

Neighbourhood Community News

For the 2,500 members in the Ferndown South and West Parley Neighbourhood Watch

SUMMER

ISSUE

*

June 2024

to

August 2024

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**Ferndown South and
West Parley Watch**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, JUNE 2024

At our recent AGM, members heard that we are fortunate to have a thriving, effective and well supported Neighbourhood Watch with an estimated 70% of households being NHW members and that we are working to increase membership numbers. Volunteers and residents value its many benefits, including liaising closely with Dorset Police, providing regular newsletters to members giving advice on police, personal security and community issues.

**

NHW also runs the Community Shop in the Barrington Centre where you can buy security products and get friendly advice. Our Community Speedwatch Team make our roads safer. We also work with organisations and Councils to raise awareness of community issues, help promote community well-being and raise awareness of local community facilities, encourage residents to be more involved with our community and feel safe in our local environment.

**

Our finances are sound despite keeping our annual donation at just £1.

**

Many thanks to members who gave details of businesses they would recommend to update our list of Trusted Traders. If you have a recommendation please let me know. The list will soon be on the West Parley Parish Council web site. Some printed copies will be available.

**

We offer our congratulations on the re-election of our Police and Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick, and the re-election of Andrew Parry as our West Parley Ward Councillor on Dorset Council.

**

We welcome Liz Young as the new Coordinator for Sector 6 (East & West of Ellesfield Drive). We are still looking for a Coordinator to cover Sector 13 (roads in the Casterbridge/ Wollaton Road area). This involves distributing the News to some 10 Contacts who drop them off to Members. This takes only about one hour every three months and is a great way to meet your neighbours and give something back to your community. Please contact me if you can help.

Take care and stay safe.

John Cullen at johncullen.nhw@hotmail.com; phone 01202 582662

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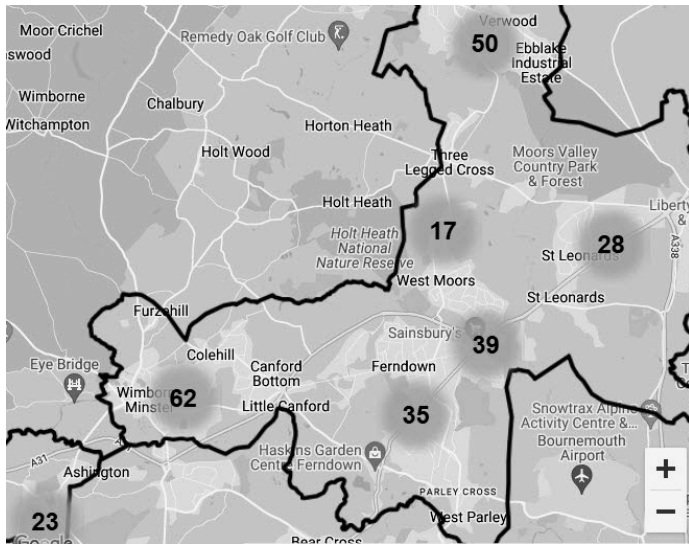
POLICE & CRIME UPDATES

The number of crimes in our area shows a welcome reducing trend

Our Dorset (Urban) area stretches from Corfe Mullen to Verwood. Crime figures for the months of January, February and March 2023 show a small reduction in number.

The distribution of incidents within our Ferndown and West Parley show small concentrations on the crime map:

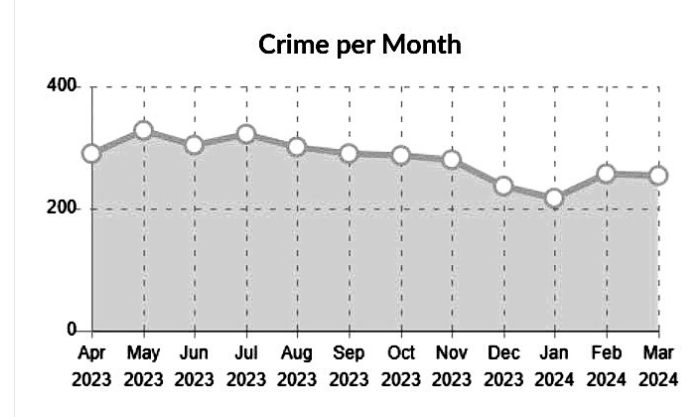
Offences	Jan 2024	Mar 2024	Mar 2023
Violence, Sexual Offences	75	94	124
Anti-social Behaviour	33	39	65
Criminal Damage & Arson	21	22	32
Other Crimes	88	99	140
Total all Crimes	217	254	368



The quarterly figures are derived from reports made by the local NHW Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT). It is pleasing to see that over 12 months the trend shows a small reduction in overall numbers,

For this we must thank the NPT for fighting to retain the West Parley and Ferndown local policing team under

Sergeant Steve Payne. We hope that the team will be able to continue its good work.



More broadly, the work of Dorset Police spans a wide range of activities. Where possible these involve members of the public, an example can be seen in a recent initiative on Stop and Search.

STOP AND SEARCH COMMUNITY SCRUTINY PANELS

1,041 stop and searches conducted between October 2023 and March 2024

Dorset Police has recently launched community scrutiny panels to assess how the Force is using stop and search and use of force powers. The panels are undertaken by and for the public and are designed to help the Force make improvements in the way that these powers are used and conducted.

The Police are calling for more volunteers to join the panels to help oversight and improvement.

Members of the public are asked to provide the Force with honest feedback on how it is using these powers. Public panels watch body worn video footage of real-life stop and search interactions and review data to provide honest, unfiltered feedback.

Volunteers for Scrutiny Panels should contact the Office of the Dorset PCC on 01202-229084 or email at: pcc@dorset.pnn.police.uk.

Of the 1,041 stop and searches conducted between

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October 2023 and March 2024, 222 (21.33%) had a police outcome, and 203 (19.5%) had no further action taken. For 616 (59.17%), the outcome was not collected.

The age profile of those searched shows a majority in the 18-34 range:

Under 10	1
10-17	147
18-24	276
25-34	250
Over 34	359

Purpose

The primary purpose of stop and search powers is to enable officers to allay or confirm suspicions about individuals without exercising their power of arrest. This is used both in response to reported incidents, and to actively focus on areas of concern raised through incidents, crime and community intelligence.

Object of Stop & Search	Stop & Searches
Stolen goods	131
Offensive weapons	154
Fireworks	1
Firearms	14
Evidence of offences	5
Controlled drugs	658
Articles for use in criminal damage	4
Articles of use in theft	61

Stop and search is never used lightly, and police officers will only exercise their legal right to stop members of the public and search them when they genuinely suspect that doing so will further their investigations into criminal activity – whether that means looking for weapons, drugs or stolen property.

The Process

A police officer or a PCSO in uniform can stop you but only police officers can search you. A police officer does not have to be in uniform but they must show their warrant (ID) card. They can search you, anything you are carrying and a vehicle.

The police officer or PCSO must explain why you're being stopped and why you're being asked to account for your actions or presence in an area. These powers help make the local community safer by preventing and detecting crime. Naturally, public cooperation is an essential part of that.

Stop and search most often happens in public places. However, there are some powers, such as searching for firearms or drugs, which allow police to search people anywhere. If you're in a public place, you may be required to remove your coat or jacket and your gloves, unless you've been stopped in relation to terrorism or where the officer believes you are using clothes to hide your identity.

If the officer asks you to take off more than this, or anything you wear for religious reasons, such as a face

scarf, veil or turban, they must take you somewhere out of public view. This doesn't mean you're being arrested.

The process may take a little time but it should be handled quickly and professionally. The police officer may ask a few questions and then, if they consider it necessary, will search you. The search is not voluntary, therefore if you don't cooperate the officer can use reasonable force to conduct the search.

Additional data and information can be seen at www.police.uk/pu/your-area/dorset-police/performance/stop-and-search/.

HATE CRIME – WHAT, WHERE, HOW?

“Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice”

Hate crime continues to be a subject of intense debate by the many legal, civil authorities, lobbyists and by the public in the media. It is an area that is often misunderstood. The following key points might be helpful to our readers.

What is a Hate Crime or a Hate Incident?

In most crimes it is something the victim has in their possession or control that motivates the offender to commit the crime. With hate crime it is 'who' the victim is, or 'what' the victim appears to be that motivates the offender to commit the crime.



A **hate crime** is defined as 'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's *race* or perceived race; *religion* or perceived religion; *sexual orientation* or perceived sexual orientation; *disability* or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is *transgender* or perceived to be transgender.'

A **hate incident** is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their *race*, *religion*, *sexual orientation*, *disability* or because they are *transgender*.

Evidence of the hate element is not a requirement. You do not need to personally perceive the incident to be hate related. It would be enough if another person, a witness or a police officer thought that the incident was hate related.

Types of hate crime

Hate crime can fall into one of three main types: physical assault, verbal abuse and incitement to hatred.



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Physical assault of any kind is an offence. If you've been a victim of physical assault you should report it. Depending on the level of the violence used, a perpetrator may be charged with common assault, actual bodily harm or grievous bodily harm.

Verbal abuse, threats or name-calling can be a common and extremely unpleasant experience for minority groups.

Victims of verbal abuse are often unclear whether an offence has been committed or believe there is little they can do. However, there are laws in place to protect you from verbal abuse.

Incitement to Hatred

The offence of incitement to hatred occurs when someone acts in a way that is threatening and intended to stir up hatred. That could be in words, pictures, videos, music, and includes information posted on websites.

Hate content may include:

- Messages calling for violence against a specific person or group.
- Web pages that show pictures, videos or descriptions of violence against anyone due to their perceived differences.
- Chat forums where people ask other people to commit hate crimes against a specific person or group.

Reporting Hate Crimes

Reporting hate crime is an important factor in preventing it. Even if you don't know who verbally abused you, the information could still help to improve how the police may target the area where the abuse took place.

Reports can be submitted online, by phone to 101 or at a police station. Dorset Police favour online reports at *True Vision*, a national police scheme to help victims and will record and investigate the alleged offence even if you do not want to give your details.

There is a report form and guidance at www.report-it.org.uk/your_police_force. You may specify how you want to be contacted and say if contacting you would cause you any difficulties.

The police will not pass on your details without your consent but they urge you to do so as this will help you get the support you deserve and will improve the chances of identifying the offender.

STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER FROM TICKET FRAUD

£6.7 million was lost to ticket fraud in 2023 in UK

Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a new ticket fraud awareness campaign, warning people to be alert to fraudsters trying to catch out people planning for popular and sold-out events.

How to Protect Yourself from Ticket Fraud

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a well-known ticketing website.
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.
- The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords.
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.
- Is the vendor a member of STAR? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit star.org.uk/buy_safe.
- If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.



Don't be fooled by ticket fraudsters

With a host of sporting and music events set to take place this summer, be wary of fraudsters selling fake or non-existent tickets to events.

ActionFraud
www.actionfraud.police.uk

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SCAM UPDATE

The scams you need to know about this month

Fraudsters remain fully active, with new scams imposed on the public: the trusting, the well- and less-informed, the careless, and the gullible.

Recent reports drawing on data from Action Fraud and the Office for National Statistics uncovered which police forces have recorded the most incidents of individual fraud per 100,000 people.

They show that **Dorset is one of the worst areas for fraud crime in the UK** with c.550 reports per 100,000 people logged by the police.

The most common category of fraud recorded in Dorset was online shopping and auctions from non-delivery of products bought by a consumer, or the misrepresentation of a product.

Second most common was advance fee fraud, where fraudsters persuade victims to make upfront payments for goods, services and or financial gains that do not materialise.

The third most common fraud reported in Dorset was cases where criminals pretend to be someone with authority asking individuals to use their credit cards, debit cards, repayment cards, store cards, and cheques that are linked to a bank account.

Three Top Tips for avoiding the scammers

- 1. Be cautious** about sharing personal information online. Only share information with trusted websites and be wary of unsolicited emails or phone calls requesting personal details. If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- 2. Use strong passwords** and enable two-factor authentication. This adds an extra layer of security to your accounts, making it harder for unauthorised individuals to gain access. Strong passwords should be complex and unique, and two-factor authentication requires a second verification step in addition to your password, such as a code sent to your phone.
- 3. Monitor your accounts** regularly. Check your bank statements and credit card reports for any suspicious activity and report any discrepancies immediately. This way you can catch fraudulent activity early and minimise the damage.

DORSET POLICE REPORT INCREASED COURIER FRAUD

Courier fraud typically sees a victim receive an unexpected call from someone claiming to be a police officer or bank. The caller may be able to confirm some basic details about the victim such as their full name and address.

Callers tell the victim that their account has been subject to fraudulent activity and will apply pressure to convince the victim to hand over their bank details or withdraw cash, which may be passed on to a 'courier' who will

collect the cash from their home.

Recent reports received by Dorset Police show that victims have received telephone calls from people claiming to be their bank or police officers, encouraging the victims to withdraw or transfer large sums of money for 'safe-keeping' following 'detected fraudulent activity' on their account.

People committing courier fraud typically target the elderly or vulnerable people who may live alone or suffer from age-related illnesses.

Courier fraud can seem convincing, and callers often reference personal details to make them seem legitimate. Police officers will never ask you to make a payment or purchase, withdraw or transfer money, or ask for your bank details.

Protection against calls that may be fraudulent:

- Your bank or the police will never ask for your PIN.
- Neither the police nor the banks will send a courier to collect money from you.
- If you're asked to telephone a bank, always make the call on a different phone to the one you were contacted on.
- Do not rush into complying to the scammers' demands.
- If you have already given your bank details over the phone or handed your card details to a courier, call your bank straight away to let them know and request that they cancel the card.

FAKE TEXTS IMPERSONATING EVRI, FORMERLY HERMES

The fake Evri text message asks the recipient to click a link to pay a £1.45 shipping fee, handing over their bank details to the fraudsters. The message appears to come from an unrecognised number, but claims to be from Evri. It asks the recipient to visit an false 'Evri' website to pay a £1.45 shipping fee. It claims that the recipient's parcel will be returned to the sender if the fee isn't paid.

Evri: Your parcel has a £1.45 shipping fee, to pay this now visit: evri-delivery-fees.com. Failure will result in your parcel being returned to sender.



If you receive suspicious texts like these, don't click on the link provided. Report the message to the free scam reporting service at 7726 and block the number. But if you have clicked on a suspicious link and think you may have given your details away to a scam, contact your bank immediately.

A NEW WAY TO REPORT SCAM TEXTS AND MOBILE CALLS – CALL 7762

There's an easy, free service you can use to report suspicious texts or calls you might receive on your mobile. It's called 7726.

It's never been more important to protect yourself from scam calls and texts. Ofcom research found that eight in ten people experienced some form of phone scam last summer, but fewer than two in ten reported them to the relevant authorities.

It's important to be extra cautious if you receive a text message, say, about a parcel you may be expecting, for example, or a call claiming to be from your bank.

But there's now an easy, free service you can use to report suspicious texts or calls you might receive on your mobile. It's called 7726.

7726 is a number that most mobile customers using UK networks can text to report unwanted SMS messages or phone calls on a mobile. The number '7726' was chosen because it spells 'SPAM' on an alphanumeric phone keypad – that's a handy way of remembering it.

What about landline phones?

If you receive a suspicious phone call on your landline, hang up – don't give out any personal or bank details.

Call the company they claim to be from to check if it's a scam.

ActionFraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

 actionfraud.police.uk 

Report the scam call to Action Fraud, and make your friends and family aware too. Call 0300 123 2040 or visit Action Fraud at <https://reporting.actionfraud.police.uk>.

You can report fraud or cybercrime to Action Fraud any time of the day or night using our online reporting tool. It is quick and easy. The tool will guide you through simple questions to identify what has happened and our advisors are available twenty four hours to give you help and advice if you need it.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Watch Your Speed in Ferndown

Our Community Speedwatch (CSW) team of volunteers are into their seventh year patrolling the speeding hot-spots close to the town centre and our schools and residential neighbourhoods. Their aim remains, always, to raise awareness of the 30mph local speed limits, promote road safety and encourage speeding motorists to slowdown.

In recent months the group has been patrolling some new locations, including Ringwood Road between Turbary roundabout and the town centre, where last year the speed limit was reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

In their first few months operating this year in sleeved hi-viz jackets, patrols were seen by over 15,200 motorists. Happily, most drivers were observing the speed limit or slowing when they saw a Speedwatch patrol.

Notwithstanding this success, there were 804 speeding motorists (5.3%) who had to be reported to Dorset Police for further action, including up to five per minute on Ringwood Road. Most of those speeding received an Advice Letter but some cases involved additional police action.

Ron Cross, our CSW Coordinator, said "The introduction last year of the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), affectionately known as the 'Thank You' signs has really worked to remind motorists of our local speed limits. My team and I have had great feedback from both motorists and residents.

We would like to thank all motorists who adhere to the speed limits for their support."



To help keep our roads safe, Dorset Police will respond to concerns about speeding and dangerous driving in our neighbourhoods, including red light violations and blatant tailgating. Residents can report in-confidence on the Dorset Road Safe website www.dorset-roadsafe.org.uk (Select 'Enforcement Operations' and then 'Reporting Traffic Concerns' which defines the 'Areas of Concern' and the correct contact details for each.

Alternatively you can dial 101 or send an e-mail to csw@dorset.pnn.police.uk. Dorset Police welcome the intelligence, will investigate all cases and take appropriate action, doing their best to provide feedback to the complainant.

Dorset Police also welcome dash cam footage and digital photographic evidence of dangerous driving incidents, including instances of excessive speeding. For more information and to submit footage, please refer to www.dorset.police.uk/opsnap.

In 2023 Dorset Police received 1,721 footage submissions of which 949 (55%) led to action and 843 (49%) initiated prosecutions.

For more information and offers of volunteers, please phone Ron Cross on 07592 790199.



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KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE

Nine Local Walks around West Parley

We live in a wonderful place with access to some superb countryside, often unexplored by our residents. There are now nine walks around West Parley and parts of Ferndown, all shown on the West Parley Parish Council web site westparley-pc.gov.uk/walks. The walks have been enhanced with the addition of a considerable amount of local and historical information.

The circular walks range from just a mile to some 10 miles and all have been tried and tested by local residents. They are mostly flat, but some of the paths and fields can be muddy in wet conditions.

If you know of a great walk that we have missed, please get in touch.

The walks are based on Ordnance Survey maps OL22 - New Forest; OL15 - Purbeck and South Dorset (both scale 1:25000); and Landranger 195 Bournemouth and Purbeck (1:50000) for the bits west of Longham.

The West Parley Walks are described in fascinating detail, each with clear mapping and text..

- *Walks 1 and 2, Longham Lakes* - round the smaller lake (approx 1 mile) or round both lakes (approx 2 miles)
- *Walk 3, along the River Stour to Longham* - returning via the Angel Inn to West Parley (approx 5 miles)
- *Walk 4, along the River Stour to Hampreston* - returning via the Angel Inn to West Parley (approx 6 miles)
- *Walk 5, along the River Stour to Canford School* - returning via Knighton and Bear Cross to West Parley (approx 10 miles)
- *Walk 6, along the River Stour to Throop Mill* - returning via the Parley Court Farm to West Parley (approx 8 miles)
- *Walk 7, around Parley Common* - from Memorial Hall via Barrack Road and Lone Pine Drive (approx 2-3 miles)
- *Walk 8, Parley Common to Tricketts Cross* - via Barrack Road, Ferndown Golf Course, Lone Pine Drive (approx 5 miles)
- *Walk 9, Parley Cross to Tricketts Cross* - via Chapel Lane, Palmers Ford, Parley Common, Lone Pine Drive (approx 7 miles).

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FERNDOWN FOOD BANK – UPDATE ON THREAT OF CLOSURE

Relief may be in sight

The Food Bank is located in the Ferndown Day Centre in Pennyhills Walk. It is run by Ferndown Community Support (FCS), who were warned in March of an eviction notice to take effect on 19 September 2024. Following an outpouring of concern from the local community and Food Bank users, the organisation has been given more time before an eviction notice is served.

Tony Brown, an FCS trustee, summarises the issue: “The food bank is located in the disused kitchen of Ferndown Day Centre, in what was a superb collaboration between statutory services and voluntary services. An eviction notice was served by Care Dorset as they wanted to use the kitchen to help cater meals for a small number of people who attend the Day Centre. FCS put forward their solutions to Care Dorset which will provide the current users of the Day Centre with their requirements, nutritional and also companionship, as well as vastly reducing the costs of Care Dorset.”

Ferndown Community Support CIC have worked tirelessly to engage with Dorset Council, who own the property, and Care Dorset, a wholly owned subsidiary of Dorset Council. Following these discussions, it has been confirmed that the eviction notice will now be decided and is no longer a fixed end date of 19th September.

The Food Bank supports between 50-70 households a day, six days a week, and offers both fresh and tinned foods. Said Hannah Hobbs-Chell, co-founder of the FCS said, “Our aim is to offer help to people in financial crisis and to have a balanced and healthy diet.”

The Food Bank allows people to come twice a week for as long as they need and aims to provide up to 70% of clients’ food needs. Alongside this, the food bank also offers a pet bank, hygiene bank, baby bank, benefits and welfare adviser, family cooking sessions, a community allotment and the UK’s first and only medicine bank.

FCS say they are looking forward to further dialogue with Dorset Council and Care Dorset to find a more permanent solution and working relationship. Their petition to Care Dorset, Dorset Council and MP Sir Christopher Chope is still available to sign either online or in person at several outlets in Ferndown:

www.change.org/save-ferndown-food-bank



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VANDALISM IN WEST PARLEY

*A recent spate of delinquent behaviour
brings sadness to residents*

We are normally able to boast of a quiet, peaceful and neighbourly village. Sadly, our peace has been defiled by bad behaviour, most probably by young people.

For some months West Parley has been plagued by an increase in graffiti and mindless damage. Graffiti has appeared bus shelters, public toilets, telecoms cabinets, rubbish bins, noticeably in the Recreation Ground, where parts of the round shelter have been badly damaged. On New Road, fences have been defaced and bus shelters have had windows repeatedly smashed.

Much of the graffiti is repeat activity with just three different 'tags' occurring in a number of areas.

Unless dealt with, it makes the area look neglected and suggests that we do not care. We do care! Our Parley Volunteers have removed graffiti and damage is being repaired.

We need to respond quickly to reports of vandalism. Please report any suspicious activity to the Police on 101 or on www.dorset.police.uk or to West Parley Parish Council.

At a recent Community Police event, the message was clear: report everything across the Watch area and even if you do not see an immediate response then the report is added to the data on problem areas so that action can be taken.

In future, as soon as we see any graffiti or damage we will make sure this will be dealt with. Your help in this would be most welcome.

NEW ROAD SURFACING

*'Preventative treatment' to extend the life of
Dorset's urban residential roads*

We have all noticed the large number of roads that have been 'resurfaced' with a new material. What is it and why is it so noisy?

Dorset Council explains that "The treatment, known as microasphalt surfacing, extends the life of the road. It is a cost-effective method for worn, but not structurally failing, roads. It also adds reinforcement to the existing surface, removing minor imperfections and sealing the road to prevent water getting through.

"This microasphalt programme is part of Dorset Council's regular maintenance strategy for its roads, maintaining condition and preventing or repairing potholes. It is supported financially by the Department for Transport and by the council's own funding.

"On application, the microasphalt may look 'open' with some loose chippings.



However, after a few weeks (depending on traffic volumes) the material will bed in. It is not rolled as this brings the 'binder',

which sits below the surface, to the top; this would affect the final texture and performance. The contractor may sweep up any excess chippings."

The roads affected are listed at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/news/preventative-treatments-for-more-dorset-roads>. The website does not mention the change in road noise... we will have to hope that it reduces over time.