

Cllr Beryl Ezzard DC February 2026 Report Wareham Town Council

Dorset Council (DC) Meeting

The full DC meeting was held on Tuesday 10th Feb at 6.30pm. We approved the Years DC Budget for 2026/2027. It has been a very difficult exercise in the circumstances. DC has set the council tax at 4.99% increase; just under the 5% cap set by the Govt. 2% of this is ringfenced for Adult Social Care. The Government grant-support was much lower than anticipated, adding to our Council Tax base of 82% making our final Budget of £482 million. This is now a 3-year settlement - set for this year 4/2026 to 3/2029. DC's current year's budget is expected to be overspent by £4-5 million. DC Reserves will cover the deficit.

DC Roadworks –Flooding update.

The unprecedented levels of rainfall in January had resulted in areas being flooded that have not seen in my lifetime. As we have several large rivers running off the centre of Dorset the water meadows around Wareham effectively made an island of Wareham, with no access to Wareham town from Stoborough or the Wareham Station Car park or level crossing, making it exceedingly difficult for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. To offset flood events in the future DC will be spending £5 million to put flood prevention in place and an extra £250K to ditch clearing and gully emptying in the next few years.

Cost of Living Support for families on Income Support /Pension Credit.

The DC has ongoing support available for those in need. Contact the Citizens Advice or visit the DC Website for information. The free Foodbank is Open, at the Youth Centre (next to Purbeck Sports Centre) every day from 10 – 4 pm.

Wareham Lloyds Bank is Closing 16 June

The announcement recently by Lloyds Bank to close its Wareham Branch has caused consternation and a massive disappointment to many of its customers, leaving the Nationwide as the last Bank Opening Monday, Wednesday & Thursdays. The nearest Lloyds Branch will be Poole High Street. The loss to Wareham where we have 30% of older people over 65 with 15% relying on face-to-face banking, as no wifi or smartphone, it will cause hardship and stress. I am working with DC Library staff and Lloyds to continue with Bank Staff to visit for a day a week to maintain a face-to-face service. The Post Office will provide a cash deposit facility; however, it will leave the Town Centre with two ATMS: Sainsburys and the Coop.

DC Asset Transfer-Former Middle School Playing fields.

This is being processed but taking a long time to negotiate. The Skate Park proposed for being provided there, has not been favoured by DC or the Police. However, the green sward, by Wareham Station, between Sandford Road and Bere Road is proposed for the Skate Park.

Purbeck Shuttle200 -Stakeholder support needed.

It is being proposed that this popular shuttle, led by the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership be extended to a regular one day a week service in winter, extended to 2-3 days a week from Easter to September. To ensure DC BSIP funding,(for 3 years?) it needs local input of support and contribution. Your contribution last year of £500.00 helped. Thank you.

Trigon Landfill Site on Bere Road

The next Trigon Landfill Liaison Pan Meeting will be on 25 February.at 1 pm in Town Hall

Wareham Area Speedwatch Volunteers

The Team has new members but need more from Wareham Town. We have monitored at Sandford and Wareham TC areas, to support the 20's plenty initiative. Contact Tel. 550138.

Dorset Cllrs Monthly Advice Surgeries in Wareham Library. Ryan on fourth Saturday every month; 10-12 noon: contact Mob: 07783362330.Beryl on second Friday every month 10.00-12 noon. Contact No. 01929 550138. No appointment needed all welcome.