News from your committee

At the March meeting members expressed disappointment that the Shore Road improvement scheme planned to start in January has not commenced despite Shore Road tenants receiving letters from the beach office in December to that effect. We understand the project has been deferred until the autumn.

Members were disappointed at the amount of sand still covering the promenade, considerably more than in previous years. This can be hazardous for cyclists and difficult for wheelchair users trying to access their huts. This was highlighted in a recent Echo story.

Regarding the spate of break-ins around the Christmas period, we have ascertained that the locking mechanisms on the new huts at Branksome Dene are not the same as those at Branksome Chine. The Branksome Dene locks prevented any unlocking from the inside.

Finally, there was concern regarding the number of huts remaining vacant after 129 keys were returned at the beginning of the year. There appeared to be conflicting opinions between officers and BoP members at the time of the meeting in March.

All these matters were agreed to be raised at a meeting with Jacqueline Wood, Beach Hut Manager, in April - see page 3.

---

Spring News 2019

The merger of our local authorities came into effect in April, let's hope the new Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch (BCP) Council will prove to be an overwhelming success.

With elections taking place on 2nd May it remains to be seen who will be the elected members representing the seafront and in particular, our new portfolio holder. Regardless, we continue to have productive talks with the beaches team at the Sandbanks office - see a summary of a recent meeting on page 3.

Updates of our news can be found at www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk

Bob Lister, Chairman tel: 07980 928 752 or email bob@sunwiser.co.uk
Poole Seafront Development Programme

£9.5 million is being invested in Poole’s seafront. The programme is funded by BCP Council and supported by £1.2 million from the Coastal Communities Fund, a government grant designed to support the economic development of coastal communities. The works form part of the ‘Dorset Coastal Connections’ portfolio of 18 projects along the Dorset coast.

Canford Cliffs

The original timescale for the Canford Cliffs redevelopment was delayed due to the need to monitor the stabilisation of the cliffs. Following the recommendation of Borough of Poole for cliff works to commence, the redevelopment plans are now rescheduled for winter 2019 with planned completion in 2020.

The Art Deco style beach pavilion is to be converted into a cafe with terrace, toilets refurbished and 89 new beach huts constructed.

102 existing huts are to be rebuilt and a further four beach huts to be refurbished.

£7.3 million has been approved a total investment to secure the cliff, protect the road and deliver this seafront development.

Please visit seafront.pooleprojects.net for more information on these projects.
Meeting with Jacqueline Wood and Andrew Brown, Seafront Services, BCP Council

Members of the committee had a very constructive meeting with Jacqueline and Andrew in April to discuss ongoing issues and to review projects going forward.

**Hut maintenance**

Andrew explained that the medium term refurbishment budget is currently insufficient to properly address the repair and maintenance issues. He will be presenting a business case to the new council to bid for capital funds to ensure that the assets can have appropriate investment ensuring their long term value to the council. This will not be achievable until the autumn given the priorities of the new BCP council.

**Allocation**

There are roughly 1200 beach huts in the Poole beach area, of these, 23 are currently vacant but in the process of being allocated. Jacqueline explained that as each hut becomes available it is offered to the next waiting list applicant and they are allowed 10 days to decide. On average 2 or 3 offers are made so the process can take up to a month. A refusal moves the applicant to the bottom of the list.

There are currently 55 short-term lets which have all been let during the winter months.

**Sand**

Andrew explained that his diggers were at work everyday at different parts of the entire promenade. However, the depth of the sand being level with the prom combined with high winds and a comparatively dry winter means that fine sand is constantly being blown inland off the beach and is an on-going problem. His team does the best they can with their resources.

**Cycling**

The team has a good relationship with Poole Police and there will be some enforcement dates in August with officers present. Committee members requested that chicanes should be in place at key points to create a more effective deterrent to the minority of cyclists who ignore the peak summer rules.

**BBQs**

Andrew is keen to eventually install hot plates in designated areas to discourage barbecues taking place on the sand with disposable BBQs. In the meantime signs advising after 6pm usage is likely to be the only option although no bye-law exists to enforce this.

Andrew went on to update members on the progress of the upcoming, major projects (as detailed on the previous page). He added that survey work was currently being carried out on the toilet block at Branksome Chine. £45k is to be spent on refurbishing toilets with seven blocks having new Wallgates installed. The maintenance contract for toilets has been brought in-house so he is confident that many issues experienced last year will be addressed.

He added that new way-finding signs will be installed all along the seafront corresponding with those currently in Bournemouth.

PBHA members thanked both officers for their time and appreciated their efforts and those of team members who have responded positively to requests and queries.
Summer Social - order your tickets now!

Don’t miss this year’s event which includes an option of a fish & chip supper or barbecue at Branksome Dene Community Room 5th June from 6.30pm.

Tickets £10.00 per person from Social Secretary, Yvonne Hartwell email ybonne.hartwell@talktalk.net. Please send cheques made payable to Poole Beach Huts Association to Yvonne at 133 Sopwith Crescent, Merley BH211SR.

Please bring your own drinks!

Check out new huts at Hamworthy Park!

Dates for your Diary

5 June
PBHA Summer BBQ + fish & chip supper – Branksome Dene Room

23 June
Sandbanks Sprint Triathlon

13/14 July
British Beach Polo Championships – Sandbanks Beach

3/4 August
British Handball Championships – Branksome Chine

17/25 August
National Surf Life Saving Championships – Branksome Chine Surf Life Saving Club

For more information about the Association visit www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk or contact
Chairman, Bob Lister 07980 928 752 or email bob@sunwiser.co.uk