



**Report from meeting held Tuesday 4th November 2026 at
Dorset Nectar**

Attendees:		
	Rob Muhl – (President)	RM
	Mark Dicker – (Vice President)	MD
	Sylvia Collins (Treasurer)	SC
	Katie Smith - (Secretary)	KS
	Penny, Ryan & Christian Strong - Dorset Nectar Cider	PS, RS, CS
	Rupert Morton – The Decorator Centre	RuM
	Emma McDonald – Whisper Us	EM
	Sam Hanbury – Baboo Gelato	SH
	Dudley Barnes – Simon Hall	DB
	Richard Balson – Balson’s butchers	RB

Apologies

Heather Cowan, Martin Ridley, Sally Freemantle, Mark Houghton, Karen and Julian Hussey, James Rooney, Eric and Joyce Dunford, Roy Gregory

Market Business and Market Liaison Committee

MD briefed us on the last meeting he attended

- The new roundabout at Miles Cross is ongoing. Contractors are requesting clarification which may push the project back by a further six months.
- The market is performing very well. MD commented that the market and local businesses work hand in hand. The council is interested in the market but needs to balance this with supporting local businesses. There has been a small increase in empty shops.
- It was noted that when shops close or businesses move, new businesses often move in fairly quickly.

Town centre issues

- Lighting in South Street car park was raised. The car park is owned by Dorset Council. There are a number of holes in the surface which are causing trip hazards.

Figures and footfall

- Ken presented figures which are slightly up on last year. Footfall over the season was also up

West Bay update

- Feedback from traders was that the summer was alright, though there has been some slowdown due to the wider economy. If the weather had not been good, it could have been a much tougher season.



- A strong message came from the West Bay committee: if crimes are not reported, policing will never increase. Everything must be reported. This message needs to be circulated.
- Issues such as boy racers were discussed. Many people have stopped reporting incidents, so police do not see them as a problem. It was noted that reported figures can be three times lower than reality.
- Harbour Orders were signed off on 15 December. This will allow harbour masters to manage the harbours properly.
- The council continues to say there is no money. However, a new dredging method is being tested which could save £70,000 a year. This should free up funds for other areas.

Any Other Business

- Christmas social: A get-together will be arranged at some point. RM is working on ideas.
- Temporary traffic lights: These can be reported once work has finished. Often no notice is given and signs are left behind, which is when they should be called in.
- Food Festival: There is a push to encourage more businesses to get involved.
- Council meeting: Postponed – awaiting another date

Next Meeting: TBC