**Q30 Community Facilities: Personal Safety and Crime Prevention [VIP]**

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| **Q30** Personal Safety and Crime Prevention, asked whether:    (a)The village is a safe place to live or work, day or night; and  (b) the beach area is a safe place to be.  [And we asked for comments:] “If you disagree with either of the above, please specify what your safety concerns are.” |

**Q30 SUMMARY:**

**The quantitative responses indicated that 95% of respondents agree the village is safe, day and night; 86% feel the beach is safe (while 6% disagree). In addition there were 108 comments. The most significant issue was that 26 comments indicated that street lighting is inadequate, however this is to some measure contradicted in Q8 Light Pollution, where 20 commented that there is an excess of light.**

**More, or better, safety signage on the beach is needed but there is a recognition that the beach itself is safe if it is respected. We need to improve beach safety and it was suggested to have a beach warden.**

Comments were broken down into the following categories:

**Village**

1. Police-related issues
2. Street lighting [see also Q8 Pollution]
3. Village – other

**Village and beach**

1. Dogs

**The beach area**

1. Cliffs and Mud
2. Actions of people
3. Signage [see also Q7 Environment]
4. Wardens
5. Beach - other

**Issues mainly relating to the Village (36)**

1. **Policing-related issues (6)**

* *Community police needed much more*
* *Village police walking up and down the road (like the old days)*
* *Little point in local police driving down Lower Sea Lane, round car park, then out the village*
* *A number of burnt-out cars noticed over the last two years*
* *We have a door and window damaged by attempted forced entry*

*(and)*

* *Need for a surveillance camera at front car park / Heritage Centre*

1. **Street lighting (26)** [see also Q8 light pollution. An *excess* of light has been noted in that section, but is to some measure contradicted by responses about *too little* light as found here]

**Brightness/quality/amount (18)**

* *Street lighting is totally inadequate*
* *Lighting improvements would make it feel safer*
* *Need better street lighting*
* *Street lighting poor in patches*
* *Blank spaces in lighting in upper part of the Street*
* *Street lighting terrible – can’t see*
* *Better lighting needed in The Street*
* *Brighter street lighting within village area during winter months*
* *Improve street lighting, very dull and uninviting*
* *I think the village High Street is depressing with the lighting system and Lower Sea Lane is too dark*
* *Dependent on house lighting and cars for adequate visibility*
* *Should be able to see who is on the other side of the road*
* *Poor lighting in The Street. Cannot see where you are putting your feet*
* *Reduced lighting insufficient especially where pavement is uneven*
* *Little chance of drivers seeing you*
* *Lack of decent lighting makes lone women feel vulnerable*
* *I/we do not go out at night but would be put off by lack of lighting. Always seems brighter with Christmas lights.*
* *Very poor lighting in The Street. Much better in LSL*

**Timing of lighting (5)**

* *Street lights go out far too early for people walking home after an event.*
* *Lights turned off at midnight making residents feel nervous walking home at night*
* *The darkness makes people nervous*
* *(Lights out) also bad when driving. An accident only needs to happen once*
* *Street lights need to do what it says and some of us are out before 6.30 am.*

**Beach area (1)**

* *Beach area too dark during winter months*

**More general comments (2)**

* *Change the lighting on The Street*
* *No light pollution in a village that is in darkness once the sun goes down*

1. **Village – other (4)**

* *Personal safety has a dependence on being sensible / careful*
* *Safe to live in village out of main tourist season*

**Issues relating to the Village and Beach (8)**

1. **Dog behavi**o**ur (8)**

* *(Safe) apart from assaults from uncontrolled dogs*
* *I am concerned about dogs off the lead potentially attacking runners*
* *Some owners not very in control of their dogs*
* *Dogs running wild on the beach - long leads tripping people up*
* *Keep dogs off the beach – some run wild*
* *Stronger controls over dogs on beach*
* *People ignore signage about dogs on beach, suggest having a dog warden and issuing fines (2)* [moved from Q26]

[Someone was badly bitten by a loose dog on the beach on 4th Sept. Ambulance called]

**Issues relating to the Beach (64)**

1. **Cliffs, Rock falls, and Mud (13)**

Noted in various ways, the beach can never be considered totally safe due to ongoing cliff rock falls and mud slides which are natural features /natural hazards of the area. These 13 comments are unspecific, simply mentioning one or more of cliffs, landslides, mudslides, rock falls etc.

1. **Regarding the actions of people with respect to safety on the beach (17)**

* *Beach is safe so long as people ae sensible and careful. There is no way to stop people being idiots*
* *Beach is safe when treated with the respect it deserves*
* *People do not sufficiently take care of and respect the cliffs and sea*
* *It is not the beach, it is the idiots who use it*
* *Safe unless you sit under a cliff*
* *Beach is safe if cliffs are respected. Many tourists endanger their lives and those of others*
* *Mainly safe but still too many climb the cliffs fossil hunting*
* *Stop people climbing cliffs*
* *Foreshore is safe provided people obey / observe warning signs (2)*
* *Tend to agree that beach is safe – if people heed the signs on the beach*
* *Often see people ignoring warnings about the cliffs – making the beach less safe*
* *There will always be idiots who ignore the warning signs at beach*
* *We are concerned that more tourists means more idiots hacking at stones on the beach. ‘Jurassic Coast’ needs respecting not exploiting.*
* *I find it very unrelaxing seeing families with young children climbing in the cliffs. Don’t know what the solution is, there are plenty of signs re falling rocks*
* *Adults chipping fossils out for profit is off-putting! Code of Practice?* [cc 18 as CHCC runs the Fossil Code]
* *Promote Fossil Code more* [cc Q18 as CHCC runs the Fossil Code]

1. **Beach safety signage (18)**

[This section includes those comments made under Environment Q7 re Signage]

* *Need more warning signs in beach area*
* *Beach area needs more signage on danger area*
* *Increase number of signs in dangerous places when fresh mud flows etc*
* *Put signs on the beach under the cliffs to stop people hammering them. Constantly see people chipping away at them daily in spring and summer*
* *Put signs on the beach beside the cliffs to stop people hammering them – constantly see people chipping away at the cliffs on a daily basis in spring/summer*
* *Signage is woefully inadequate. ‘Beware of rock falls’ is the sort of permanent sign you get beside a main road and ignore. It does not mean “do not climb on or sit under the cliffs”. Need to give a clear instruction. If you speak to people most are receptive*
* *Re signs. In New Zealand fines are imposed for failing to adhere to beach/cliff safety.*
* *Signs in Charmouth not in one’s face enough*
* *Don’t take the signs away and hope people use their common sense – because they don’t!!*
* *No point in improving signs with pictures as they ignore the signs*
* *Large signs at Burton Bradstock and West Bay look good and very durable. Ours are too flimsy and don’t last long.*
* *Although more signage about the dangers of cliff falling would be good*
* *New signs on the foreshore planned there will be less, but more visual and informative.*
* *Improve signs with pictures maybe, clearer for visitors who don’t speak English*
* *Large sign by bridge: dogs and children should be under supervision at all times*
* *Large sign at entrance to E&W beach to include daily tide times*
* *Introduce an app which interacts with phone as a warning on the beach*
* *Without signs council would be sued*

1. **Possibility of Beach Wardens (6)**

* *A paid warden would be good if funding could be found*
* *If there were funding, a paid beach guard with the role of preventing people climbing the cliffs and acting as a lifeguard, would be useful.*
* *Are volunteer ‘cliff guards’ a viable idea?*
* *Beach wardens to prevent damage to cliffs by hammers*
* *Increase the use of volunteer wardens or rangers as occur on National Trust properties. Should be trialled*
* *Warden(s) assisted by local residents i.e. volunteers*

**I) Safety around the beach area (10)**

**Physical dangers (7)**

* *Beach front steps are unsafe – always been unsafe. Should never have been erected*
* *It’s about time the council stopped spending our money doing bodged work on the beach steps. They are dangerous, an accident waiting to happen. Plus they let our beautiful beach down. Perhaps something more appropriate like heavy duty aluminium.*
* *Would like steps at beach fixed*
* *Should be a marker on the concrete groyne near the beach steps. It can’t be seen at high tide and there have been accidents with people diving on to it.*
* *Metal exposed on / near steps - dangerous for children playing. Need to be improved*
* *Dangerous metal pieces where we swim*
* *Dangerous rocks where we swim*

**Other dangers (3)**

* *Risk of damage to eyes when rocks are being hammered*
* *Cross currents*
* *Safety of beach for young children* [context implied need for improvement, but lack of clarity over what is unsafe]

**APPENDIX: Q30 NUMERICAL SUMMARY**

* 95% agree the village is safe, day and night
* 86% feel the beach is safe (6% disagree)