



PINES AND CHINES

The magazine of the Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs Residents' Association

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Navigating the Maze

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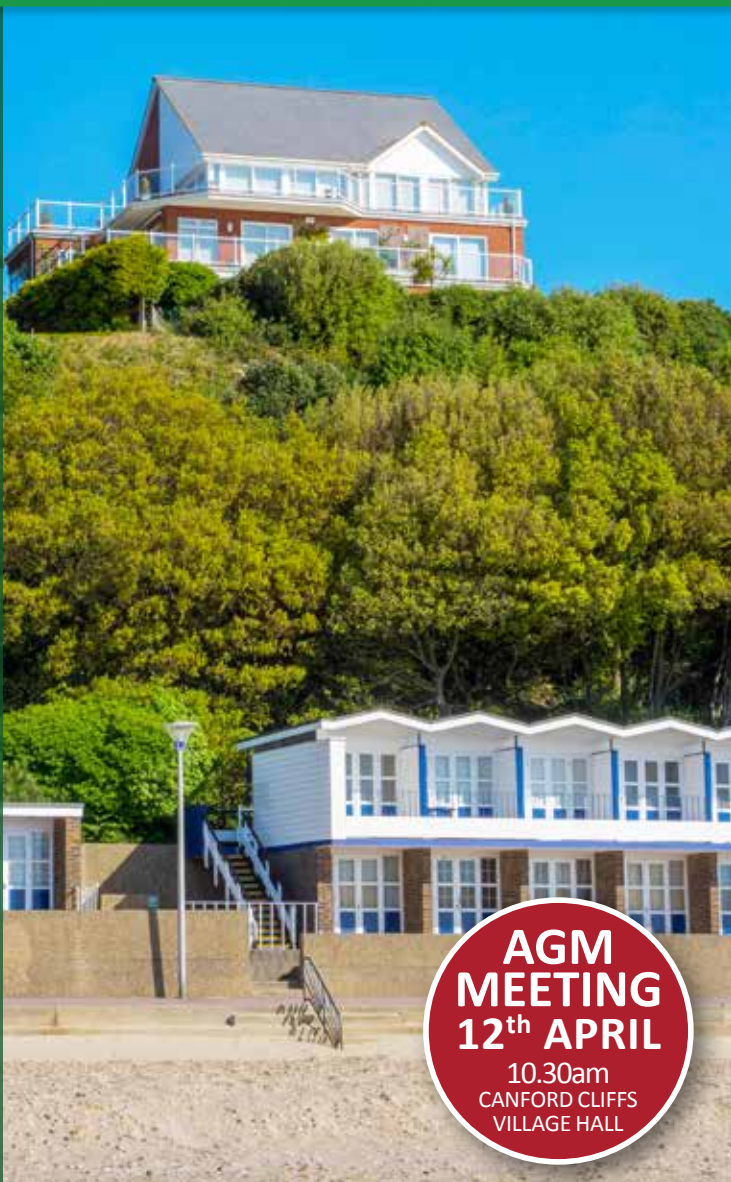
An epic journey from Poole to Durban in 1946

Get involved

Volunteer for the Pinecliff Gardens group

Safer Roads, Cheaper Insurance

Wales Adopts 20mph Speed Limit



**AGM
MEETING
12th APRIL**

10.30am
CANFORD CLIFFS
VILLAGE HALL



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Hello and a warm welcome

I'm thrilled to be welcoming you to the first edition of Pines and Chines with me as editor.

First things first, I must express my heartfelt thanks to John Gunton for his incredible work in steering the good ship Pines and Chines for the past 20 years. His boundless energy and relentless enthusiasm have been the driving force behind many of the fantastic articles and content we've enjoyed in past editions.

John's passion for the magazine has been truly infectious, inspiring everyone he meets to share in his enthusiasm. I promise to do my utmost to keep our much loved Pines and Chines sailing smoothly and continue John's work in making it a voice for everyone in the local area.

Our Chairman and Executive Committee who have generously given their time to support both the magazine and the Association are just as committed to that aim.

This is YOUR magazine!

I want to make Pines and Chines as entertaining and engaging as possible, and I need your help to do it. Please share the local features, information and developments that you'd like to see in our next edition, due out in October. Maybe you have an article you'd like to submit? Your input is invaluable in creating the

content that matters most to our neighbourhood, I'd love to hear from you.

I've created a short survey which can be accessed using the QR code below - just point your smartphone or tablet camera at the code. When your camera scans the QR code, you'll see an icon or web address on your screen near the code. Tap it and it will automatically take you to the feedback survey.



Don't have a smartphone?

No problem you can use this URL instead - type it into your browser <https://forms.office.com/r/7ngv1jgD5i>

One more thing before I let you go and read the magazine (you do read all the Editorial don't you?). We need you! We're on the lookout for our next Planning Officer to take over from the brilliant John Harkness. If you're interested in Planning and want to find out more please email John at planning.BPCCRA@gmail.com.

The Association relies on our passionate, dedicated volunteers. We're also seeking more helping hands to look after Pinecliff Gardens - if you can help take a look at the article on page 20 to find out more.

Enjoy this Summer edition - it's packed with inspirational stories and uplifting news. And if you like it - let me know!

Here's to an amazing Summer 2025.

Annabel Stemp
Editor

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A very warm welcome to Annabel

We're delighted to introduce **Annabel Stemp** as the new Editor of *Pines and Chines*. The Association is incredibly grateful for her volunteering- without dedicated contributors like Annabel, the magazine simply wouldn't exist.

So what inspired Annabel to get involved? We asked her to tell us a bit more about herself.

I moved to Branksome Park from London in early 2023. With my background in communications, my love of writing and a curiosity about the local history of my (relatively) new home, stepping into the Editor role felt like the perfect fit.

Although new to the area as a resident, I've been a frequent visitor for over a decade. My first visit in 2011 left a lasting impression. I remember standing at the top of Cliff Drive, captivated by the view, before making my way down the zig zag to the beach. I was sold!



It was a sunrise run along the promenade in 2020 that sealed my decision to make this my home. A lightbulb moment.

Since arriving, I've been inspired by the dedication of the BPCRA team and John Gunton, who led the magazine for two decades. Big shoes to fill!

*I'm looking forward to working with contributors and residents to keep *Pines and Chines* lively and engaging.*

The Aim and Objectives of the Association

The aim of the Association is to protect the interests of residents, and to investigate on their behalf any aspects which could be detrimental to private properties or public services.

The Association endeavours at all times to maintain good relationships with the Bournemouth, Christchurch &

Poole Council (BCP) and to bring to their notice all matters which adversely affect the amenities of the whole of the District.

It also submits recommendations to the Council concerning any plans, developments or financial matters which would improve the environment, community, safety, amenity and cost effectiveness of the area

and the residents' quality of life.

The Association is a member of the National Organisation of Residents' Associations and the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

Find out more about BPCRA membership on page 15.

Chairman's Letter

There is a supposedly Chinese curse "May you live in interesting times". For those hoping 2025 would bring calm and stability, there may be some disappointment ahead! The challenges our Association works hard to address show no signs of slowing down.

Ongoing planning pressures

Developers keep a relentless pressure on the most attractive parts of Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs. Unfortunately, many of these proposals seem focused more on creating second homes than addressing genuine housing needs. Meanwhile, BCP Council still faces difficulties in improving its planning department, particularly when it comes to making timely decisions.

Changes in local government

National government is changing planning priorities as well as pushing for major changes in how local

government is organised. None of this makes life easier for our dedicated committee members, but we remain committed to representing your interests.

Working together on key issues

We continue to collaborate with our sister associations to present a united approach to issues that cross our boundaries. These include the multiple planning applications that cover the Haven Hotel in Sandbanks and Harbour Heights Hotel on our patch and a contentious planning application within the Canford Cliffs Land Society area. You can read the full Planning Report on page 6.

We're also working with sister associations to understand proposals for a potential Poole Town Council and/or Parish Councils—topics that inspire a range of opinions!

Ongoing local challenges

Although we always try to

maintain a positive relationship with BCP Council, the tortuous progress, or rather lack of it, regarding the Beach Road Car Park "sell-off", remains frustrating. Committee member Roy Pointer offers a summary of 30 years of slow progress on page 8.

However, we're grateful for the continued first class support from our Ward Councillors, John Challinor and Gavin Wright. Our new MP, Neil Duncan-Jordan, has also expressed enthusiasm for tackling local issues on our behalf.

Our work continues

Our overall efforts across various fields continue, thanks in no small part to your excellent and hardworking committee. This includes **Road Safety**, led by the indomitable Vicky Moss, our battle for better road safety measures continues and we hope to see positive results soon.

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Our **Pinecliff Gardens** gardening volunteers remain active and we greatly appreciate their efforts. Read more on page 20.

Committee Updates

In our last issue, we welcomed our new Secretary, **Andrea Charman**, now also Vice Chairman, **Stanley Peters** who has taken over as Treasurer, allowing **Jackie Heap** a well

deserved retirement (many thanks Jackie!) and **Pamela Carvell**, our new Membership Secretary. Pamela is eager to find more street wardens to help distribute this magazine – see page 10 for details if you’re interested in volunteering.

Welcome to our new Editor

You may have noticed this issue of Pines and Chines has a

new editor. We’re delighted to welcome **Annabel Stemp** to the role and extend our heartfelt thanks to **John Gunton**, who has served as editor for more years than he’d care to admit!

Let’s hope for a wonderful summer and continued progress for our community.

Peter Schroeder
Chairman

Planning Report

Significant planning applications, appeals and decisions: Spring 2025.

The first months of 2025 have seen continued planning activity in Canford Cliffs, with several key applications under review, outstanding appeals and notable decisions shaping the landscape for the months ahead. While new applications have been relatively limited, ongoing trends in site intensification, conservation concerns and inconsistent decision making continue to be points of discussion.

1. Trends and Challenges in Local Planning

A key concern remains the apparent inconsistency in how planning policies are applied. Some approvals have raised questions over their adherence to established planning principles, while other refusals have been unexpectedly strict. This lack of predictability continues to make it difficult for both residents and developers

to navigate the system with confidence.

2. Major Applications to watch

Several significant applications remain under review, with the potential to impact the character and infrastructure of the ward. These are some of the most notable:

Harbour Heights Hotel (APP/22/01167/P)

This long running and contentious application proposes the demolition of the Harbour Heights Hotel and the construction of a 38 suite aparthotel with associated hotel facilities, access and underground parking. The development, which forms part of a larger scheme that also involves the Haven Hotel and the Sandbanks Hotel, has drawn significant objections. The key concerns include:

- Mass and Scale - The proposed building would be significantly larger than the existing hotel, raising concerns about its visual

impact on the surrounding area.

- Tree Removal - The scheme involves the removal of a number of existing trees, which would be detrimental to the local street scene and landscape character.
- Local Opposition - BPC CRA, along with other local groups, has objected to the scheme due to its impact on the area’s character and environment.

7A Spencer Road (APP/24/01005/P)

This major outline application seeks permission for the demolition of the existing dwelling and its replacement with a building containing seven apartments with associated works. The site is within the Canford Cliffs Village Conservation Area, meaning that any new development must be sensitive to the character of the area. Key issues include:

- Bulk and Massing - The proposed structure is significantly larger than the existing dwelling, particularly

at first floor level, which would impact the surrounding properties.

- Tree Protection - The development would have a detrimental effect on protected trees on the site.
- Overdevelopment - BPC CRA has objected to the scheme, arguing that it does not respect the character of the Conservation Area.

54B The Avenue (APP/24/01180/F)

This application proposes the demolition of an existing dwelling and garage to construct 10 new apartments with basement parking and associated landscaping. The site sits between the Avenue Conservation Area and the beach, meaning that its impact must be carefully considered. Concerns include:

- Overlooking and Privacy - The introduction of a larger building with multiple apartments raises concerns about overlooking, particularly towards number 54.
- Tree Protection - The proposal could impact nearby trees, but no updated arboriculture report has been provided.
- Parking and Infrastructure - The adequacy of the basement parking is questionable, with concerns that it could lead to increased on street parking pressure.

39 Brudenell Avenue (APP/24/01052/F)

This application seeks a variation of conditions on an existing planning permission

for the demolition of a building and the construction of seven apartments. The amendments include:

- Additional Third Floor - The proposal now includes an additional third storey, increasing the building’s overall height.
- Increased Width - The first and second floors on the south elevation would be widened.
- New Windows - Additional windows are proposed for the south elevation.
- Tree Protection Concerns - No updated arboriculture information has been provided, despite potential impacts on nearby trees. Due to the substantial nature of these changes, BPC CRA has raised an objection, arguing that they go beyond what can reasonably be considered a “minor” amendment.

3. Appeals in Progress

Several previously refused applications have now gone to appeal, reflecting ongoing disputes over development density, site character, and conservation issues.

75 Canford Cliffs Road (APP/24/00848/F)

This application sought permission for a series of alterations and extensions, including:

- Demolition of an existing store, roof canopy and lean-to extension
- Construction of a new single storey extension to the south and east

- Installation of roof lights and new metal railings. Originally refused, the applicant has now lodged an appeal.

29 Western Road (APP/24/00362/F)

A controversial site - splitting proposal, this application aimed to convert and extend an outbuilding into a detached dwelling, with associated access and parking.

While the proposal was an improvement on previous schemes, concerns remained, including:

- Impact on Protected Trees - The site contains trees under a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), which were not adequately considered.
- Insufficient Services and Drainage Planning - The application failed to adequately address drainage and service provisions. BPC CRA objected, and the appeal is now in progress.

Heatherlands, St Aldhelms Close (APP/24/00213/F)

An appeal has been lodged following the refusal of an application for the demolition of an existing dwelling and the erection of two replacement detached houses.

329 Sandbanks Road (APP/23/01478/F)

This application, which was refused, sought to replace an existing house with a four storey block of seven flats, with associated access and parking.

The key concerns included:

- Excessive Height and Massing - The proposed structure was significantly taller and bulkier than the surrounding properties.
- Loss of Character - The change from a single dwelling to a block of flats would have altered the established character of the area.

4 Burton Road (APP/23/01228/F)

A revised scheme for the partial demolition of a garage and the erection of two detached houses following the severance of land. The site is within the Branksome Park and Chine Gardens Conservation Area, and the proposal raised concerns about:

- Overdevelopment- The subdivision of the plot was seen as excessive.
- Impact on Neighbours- The

new houses would introduce additional density to an area of predominantly larger plots. BPCRA opposed the development, and the applicant has now appealed.

4. Recent Decisions and What They Signal

Among the most significant recent planning decisions:

- Granted: Several modest extensions and landscaping improvements, particularly within conservation sensitive areas, suggest that well designed, proportionate proposals continue to be supported.
- Refused: The rejection of a nine flat development at 49 Cliff Drive highlights that attempts to intensify residential plots at the expense of local character remain contentious.

5. Looking Ahead

With several major applications still under review and appeals in progress, the coming months will be key in shaping the future of Canford Cliffs. The Association will continue to monitor developments closely, ensuring that residents' concerns are voiced and that planning decisions reflect the interests of the local community.

Are you interested in Planning & Developments affecting our area?

BCCPRA is actively looking for the next Planning Officer. If you know someone who may be interested or you'd like to find out more about the role please email planning.bpcra@gmail.com.

John Harkness BPCRA
Planning Officer

Beach Road Car Park

Update on objections to proposed sale and more . . .

The saga on the future of this important car park continues as BCP Council looks to move forward with plans to sell most of the site for development. They have deemed the land "surplus to requirements" and brushed aside ancient covenants protecting it – a position we, BPCRA, strongly oppose. On behalf of residents, the Association continues to track progress.

Lack of transparency in the sale process

In September 2024 we submitted

a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to understand the Council's expectations for the sale price and whether the land would be sold with planning permission.

To date, we have not received satisfactory answers.

The Council's responses last October refused to disclose this information, claiming that doing so could impact its ability to secure the best price in future negotiations. We challenged this decision and pressed

for an internal review, but in November, the Council again refused to answer, this time citing environmental information laws and that the request should have been managed under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Unhappy with the lack of transparency from the Council, we escalated the matter to the HM Information Commissioner (IC) in December. After following up in February, we were informed that our case has yet to be assigned for review.

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The IC is currently processing cases from October 2024, so we may be in for a long wait!

In the unlikely event we have more news, we'll share this at the BPCRA AGM on April 12.

A brief history of residents' objections over the years

The fight to protect Beach Road Car Park is not new. Believe it or not Poole Council first proposed its sale in the early 1990s.

At a Council Area Meeting (how the Council used to engage with residents) in 2023, seven out of nine Councillors supported an agreement that the land should not be sold and instead called for better signage and access improvements to increase its use.



This year we celebrate the 22nd anniversary of that agreement! BPCRA remains committed to ensuring that residents' voices

are heard and that this valuable community space is not lost to development.

Roy Pointer

Membership Report

I have now been in the role of Membership Secretary for a few months and am gradually getting to grips with the multitude of spreadsheets that enable us to communicate with our members and deliver the Pines and Chines magazine to them twice a year.

Like everyone else involved with the BPCRA, whether a committee member or a warden, I'm a volunteer, and as such I'm trying to find more time efficient ways of managing our membership. In some ways the Association is a victim of its own success in that we have a very large

individual membership and we've been established for many years.

I'd like to appeal to anyone still paying their membership fee by cash. Please consider setting up an annual Standing Order. You can easily do this online at www.pinesandchines.co.uk/become-a-member/ or go to page 15 for information on other ways to pay.

Also, if you have been a member for a long time and have not provided us with your email address, you may be missing out on the newsletter that we send out every two months. Just

email me pamcarvell@aol.com with your full name, address and postcode, using the email address you would like to be contacted on.

Finally I'd like to extend my thanks to the wardens who make sure the magazine gets delivered to residents. If you would like to volunteer to help us with delivery in your area please contact me pamcarvell@aol.com.

Wishing everyone a lovely Summer!

Pamela Carvell
Membership Secretary



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Treasurer's Report

Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents' Association
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023	
	£	£	£
Income			
Subscriptions received during the year	7,397	7,588	
Deposit interest	573	258	
	<u>7,970</u>	<u>7,846</u>	
Expenditure			
Magazine and circular expenses	6,666	6,923	
Less advertising revenue	(3,975)	(3,850)	
Net expenditure	2,691	3,073	
Committee and secretarial expenses	2	29	
Committee and Association meetings	299	520	
Annual General Meeting	586	550	
Subscriptions	25	85	
Planning consultation	500	-	
Legal and insurance	2,100	100	
Website	2,097	2,040	
Gardens	920	540	
Sundries	292	130	
	<u>6,821</u>	<u>3,994</u>	
Donations and subscriptions			
Canford Cliffs Christmas lights	750	750	
	<u>10,262</u>	<u>7,817</u>	
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>(2,292)</u>	<u>29</u>	
Balance sheet at 31 December 2024			
Accumulated fund			
At 1 January 2023	42,852	42,823	
Excess of income over expenditure	(2,292)	29	
	<u>40,560</u>	<u>42,852</u>	
At 31 December 2024			
Represented by:			
Cash at bank:			
Barclays Premium Account	34,837	38,264	
Barclays Current Account	5,723	2,566	
Santander business account	-	1,760	42,590
	<u>40,560</u>	<u>42,852</u>	
Add: Accrued income	-	390	
Less accrued expenses	-	(128)	
	<u>40,560</u>	<u>42,852</u>	

Approved by
P. Shroeder (President) & S. Peters (Hon Treasurer)

In December 2024, we decided to close the Santander bank account to streamline our banking process. Members with standing orders at Santander were contacted and asked to set up new standing orders with Barclays.

While membership has shown a slight decline compared to the previous year, it remains steady. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mark Woodings and Peter Schofield of Schofield Chartered Accountants for their continued support in creating the Annual Report for BPCCR.

Stanley Peters
Treasurer

ADVERTORIAL

Introducing Café Deuce

Hi, I'm Lisa - the proud owner of your new favourite coffee spot! With a background in events, I've combined my love for coffee and connecting with people to bring you Café Deuce.

I'm beyond excited to make Café Deuce your go to destination for top notch coffee, delicious treats, and a cosy, welcoming atmosphere. When the opportunity to take over the café at Branksome Park Tennis Club came up, it felt like the perfect fit, not just for tennis players, but also for dog walkers, locals looking for a great spot to visit (with free parking!), and anyone who loves a friendly face and a great cup of coffee.

I've always admired the club's warm, down to earth vibe. Pair that with my passion for quality coffee, tasty food, and, of course, dogs, it was a match made in heaven! After a few weeks of soft launches we officially opened on March 9th and were thrilled to see so many new and regular faces who joined us for the celebrations.

So whether you're catching up with friends, unwinding after a match, or just here for the good vibes - you're always welcome, tennis racket or not! Spread the word, bring your friends, and come say hi. We're open daily and my team and I can't wait to welcome you!



Find us at Branksome Park Tennis Pavilion on Leicester Road, Poole- nestled between Penn Hill and Branksome Park.

Keep up to date with us
Lisa Kirkpatrick



Councillors Corner

You might (or, perhaps more likely, might not!) have heard about Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council's Community Governance Review- a supposed consultation on whether to introduce town and parish councils in Bournemouth and Poole. I say a supposed consultation because it hasn't been that well publicised, and many people are still in the dark as to what it is- and what it isn't.

Firstly, town councils for Poole and Bournemouth would not replace BCP. All they will do is introduce another layer of governance, bureaucracy and costs in return for some services being handed from BCP to the new town or parish councils. It will involve councillors elected separately to these bodies, with staff employed by the new council to carry out the functions that are delegated to them.

Your BCP council tax will not be reduced, but you will pay an additional charge (precept) for the new authority covering where you live. (The average precept in Dorset is £43 a year, with the highest level currently levied being £236).

Town and parish councils often provide limited services that are considered discretionary- parks, allotments, cemeteries, toilets, bus shelters and leisure centres etc. They are not responsible for statutory services such as waste,

housing, planning, social care, benefits, roads & highways and more.

Christchurch already has town and parish councils and residents in Christchurch pay a precept on top of their council tax in return for some services being delivered. Admin costs may seem relatively high for what is provided - for example, at time of publication they are currently advertising for a town clerk with a salary of up to £70k.

Also, it's worth noting that town and parish councils are not constrained in how high they increase their precept. A council such as BCP can only raise council tax by 4.99% per annum before being required to hold a local referendum whereas the Poole town council precept could be increased 50-100% per year or more without any kind of recourse. In addition to this, you will still need to pay for the Poole Charter Trustees who are responsible for the Mayoralty and civic functions.

The current council administration - led by the Liberal Democrats - is driving this agenda. Response has been minuscule in relation to the size of the population but, because a few people have been in favour of these new councils, we may all end up paying for them. The better way forward would surely be to improve efficiency at BCP and provide these services



directly rather than lumber residents with yet another bill. The initial report to full council is due to be prepared at the end of March 2025 and then there will be a further round of consultation. A decision will be made at full council towards the end of 2025 with initial elections taking place in 2026.

You can read the full BCP Community Governance Review document at bit.ly/3QOIHCU

You can also find out more on the BCP website www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk by searching for Community Governance Review.

And all this before we get involved in any Devolution deal which the Labour government are forcing on regions, often at short notice to make decisions as was the case here. Again, this will not be cost free and residents will end up footing the bill. We'll cover this in a later update.

Cllr John Challinor

Ed. John is attending the AGM on 12 April, so your chance to ask him any questions directly.

Join the BPCCRRA today for just £5

Since 1958 BPCCRRA has represented the unique character of Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs, becoming a strong voice for local residents. The Association is run by a team of dedicated volunteers, acting as committee members and wardens who distribute *Pines and Chines* magazine in their area. We're always looking for more volunteers to join us, so please reach out to us if you'd like to get involved.

Benefits of Membership

- 🌿 Be part of BPCCRRA's activities to support all that's important locally for individuals, families and business in our community
- 🌿 Attend meetings every two months to hear the latest news, share your views, meet other residents and chat to local councillors
- 🌿 Stay informed on planning applications and road safety
- 🌿 Help protect local trees, wildlife, and the beauty of our area
- 🌿 Receive regular updates from our Chairman and the Pines and Chines magazine delivered twice a year
- 🌿 Benefit from a dedicated team of local volunteers working closely with Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and speaking up on issues concerning the area
- 🌿 Just £5.00 a year per household

How to join

Membership is open to anyone who lives in Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs and its immediate neighbourhood, and who is interested in keeping our beautiful leafy seaside suburbs protected and preserved (see current list of roads in our defined area on page 42).

A strong membership base enables the Association to be more effective in gathering residents' views about local matters and in campaigning to make those views known.

We welcome new members to join and get involved. Membership is just £5.00 per year per household and it's easy to join online at www.pinesandchines.co.uk/become-a-member/

Alternatively you can set up a Standing Order using the details below:

- **Account Name:** Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs Residents' Association
- **Sort Code:** 20-11-39
- **Account Number:** 00201804
- **Amount:** £5 annually
- Use your surname and postcode as the reference eg Smith BH13 6JQ



Find out more about us on the Pines and Chines website www.pinesandchines.co.uk

- Email your full name, address, postcode and contact telephone number to pamcarvell@aol.com to confirm membership

Need help with your application?

Contact pamcarvell@aol.com or write to:

Membership Secretary BPCCR
The Parish Office,
Branksome St Aldhelm Centre,
401 Poole Road, Poole,
BH12 1AD

BPCCRRA is registered with the Information Commissioners Office and adheres to the Data Protection Act.

Contact with members will only be made by members of the BPCCRRA Executive Committee and the Association's Wardens. All information provided in the Application process is restricted to use within the Residents Association and is not shared with anyone or any organisation outside of the Association, except for the agency that we appoint to conduct email distribution on our behalf.

20mph Speed Limit: A Game Changer for Roads in Wales

Fewer Accidents, Lower Insurance Costs - and it's all thanks to the 'Nanny State' Speed Limit!

When Wales introduced a default 20mph speed limit in urban areas in September 2023, critics were outraged.

Drivers fumed, and some called it a "war on motorists." But guess what? Safer roads and lower insurance costs – a win for both pockets and lives.

Fewer Casualties, More Lives Saved

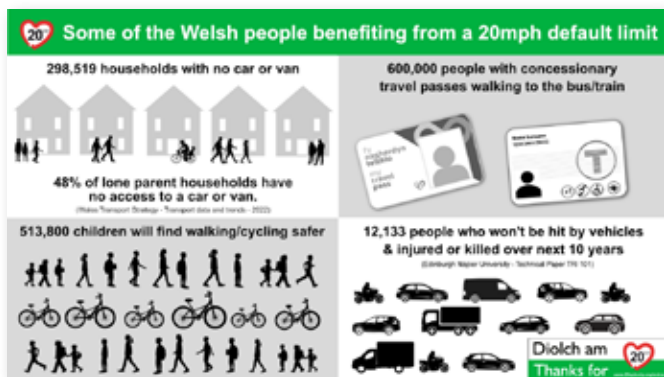
I watched the 20's Plenty for Us webinar recently about the 20mph campaign in Wales.

As a resident of Branksome Park, which has one of the worst records of urban speeding in Dorset, and a Community Speed Watch Member who has faced abuse both in person and on Facebook speed camera spotting sites, it was a must see.

New data comparing September 2023 to October 2024 shows that reducing the speed limit in Wales from 30mph to 20mph has had a dramatic impact:

- 678 fewer casualties (a 28% drop)
- 10 fewer deaths

Hundreds of people who might have been seriously injured—or worse—are now safe, simply because of slower speeds.



Insurance Premiums are falling too

It's not just road safety that's improving - drivers are saving money as well. Esure's Risk Underwriter, Rob Clark, reported a 20% drop in accidental damage and third party claims since the change.

"We've never seen anything like it," Clark said. "The moment the speed limit changed accident rates started dropping. The reduction continued throughout the year, leading to lower insurance premiums for Welsh drivers".

For insurance companies, fewer high cost claims mean big savings. Clark explained that serious accidents involving pedestrians or cyclists often cost over £100,000 per case. With fewer accidents, insurers are passing those savings onto motorists.

Big Savings for Welsh Drivers

- Average car insurance in Wales: £410
- Average car insurance in England: £540
- Est. savings per driver: £45

That's a multi million pound boost to the Welsh economy, proving that slower speeds mean serious savings.

How has Wales done it?

Despite what the media would have us believe, the facts tell a different story:

- Less than 3% of roads reverted back to 30mph after the review
- Only 36.9% of Welsh roads are 20mph- the rest remain at 30, 40, 60, or 70mph
- No need for expensive speed bumps- the change alone reduced speeding, saving councils money on extra traffic calming measures.

The £32m to implement the change in the law is expected to pay for itself within six months through savings from fewer accidents.

What About Enforcement?

Once the grace period ended, anyone caught driving over 26mph was given a choice:

- Take penalty points on their licence
- Attend a short educational

session with the Fire and Rescue Service

The Verdict: Driving Behaviour in Wales has Changed for the Better

The results speak for themselves:

- Fewer deaths and injuries
- Lower insurance costs
- More money in the economy
- Cleaner air and healthier communities

With Wales proving that 20mph limits work, this leaves me wondering: will the money talk as loudly in Dorset?

Could Westminster see the financial and social benefits and introduce a similar change across England? Only time will tell - but in Wales, 20mph is here to stay.

Vicky Moss
Special Projects BPCRA

More Haste, Less Safe!

Road construction is usually expected to improve safety, but that may not be the case for Pinecliff Road.

This picture and Ordnance Survey (OS) records show that in the 1920s, the main route between Canford Cliffs village and The Avenue/Branksome Beach required drivers to navigate Western Road, Beach Road and down the hill to the beach. Pedestrians, meanwhile, could take a winding cliff top path to the shore.

By 1931, OS records show a "new" Pinecliff Road was introduced, providing a more direct route from the Library to Branksome Beach car park and The Avenue. The goal was to improve traffic flow by bypassing

the junctions and bends in the narrow Beach Road. Problem solved - or was it?

A Century Later: Speed Over Safety

Today, Pinecliff Road is a wide, mainly straight and steep road that offers quick access to the seafront from Canford Cliffs. However, the footpath alongside is poorly defined, winding, narrow and often covered in leaves, making it difficult for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and those with mobility scooters. More concerningly, the road has become something of a racetrack.

Our local Community Speed Watch team has a monitoring point at the top of the hill, and their findings are alarming. In just one hour on a typical morning 500 to 800 vehicles passed through. Of these, 2-5% exceeded 35 mph, with some reaching nearly 50 mph- even



uphill. The speed limit here is 30 mph. Vehicles traveling over 35 mph are reported to Dorset Police, who typically issue reminder letters. Recently, the Dorset Police Trucam enforcement team has also been involved; in one session, 560 vehicles passed through in one hour, and 27 drivers received penalty fines.

A century ago, the route to the beach was slow and winding. Now, it's straight, fast, and dangerous. Ironically, had the original Beach Road been improved rather than bypassed, it might have naturally calmed traffic - making today's approach to the beach far safer.

Roy Pointer



Predatory Marriages

Andrew Carswell is a solicitor specialising in civil litigation. He provides an insight into the problem of so called 'predatory marriages' and the ability of the law to protect vulnerable people and their families in these situations.

A predatory marriage is generally regarded as the exploitation of a vulnerable person to induce them into marriage, with the ulterior motive of financial gain, particularly in the form of inheritance. Predators will typically target partners with the intention of not just benefitting during the life of the marriage, but specifically from inheritance. This problem is in theory, as old as the hills, but has received greater attention in recent years.

The main problem from a legal perspective is that whilst the law protects individuals in the management of their financial affairs and in respect of Wills, for example the law relating to undue influence, that will be often of very limited benefit by virtue of the marriage. This is because marriage (almost always) automatically revokes a Will, so an existing Will by an elderly testator in favour of his or her children will fall away entirely on subsequent

marriage. Where a new Will is not made, the new spouse stands to benefit under the intestacy rules, which at the very least will be a good proportion of most estates.

This provides a double hurdle for any disappointed beneficiaries, normally members of the deceased's family, because even if a subsequent Will is set aside on the grounds of lack of capacity or undue influence an intestacy will still arise. Only in very limited circumstances can the validity of the marriage be challenged. Capacity to marry is lower than testamentary capacity.

This problem was highlighted in the recent case of Langley v Qin [2024]. Mr Harrington died aged 94, just eleven months after marrying his carer aged 54. His final Will was written two months before he died, leaving his entire estate to his new wife. At trial, Mr Harrington's daughter successfully set the Will aside on the grounds of lack of capacity and undue influence, but the court was not able to take any action in respect of the marriage itself, which meant that Mr Harrington's estate passed on intestacy. His widow benefitted substantially from his estate.

It is evident that the courts and public authorities are conscious of the potential problem in



this area. Some commentators have called for reform on Wills, specifically in the revocation of Wills on marriage, but there is no law reform planned. Many local authorities and safeguarding agencies are able to help in specific cases where a vulnerable person is at risk. The presence of existing Lasting Powers of Attorney can help. In exceptional circumstances, the court can make a forced marriage protection order to safeguard vulnerable people, but these are rare.

It is worth stressing that predatory marriages are extremely rare, so nobody should worry unduly, but they do occur, and obviously this can be extremely concerning for anyone affected. Legal advice at the earliest opportunity is, as ever, the key to reducing and eliminating problems.

Andrew Carswell
Partner
Aldridge Brownlee LLP
Bournemouth

Ed. Andrew acts as honorary Solicitor to the BPCRA



New to health insurance?

Here's what you need to know about Moratorium underwriting.

When you start looking at health insurance, you'll need to make a few choices. From cover levels and excesses to hospital lists and consultant access, it can be a bit of a minefield. Of all those choices, one is perhaps the most important, the type of underwriting you would like used.

What is underwriting?

Underwriting is the process of an insurer assessing the risk involved in offering you cover. All types of insurance have underwriting, be that car, house, life, boat and jet, if you're lucky enough to own one. If you're taking a policy out for the first time, 95% of clients choose a new moratorium.

How moratorium underwriting works

With moratorium underwriting, you won't have to answer any medical questions when you get your policy. Instead, your insurer will simply exclude any pre-existing conditions you've suffered from or sought treatment for in the past five years. However, if you don't have treatment, medication or advice for an excluded pre-existing condition, or need treatment for two years, then it'll be covered in years three and beyond.

Advantages of moratorium underwriting

- ✓ **Very quick to get a policy**, sometimes even the same day.
- ✓ **Pre-existing conditions could be covered** after 2 years.

Disadvantages of moratorium underwriting

- ✗ **No visibility of exclusions** until you claim.

How to choose the right type of underwriting

The key is researching and speaking to a knowledgeable broker about your circumstances. Your choice of underwriting today can have a huge impact on what's covered and what's not by your medical insurance in years to come, so getting it right in the first place is key.

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Join the Pinecliff Gardens Volunteers and Make a Difference

Pinecliff Gardens is thriving, thanks to the dedication of our incredible volunteers. With up to ten regular helpers - including some fantastic new recruits - the group continues to reinvigorate this much loved green space.

Of course, keeping the gardens looking their best takes plenty of hands, and we've been lucky to get extra support.

A huge thank you to Good Gym charity, whose volunteers helped shift multiple bags of mulch, making it easier for our team to spread it across the sunken beds.

You can read more about the great work Good Gym is doing at goodgym.org.



A shout out also to Steve Bonner and his son from Iconic Projects construction Bournemouth, who have been cutting the hedges for us voluntarily their support is hugely appreciated.

Updates & Future Plans

- Plans are in motion to refresh and tidy up the sunken gardens over the next couple of months
- Our BCP Councillors are looking into replacing or repairing the shelters in Pinecliff Gardens
- Several Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bids are being submitted, as Canford Cliffs Ward has £250,000 available for community improvements. The deadline for applications is March 25th, and we'll share updates as soon as we hear more.
- I'm in discussions with BCP's Road Safety team about securing funding for improvements to Western Road, where pedestrians and cyclists have been injured. However, past proposals have often exceeded the available CIL funding, so we're pushing for practical solutions.

Vicky Moss
Special Projects BPCRA

Love gardening? Got green fingers? Come and join us!

Volunteering isn't just about the work, it's about the rewards. **Jean Wookey** shares why she loves being part of the Pinecliff Gardens team:

"I'm so pleased I joined the Pinecliff Gardens group. It gives me great satisfaction to see the joy our hard work brings to local residents and holidaymakers. Everyone in the group puts in a lot of effort and dedication, and I'm proud to be part of this friendly team."



Want to get involved?

Pinecliff Gardens thrives because of community spirit.

If you'd like to lend a hand - whether occasionally or regularly - we'd love to have you onboard. Contact Vickymoss.BPCRA@gmail.com to find out more.

Let's keep making Pinecliff Gardens a place for everyone to enjoy.



Handy Chap Services Your Friendly Local Handyman in Branksome Park.

Meet Tremain, the face behind Handy Chap Services - a true gentleman and trusted local handyman with over 30 years of DIY expertise. Based in Branksome Park, Tremain proudly serves homeowners, tenants, and businesses across the area, offering a reliable helping hand for projects big and small.

Known for his friendly approach and strong commitment to customer satisfaction, Tremain brings skill, efficiency, and cost-effective solutions to every job. Whether it's painting and decorating, general repairs, gardening, guttering, hanging and installation, or ongoing maintenance, Handy Chap Services is here to make life easier.

From one-off fixes to full project management, Tremain is reliable, skilled, and ready to help - keeping Branksome Park and beyond in good shape, one job at a time.

For a quote, call Tremain on 07879 482 530, or check out Tremain's projects on Facebook and Next Door by searching Handy Chap Services

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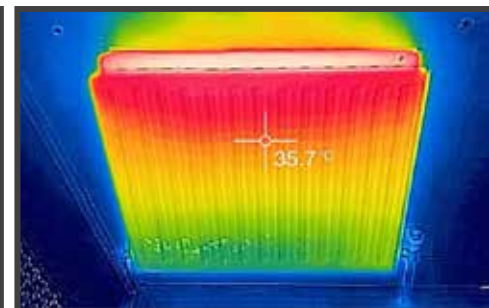
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On my knees: looking back with thanks

I arrived at St Aldhelm's Church in the summer of 2017. Although I had been at Alderholt, half an hour's drive away, for 26 years I had never knowingly visited Branksome. Its recreation ground however awoke memories of playing football there for my village team many years earlier.

During the game a police car pursuit distracted us, the vehicles speeding (in days before any speed ramps) first up Playfields Drive and then back down Recreation Road. To a rural Vicar then it seemed quite the Badlands...

When invited to consider St Aldhelm's I visited one Saturday afternoon and took a stroll around. In the Railway Hotel I approached a friendly looking local and asked what he thought the area might need from a new Vicar. He chuckled and flicked through his wallet of cards to show me his membership of the British Humanist Association - but then commended the Church's involvement when his children were at Baden Powell St. Aldhelm's School.

Afterwards, passing the Church, I saw someone leaning his bicycle by the bench in the Garden of Remembrance before settling down to listen to the football scores and enjoy a beer. I asked a similar question and he spoke warmly of the clergy's friendliness towards him in the past. I returned to my car musing that if I had come seeking direction from God then he had encountered me in the forms of a card-carrying atheist and someone perhaps

of no fixed abode. As signs go I reckoned that was good enough for me and so I applied for the job.

It hasn't disappointed. Our open Church building is the spiritual backdrop for a diverse panoply of people. Never before has my ministry matched so closely the fond image I held before I was ordained, when I supposed being a priest was all about saying one's prayers, saying Mass, and talking to people about their hopes and their heartaches. In reality, over the subsequent 40+ years, it often felt more like being the MD of a small, loss-making company whose product (faith, hope and love) went out of fashion a while back.

At St Aldhelm's, however, faith seems real and relevant, even if it sometimes comes in unexpected packages: a Mass in Spanish celebrated with a wonderful group of Latinos, an Indian Orthodox congregation worshipping in Malayalam and swathed in clouds of incense, neuro-diverse visitors seeking safe space, the homeless finding hot drinks and conversation, youngsters discovering a sense of mystery and awe that their secular upbringings seemed to exclude...



Of course, the management and administration required are also considerable and increasingly beyond my expertise and energy. So now it is time for me to move, to a part-time role caring for a group of villages in Somerset. St Aldhelm's will pause and reflect on the kind of priest they need next, Mother Robyn our excellent Curate will help our wonderful Wardens to maintain the Church's life and ministry, and the good Lord who is above - but also alongside - us all will forever hold a part of Branksome in my heart - and, I hope, a part of me in the heart of Branksome.

My last service as Vicar will be the 10am Parish Mass on Mothering Sunday 30th March.

Fr Pip (Philip) Martin
St Aldhelm's Church



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How well do you know your local area?

Can you identify these local sights or sites? These are all definitely from outside the Association's area and some of them are more what are they than where. Good luck!



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

For answers
please see
page 42

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Brian Cooke was a long distance sailor who, in 1975, died whilst attempting to break an Atlantic speed record of 4,000 miles in 20 days. His yacht was found overturned 450 miles off the Canary Islands, with no-one on board. His body was never found.

50 years since loss of Lilliput sailor

Following service in the Merchant Navy, Brian joined Westminster Bank in 1947 and was a founding member of Westminster Bank's sailing club. He moved to Poole in the late 1950s and in 1961, Westminster Bank's sailing club in Poole affiliated itself to the growing Lilliput Sailing Club.

Initially a dinghy sailor racing Merlin Rockets, Brian helped a friend build the 32 foot

Brian then planned to break the Atlantic speed record of 4,000 miles in 20 days, from West Africa to British Honduras, before competing in the 1976 single-handed transatlantic race.

sloop Opus, in which he then completed the 1968 single-handed transatlantic race from Plymouth to Newport.

In 1971, he raced NatWest Bank's sailing yacht in that year's Fastnet and in 1972, he again competed in the single-handed transatlantic race, this time in Chay Blyth's 59 foot British Steel, where he finished fourth in a field of 55 yachts. In 1974, Brian and fellow NatWest

Lilliput Sailing Club is a small, friendly, self-help club. The club is currently looking to recruit dinghy sailors to participate in social sailing or regular dinghy racing.

Bank sailing club and Lilliput Sailing Club member Eric Jensen completed the Round Britain Race in the 49 foot trimaran Triple Arrow, despite capsizing off the Shetlands.

Brian then planned to break the Atlantic speed record of 4,000 miles in 20 days, from West Africa to British Honduras, before competing in the 1976 single-handed transatlantic race. His first departure for West Africa in Triple Arrow ended with a dismasting off Portland. His second attempt a few weeks later was no more successful, after he fell from the mast and sustained severe back injuries, 70 miles off Cornwall. He was still suffering from his injuries when he set off in what



was his final attempt on the record in December 1975. His last transmission was on 11 December, some 700 miles from the Canaries.

Lilliput Sailing Club is rightly proud that such an accomplished sailor was part of the club during those formative years. Records show that in 1966, Brian won Lilliput sailing club's 'Best Cruiser Performance' in Opus for a single-handed cruise he took to Santander and Cork. In 1968, he and Eric Jensen took the 'Trophy for Long Distance Sailing' for the return voyage from Newport Rhode Island to Poole, following the successful completion of his first single-handed transatlantic race. Lilliput Sailing Club still race for the Westminster Bank Trophy,

first presented to them by Westminster Bank's sailing club back in 1961.

Lilliput Sailing Club is a small, friendly, self-help club situated adjacent to the Blue Lagoon on the northern shore of Poole Harbour. It encourages amateur sailing, with both dinghy and cruiser fleets. The club is currently looking to recruit dinghy sailors to participate in social sailing or regular dinghy racing.

Further information about dinghy membership and dinghy sailing can be found at www.lilliputsc.org.uk
E: office@lilliputsc.org.uk
T: 01202 740319
(Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30–13.00)

Gavin MacLachlan

Navigating the Maze:

The challenges of Planning in Canford Cliffs

For many residents, the planning system can feel like an impenetrable maze of policies, objections, and opaque decisions. Yet, these decisions shape our community— affecting architecture, green spaces, infrastructure, and property values.

In this article, we'll guide you through the planning application process, giving you a clear understanding of what happens during the submission process. We'll also explain how you can object to a planning application and what steps are involved.

1. Understanding the Planning Process

Planning applications in Canford Cliffs are submitted to Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP) Council and assessed against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local plans. In theory, the system ensures balanced development that considers the interests of homeowners, developers, and the wider community.

The Branksome Park & Canford Cliffs Residents Association reviews applications, offering support, neutral observations, or objections where necessary. However, despite this structured process, many residents question how well it functions in practice.

The Reality on the Ground

Several recurring issues challenge the integrity of planning decisions:

Ignoring Local Context

Many applications disregard Canford Cliffs' unique coastal character, prioritising commercial interests over local needs. Rather than addressing housing shortages, developments often cater to the second home market, leaving full time residents underserved.

Designs frequently favour mass market appeal over originality, resulting in architecture that feels generic and disconnected from the area's distinctive identity. Poorly considered proposals fail to respond to local context, undermining the very qualities that make Canford Cliffs special.

Development vs. Character

Once defined by its tree lined streets and characterful homes, Canford Cliffs is increasingly threatened by large scale apartment blocks and overdevelopment. Excessive site coverage, inappropriate materials, and an erosion of architectural distinctiveness are persistent concerns.

Some developers prioritise maximising density over high quality, well integrated design.

While innovative architecture should be welcomed, proposals that disregard local vernacular and fail to respect neighbours remain a source of frustration.

Densification Without Infrastructure

The replacement of single dwellings with blocks of flats continues at pace, yet transport links, parking, schools, and healthcare services have not kept up.

Increased population places additional strain on already stretched infrastructure, yet these concerns are often overlooked in planning decisions.

Inconsistent Decision Making

Planning decisions often seem unpredictable - some developments that breach policy are approved, while others that comply are rejected. This inconsistency creates uncertainty for residents and developers alike, eroding confidence in the system.

While councils face time and resource constraints, greater transparency in decision making would help ensure outcomes are fair and aligned with planning policies.

Public Engagement – A One Way Street?

Public participation is supposedly a key part of the planning process, yet many residents feel their concerns are ignored. Consultation periods are often brief, and planning meetings can feel like a rubber stamping exercise rather than a forum for genuine debate.

What Can the BPCRA Do?

Despite these challenges, the BPCRA remains committed to ensuring local voices are heard.

Our Planning Officer, John Harkness, works diligently to review applications, submit objections where appropriate, and push for fair and transparent decision making.

We need your help. To stay involved please:

- Monitor the council planning portal and raise concerns early.
- Attend council meetings where planning matters are discussed.
- Share information and participate in discussions.

Together, we can advocate for a planning system that balances responsible development with the needs of the community, protecting what makes Canford Cliffs a unique and desirable place to live.

2. How to object to a planning application – letter template

The planning process plays a vital role in shaping Poole's future, and residents have a

crucial role in influencing how our community develops.

A well reasoned objection can highlight concerns and help ensure that developments align with both community needs and the area's unique character.

Whether you're worried about overdevelopment, traffic congestion, or the loss of green space, this guide will help you present your concerns effectively.

The Planning Process Timeline

Every planning application follows a structured process:

- 1 Submission: developers submit detailed plans and reports to Poole Council.
- 2 Validation: the Council checks if the application meets requirements and policies.
- 3 Public Consultation: residents are notified (by post or site notices) and typically have 21 days to respond. During this time, it's important to carefully review the application and raise any relevant concerns. This is the time for you to raise any objections.

- 4 Consideration: planning officers assess the application, considering policies and public feedback, before making a recommendation
- 5 Decision: applications are approved or rejected, either by officers under delegated powers or by the Planning Committee, with the public's input considered.

Want to object?

Here's what to say

To be considered, objections must focus on valid planning grounds and reference relevant planning policies. Key areas include:

- Loss of Character: if the development is out of scale, unsympathetic, or does not reflect the area's existing architectural style, cite The Poole Local Plan (2018) and relevant Conservation Area Appraisals.
- Traffic and Parking: increased congestion or insufficient parking provision can be grounds for objection, particularly if contrary to NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) guidance on sustainable transport.

Our Planning Officer, John Harkness, works diligently to review applications, submit objections where appropriate, and push for fair and transparent decision making.



- Environmental Impact: loss of trees, biodiversity, or green spaces may conflict with environmental protections outlined in local planning policies
- Amenity Issues: overshadowing, loss of privacy, excessive noise, or light pollution affecting existing residents can form a strong basis for objection.

When writing, be clear, concise, and respectful. Focus on

facts and planning policies to strengthen your argument. If possible, suggest alternatives or solutions to address your concerns.

Objection Letter template / example scenario
By submitting well-structured objections referencing relevant planning policies, residents can help ensure that new developments remain appropriate for our community.

Whilst not always successful, relevant objections help relay public feelings and should become a factor for future decisions.

By voicing concerns, local residents contribute to the broader conversation about how development should be shaped, ensuring that the community's values and needs are considered.

Even when objections don't result in immediate changes, they create a record that can influence future planning processes, ensuring that developers and authorities are mindful of local perspectives.

Furthermore, the act of objecting encourages transparency and accountability in planning, fostering a more balanced and inclusive approach to development.

Over time, a consistent presence of informed objections can lead to a more thoughtful and sustainable urban environment that respects both the community and the natural surroundings.

Are you interested in Planning?

BCCPRA is actively looking for the next Planning Officer.

If you know someone who may be interested or you'd like to find out more about the role please email planning.bpcra@gmail.com.

John Harkness BPCRA
Planning Officer

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Protect your Pa\$\$wOrd

Home security doesn't just mean locking your doors and windows - protecting your digital devices with strong passwords is also important to keeping yourself and your personal data safe.

Perhaps you've got a new phone or laptop recently, or you want to help keep your family members digitally safe.

Creating a strong password doesn't need to be complicated. Using three simple steps, you can protect your devices and digital data...

1. Create a separate, strong password for your email.

Your personal email account contains lots of important information about you and is the gateway to all your other online accounts, including banking, social media and online shopping.

If your email account is hacked, all your other passwords can be reset, so it's important to use a strong password for your email, that is different to all your others.

2. Use 3 random words to build your password.

Using three random words is the recommended way of generating passwords, as it's easier to remember and takes trillions of years for a computer algorithm to crack.

Remember to not use obvious words like your surname or the names of your pets!

3. Use 2 factor or multi-factor authentication on your devices.

Two-factor authentication is a free security feature that gives you an extra layer of protection online and stops cyber criminals getting into your accounts - even if they have your password.

Two-factor authentication reduces the risk of being hacked by asking you to

provide a second factor of information, such as getting a text or code when you log in, to check you are who you say you are.

Visit the Neighbourhood Watch website for more advice on building strong passwords to protect your digital devices.
Ourwatch.org.uk/passwords

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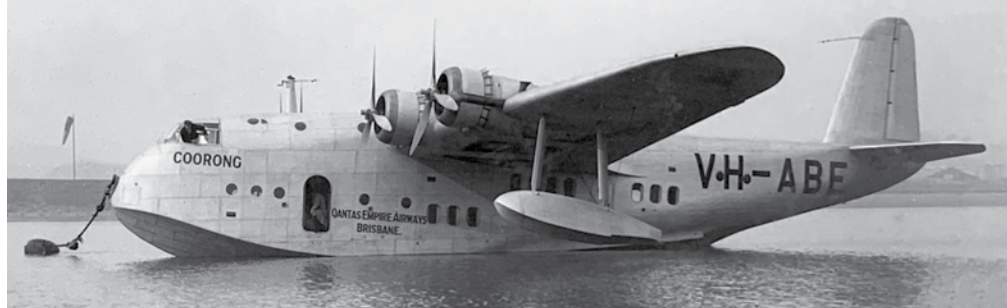
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Flying on the Golden Hind from Poole



Kathleen Lindsay was a prolific writer of passionate novels set in countries she had visited. In 1936 she lived in Bournemouth. During the war Kathleen published 11 romantic novels, more as Molly Waring and Mary Richmond, and 11 detective stories as Hugh Desmond. Her marriage to Lionel Ridout in 1943 was annulled within the year. After the war she longed to travel again.



Coorong Boat Plane

The last leg of her epic flight was across Delagoa Bay with red cliffs reminding her of Devon. As the surf broke on the Durban shores she longed to be basking in the sunshine in her swimsuit. Her five day trip from Poole to Durban was life-changing.

Kathleen bought a flying boat ticket from Poole to Durban departing 14 October 1946. Poole was the country's international airport serving VIPs and postal services to the Empire.

Spending the night at the Harbour Heights Hotel Kathleen watched flying boats land. At dawn she boarded The Golden Hind, the world's largest flying boat. Meals were served in her seat. There was a cocktail/smokers bar. They flew over France, Sardinia and Corsica, landing in Augusta, Sicily, where Kathleen had afternoon tea and paddled in warm sea water.

Arriving in Cairo at 10pm, going in an uncomfortable truck to

the Continental Hotel, a thin yellow dog almost chased two scraggy hens under the vehicles wheels when the driver cut a corner. There was a muddle over reservations. Kathleen also found a rat in her room.

Next day in the flying boat Coorong they flew over the Valley of the Kings. At Luxor lemonade was served on the Winter Palace Hotel's terrace. Khartoum, the hottest place Kathleen had ever been, was the second stopover. Dinner was seven courses and white bread, a much missed luxury.

Next day there was a stop at bug infested RAF Malakoi. While at Laropi in Uganda Kathleen was fumigated against



yellow fever by an official wielding a long syringe. At Port Bell she saw crocodiles basking on Lake Victoria.

At Kisumu, Kenya, she slept under a mosquito net. She was delighted by a superb dinner and delicious white bread. Next morning they reached 12,000 feet with spectacular views of snow-capped Kilimanjaro. Flying low over panoramic forest she spied villages with stockades to keep out lions.

Touching down in Mombassa Kathleen wanted to take a dip at the beach. They re-fuelled at Dar-es-Salaam and Lindi. The fourth night was spent in Lumbo in a hotel on the site of a slave market. Outside lay swamps exuding unhealthy smells.

Flying low on the last day over the Zambesi Game Reserve she saw many animals in their natural habitat. Brief stops were made at Beira and at Lourenco Marques where she bought English newspapers. The last leg of her epic flight was across Delagoa Bay with red cliffs reminding her of Devon. As the surf broke on the Durban shores she longed to be basking in the sunshine in her swimsuit. Her five day trip from Poole to Durban was life-changing.

Within the year Kathleen married a Belgian, Jean Edgar Goossens. It ended in divorce. On 27 June 1953 Kathleen and her business manager, Mr Percy Jeffryes, were to sail from Cape Town to Southampton in order to meet her publishers.

90 minutes before sailing Kathleen was arrested. In court Mrs Jeffryes claimed £2,000 (more than £45,000 today) for damages suffered through her husband's alleged affair with Kathleen.

Kathleen had to pay a large

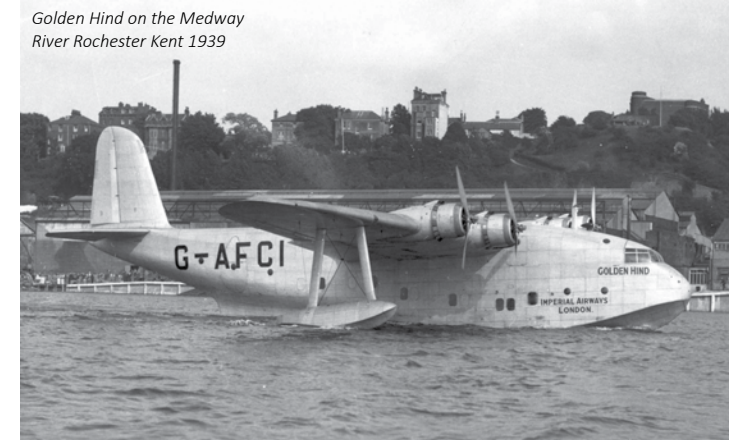
90 minutes before sailing Kathleen was arrested. In court Mrs Jeffryes claimed £2,000 (more than £45,000 today) for damages suffered through her husband's alleged affair with Kathleen.

security into court, pending returning to South Africa for the hearing. She reached the gang plank with minutes to spare.

In Southampton she told the press there was no romance with Mr Jeffryes. They married in Cape Town in 1954 and settled in Somerset West, Cape Province, where she continued writing. For having had more than 900 novels published Kathleen got in the Guinness Book of Records. She died in 1973.

Stephen J Annandale

Golden Hind on the Medway River Rochester Kent 1939



'Art'...and Gardening

'The Lighthouse' at Poole is too far inland to be of much use to shipping. But the name is metaphorical: a beacon of culture, shining on the undistinguished bus station and the Dolphin Centre.

The Lighthouse has a wide spectrum of music including regular Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra concerts and home to performing arts; plays, ballet, humour. It's also a sponsor of the visual arts.

Over the past 16 years, my jottings in 'Pines and Chines' have centred around gardens. My own modest three quarter acre; Local Authority land, latterly Coy Pond, and Divine Authority land (alright, C. of E.), around St Aldhelm's church. 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy'. Though I don't define gardening as 'work' (green therapy) and I'm not normally that 'bright' anyway, I still welcome a contrast. Thus, on Fridays I toddle off to The Lighthouse, and Poole Leisure Painters, of which I am a long standing (and even longer sitting) member. Good at the 'leisure' bit, but crap at 'painting'. But they're a friendly and supportive group, always ready to share their undoubted

skills, and find something kind to say about my efforts: 'That's a nice...colour'. Exhibitions annually, every other year at the Lighthouse, and a professional demonstration each term.

Visitors to my Open Garden will have seen my 'pop-up Art Gallery' (née garage). Twenty or so of my current paintings, and occasionally a staunch supporter of the church will carry one away, more to support church funds that any intrinsic value to the artwork. Onto two stories to link the Lighthouse with gardening. The first was featured in Pines and Chines last Summer (only old people repeat themselves). However to recap, last year The Lighthouse held its first 'Open Exhibition'. 'Visual Artists' were invited to produce a CV with an 'artwork', explaining its connection with Dorset. Having bluffed my way through a CV passing myself off as a 'writer', submitting my first (and only) novel to publishers, I felt sure that I could 'talk the talk' for my 'Artist CV'. The 'artwork' was an abstract sculpture in polished wood. Last year I asked your good wishes for my application: it obviously worked!

The two significant shards were originally part of a half-rotted tree trunk, chucked on the path by the Heavy Mob, volunteers working on the Coy



Sculpture at The Lighthouse Open

Pond rockery renovations. I rescued these shards, shaped and sanded them, linseed oiled and wax polished. They were obviously 'Dorset'. But I could tell the story of volunteers renovating the 550 foot rockery and creating new gardens around the pond itself. I had just been promoted to the giddy heights of Publicity Officer for Friends of Coy Pond. The sculpture labelled with the story, plus its 'arty' status, straight from Pseud's Corner. Publicity for the Friends' work. In a different medium but 'the medium is the message' (Marshall McLuhan). Still, he *wood* say that, *woodn't* he?

The second story is another 'cliff-hanger'. The Lighthouse is presenting at the 'Gardener's World Spring Fair' at Beaulieu, later this May. As 'Patron of the Arts', they are sending along a few Poole Leisure Painters, me included. Being of a shy and retiring disposition, I'm not confident painting under public view and gaze but I can always stand in front of a blank white canvas, using the old gag, 'It's a white polar bear in a snowstorm'.

Watch this space...!
David Reeves



Pop-up art gallery



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What a difference a day makes

Life is full of coincidences. Sometimes you think much more than a coincidence. My niece Anne and I chatted about this recently in a particular context. Today was such a day.

The title resonates. I am using this hit song in listing pieces of music relevant to how people feel about their job - and who they work for - and what makes their day and what doesn't.

The backdrop is to be my fourth book: *Trailblazers: learning from the best*. The theme is leadership and management, with refreshing ideas to inspire the future - in the real world!

Jukebox Jury is a throwback to the 1960s and suave presenter David Jacobs. I have invented a new digital show! I start with What A Difference A Day Makes. Sung by Dinah Washington, and recorded in 1959, it won the Grammy Award for best R&B recording. The record had a profound impact on audiences. It did on me in the 1960s and still does today.

Today started with a chillout in Christchurch. Several people got on the bus ahead of me. I swiped my pass. A lady, sat in a seat behind the driver, was about two feet away. I smiled and was about to pass by. I stopped in my tracks.

"I don't feel like going into work today." I had never seen her before. "What do you do", I asked. "I am a volunteer at Royal Bournemouth Hospital." My eyes lit up. I asked what she did.

"I'm on the elderly ward and just help out."

I nodded. We exchanged names. I said what I did and that I had worked years ago as a volunteer with blind and partially sighted people. "I mean what I'm going to say. However you are feeling today, remember just one thing. You are making a difference to the lives of patients."

R had an unusual first name. She did two mornings a week, about three hours each. We talked about her job and passion for writing. R had written a couple of books. "I love to write but I have got writer's block." I sensed here was someone with so much to offer - at the expense of her own needs maybe.

There was a pause. I sensed R wanted to tell me something important. Hesitating a moment, she perked up. "A doctor said to me- you saved her life." I was awestruck.

She noticed an empty glass on a patient's bedside table and wondered how long had it been there. Dementia is a major problem as staff are stretched. This raises numerous issues, not least the need for regular observation.

Whilst a fullish jug was by her bedside, this patient may not have been able to reach - or didn't think to. This is so typical of dementia. R had spotted this, her antennae attuned to the likelihood. Inadequate liquid intake is common, with serious if not fatal consequences.



The bus was about to move off and my seat was further back. I felt R wanted to add something. Her sad expression told the story and reality of hospital life. "Many patients do not want to go home." R felt powerless. Her voice trailed off.

R made a difference that day - in a life and death situation. For patients, she makes a difference every time she does her volunteer shift. I will visit the ward next time I'm at RBH.

What a difference a day makes takes on a special meaning for those who make time for what is important. They often lead busy lives. R made a difference to my day too.

This brings me to another record in my teenage years. It had great meaning and I love the song.

Alfie is beautifully sung by Cilla Black. "What's it all about" is from the heart. Cilla had a tough start, admitting "the family never had a front door".

She too made a difference to my life. It's a chain reaction. Pass the parcel- and make a difference!

Stuart Sherring



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What's in a name?

Many of the names of Sandbanks properties are interesting and unusual – some have been retained to the present time.

Some are perhaps self explanatory as in *Tween-Seas*

or *Ferry Point*, but *Quisisana*, *Romany Rye*, *Seven Bells*, *Airmyn*, *Tarvis*, *Rusapi* or *Blue Bird Best* could well have some hidden meaning.

Howdudo, *Saiwen*, *Better 'Ole*, *Beggars Roost*, *Cheerio*,

Cosyland and *The Igloo* might have benefited from a little more imagination. *Gitchie-Gumee* is a mouthful but does, of course, come from *Hiawatha* – on the shores of G..... G.....

It has been suggested that *Port Iona* dates back to the time the plot was divided in half, and was referred to as Portion "A". Countess Martinez de las Rivas was at *Neguri* next to *Dilkoosha* in Panorama Road, and *St Columb Porth* may have indicated that the owners came from Cornwall.

Reproduced by kind permission 'Looking Back' at Sandbanks Poole, Dorset" by Iris Morris.

Smile a while

I had to sell my Hoover last week. It was just gathering dust.

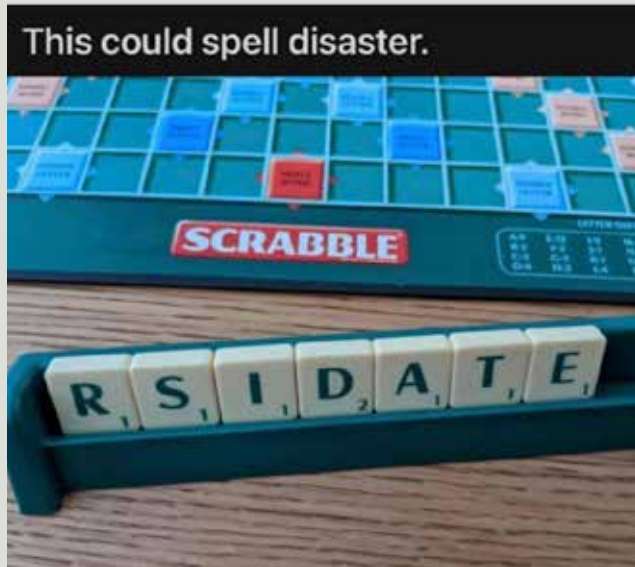
Sister Theresa has a high IQ. She's better known as Nun the Wiser.

How do you get down from an elephant?
You don't. You get down from a goose

I called the Tax Office today and the automated voice said "If you'd like to speak in Welsh, please press one".
I pressed one . . . still can't speak in Welsh.

I asked Mary Berry how to make a Viennese Whirl. She said "I'd take him for a quick waltz".

I saw a man going up a hill with a shopping trolley full of



horseshoes, four leaf clovers and rabbits feet.
I thought he's pushing his luck.

Last night I went drinking with Thor the God of Thunder.
I got hammered.

After a heavy night at the pub, I was rudely awakened by my neighbour cutting his grass.
Sod it I thought, he can mow around me.

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Answers for: How well do you know your local area? (PG24)

- 1 Brownsea Castle seen from Sandbanks chain ferry terminal
- 2 Flats on Poole Quay
- 3 Parkstone Yacht Club
- 4 An old pier at Hamworthy
- 5 Brent geese (winter visitors from Siberia) on Baiter Park
- 6 One of the chains on the Sandbanks to Studland chain ferry
- 7 This structure was the departure terminal for flying boats when they flew from Poole Harbour in the 1940's! It is now used by Parkstone Yacht Club for starting yacht races

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