



BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY BULLETIN

the official newsletter of Bridport Town Council

Issue no. 9

Spring
2008

The Budget

The Town Council's budget for 2008/9 has been agreed. The Town Council gets its funding through raising a precept, which is included as a small part of the annual council tax bills. It also receives income from the market and charges for its services.

The Town Council does not receive any grant funding from central government. However, all the funding raised by the Town Council is spent on delivering services within the town.

New Projects

The Town Council is engaged on a large number of projects over the coming year. These include: **new allotments**, improvements to **river platforms on St Mary's**, **skate park improvements**, safeguarding the town's open spaces, undertaking a **review of traffic** in the town and preparing the lottery bid for the Town Hall.

Also for the first time, it has allocated a budget towards initiatives to support and promote measures to raise **environmental awareness** and **combat climate change**.

Other priorities this year include:

- running a **Park and Ride** bus service in the town during the summer, in partnership with the District Council.

- working as part of the project team developing the scheme, which will deliver up to 50 **affordable homes** at Flaxhayes.
- supporting efforts to identify opportunities for the town from Dorset hosting events for the **2012 Olympics**.

These projects are all in addition to running the Town Council itself and delivering its core services. The Town Council also gives grants and assists other larger projects, such as helping to fund the new changing rooms to be built at **Bridport Football Club**. When built, this facility will be used by teams on St Mary's playing fields.

More Open Spaces

The Town Council has taken ownership of **Riverside Gardens**, which is just off Sea Road North.

The **New Zealand** site in the town is owned by the District Council. The northern part was allocated in the Local Plan for housing. The Town Council has been supporting efforts to ensure that the remainder of the site is protected and designated as a nature reserve and open space.

There were concerns that the boundary of the part of the site designated for housing would be varied and encroach on to the nature reserve.

It has now been confirmed that this will not happen. The Town Council is working to get the open space transferred from the District Council to enable it to be passed to a community group to manage.

The piece of land to the rear of **St Mary's Church** is being transferred to the ownership of the Town Council. It is then intended to work with a community group to develop the site as a **community orchard**.

If you are interested in being part of community bodies to manage either the New Zealand or St Mary's sites, please contact the Town Council on 456722 or email r.gillis@bridport-tc.gov.uk

Town Plan Review

In 2005, the Town Council adopted a **Town Plan**, following public consultation and discussion with groups in the town.

The Town Plan sets out the aims of the Council and the list of projects to achieve these objectives. The projects identified within the Plan are then considered for funding when the Council sets its budget each year. Many of the projects have been completed and the Town Council is to review the Town Plan later this year.

There will be wide consultation as part of the review.

Town Hall

The Town Council is working on a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to renovate the Town Hall. This would open up the ground floor and provide for a lift to the first floor. This is an important building for the town, which needs to be brought into use and be made more accessible. The first stage bid will be submitted this summer. We should hear by the end of the year if we can progress to the second and final stage. If the second stage bid is successful, work will commence in 2010. Plans for the building can be inspected at the Town Council's offices and will be available in the Town Hall during April as part of the **Fra H. Newbery Exhibition**.

West Bay

The Town Council has fully supported all the efforts of the Steering Group it established to look at the options for a **Sea Angling Jetty at West Bay**. That Group worked hard to identify funding sources for the project.

However, at the start of this year and in the face of escalating costs, safety issues and the viability of establishing a Trust to manage the jetty, it reluctantly decided that the project would have to be abandoned. In line with the wishes of the Steering Group, the Town Council and the District Council have agreed to retain their funding earmarked for the jetty, to support efforts to identify alternative angling provision.

The Town Council is working with the District Council, who own the **Methodist Church** in West Bay, to identify future community uses for this now

empty building. If you are interested in serving on any future community body to manage this building, please contact the Town Council.

Community Needs Survey

The Town Council is supporting this survey, which is being conducted by the Bridport Local Area Partnership. It is looking to identify the needs of local community groups for space and resources. It will also help identify options and possible community uses for prominent buildings in the town, such as the Town Hall and the Literary and Scientific Institute building. If you run a local organisation and have not yet received a questionnaire, please contact Tessa Greenaway on 456722, or email at BLAP@bridport-tc.gov.uk

The Mayor

I was pleased to be invited to a number of events over Christmas, including the Christmas Tree Festival, the festive swim on East Beach and the very successful Late Night Shopping Evening.

There was a wonderful attendance at the November Remembrance Parade and Service. A good number of service and other organisations were represented. I was also very pleased to attend the 60th anniversary RAFA celebrations in March.

As my mayoral year draws to a close this month, I will have the pleasure of welcoming civic leaders to the town, to celebrate the work of Fra Newbery.

Geoffrey Ackerman,
Town Mayor

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting is to be held on 6th May. This is an opportunity for everyone in the town to hear about the work of the Town Council and also to raise any issues that you may wish to discuss. The meeting commences at 7pm in the Town Hall and all electors in the Bridport parish are welcome to attend.

Forthcoming Meetings

Town Council
22 May (Mayor Making), 22 July,
both at 7 pm in the Town Hall.

Plans Committee
Mon, 12 May, 9 & 30 June,
4 Aug, all at 7 pm in Mountfield.

Finance and General Purposes
Committee
Weds 9 July 7 pm in Mountfield.

Environment and Social
Wellbeing Committee
Weds 25 Jun 7 pm in Mountfield.

The Town Council has a number of sub committees, which meet regularly during the year. This includes a Highways and Transportation Sub Committee and a Market and Business Liaison Sub Committee.

A full list of all Town Council meetings is available from the Council Offices or can be downloaded from the web site.

Members of the public are welcome at all meetings and may speak in the Public Forum.

Agendas for meetings are posted on notice boards around the town.