



SANDBANKS COMMUNITY GROUP

Speaking for Sandbanks

Manawa
42 Banks Road
Poole
BH13 7QF

08 September 2020 Dear Stakeholder

Sandbanks Community Group (SCG): Summer issues – 2020-21

Sandbanks Community Group is a voluntary body with >500 resident & business members.

We work to keep Sandbanks a unique, safe and welcoming place for everyone to enjoy now and into the future. We also speak up for the best interests of the area all year round.

As with many other tourist locations in the BCP Council area, Dorset, and nationally, visitor numbers to Sandbanks and our beach expand significantly during the summer months.

This gives rise to the same issues every summer, particularly on the 7-8 days every summer when great weather coincides with weekends. This year was exceptional only in the sense that the increased scale of the visitor influx intensified the impact of the issues. The issues were largely the same as those experienced every year.

It is also worth noting that Sandbanks has some unique features compared with the rest of the beachfront. First, its public profile attracts unusual media attention and public interest. Secondly, houses back directly onto the beach. This means many of our residents are more directly affected by what happens on the beach than other areas along the beachfront.

The two main issues are:

1. Lack of respect from a minority of visitors

The majority of visitors to Sandbanks behave with respect for the area and our residents. That is to be applauded. However, the lack of respect shown by a small minority has a disproportionately negative impact on the enjoyment of the majority, as well as on the local environment. Some examples of this behaviour include:

- Beach bonfires, excessive late-night noise & nuisance from beach gatherings
- Late night “boy racers” racing cars and motorbikes around the peninsula, endangering the safety and quality of life of residents, visitors and others
- Parking across residents’ driveways, preventing access
- Excessive littering on the roads, paths and beach, damaging the environment
- Illegal beach and roadside camping, either in tents or in vehicles, resulting in hygiene, security and safety issues

2. Highways and safety issues across the peninsula

Large visitor numbers, the majority of whom travel by car, have at times overwhelmed the local highways infrastructure. This has included:

- The peninsula often becoming gridlocked, hindering resident and emergency access
- Suspension of ferry operations due to severe jams (with resulting exhaust fume air pollution) on Panorama Road caused by vehicles exiting the Sandbanks car park
- Cars queuing for Sandbanks car park, blocking access to businesses and residents
- Illegal parking throughout the area, including double parking or parking on the pavement, endangering public safety and access.

In response to these issues, SCG is calling for the policies in the attached **SCG Statement of Aims** document to be implemented so that visitors and local people alike can have a safe & enjoyable experience of Sandbanks in future summers to come.

We recognise that enormous efforts were made by Dorset Police and BCP Council to respond to the exceptional challenges this year. Many of the steps taken have been well received by residents and visitors alike. These included:

- attendants at & closure when full of Sandbanks car park
- extra bins at key locations
- increased litter collection resources
- security guards on the beachfront
- electronic signage around the area warning when Sandbanks is full
- adoption of specific road closure powers
- tow-away zoning.

We also recognise you are resource constrained.

However, SCG advocates that similar measures to the above (and more) should be built into the planning for future summers.

We want to work constructively and collaboratively with all public bodies to help to protect the economic and environmental benefits that Sandbanks brings to the BCP conurbation - and Dorset more widely - by attracting visitors to the area.

To do this, SCG strongly believes that the respect, safety and future protection of Sandbanks is essential.

We would welcome a meeting or phone call with you to discuss these matters. If you agree, I would be happy to have my assistant arrange a time and date with you/your office.

Yours sincerely,



D H Morley
Chairman, Sandbanks Community Group