

Beacon Ward ANNUAL Report to Parishes

Dorset Council

Cllr Jane Somper

Summer 2025

Highways Maintenance Cost Cutting

It is extremely regrettable that the Council has opted to reduce the highways maintenance budget to the point where weed control will now only take place once annually. While this may appear to be a minor adjustment, it will significantly affect the upkeep and visual standard of our villages.

Uncontrolled weed growth along footpaths, kerbs, and road surfaces does more than detract from the local environment, it actively causes damage. Plant roots can break through tarmac and paving stones, leading to deterioration that requires expensive repairs further down the line. Far from being a cost-saving measure, this approach simply postpones more substantial financial burdens. In the meantime, residents are left to contend with streets that look increasingly neglected and potentially hazardous.

Please report any issues you find with vegetation on our verges here.. [Report a hedge, tree or verge issue - Dorset Council self-service portal](#)

Household Recycling Centres Changes to Access

The Cabinet Member for highways has announced that there will be an introduction to an online booking system to visit the household recycling centres across Dorset. This decision was reached without an opportunity for debate by councillors to question and analyse the decision and any business case as well as excluding residents from having their say.

A motion is being put to full council which I am supporting asking for a full public consultation on an issue that is important to residents. Services should be provided at the convenience of residents not at the convenience of the Council.

Local Plan Progress

The details on the Dorset Local Plan that will bring forward sites for development across the council area will soon be published. The consultation is set for August 2026 and I advise, if possible that anyone interested in the future land development, particularly in the north of our county attend a roadshow, the venues and dates for this will be announced. I intend to hold a briefing along with neighbouring ward villages before the end of the consultation period for the parish councils.

Gore Clump

It seems that at last a scheme has been agreed by the council and local parishes and businesses are being consulted before the scheme moves forward for public scrutiny. The works themselves will not take too long and I do not anticipate disruption to this area while the highways work is carried out.

Dinah's Hollow

Verbal update

For any ward work, please contact me at CllrJane.Somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.