



Christmas Lighting

Bridport Town Council, with support from the Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the Christmas Festival Committee, is this year putting up more Christmas lights with seven cross street displays.

In addition, as a long standing Christmas tradition, the Town Council has sought to encourage all the shops in the town to have a Christmas Tree on their premises.

Winter Weather Maintenance

In the event of severe weather this winter, Dorset County Council will be using its resources to keep the highway network clear. It will also be making grit available to the Town Council, to use around the town. The County will fill grit bins and the Town Council has put in a large number of additional bins, in locations agreed with the County Council. Additional bins have also been provided in their areas by Bradpole, Allington, Bothenhampton and Symondsburry parish councils. The Town Council, bearing in mind its limited resources, will also look to work with the District Council to try to clear priority areas in the town .

Meadowlands Play Area

As part of its community day, Magna Housing staff spent a day during the summer helping to repaint the Meadowlands play area.



Magna staff at Meadowlands Play Area

Democracy Day

The Town Council's Annual Democracy Day event was held in October, with a number of year 10 students from Colfox School. The students took part in a number of activities to learn about how local government works in the Bridport area. They also presented their ideas of policies that they would like to see introduced in the town and also how they would go about working with other agencies and raise funds to implement the policies. Issues identified by the students included more facilities for young people and more shopping options in the town.

All the students attending and many other students at Colfox School had also completed Town Plan consultation forms. The comments made will be considered by the Town Council as part of the review of the Town Plan.

Park and Ride 2011

The Town Council, in partnership with West Dorset District Council, operated the West Bay/Bridport Park and Ride Scheme again during the summer holiday period, on Wednesdays and Saturdays (market days). The service was very well used, with a 35% increase in passenger numbers, compared to last year. This was partly due to the service running for an additional two weeks, although even discounting the additional time, there was still an increase in usage.

Town Hall Heritage Project

Work has been progressing all year on the project to restore and refurbish the Town Hall. This major project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, West Dorset District Council and the County Council, will see the grade 1 listed building being made fully accessible. A new lift will provide access to the first floor, and the ground floor will provide accommodation for the Tourist Information Centre and a new community exhibition space.

The TIC will be moving into the building in January and the whole building should be open to the public by the end of that month. Public bookings of the Town Hall and the new exhibition space are being taken for March 2012 onwards.

Regular newsletters have been issued with information on the project and a full pictorial record can also be seen at: www.bridporttownhall.org.

On behalf of West Dorset District Council, the Town Council is also now project managing the delivery of the new town centre toilets in South Street Car Park, hoped to open in Spring 2012.

Grants

The Town Council has this year given grants totalling almost £24,000 to local community groups and organisations working in the town. Representatives from the groups received their cheques from the Town Mayor at a ceremony held at Mountfield in October.

The Town Council continues to support the larger organisations - the Arts Centre, Leisure Centre, Museum and Citizens' Advice Bureau - and through the grants budget it is also able to assist smaller organisations with a wide variety of projects that benefit people in the town.

New Town Plan

The Town Council is working on its new Town Plan and following public consultation will issue a draft Plan for further consultation. The Plan sets out the projects that the Town Council will seek to implement over the next four years of the Town Council, from 2011 to 2015.

New Local Plan

Representatives from the Town Council have been taking part in the consultation process being run by West Dorset District Council, on the new Local Plan for the District. The Local Plan will set the strategic context for development across the District over the coming years, including identifying sites for housing and employment allocations in the area.

The District Council is now considering the outcome of the consultation process and will draw up a draft Local Plan next year, which will be subject to further consultation.

Ongoing Projects

As well as working on the Town Hall and delivering the new town centre toilets, the Town Council has also been progressing a number of other projects.

This includes the installation of solar panels on the Plottingham depot, support for community justice panels, processing the transfer of land from the District Council (Salt House, the Boot at Asker Meadows, the Football Club land and open space at Park Road). In the New Year, the Town Council will be making funding applications for a new multi-use games area next to the Football Club and for the conversion of the former public toilets on Fisherman's Green, West Bay.

Forthcoming Meetings

All Town Council meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held in Mountfield and there is a Public Forum at the start of each meeting.

Best Value, Scrutiny and Town Plan Sub Committee
14 December 2011 at 11.00am
Plans Committee
9 January 2012 at 7.00pm
Finance & General Purposes Committee
18 January 2012 at 7.00pm
Highways and Transportation Sub Committee
26 January 2012 at 2.30pm
Council
31 January 2012 at 7.00pm

Your Town Councillors

South Ward

G.J. Ackerman	31, Crock Lane	458098
Miss S.A. Brown	67, North Allington	423078
E.T. Colfox	North End Farm, North Chideock	07768 646434
D.G. Rickard	Rydens, Westown, Bothenhampton	420908
Ms G.E. Summers	31, Victoria Grove	421966
D.R. Tett	1, De Legh Grove, West Allington	425070
Ms A-M Vincent	96, South Street	459308
K.G. Wallace	The George, 43 Main St, Bothenhampton	456454
Ms S.J. Williams	88A, South Street	459433

North Ward

P.J. Colfox	1, Mill Lane, Symondsburly	07918 188497
Ms L.L. Glover	8, St. Swithins Avenue	427091
Ms R.C. Kayes	4 Gore Terrace, Bradpole	427902
P.J. Lathey	83 Orchard Crescent	456776
Ms G.E. Massey	The Retreat, 15 Rax Lane	423817
J.T. May	3, The Sidings, St. Andrews Road,	07748 682810
C.O. Michell	5, Duck Street, Symondsburly	423833
C.M. Ray	9, St Andrews Road	459095
Mrs M.J. Ray	9, St Andrews Road	459095

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