

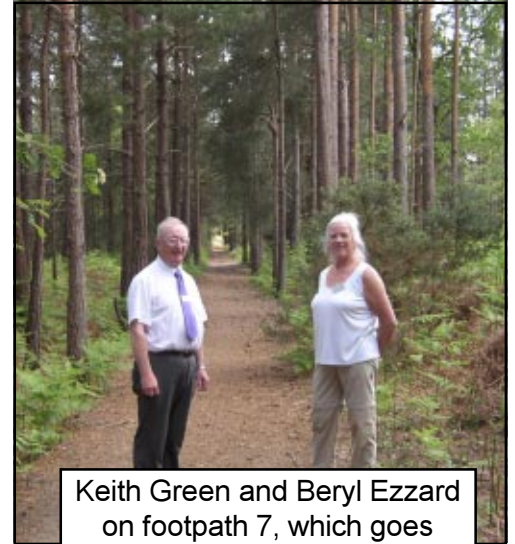
Nature reserve decision delayed

At the May meeting of Purbeck District Council it was proposed that “Sandford Heath” be transferred into the ownership of English Nature for the purpose of turning this piece of land into a national nature reserve.

Councillor Keith Green then proposed that it would be possible to exchange this for the piece of land that at present is stopping the Sandford Bypass, which would ensure that any loss of nature reserves was compensated for by incorporating Sandford Heath into the Holton Heath reserve. Unfortunately English Nature have explained it was not possible because of the designations on both the land at Holton Heath and at Sandford.

It also emerged that before any transfer could go-ahead, according to Purbeck District Council’s own rules, the Council would have to undertake a period of consultation which they have failed to do.

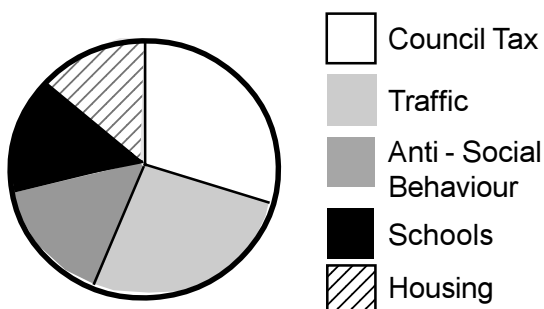
“The proposal has now been deferred, hardly a satisfactory result for residents of Sandford and Holton Heath. Nobody seems to know when it will be coming back because Purbeck District Council has yet to inform us of the timetable.” says Cllr Keith Green.



Keith Green and Beryl Ezzard on footpath 7, which goes through Sandford Heath.

ST MARTIN RESIDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY

YOUR CONCERNS (TOP 5)



Residents speak out on traffic

“If we can’t get a by-pass, why don’t we have slip roads turning off to the left and stop turning right off the main flow.”

“Pavements are poor quality and there are too many potholes in Sandford . Traffic queues and speeding traffic on the A351 .”

“Very dangerous access from Silent Woman Inn and Park. Traffic very fast downhill and pensioners here at risk.”

MASSIVE RESPONSE TO MP’S SURVEY

Annette Brooke, your MP, was amazed at the response to her recent survey; she received a flood of survey returns from residents of St Martin.

Council Tax was the biggest local issue with 61% of you raising it as a concern.

After Council Tax, traffic was cited as the next most important issue of local concern, with anti social behaviour also figuring highly.

Unacceptable traffic queues and congestion, particularly in Sandford was the biggest traffic problem raised. This was followed by crime prevention, schools and housing.

Over three quarters (77%) thought urgent action should be taken on climate change, yet only one sixth (16%) considered the Government was giving this important subject sufficient priority. Your local Councillors are committed to reducing our carbon footprint by encouraging use of sustainable transport; including public transport.

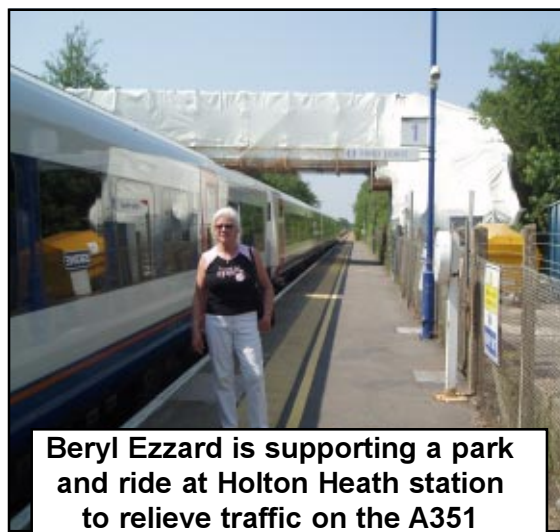
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - WORKING FOR ST MARTIN ALL YEAR ROUND

Park and ride could help traffic problems

Local Liberal Democrats continue to campaign for consistent transport solutions across your area. Councillor Beryl Ezzard is supporting a park and ride at Holton Heath, when and if, the Swanage Railway connects to Poole.

The footbridge across the railway at Holton Heath station is being refurbished and might help to facilitate a park and ride near the station which will reduce the number of trips along the A351 road. The parking would also give access to walkers to use the footpaths on Sandford Heath.

The District and County Council have promised to work for solutions to the problems of the A351 but to date have not come up with any proposals.



Beryl Ezzard is supporting a park and ride at Holton Heath station to relieve traffic on the A351

Tory confusion over Sandford Heath

Despite their best efforts to appear caring for the environment, it would appear local Conservatives do not seem to understand heath conservation, having made complaints at a recent meeting about cutting down of trees encroaching on Sandford Heath. "Conservatives have the idea that cutting down the trees on the heath is deforestation! To preserve the unique Dorset Heaths, where some of the rarest plants and birds flourish, it must be managed by removing selected pines and silver birch." says District Councillor Beryl Ezzard.

We believe a condition of transfer of Sandford Heath should be to upgrade footpath 7 (Holton Heath to Sandford) to a cycleway to enable cyclists to cycle in safety avoiding the busy, fast stretch of the A351 from the traffic lights at Holton Heath crossroads to the Middle School roundabout.

"This would encourage many local people to get on their bikes for work in Upton/Poole. I am very keen for a cycle route from Wareham to Upton to come sooner than later; with the traffic in the summer season, it would most probably be quicker than driving!" says Beryl.

ACTION ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Following continued concerns by local residents and the Parish Council about anti-social behaviour in the Cold Harbour and North Trigon areas, County Councillor David Budd can report that Dorset County Council, Purbeck District Council and Dorset Police are working together to address the problems.

"For obvious reasons the details of any proposed actions must remain confidential" says David

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT FOCUS TEAM

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Annette Brooke with David Budd (left), Beryl Ezzard (centre right) and Keith Green (right)

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