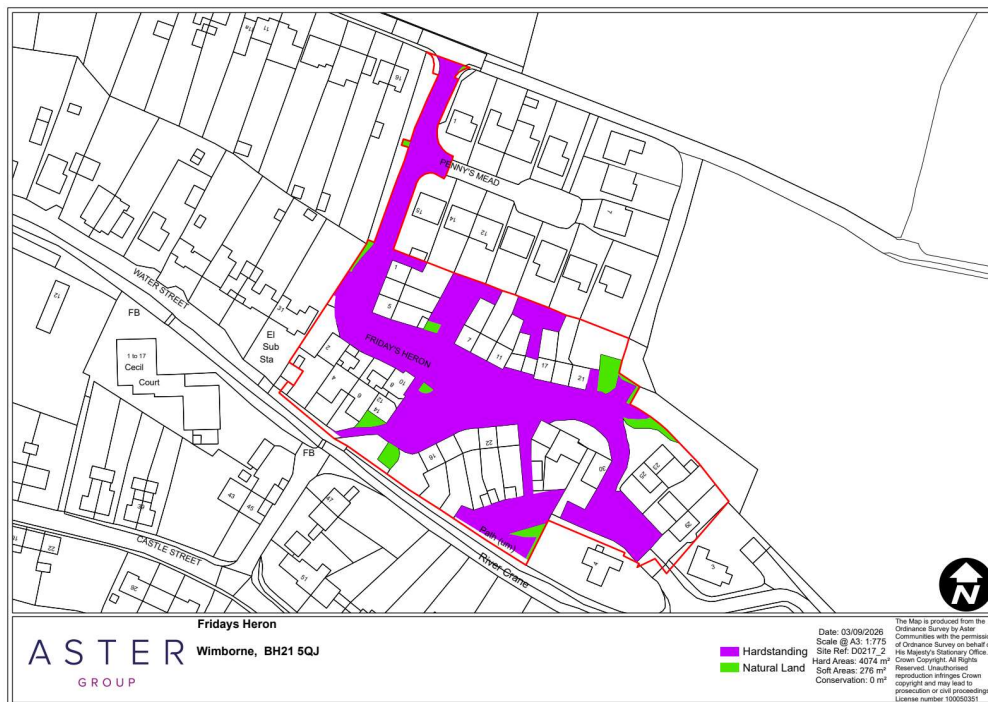


Meeting with Aster Housing Association (AHA) Estates Regional Supervisor Josh Cotterbarker (JCB) regarding the apparent lack of grounds maintenance on Friday's Heron on Monday 7th September 2026



The meeting started along the footpath next to Penny's Farmhouse. The wooden boundary fence is broken due to rotten wood. The Estate Plan shows no maintenance for the boundary along that footpath from the Farmhouse wall to Gallipot Bridge. JCB insisted that the boundary was not the responsibility of AHA. I countered that it was their boundary and the trees (mostly Sycamores) have self seeded in the 31 years since the estate was built. Their contract and Estate Plan therefore needs to be challenged and amended. There is a lot of rubbish dumped on the estate side of that wooden fence and JCB said AHA would request tenants to remove their rubbish.

Apparently the Estate is visited every 2 weeks for maintenance and any cuttings removed from those areas in green on the Plan.



This area has a broken fence and although the grass is cut it is not included in the maintenance contract to mend the fence. This will be reported to the relevant department to repair the fence.

This area (right) is as one exits the arable field and enters the Estate and is included in the contract but appears to have been left by the contractors. They appear to have taken the boundary to the edge of the road only. This area will be cut in future.



This high hedge which divides Penny's Mead from Fridays Heron is not included in the contract. I did question why as the area is obviously a communal area. I did insist the contract be amended to include this hedge. At the same time to look at removing the Sycamore tree.

The Friday's Heron sculpture is covered in ivy and I asked that this be cleaned up. Which JCB agreed.



The road from Penny's Lane leading down into the Estate is the responsibility of AHA but not the shrubbery. Someone unknown has recently cut it though but the ownership of that strip of land is unknown. This seems rather strange as there is a wooden fence behind the shrubs. This could be another area that has just not been included in the contract.

We then went to Cecil Court, which previously was Eastboro Housing but is part of Aster's portfolio now. The maintenance of the grounds is excellent – a different contractor from Friday's Heron. I brought JCB's attention to the hedge along the river bank that forms the boundary of the flats. I asked him to look into getting this hedge cut back drastically whilst the river bed is dry. He would look into this.

The meeting concluded with JCB agreeing to check the boundaries of the Estate with their legal department. I suggested to him the contract needed to be amended to include those areas not currently maintained. I suggested I give him one month in which to look into these queries, and report back.



For background information I was a Board Member of East Dorset Housing Association for 7 years. I was there when the Estate was built and met monthly with the Director of Development during the build. I was the Association's representative when the Estate suffered the flooding. It's been disappointing to see the Estate slowly becoming unkempt, and large areas not being maintained.

Shirley Merrick
Parish Councillor
Cranborne and Edmondsham Parish Council

7th September 2026