne Coast Road, shoplifting, wild camping on the sand dunes and ASB in Seafield Gardens.

\* **Post meeting note** (30.09.24): the person sleeping in their car has engaged with various services and is no longer living in the car on Southbourne Coast Road.

## 3. David Sidwick, Police and Crime Commissioner

The recently re-elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset gave an interesting and comprehensive review of what his role entails and his priorities for the coming years. Chief of these is to make Dorset the safest county in the country. Currently it is in 7<sup>th</sup> place. Tackling online fraud is also high on the agenda. Knowing where to report Anti -Social Behaviour can be found using the website: [www.mysaferbournemouth.com](http://www.mysaferbournemouth.com) and Residents' Associations (including HENRA) can apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to reduce ASB in the local area. Speeding is another issue being addressed.

Although Dorset ranks as the 9th highest county for drug use, with a significant portion of its crime being drug-related, it is the second lowest funded county in the UK. Despite the large influx of visitors from across the country during the summer months, Dorset receives no additional funding to manage the policing of their behaviour. David invited questions and comments from Members, which included the following:

Q1. Speeding on Broadway is a serious concern. Could cameras / unmarked police cars be deployed?

A1. David will look at this in conjunction with BCP who are currently trialling some new speed camera technology in Shore Road. It is hoped that Broadway could be next.

Comment 1. The barrier at the entrance to the Hengistbury Head end of Broadway is not closed on some nights but even when it is, motor bikes simply go round it over the grass.

Comment 2. eScooters work well in Spain where the roads are better maintained but are dangerous in the UK.

Q2. People are extremely concerned about knife crime – what is the current trend?

A2. The trend is flat, with around 300 incidents logged each year. This figure is largely made up of possession incidents. Actual stabbings are fortunately very rare, just 4 in BCP this year and the murder rate is very low for the county. However, it is true that too many young people are carrying knives.

Q3. Cycle theft appears to be a growing problem in the area/

A3. This is something the neighbourhood policing team is tackling.

Abi thanked David Sidwick for being our guest speaker and added that much of the helpful information David provided can be found on the HENRA website.

#### **4. Ward Councillors Update**

Bernadette Nanovo provided an update on local issues including:

**Marina Court (Regency Living) development:** Many objections have been made to BCP's planning department and it takes time to read and consider all the objections. If the current application is rejected it is very likely that it will go to appeal.

**Speed watch** might help with the speeding on Broadway. It is also an issue on Saxonbury Road. Training in the use of a community speed camera is available if enough people are interested in volunteering.

**Post meeting Note:** Please contact Abi at [chairperson@henra.uk](mailto:chairperson@henra.uk) if you are interested in volunteering for speed camera training.

Q1. Can something be done about the sand accumulation and inconsiderate / illegal parking near the beach access at the end of Harbour Road.

A1. The councillors will raise this with the relevant people at BCP. It is important the illegally parked cars are reported to BCP as this logs the issue and unless it is regularly logged it will not be a priority to the Council.

Judy Richardson raised several issues known to the councillors:

Problems with illegal **parking on Southbourne Coast Road**. BCP are aware but there are only relatively small fines that can be issued. However, it is still important to

report any illegally parked vehicles so BCP can map troublesome areas and respond accordingly. The email address is [parking@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parking@bcpcouncil.gov.uk).

The derelict **Broadwaters** site is still causing concern and the situation is unlikely to be resolved until planning has been granted and the developer takes control of the site from BCP. This may be a year away, so the councillors are continuing to work with the police and BCP to improve security at the site in an attempt to reduce ASB.

**The gate at the top of the lane in Thornbury Road adjacent to the primary school** appears to have been knocked down and damaged. BCP have confirmed that this has been logged and will be investigated.

## 5. Closing Comments

Abi detailed the meetings scheduled for the rest of 2024, mentioning that HENRA is looking to provide St. Nicholas' with two real Christmas trees in time for our Carols, Wine and Mince Pie evening on 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Any bakers amongst our membership are invited to bring a dozen or so homemade mince pies to share with HENRA members and our guests on the night (which will include children in the choir led by Claire Smith from St. Katharine's Primary School and their parents). It would also be good if members could bring a few spare baubles to the October and November meeting so we can decorate the indoor tree before the Carols evening.



### Future meetings For the rest of 2024

- ▶ **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October:** Tom Hayes, MP and David Richmond Coggan of the RNLI talking on the Lifeboat Stations of Dorset
- ▶ **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November:** Mark Holloway, Iron Age Roundhouse Project at the Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre
- ▶ **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** Claire Smith and the choir from St. Katharine's Primary School for an evening of Carols, wine and mince pies (*volunteers sought to bake mince pies*)
  - ▶ HENRA hopes to provide St. Nicholas' with two real Christmas trees, one for inside and one on the roof
  - ▶ If *members bring a few spare baubles* to the October and November meetings we can decorate the tree