



# BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY BULLETIN

*the official newsletter of Bridport Town Council*

**January 2014**  
**Community Fair**

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

Bridport Town Council has agreed to participate in a neighbourhood plan for the area, with Symondsbury and Allington parish councils. The first step of the process is to designate the area and an application has been made to West Dorset District Council to approve the designation. A Neighbourhood Plan sets policies and a vision for an area. It deals with locally important issues rather than strategic issues. The plan has to be agreed by a referendum of all electors in the area and if adopted, it will become part of the statutory plan for West Dorset. It offers the opportunity for local communities to influence planning policy, allowing people to have a direct say on the development of their area.

If you would like to be involved in the development of the Plan, please contact the Town Council.

## **Multi-Use Games Arena**

The Town Council, with funding from Sport England Inspired Facilities, is to provide a new multi use games arena on land adjacent to Bridport Football Club at St Mary's Field. The project has been developed by the Town Council with the support of partners, including the Bridport Football Partnership, Bridport Football Club, St Mary's School and children's centre, local clubs, West Dorset District Council and the Youth Council. It is hoped that the facility will be open for use by early Spring 2014.

## **Grants**

Bridport Town Council has so far this year allocated almost £24,500 in grants to local community groups and organisations working in the town. Representatives from the groups awarded grants for 2013/14 received their cheques from the Town Mayor at a ceremony in October.

The grants are broken down into continued support for the four larger organisations, to meet their core running costs (Leisure Centre, Museum, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Arts Centre) and then support for specific projects put forward by smaller organisations and groups.

## **Street Lighting**

New heritage street lighting has been installed in the town centre funded by the Town Council, with support from West Dorset District Council.

## **Town Events**

The Town Council provided support for a number of town events last year, which included the successful Christmas Cheer.

## **Open Spaces**

The Town Council is supporting new community groups with the management of Asker Meadows, New Zealand open space and the Borough Gardens.

It also continues to work in partnership with the Community Orchard Group on the management of the Orchard site and the Millennium Green Trust on the maintenance of the Millennium Green and Coneygar Hill.

## **Freedom March 2014**

Bridport Town Council has heard that the Rifles Regiment is to return to the town on Sunday June 22 2014, to conduct a full parade to mark its receipt of the Freedom of the town, which was given in 2011. Lt Col (Retd) G S Nicholls Rifles Secretary, Dorset explained that: "The Rifles were very proud to have been granted the Freedom of Bridport in 2011. At the time, due to operational commitments, the Regiment was not in a position to conduct a full parade to mark the important event, but we are delighted to be able to do so on 22 June this year. We look forward very much to returning to exercise our right of marching through the town with the Band playing and over a hundred riflemen on parade as well as many local Army Cadets and Old Comrades. It promises to be a memorable event which I hope members of the local community will come and support."

Councillor Maggie Ray, Town Mayor said that "It was a great honour for Bridport to present the freedom of the town to the Rifles in 2011. We are delighted that they are now able to return for a full parade on 22 June this year. This will be a very special event and I am sure the whole town will turn out to watch the parade through the town and the marching band. We look forward to a great day, which will further cement the town's special relationship with the Rifles Regiment"

## Community Justice Panels

The Bridport Area Community Justice Panel project was established in 2010, with the objectives of reducing reoffending rates, removing anti-social behaviour and relatively low level crime from the criminal and courts system and allowing the local resolution of issues. The project is managed by a Steering Group, comprising representatives of Bridport Town Council, Bridport Police, Magna Housing, Raglan Housing and West Dorset District Council.

Local volunteers have been trained in restorative justice skills, to enable them to facilitate the panel meetings. The meetings bring an offender together with their victim, to see the harm that they have caused and to recognise the consequences of their behaviour. Both victim and offender will agree a course of action, to allow the offender to make amends for their behaviour. However, this is not a "soft option" and for the cases to be considered by a panel, the offender must accept their guilt and abide by the outcome of the meeting. The Panels can consider cases of anti-social behaviour, low level crime and neighbour disputes.

The project has been very successful in enabling the local resolution of cases and reducing the burden on the courts system and the level of reoffending. It has now been extended to Dorchester, with local volunteers being recruited to hear cases in the town. The project is being re-designated as the West Dorset Community Justice Panel and, subject to funding being identified, it is hoped that it can be rolled out further throughout the county.

## Civic Day 2013

Town Mayor, Councillor Maggie Ray, hosted the annual Bridport Civic Day in September, allowing civic leaders from across the county to enjoy the Hat Festival as well as visiting a number of local projects.



## Forthcoming Meetings

All Town Council meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held in Mountfield and the Town Hall. There is a Public Forum at the start of each meeting. Agendas for meetings are displayed on Council notice boards and published on the Council web site.

## 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, Symondsburry	07918 188497
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	8, The Buildings Symondsburry	423833
C.M. Ray	9, St Andrews Road	459095
Mrs M.J. Ray	9, St Andrews Road	459095
Mrs E.A. Rickard	Rydens, Westown, Bothenhampton	420908

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