



# BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY BULLETIN

*the official newsletter of Bridport Town Council*

Issue no. 10

Summer  
2008

## Climate Change Week



Town Council at the Food Festival

July saw the Town Council promoting awareness of climate change and energy use at the Food Festival, Charter Fair and at the town's Energy Day.

A large number of people picked up information and advice on energy use, recycling and ideas on taking action to reduce the impact of climate change. As part of the week, the Town Council signed up to the Nottingham Declaration, which commits the Town Council to do all it can locally to tackle the causes and effects of climate change in the town and local area.

A number of people also signed a petition to support a campaign to end the use of plastic bags in the town and to be part of a group looking at Bridport becoming a transition town.

The Town Council's Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee will now look to take forward the issues raised during the week.

## Market Plastic Bags

The Town Council has decided to stop issuing plastic bags for use by the traders on the market. It is now looking at alternatives that can be used instead.

## New Allotments

As food prices increase and with Bridport's reputation for locally produced food, allotments are becoming increasingly popular. There was a lot of interest from people who visited the Town Council marquee at the Food Festival.

The Town Council provides over 100 allotments at a number of sites in the town. Over the past year, there has been a lot of work undertaken to identify new sites. Recent new provision includes an extension to the large site at Skilling and additional sites off St Swithins Road and at the rear of South Street. In total, 15 new sites have recently been provided.

Discussions are ongoing to release further land for allotments at Rivervale and elsewhere in the town. Magna Housing has been very helpful in working with the Town Council to make land available for allotments.

The Town Council has allocated additional funding this year to support the provision of the new sites and to provide additional security measures, where necessary.

The Town Council works closely with the Bridport and District Allotments Society and it is pleasing that so many people maintain their allotments in good condition.

The Town Council recently took a party of school children from St Catherine's Primary School around the allotments at Flaxhayes. It was good to see the children trying to identify the different vegetables and get ideas for their school allotment.

The Town Council is also looking to provide further allotments as part of the new community orchard, to be established on land at the rear of St Mary's Church.

If you would like to apply for an allotment, or would like more information, please contact the Town Council on 01308 456722 or go to the Town Council's web site ([www.bridport-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk)).



New allotments at Skilling

## West Bay Post Office

The Town Council has strongly objected to the proposal from Post Office Ltd to remove post office facilities from West Bay.

This issue was discussed at the July Council meeting. It was generally felt that whilst it would be difficult to retain the current post office, there was a need for provision in West Bay.

The loss of service would particularly affect elderly people and people with disabilities, who would have difficulty travelling to the offices listed by the Post Office as alternatives. It would also affect tourists visiting the area and impact on local businesses, which rely on access to local postal services. The closure of this post office was also felt to be contrary to the spirit and purpose of the establishment of the postal service.

It was agreed that the Town Council should work with the District Council, County Council and the newly established local group to seek to achieve some alternative provision in West Bay, such as outreach facilities.

The closing date for responses to the Post Office consultation is 1 September. Responses can be sent to Post Office Ltd. The address is:

Tim Nickolls, Network  
Development Manager  
c/o National Consultation Team  
Post Office Ltd  
FREEPOST CONSULTATION  
TEAM  
Email: [consultation@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:consultation@postoffice.co.uk)

## Park and Ride

Following the successful operation of the scheme for the last two years, the Town Council is again providing a Park and Ride service during the holiday period, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The service commenced on 19 July 2008 and will run through to 6 September 2008.

The service runs from the main car park in West Bay to Woolworths, East Street, approximately every fifteen minutes, from 9.30 am to 2.45 pm and costs £1.60. This will cover the cost of four hours car parking and a return journey. The last journey back to West Bay, from outside Woolworths, is at 3.00 pm. Payment is made at the Park and Ride ticket machine in the main West Bay Car Park. The walk on fare is £1 Return and bus passes are also accepted.

The service is being provided by two companies on behalf of the Town Council, in partnership with West Dorset District Council.

## Support for Open Spaces

Bridport is to receive over £15,000 in funding for two schemes to regenerate open spaces in the town, following successful bids to the Big Lottery Fund Breathing Places Scheme.

Bridport Town Council has been successful in its bid for £7,950 to establish a new community orchard on the piece of land at the rear of St Mary's church, Priory Lane.

This exciting scheme will see this piece of neglected land planted with fruit trees, the creation of a new wildlife area and part of the site being used for allotments. The site will be open to the public and provide a new fully accessible route into the town. The first trees will be planted in the autumn and it is hoped that the area will be open next year.

The Bridport Environment Group has also been successful in a separate bid for £7,600 to establish a new open space and nature reserve on part of the New Zealand site in the town. One part of this site has been designated for housing and the Environment Group, supported by the Town Council and local people, has campaigned to retain the rest of the site as open space. The funding will enable work to commence on creating a nature reserve and public open space to be enjoyed by local people and visitors.

Anyone interested in being part of the work on these sites is invited to contact the Town Council.



Wildlife audit at New Zealand site

# Town Hall Renovation and Improvement Bid Ready to Go



New ground floor

By the end of August, the Town Council will have submitted its bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to support the project to open up the Town Hall and make it fully accessible. The project has the following main aims:

- to re-open the ground floor, creating a new accessible public area with flexible usage, which links directly with Bucky Doo Square;
- within the new ground floor area, a lift will be installed to provide access for users with disabilities, prams and pushchairs to the first floor;
- to repair the existing stairs to give additional circulation to/from the upper floor;
- on the first floor, it is the intention to enliven the existing interior and upgrade existing amenities to encourage and facilitate increased community usage/ access and appreciation of the Fra Newbery paintings.
- to upgrade the energy efficiency of the building.

- to conserve the Newbery designed interior scheme and paintings in the main Council Chamber.

Bridport Town Hall, built in 1786, is a Grade I Listed Georgian building. The Council Chamber was redesigned by Fra Newbery in 1925, and the Town Hall houses the largest collection of the works that he painted for public places.

The large number of people attending the Fra Newbery exhibition at the Town Hall earlier this year, and the comments received, showed how much people are impressed with the design of the building and how closely it is associated with Newbery. For many people, including many who live in the area, this was the first time that they had been inside the building and there were many comments supporting the plans to make the building more accessible.

When the ground floor is opened up, this will allow exhibitions, craft fairs and music events to be held, which would complement and enhance the activities that take place on Bucky Doo Square.

The overall cost of the project will be just under £1 million. The Town Council has agreed to earmark £400,000 from its reserves to support the bid for £500,000 to the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Impression of view from South Street

There will also be funding from the County Council and other partners. The District Council has agreed to re-locate the Town Hall toilets elsewhere in the town centre, should the bid be successful. There will be toilet provision on the ground floor, for visitors to the building.

The first stage application to the Heritage Lottery Fund will be submitted by the end of August 2008. A decision on first stage application will be made by December 2008.

It will then be necessary to prepare the second stage application to Heritage Lottery Fund. This will be submitted in August 2009, to allow for a final decision in December 2009. If the funding bid is successful, it is hoped that work can start in Spring 2010.

If you would like to find out more about the project or see the detailed plans, please contact the Town Council. More information will be reported when the first stage application result is announced in December.

*The Town Hall will be open, and the plans on display, during Dorset Heritage Week 15 to 21 September 10am-4pm.*

## New Town Mayor



The Mayor welcomes Bishop Peter Amidi from Lainya, Southern Sudan, to the Charter Fair July 2008

It is a great honour to be elected by councillors to be Mayor of Bridport. I am looking forward to my year in office and hope to represent the town as well as my predecessors. I am lucky to have former Town Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Ackerman, as my deputy and he will be a good source of advice and support.

In my first two months in office, I have already attended a number of events. I would particularly like to mention the Food Festival and Charter Fair, both of which were very successful.

Key events coming up for the town are the Carnival and Torchlight Procession (16 and 17 August), Melplash Show (21 August), the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 9 November, and the Late Night Christmas Shopping Event on 10 December.

My chosen charities are the Bridport Young Persons Action Trust and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

I am looking forward to what I am sure will be a very busy and enjoyable year.

Councillor Martin Ray  
Town Mayor

## Town Council Meetings-How To Get Involved

The Town Council takes decisions on its services and policies at regular meetings of councillors.

The full Council of all 18 members meets every two months. It appoints committees to progress the work of the Council and there are also a number of sub committees that look in detail at particular issues. The Town Council has just adopted a new Constitution, which regulates how it works to ensure transparency and accountability. This includes the Council's Standing Orders and other procedural documents and is available on the web site.

Members of the public are welcome at all meetings and may speak in the Public Forum, which is held at the start of full Council and main committee meetings.

Agendas for meetings are published on the Town Council's web site, posted on notice boards around the town, and available for inspection in the Library and at the Town Council's offices.

## Meeting Dates

The following is a list of the Town Council's meetings up until the end of 2008.

Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee  
3 September 2008 7.00 pm

Plans Committee  
8 September 2008 7.00 pm

Best Value, Scrutiny & Town Plan Sub  
9 September 2008 11.00 am

Finance and General Purposes Committee  
17 September 2008 7.00 pm

Council  
23 September 2008 7.00 pm  
(Town Hall)

Plans Committee  
6 October 2008 7.00 pm

Market and Business Liaison Sub  
21 October 2008 10.30 am

Highways & Transportation Sub  
28 October 2008 2.30 pm

Plans Committee  
10 November 2008 7.00 pm

Finance & General Purposes Committee  
12 November 2008 7.00 pm

Council  
25 November 2008 7.00 pm  
(Town Hall)

Plans Committee  
1 December 2008 7.00 pm

Best Value, Scrutiny and Town Plan Sub  
16 December 2008 11.00 am.

Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee  
17 December 2008 7.00 pm

All meetings are held in Mountfield unless shown otherwise.

If you have any questions on any aspect of the Town Council or the meetings process, please contact Bob Gillis, Town Clerk, by telephone or email as below.