



BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY BULLETIN

the official newsletter of Bridport Town Council

Issue no. 7

Spring
2007

Town Council keeps tax rise to ONE per cent - again!

For the second year running, Bridport Town Council has voted to set a precept to increase its share of council tax by only 1% (or 2p a week for a Band D taxpayer).

It has achieved the low increase despite continuing to bear the full cost of maintaining the town hall toilets, which it has done since West Dorset District Council withdrew its financial support a couple of years ago.

The town council's 1% increase compares with an increase of 2.4% by West Dorset District Council, and 4.9% by Dorset County Council. Unlike those two councils, the town council receives no financial support from central Government.

The small increase will still enable the town council to carry out a number of important projects in the coming year, and to replace outdated equipment.

All-party support

The 1% increase was proposed at full council on 6 February by Cllr Martin Ray, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and seconded by council leader Charles Wild, who said, "I am pleased that for the second year running the council has been able to set such a small increase, also that councillors of all political parties are unanimous in supporting this proposal."

Cllr Wild thanked the town clerk, Ron Gregory, and his fellow officers for their continuing good management of the council and its finances.



Town Guide published

Bridport now has its own official Town Guide, issued with the authority of the town council in conjunction with Local Authority Publishing.

The new Guide is attractively produced in full colour and contains a town map, sections on Bridport's history and its historic buildings, local business and local food, West Bay, annual events, culture and leisure facilities and other local attractions, also a street directory and information about local organisations and essential services.

Copies of the Bridport Town Guide are being distributed free to all households in the parish, and the Guide will be available for sale in the Bridport Tourist Information Centre and other local outlets.

The Town Guide has been financed almost entirely by advertisers, and the town council is pleased to thank them for their support.

Salt House open for community use

The early nineteenth-century Salt House in West Bay, which has been closed for some time since being used as an information centre during the harbour regeneration works, has been reopened for community use.

After refurbishment to increase the size of the main space and install a kitchen and disabled toilet, the building has been leased by West Dorset District Council to Bridport Town Council, and is now available for bookings by local community groups and others, including commercial organisations.



Open Day at the Salt House, West Bay, 25 January 2007

Already a number of local groups have made bookings for the Salt House and have expressed themselves pleased with the new facilities. The Salt House will also be the venue for the Annual Assembly of the Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) on Thursday 15 March 2007, 6.30 p.m. (all welcome).

For information about bookings, contact Linda Bullock at the town council on 01308-456722; or e-mail l.bullock@bridport-tc.gov.uk.

Notice Boards - your views needed

Residents may have noticed that the town council has removed one of the notice boards in Bucky Doo Square. This was in response to requests from the public and most people agree it gives a much better aspect of the square looking down South Street without the board blocking the view.

This is the start of a process of reviewing where the notice boards are in town and where extra boards may be needed.

It is planned that the refurbished town hall will have built-in notice boards on the walls of the building which will allow us to redesign Bucky Doo Square to be even more open and inviting. In the meantime the town council's Open Spaces Taskforce will be looking at all the boards in the town and evaluating their usefulness and where we could do with extra boards.

We have two boards in Bucky Doo Square, one closed and one open to the public. Further boards are located at West Bay outside the Post Office, on the Green in Skilling and by the junction of Court Orchard Road and Orchard Crescent.

Please let us know what you think, especially those people running the various activities and events who use the boards.

1. Are the existing boards in the right place?
2. Do we need more notice boards in the centre of town? If so, where would you place them?
3. Should we have boards outside the supermarkets such as the Co-op, Somerfield, Londis (Skilling) and Morrison's?
3. Should we have a board outside Mountfield?

Your answers should be returned to the Bridport Town Council, Mountfield or e-mailed to l.bullock@bridport-tc.gov.uk.

Cllr Gill Fifield,

Secretary, Open Spaces Taskforce

West Bay Regeneration - Special Town Council meeting

Please note, there will be a special meeting of the town council on Tuesday 27 March at 7 pm to hear and discuss West Dorset District Council's latest proposals for the regeneration of West Bay.



Early morning customers at the Gustomarket, which made its first and highly successful appearance in Barrack Street on two Market Days in February, and which will continue to do so on alternate Saturdays through the year

Report from the Mayor, Cllr Geoffrey Ackerman

Once again the last few months have been very busy with many engagements to attend including:

The 50th anniversary celebrations of the Sir John Colfox School; the Christmas Tree Festival in the United Church; the Boxing Day Duck Race for the Bridport Football Partnership; the festive swim on East Beach for CLIC; the Cinderella Pantomime at the Palace: it was particularly good to see the Pantomime Players and young dancing groups back there after a lengthy absence. I hope all goes well at the Palace for the future.

Three events have been particularly memorable. There was a wonderful turnout for the November Remembrance Parade and Service, the ages ranging from 4 – 94 yrs. A good number of service and other organisations were represented.

On behalf of the town council I officially received the keys of the Salt House at West Bay from West Dorset District Council. I am so pleased that while the town council leases the building, our community will be able to enjoy using it for a variety of purposes and good causes.

It was a great pleasure to meet HRH Duke of Kent when I represented our town to witness the laying up of the Regimental Colours of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment in Exeter Cathedral.

I have visited many Dorset towns during my mayoral year, and as it draws towards its close, I will have pleasure in showing Civic Leaders from across the county around Bridport highlighting our history and the successes of Bridport today.

Become a town councillor!

Being a town councillor is an interesting and stimulating experience and gives an individual the chance to serve and improve their local community. On 3 May 2007 there will be elections for all 18 seats on Bridport Town Council (9 in South Ward, 9 in North Ward). The qualifications to stand are that you are over 18 years old and live or work full time in Bridport, own land or property there or live within 3 miles of the parish boundary.

You can stand for a political party or as an independent councillor. You need two signatures on your nomination paper of people registered to vote in the ward you are standing for.

The town council has three main committees. Plans, Environment and Social Wellbeing, and Finance and General Purposes (which controls the budget and spending of the council).

The town council's responsibilities cover open spaces and play areas, the market on Saturdays and Wednesdays, the Cemetery and woodland burial, the Millennium Green, the Town Hall toilets and a variety of buildings including Mountfield and the Town Hall. We also advise and make representations to the District and County councils on matters affecting Bridport such as the harbours, car parks, schools, road repairs and planning applications.

The number of meetings vary between just over one a month to two or three a month depending on which committees you opt to attend.

For more information contact the town clerk, Ron Gregory (01308-456722).

Forthcoming Council meetings

Town Council

Tuesdays, 27 March (special meeting on West Bay); 24 April, 1 May (Annual Town Meeting), all at 7 pm at Bridport Town Hall.

Town Council Plans Committee

Mondays, 19 March, 16 April, 7 pm, at Mountfield.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Wednesday 4 April 2007, 7 pm, at Mountfield.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings, and may ask to speak in the Public Forum at the start of the meetings.