



Sutton Poyntz Society

Affiliated to the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Newsletter No 145 – September 2011

www.suttonpoyntz.org.uk

PLANNING

Food Store in the Green Wedge

Planning permission for a feed store on the land known as the “green wedge” off Puddledock Lane has been refused at appeal. As this was a retrospective application, the building will now have to be demolished. The Planning Inspector recognised the importance of the designation of this land in the Local Plan to prevent coalescence of the built up urban area of Preston and Sutton Poyntz. This, of course, is the case put forward by the Sutton Poyntz Society some 35 years ago and supported by Weymouth and Portland Council ever since. Open gaps in the landscape, especially in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are recognised as highly important in planning decisions. The preservation of open gaps is one of the key elements in the Society’s approach to planning applications. This Planning Inspector’s report shows that we are on the right track in our defence of them.

The Planning Inspector deals in detail with the arguments put forward to support the application and, with great care, dismisses them all. But the most salient point for Sutton Poyntz must be the reference to the AONB. “AONBs have been confirmed by the government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape should therefore be given great weight in development control decisions.” The report goes on to talk about the extension to the stables being small but it “.....is intrusive and harmful to the natural beauty of the landscape.”

Camping

As we all know, a landowner can operate a campsite for 28 days in a twelve month period without seeking planning approval. An “Article 4 Directive” by the local authority can remove this right and would require the landowner to apply for planning permission to operate the campsite. Your Committee carefully considered the legal and policy arguments for an Article 4 Directive; we documented these arguments in a Brief, which was submitted to the Borough Council. With the Osmington Society, we kept a careful watch over this year’s camping, to see if there was sufficient evidence for an Article 4 Directive. The Council, in the form of the Development Services Manager, have also been monitoring the camping before making a decision on their next step. In all our deliberations we have kept our local elected representatives fully in the picture as well as Teresa Seal from West Dorset.

Camping has now finished for the year and the evidence is in. Although the numbers of campers were small you simply cannot dispute that the tents and latrines did indeed alter the landscape whilst they were there. As this area is an AONB the requirement is to protect it. Furthermore any changes of a development nature are expected to enhance it. Your committee will now consult with our local councillors, the Development Services Manager, and the Osmington Society to decide the next step. The eagle-eyed among you will know that there is also a small amount of camping at White Horse Farm, further along the valley. This is in Osmington’s ‘patch’ so we are supporting the Osmington Society to establish policy.

COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 6th September In the Mission Hall 10:30 to 11:30am – The *Village Weigh In*. This is a self-help meeting for those wishing to recover their lithe form of youth. Coffee and gossip – all for £1.

Friday 7th October The Coffee Mornings start again. First Friday of the month from October to March. 10.30am in the Mission Hall.

Saturday 8th October A Barn Dance in aid of the Digital Mammography Appeal in Preston Village Hall 7-11pm. Music by 'Jump At The Sun', plus pasty & pud. Bar available. Tickets £10 from Gill Caddy (832595)

Tuesday 11th October RSPB Local Group meeting 2pm in the Church Rooms. Talk on 'Water Birds' Entry £3 (£2.50 for RSPB members)

Wednesday 19th October 'The Olympics Are Coming!' – an evening talk on what the Olympic Sailing in Weymouth will mean for us. 7:30 in the Mission Hall.

NEWSROUND

Recipe Book Do you have any well tried and favourite recipes that could be included in a recipe book to be sold at the Street Fayre? Yes? Then give them to Pam Dawson Hollis, Maureen Morris, or Judy Backwell.

Water Fun Day A good crowd did indeed have a lot of fun and Richard and Judy Backwell would like to thank all those who helped and supported them. £1275 was raised to buy water pumps for villages in Nepal.

Cream Teas Very enjoyable and thanks to the hard work of the organisers raised £173 for Society funds.

Village Barbeque Many thanks to the Mission Hall organisers for a most pleasant evening.

Scarecrows and Vegetable Show Once again a great success. The scarecrows gave much pleasure to villagers and visiting families alike. Hopefully even more next year; the challenge for next year is to create an 'Olympic' scarecrow. The vegetable show was well supported with some very edible entries. Very heavy spuds were found in tubs and a gigantic cucumber rivalled the heaviest marrow. We collected £300 for Waves – our very local charity supporting children in need in Weymouth.

Japanese Knotweed This invasive plant has been seen in the village. Advice on its control is on the Environment Agency website.

Bonfires As the bonfire season is upon us remember your neighbours if lighting a bonfire, or better still take garden refuse to the tip.

Music at the Pub The Springhead had a "Temporary Event Notice" license for the wedding party at the pub a couple of weeks ago, but Weymouth & Portland Borough are investigating whether the event contravened planning conditions. At the moment there are no further events in the pipeline. If you are disturbed by late night noise (whether from the pub or elsewhere) you can phone Dorset Police (222222) and Weymouth & Portland Borough (838432, answerphone service) to get the problem logged. Don't expect immediate action from either, but the record of complaints may help in the future.

2012 Street Fayre Planning date for your diary is 24th June, 2012.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Egerton (Chairman)	832872	John Bellis (Treasurer)	837162
Shirley Davies (Secretary)	837287	Anne Dye	837139
Karen Phillips	836330	John Crisp	832529
Tony Bugler	832953	John Sutherland	832227
Peter Riley	834653	Peter Sheaves	833338
David Martin	836322	Alan Dawson Hollis	832746