

Summer News 2023



Wild and windy July day at Branksome Dene Chine

News from your committee and recent updates

Since the Spring newsletter there has been a change of administration at BCP following local elections in May.

The new council is a coalition of majority Liberal Democrat councillors led by the leader Councillor Vikki Slade and representatives of Poole and Christchurch independent groups.

The new administration has promised to focus on the basics and to restore faith in the authority after considerable turmoil and negative publicity as a result of some questionable decision-making and financial mismanagement.



Two new portfolio holders have been appointed to oversee seafront issues - Councillor Millie Earl has responsibility for beaches, seafront and tourism.

Councillor Mike Cox has responsibility for beach huts and transportation.

We look forward to meeting them both in the near future.



After a super June with so many lovely sunny days it was disappointing and disturbing to hear about a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour at our beaches. Sadly, a minority of young people were spoiling summer fun for the majority.

It was reassuring to hear that Operation Sandman, Poole Police's multi-agency task force has stepped up patrols and arrests have been made for under age drinking and drug use. We should all be vigilant and report any incidents we witness in our areas.

Our summer social event at the end of June was well attended once again, and it stayed dry for another enjoyable evening. Well done to Yvonne and her helpers for another excellent event.

Updates of our news can be found at www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk

Bob Lister, Chairman tel: 07980 928 752 or email bob@sunwiser.co.uk

PBHA committee met in July to consider an agenda of topical items:

Anti-social behaviour

The committee discussed Echo reports that a number of Shore Road tenants had experienced vandalism to their huts and found evidence of drug paraphernalia in the vicinity.

Evidently, groups of youths were congregating in the area with under-age drinking leading to anti-social behaviour.

Since these incidents, patrols have been stepped up and a number of arrests made with youngsters being taken home to parents unaware of their whereabouts and activities.



Rockwater

Branksome Chine

Members were disappointed that with on-going construction work at Branksome Chine, the re-opening of the new restaurant appears to be some way off. Contractors vehicles occupy many car parking spaces limiting the already busy car park. Changes to the original planning consent have recently been submitted which will likely contribute to further delays. Currently, drinks and snacks are available at the adjacent kiosks.

Sandbanks



Refurbishment of the former Sandbanks beach cafe will not begin until after the summer season, meanwhile outdoor deck seating is available with snacks and drinks offered from Rockwater kiosks.

We understand that investment into these two major projects is £12.5 million.



Toilets

Most members reported that toilet cleaning had improved in their areas, but once again cleaning at Sandbanks was apparently infrequent and unsatisfactory during June's 'heatwave'. Another observation is that despite the refurbishment of the facilities at Sandbanks, no fixed/refillable soap dispensers have been installed. Instead, free-standing plastic soap bottles are available which is not an environmentally friendly solution and will most likely lead to frequent replacement. Members felt it was disappointing that no changing facilities were included in the recent refurbishment which would have benefitted anyone requiring more privacy.

Barbecue evening



The Branksome Dene Room provided the ideal venue on a breezy evening for our summer social.

Thanks to everyone who generously donated raffle prizes.

Once again members enjoyed getting together for some tasty food and good conversation.



BCP Seafront Strategy



With the change in administration, it remains to be seen whether the previously adopted strategy will be impacted by new financial restraints. The strategy was formally adopted in April 2022 under the previous Conservative administration which set out a vision for 15 miles of coast and 26 miles of harbourside.

Currently, there appears to be no progress on any of the Poole projects e.g. Sandbanks Pavilion; Canford Cliffs Pavilion; Branksome Dene Room. Some projects in other parts of the conurbation have benefitted from the government's levelling up fund, this did not apply to Poole projects.

We realise that it is still early days for the new Council while they work on their priorities as it has been reported they currently have a £44 million shortfall on next year's budget (ref.Council leader's live Q & A 14.7.23)

Committee members intend to meet with our new portfolio holders in the near future to discuss next year's beach hut rents.

Summer season



With the main summer season now underway, the committee hopes to see evidence of more rangers in post tackling the inevitable issues which frequently occur ... reckless use of bikes and e- scooters in spite of the July and August restrictions, dogs on the beach etc.

However, we are pleased to report that sand clearance at Shore Road promenade the morning after a weekend of July's very high winds was impressive, well done to the teams involved - it was spotless.

A reminder from our Treasurer

Tony Mullins, our treasurer, has asked for those members who have not yet renewed their annual subscriptions to kindly pay £5 by bank transfer to Lloyds Bank - Sort Code: 775024 Account: 32480860. Alternatively, contact him tmullins196@gmail.com with your name, address and hut number to arrange a cheque payment. Your continued support will ensure the association's ability to support and inform members on matters relating to your beach hut tenancy.

For more information about the Association visit www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk or contact

Chairman, Bob Lister 07980 928 752 or email bob@sunwiser.co.uk

