

## **Survey Results Due Nov 7th – Please Send the Following Email ASAP. Time is of the essence!!**

The purpose of us, the residents affected by the drastic proposed changes to Shore Road, uniting our voice on the following issue detailed on this page (with more to come), is that our Town Council recently updated their **Vexatious Correspondence and Complaints Policy** (easily located online) making it far more restrictive for the residents of the town they serve. This policy is accessible on the Town Council website.

Notably, it was updated just prior to the release of the extremely controversial Swanage Town Council-funded "**Swanage Green Seafront Stabilisation & Shore Road Enhancement Scheme Survey**." I will let you all draw your own conclusions on that.

The majority of you know the individual(s) who have been coordinating the efforts to hold the council and its agent(s) accountable. I can assure you that it is our opinion that they will be looking for any opportunity to silence the agitation they are being exposed to, or at the very least, make it harder by utilising the vexatious correspondence policies they have in place. **What they cannot do is silence us all as a cohesive group** of residents and 'stakeholders' (this specific word will become important as you read on).

So, the playbook is for us to have orchestrated communications that are relevant to key issues and concerns, while a small number organize the overall challenge to this council's bureaucratic overreach that may negatively affect our homes.

From close engagement, my opinion is that particular council members are conducting themselves in a manner, regarding the Shore Road debacle, that falls far short of what we should expect from our elected representatives and employed officials for Swanage Town Council.

Please note: we only request that you write to Swanage Town Council and support this cause with what is a well-thought-out series of reasonable, justifiable questions that have a fair line of reasoning behind them and are in pursuit of openness and accountability. I do not believe anyone should take on a more challenging tone unless that is something they wish to do.

### **The Issue:**

Swanage Town Council and the Dorset Coast Forum chose to utilise council time and resources to conduct one "private" presentation and engagement event (current best

information suggests it was only one) at a residential address on De Moulham Road. This was in addition to the four "public" engagement events that were publicised to all residents.

The agenda and motivations for this choice need to be surfaced and understood in detail, and this issue will be pursued as far as is legally and politically possible.

So far, there has been a series of predictably evasive answers (though, as you will read, with controversial facts already on record) that have sought to downplay the event's occurrence and avert any need for an in-depth inquiry into why and how such a choice was made and the event came to be.

### **The Content:**

The email should be sent to Swanage Town Council's Town Clerk, Dr. Martin Ayres. Others who need to be aware of this communication should be copied into the email to ensure it is not disregarded during the six weeks while the survey results are being released.

(i) Please use the following content as a general template that you can copy. I will add the key facts and questions that must be asked. The words in **bold** should be included exactly as written.

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Dear Dr. Ayres,

I am writing to you directly to obtain accurate information by asking the following questions:

1. **Can you please confirm or deny that a single private engagement event took place to present the 'Green Seafront and Shore Road Enhancement Schemes' at a residential address on De Moulham Road?**
2. If it is confirmed that such an event took place, **would you please provide a justification for this event?**
3. **Can you please provide the names of the key decision-makers who approved this event?**
4. **Would you please explain why other addresses in the area received neither a direct physical visit nor a personally addressed postal communication regarding the Swanage Green Seafront Stabilisation & Shore Road Enhancement Scheme?**
5. The information I currently have is that at the Full Council meeting on 20th October, you made the following points in response to a question about this private event (and I quote your words directly): that it was to engage **"a group that are a key stakeholder and older residents"** and **"hard to reach"**. Therefore, I ask you, why were the other

residents of the addresses directly affected by the proposed Shore Road changes not worthy of similar consideration for their potential age or other factors that may have prevented their engagement? Furthermore, **do you not consider my neighbours and me to be key stakeholders?**

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

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**Who should you send it to?**

**To:**

Dr. Martin Ayres, Swanage Town Clerk

[m.ayres@swanage.gov.uk](mailto:m.ayres@swanage.gov.uk)

**Cc (Carbon Copy) the following people:**

Elaine Snow (Dorset Coast Forum)

[elaine.snow@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.snow@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

District & Town Councillor Chris Tomes (Decision-maker on Shore Road)

[cllr\\_tomes@swanagecouncillors.uk](mailto:cllr_tomes@swanagecouncillors.uk)

District & Town Councillor Gary Suttle (Decision-maker on Shore Road)

[cllr\\_gary.suttle@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr_gary.suttle@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

*Note: Their email addresses are easily found online if you wish to copy and paste them for accuracy.*

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**Final Step:**

Once you have sent the email, please immediately forward it to John Silver of the Swanage Traffic Alliance at:

[johnsilver@swanagetrain.org.uk](mailto:johnsilver@swanagetrain.org.uk)

When you receive a response from the council, please forward that response to him as well