



6. The five priorities that Purbeck Community Partnership will focus on over the next three years

PRIORITY 1 - CRIME REDUCTION

'We will work towards making Purbeck communities crime free and safe places to live'

Community safety is about long-term measures to build safer communities and is not just about reducing crime and disorder. We need to look at the issues that drive people to commit crime and anti-social behaviour, not just the crime itself. Purbeck's crime rate (February 2005) is 66 crimes per 1,000 population a relatively low rate and levels of anti-social behaviour are falling. It is the fear of crime that concerns you most and in particular anti-social behaviour. No one should be afraid to leave their home because of someone else's actions. For us to have safe and stronger communities in the future, residents of all ages need to join in activities that draw them together socially.



"Not all young people have anti-social behaviour, and it ignores our need to deal with anti-social people of all ages..."

Consultation comment 2005

"It would be good to increase safer cycle routes and to connect them - this would make a safe transport and healthier people."

Consultation comment 2005

"Local community police presence needed"

Consultation comment 2005

Working in partnership we will:

- continue to work with the Community Safety Task Groups, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership at District level and involve communities.

PRIORITY - CRIME REDUCTION

YOU TOLD US...	WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
<p>Agencies should work with all ages to reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities</p>	<p>The Community Safety Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● recognise that young people have an important role to play in the future of Purbeck and we would want to reinforce that the vast majority of young people are law abiding. ● encourage positive promotion and publicity of young people through the Purbeck Youth Forum and involve young people in the solutions ● work with others to provide more services, activities and opportunities for young people, these will include sport and social activities, places to meet, outreach services, wider access to training and employment opportunities and addressing transport needs ● promote positive interaction amongst all sectors of the community through inter-generational projects aimed at challenging perceptions, common values and belief systems. ● provide support to all those at risk of offending within Purbeck through multi-agency partnership working such as; parenting courses, self-esteem building, mentoring etc ● ensure that the consequences of re-offending are recognised by individuals and clear boundaries are established and understood e.g. Anti-social Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts systems



PRIORITY - CRIME REDUCTION cont...	
YOU TOLD US...	WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
Police officers are not visible enough in our towns and communities	<p>The Community Safety Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● lobby for an increase in the number of regular Police Constables active in Purbeck to the year 2000 levels ● recruit more Special Constables to Purbeck ● seek through the Purbeck Community Safety Action Group 4 additional funding for more Police Community Support Officers for our District ● promote Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch schemes across the District and encourage more communities to become actively involved ● develop a Community Safety Open Forum to be held twice a year in different locations across the District to address public concerns and provide a regular update of the work of the Community Safety Action Group, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Police ● produce two Community Safety Newsletters each year to keep residents informed of what is being done to address community safety issues in Purbeck
Traffic travels too fast on our roads which makes them dangerous places to walk or cycle along	<p>The Community Safety Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● support the work of the Dorset Safety Camera Partnership in reducing the number of accidents and numbers killed or seriously injured on our roads ● raise awareness of safety issues and educate those people currently ignoring them and take enforcement action whenever necessary ● invite communities to identify perceived traffic problems including areas that could benefit from reduced speed limits or associated measures ● encourage communities to work together to obtain and operate Automatic Radar Speed Devices and Speed Indicator Devices across the District ● deter drivers from travelling too fast on our roads by supporting the increased use of mobile speed cameras and other speed reduction methods ● promote better use of our footpath and cycleway networks across the District ● support the extension of our existing cycle network to link Upton to the rest of the Purbeck network for safety, social and economic benefits ● implement a 'Dying to Drive' type initiative in Purbeck ● implement more 'safer rider' initiatives targeting motorcycle users of all ages

How you can help or become involved:

- become more socially active within your community
- join your local Neighbourhood Watch group
- support your Parish Plan group
- use your skills to set up a club locally, various training courses are available

Lead organisation: Purbeck Community Safety Action Group. **Contact:** Community Safety Officer. **Tel:** 01929 557387.



PRIORITY 2 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR EVERYONE

'We will work towards ensuring that everyone in Purbeck has the opportunity of a decent home.'

Affordable housing is defined in the Purbeck District Local Plan as: "housing available over the long term to local households who are in unsuitable accommodation and who are not able to meet their own housing needs through buying or renting on the open market, as a result of the local relationship between income and market price."

"Local" in this context will mean residents of the Parish or adjoining Parish who have lived there for a total of at least five years. It will also include those wishing to return to the area having previously lived there for more than five years, or wishing to live closer to relatives still resident in the area.

It is recognised that a decent, affordable home is key to good health and social well being and has a positive impact upon quality of life. In a recent survey Purbeck was identified as the least affordable place to live (outside of central London) in terms of the ratio between the average high house price in Purbeck of **£242,500** and a below average local wage of **£24,600** although it is recognised that many family incomes are much less.

We want to encourage our young people to gain skills and remain in the District. Being able to afford a home will be a priority for them and we need to look at ways of helping them achieve this.

Homelessness and the stressful experiences that accompany living in temporary accommodation for long periods have an impact on people's health. Children from families who have experienced homelessness have a greater risk of illness and behavioural problems. Drug and alcohol misuse and mental health problems are more common in homeless adults and young people.

If we are to develop safe, healthy and thriving communities, the importance of housing has never had a higher profile. We must recognise that there are people who become homeless for various reasons and require specialist help and support during this difficult time of their life. When planning Purbeck's future we need to take into account not only the needs of residents today but also future generations.

We need more energy-efficient homes to help people make changes to reduce the amount of energy use. Planners and builders of new developments need to look at better use of water, energy and waste when designing our homes. This will ensure valuable resources are used in a sustainable way, reduce our energy consumption and encourage efficiency and so help limit climate change.



"I want to buy a house and live in Purbeck in the future but I don't think there are enough houses for first-time buyers because people are buying second homes"

Consultation comment 2005

Over 1500 homes in Purbeck, up to 40% of the total number in some coastal villages, are holiday or second homes.

"There is a very great need for affordable housing to buy or rent for young families. Having to pay for expensive renting in the private sector people cannot afford to save a deposit to buy "

Consultation comment 2005

Working in partnership we will:

- develop a Purbeck Housing Strategy that will ensure decisions are taken on priorities and link different service areas such as those for land-use planning and health and transport through the Local Development Framework.

PRIORITY - AFFORDABLE HOUSING

YOU TOLD US...	WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
<p>There should be more affordable houses to rent and buy in Purbeck</p>	<p>The Purbeck Housing Task Group will:</p> <p>Promote incentives to maximise access to existing housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● develop incentives for tenants to downsize to free larger properties and provide social and practical support if a move is undertaken ● explore developing an equity release scheme with Housing Associations. This would allow the re-development of larger properties (4 bedrooms plus) from single or under-occupied property to be used for re-development as single person apartments and fulfil the need on the Housing Register. ● promote the Housing Register and properties available more widely <hr/> <p>The Purbeck Housing Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● work with developers to ensure that a reasonable percentage (25-35% as prescribed in the Local Plan) of housing in new developments is affordable and that schemes are in place to enable first-time buyers to purchase a property ● research policies emerging in other counties that will allow obstacles to be removed, increase and speed up provision of affordable housing ● look to maximising the use of 'Exception sites' schemes. Exception sites are an 'exception to normal planning policy' exclusively aimed at meeting local need in rural areas ● build on the links with Parish Plans, Rural Housing Enabler and Purbeck District Council Development Control in support of the identification of rural exception sites ● consider and lobby for a target time of two years as acceptable from Parish Housing Need Survey to delivery of exception site homes ● raise awareness with landowners and local estates to the possibility of identifying rural exception sites ● explore the possibility of affordable rural housing being governed by legal agreement and has to remain affordable to local people "in perpetuity" (forever). ● look at the housing needs of young people in the District ● work towards securing a Community Land Trust Pilot for Purbeck to meet the housing need met which would not be delivered with a social housing grant ● support Self funded Self build initiatives. Recognising that whilst many intermediate earners are unable to afford market values, they can afford the cost of construction



PRIORITY - AFFORDABLE HOUSING cont...

YOU TOLD US...	WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
<p>We should improve energy efficiency and sustainability of all housing in Purbeck</p>	<p>The Purbeck Housing Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● support communities requesting true sustainable construction where schemes are likely to be forthcoming ● provide an information leaflet on benefits of sustainable construction with every request for planning application forms ● work with interested parties to address the sustainable construction implications on existing policy ● work towards implementing a policy in Purbeck that ensures private developers meet the same construction criteria adhered to by housing associations ● increase energy and water efficiency inline with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Creating Sustainable Communities plan which will include a revision of building regulations and a code for sustainable buildings

How you can help or become involved:

- have you a spare room that you could rent out on a short or long-term basis?
- make use of the financial grants that are available to make your home more energy efficient
- letting vacant property for affordable housing?
- "do you have land available for affordable housing?"
- if you are making alterations to your property try and use materials made from sustainable resources
- organise an event in your community or school to promote wiser use of resources for World Environment Day

Lead organisation: Purbeck Community Housing Task Group. **Contact:** Housing Policy Team Leader. **Tel:** 01929 557310.

*"If the housing issue for the 20-40 age group can be solved then most of the other problems in this area will follow. Unless we retain balanced communities there will be no economy either and no carers for older people!
NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT!!"*

Consultation comment 2005



THEME 3 - TRANSPORT

"We will work in partnership to develop a sustainable transport system that provides access (to important facilities and services) for all."



Living in a rural area can mean that the most simple of journeys become an ordeal if you do not own or have access to a car, this can leave you feeling frustrated, isolated and alone. Fourteen percent of residents still have difficulty accessing food shops. Young people aged 16 - 18 years in rural areas often feel they are not encouraged to use public transport. This is because they have to pay full adult fares and also in some cases have to pay to travel to school. We also need to look at 'greener' ways of travelling around Purbeck and the way our travel impacts on the environment. It is felt we could all do more by making better use of cycling networks and by car sharing

whenever possible when travelling to work. Public opinion strongly supports the need for the rail link from Swanage to Wareham to be seen as a priority for the District. Residents would also like to see transport companies working closer together when planning routes so that those users could purchase one ticket to cover all journeys.

"Integrating rail and bus timetables should be a priority here."

Consultation comment 2005

"Join the railway from Swanage to Wareham. Its a lot of hassle for young people to get the bus to Wareham and then the train. It would be great to go to Southampton or London straight from Swanage".

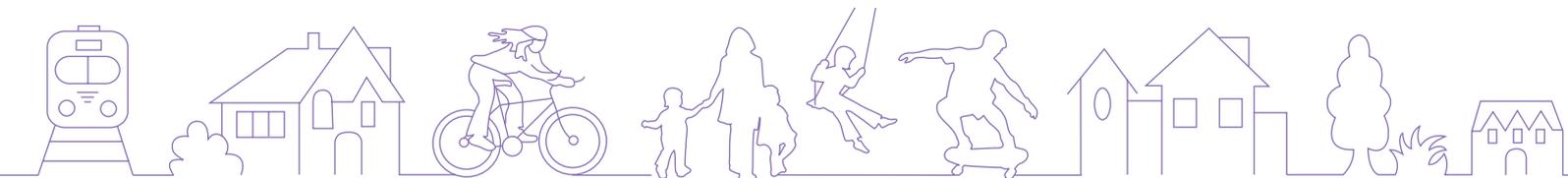
Consultation comment 2005

"I do not think there is enough transport and some is expensive. The times are not made clear from what time the buses leave etc"

Consultation comment 2005

Working in partnership we will:

- continue to work through the Local Transport Plan and Purbeck District Local Plan and continue to work at local, regional and national level to ensure transport remains a top priority for Purbeck.



PRIORITY - TRANSPORT

YOU TOLD US...	WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
<p>The rail link between Swanage and Wareham should be reconnected</p>	<p>The Transport Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● with the support of the Purbeck Community Partnership Board, continue to lobby at local, regional and national level for this link to be re-established, This rail link would allow residents in our southern communities' access to wider social, economic and educational opportunities already enjoyed by others in Purbeck ● once established, work towards attracting economical inward investment into the District ● encourage more community groups to lobby their support the reconnection that would establish a regular through service to Bournemouth and a commuter route to London
<p>There is a lack of co-ordination between public transport providers</p>	<p>We will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● work through the local Transport Action Groups and local communities to identify the gaps in services ● promote the use of Demand Responsive Transport to fill existing gaps in services ● explore how existing community transport schemes can be used more effectively and linked to existing routes ● explore how we can make better use of existing fleet vehicles ● discuss local issues with Transport Liaison Officer at Dorset County Council so that timetables are based around the users needs and lifestyle that will encourage people of all ages to use public transport on a regular basis
<p>Subsidised travel for young people would help give them better access to education, work and social opportunities</p>	<p>We will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● work with young people and public transport providers to look at innovative ways of using existing services to the benefit of both parties ● explore extending the availability of community transport schemes outside of normal working hours ● raise the issues with local Transport Action Groups and talking to transport providers across the District, services should be developed that realistically meet people's needs ● encourage transport providers and partners to work together to see how achievable subsidised travel is for all services for those aged 18 or below regardless whether they were in full-time education or not.



How you can help or become involved:

- speak to transport providers when you are having problems connected to their services
- car share with friends and neighbours whenever possible. This may mean when we travel to work, attend social events or planning the weekly shop
- make more use of our cycle paths, the Rights of Way network and rural lanes to help reduce congestion on our roads and help you get physically fitter
- persuade your employer to create Travel Plans for employees
- think green when planning all of your journeys

Lead organisation: Transport Action Group. **Contact:** Community Planning Co-Ordinator. **Tel:** 01929 557303.



THEME 4 - HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

"We would like to see residents of all ages in Purbeck have the opportunity to access information and services that will enable them to become physically healthier and more socially active."



A healthy lifestyle is more than having access to a doctor or hospital. It is also about the environment that we live in and enjoying a decent standard of living. For example a warm home, enough income to live on and feeling part of friendly community can have an enormous effect on our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Having access to affordable, healthy food and becoming more physically and socially active can lead to a healthier lifestyle long term. Some of us can take responsibility for our own lifestyles and choices. Others cannot, and we must recognise that some members of our communities may need more help and support in their daily life. We need to look at ways resources are targeted and make better use of them for maximum impact. Volunteers may be able to play a more active role in the future and support health practitioners in the delivery of health services in more rural communities.

"Many young people are simply not given enough information on their general health to be able to improve it. In my opinion, we should be taught deeper into healthy eating because this could then increase levels of activity for young people (helping them have fun and feel good) and decreasing inactivity."

Consultation 2005

"Not enough proper gyms for teenagers".

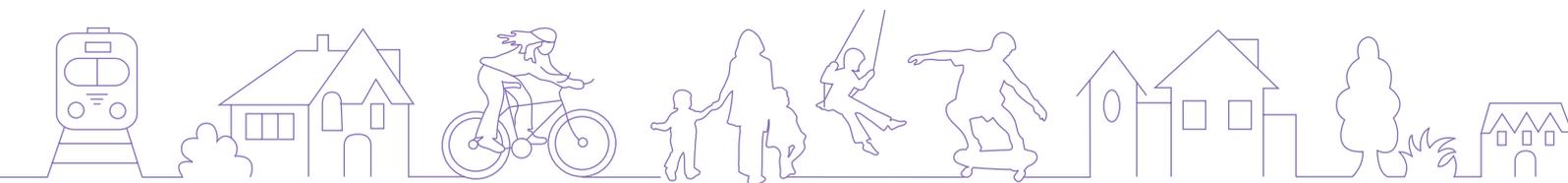
Consultation comment 2005

"...recreational facilities for young and old at affordable prices."

Consultation comment 2005

Working in partnership we will:

- work with the South East Dorset and Poole Primary Care Trusts and the Purbeck Sports and Recreation Task Group to ensure everyone has the opportunity to become more physically and socially active.
- Develop the Be Active Be Happy concept and implement a programme of projects that will be delivered to address some of the cross-cutting issues within the Action Plans.



PRIORITY - HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

YOU TOLD US...	WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
<p>You would like to see an increase in the range of services provided in the District</p>	<p>The Purbeck Health Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● look to increase or develop existing services and providing new services as and when a sufficient need is identified ● provide more services in rural locations ● secure a Health Trainer that will support health initiatives across Purbeck ● in partnership develop a programme of social and physical activities through the Be Active Be Happy concept for all ages to maintain and improve our mental well-being
<p>You would like better access to more services, information, help and guidance across Purbeck</p>	<p>The Purbeck Health Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● working in partnership look at different ways for people to access services, information, help and guidance ● promote and develop in a positive way through the Be Active Be Happy concept social and physical activities that will support people with all levels of mental health issues ● promote self-help books within our libraries ● encourage people in more rural areas to attend healthy lifestyle groups ● provide more support and training for carers in Purbeck ● look at specific health issues and focus awareness events and information to help people understand the support available to help cope with their problem
<p>There is a lack of after school activities for under 18's across the District</p>	<p>The Purbeck Health Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● talk to young people and find out what activities and facilities they would like ● work more closely with Parish Councils and Parish Plan Groups to establish the needs of young people in rural areas ● provide more outreach activities across the District ● aim to deliver sustainable activity sessions that young people want to take part in on a regular basis ● aim to provide more diversity in the range of social and physical activities available across the District ● support and encourage young people with good ideas to develop them into real community projects

How you can help or become involved:

- improve your diet, eat more fresh fruit and vegetables everyday
- walk to school, work or take a weekend walk
- whatever your ability, try a new physical or social activity - it does not have to mean "sport", just become more active physically or mentally
- take an interest in the community that you live in and join in
- set up a social or sporting group and share your knowledge and skills with others

Lead organisation: Health Task Group - Purbeck Locality.

Contact: South East Dorset Primary Care Community Manager. **Tel:** 01929 551359.



THEME 5 - YOUNG PEOPLE

"Listening to and working with Purbeck's future today"

Young people should feel part of our communities and have the opportunity to be involved in the decisions that affect them. By investing in their futures and making them feel valued members of our communities, we may be heading off future social problems. Unfortunately young people are often viewed negatively and adults are concerned only with the anti-social behaviour in our communities. Young people can often feel vulnerable too. The actions of others and the effects that bullying have on a young person's life are major issues for them. Many aged between 16 - 18 years feel that they are not yet classed as adult and are unfairly treated by service providers, especially those that provide transport across the District. It is only by listening to young people and acting on what we hear that we can achieve a better understanding of what the real issues are and how we can make things better for them at one of the most challenging times of their lives.

"Young people are as proud of our community as older people and have untapped enthusiasm no one is listening to."

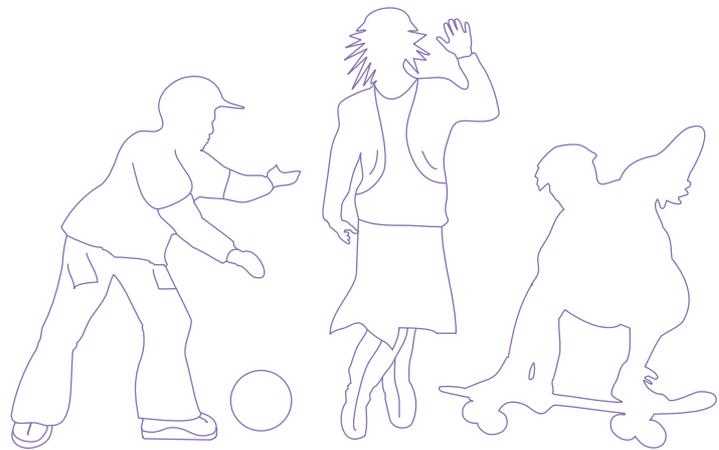
Consultation comment 2005

"Young people feel seriously disconnected with Government at all levels"

Consultation comment 2005"

"Young people are not listened to and are often looked at as thugs or trouble-makers but not everyone is the same. Young Peoples' Forum is a very good idea because hopefully it will help us to get noticed for the right reasons."

Consultation comment 2005



Working in partnership we will:

- Explore different ways that young people can have a greater role to play in our decision making processes.

PRIORITY - YOUNG PEOPLE

YOU TOLD US...

Access to social and work opportunities and services are often restricted in rural areas.

WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The Purbeck Young Peoples' Task Group will:

- provide greater access to services/activities/opportunities for young people in Purbeck
- work with employers, schools and further education providers to better address skills and vocational training needs
- develop in consultation with young people a programme of outreach events across Purbeck
- work in partnership to deliver sustainable activities that young people will want to attend, in both central and rural locations across the District



PRIORITY - YOUNG PEOPLE cont...

YOU TOLD US...	WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
<p>Young people's views are not listened to and their issues are not taken seriously</p>	<p>The Purbeck Young Peoples' Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● work together to establish a fully inclusive and representative Youth Forum for Purbeck allowing young people a public voice ● work through the Youth Forum to develop activities and projects that will be delivered across Purbeck, especially in our more rural areas ● members of the Youth Forum will be represented at Purbeck Community Partnership at Board level by young people ● actively involve young people in the delivery of the first phase of the Community Plan for Purbeck ● support the Youth Forum to deliver different social events across Purbeck that can also be used for consultation purposes around their key issues ● encourage and support young people to become more involved with their Parish Councils and community groups ● link the Youth Forum with members of Purbeck Community Partnership, including when they are consulting on key issues that will directly affect young people ● support members of the Youth Forum to be formally recognised at County, Regional and National level through actively engaging in the Youth Parliament
<p>Transport should be made affordable especially for young people living in rural areas</p>	<p>The Purbeck Young Peoples' Task Group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● support any proposal that secures the implementation of concessionary fares for young people in Purbeck ● listen and work towards a satisfactory outcome for both the young people and public transport providers by raising the needs of young people with service and transport providers. Raising with partners the financial issues that young people face connected with travelling in a rural area. ● work to develop greater access opportunities to social and educational opportunities both inside and outside the District borders.

How you can help or become involved:

- listen to and support young people in your community
- encourage young people to attend Parish Council meetings and other community groups
- join the Youth Forum or School Council, if you have one, to get your views heard

Lead organisation: Young Peoples Task Group. **Contact:** Community Planning Co-Ordinator. **Tel:** 01929 557303.

