



BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2008-2009



Our Sixth Annual Report

I was honoured to be appointed Leader of the Council in May 2009 for the new municipal year 2009/10. This report covers the preceding year, which once again was a very busy time for the Town Council. I would like to thank Councillor Charles Wild, who was Leader of the Council during that year. The report shows that the Town Council continues to deliver a large number of services and also undertakes and supports new initiatives for the benefit of the town. The activities of the Town Council are covered in detail in the Town Clerk's report below.

*Dave Rickard, Leader
Bridport Town Council*

Report on Town Council Activities 2008-09

This report outlines some of the activities undertaken by the Town Council over the municipal year May 2008 to May 2009.

Allotments: new allotments are now being used at the Community Orchard and St Swithins Road and work is ongoing trying to identify further sites. The Town Council continues to proactively manage the sites, working with the Bridport and District Allotments Society.

Asker Meadows: this important green space amenity continues to be well used by walkers and dog owners.

Bridport Football Partnership: the Town Council was pleased to provide funding of £25,000 towards the new changing rooms, which were opened during the year. The changing rooms are used by local teams playing on St Mary's playing fields.

Bridport Local Area Partnership: the Town Council continues to support the Local Area Partnership (BLAP), which brings over 80 community organisations together to influence decisions taken in the area and help communities take action on local issues. The last year has seen a number of achievements, including supporting the Bridport Local Area Skills Training project (which was part funded by the Town Council) and the production of the space needs survey (also part funded by the Town Council).

CCTV: the CCTV contract with the Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, which provides cameras throughout the town, has been renewed for a further 12 months, to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Cemetery: the management of the Cemetery is to be reviewed over the next year, to ensure that it continues to function effectively and efficiently, providing an important service at good value for the people of the town.

Communication: new replacement notice boards were provided during the year. As well the annual report and newsletters, the Town Council hosts its own web site and a well used community site. All agendas, reports and minutes for meetings are published on our web site (www.bridport-tc.gov.uk).

Consultation: the Town Council has responded to a large number of consultation exercises from national and local government over the past year, including: the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan, Waste Management Strategy, Design and Sustainable Development Guidelines, Regional Spatial Strategy, Local Transport Plan, Post Office Closures, Sustainable Communities Act and Telephone Box removal.

Democracy Day: in October, the Town Council and Dorset County Council's Youth Service combined to host a Democracy Day event for local young people. 19 students from the Sir John Colfox School took part in a range of activities at the Town Hall. They heard how local government works in the Bridport area and identified policies that they would like to see introduced in the town.

Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee: the Council's Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee hosted a successful week of events on the theme of Climate Change and Energy Saving. During the week, the Council signed the Nottingham Declaration and, in line with the Declaration, is working on an action plan and climate change policy.

Finances: budgetary control, financial management and town councillor scrutiny have ensured that the Town Council's accounts are in a healthy condition.

Flaxhayes: the Town Council is represented on the Stakeholder Panel, which progressed the scheme, which will deliver over 50 affordable houses for the town.

Grants: the Town Council provides financial assistance to a range of organisations and community groups. Through its annual grants, the Town Council continued to support the larger organisations - the Arts Centre, Leisure Centre, Museum and Citizens Advice Bureau - and was also able to help smaller groups with much needed funding for specific projects. Over £22,000 was awarded in 2008/09.

Highways Maintenance Partnership: the Town Council works in partnership with Dorset County Council, with a view to providing improved street lighting, no waiting restrictions, traffic management and pedestrian crossings. Again, working as agents of Dorset County Council, the Town Council maintains the highway trees in the town.

Highways & Transportation Sub Committee: the Town Council's Sub Committee undertook a wide ranging review of town centre traffic measures. This was subject to widespread consultation and close working with the County Council, resulting in a package of measures being recommended to the County Council. Once again, the Park and Ride scheme during the busy summer holiday period proved a great success and is being repeated this year. This project is delivered in partnership with West Dorset District Council.

Market: it was another good year, with an average of 35 stalls on Wednesdays and 78 on Saturdays. The market is very important to the town. It brings many visitors into the town and is an important income stream for the Town Council.

Mountfield/Millennium Green: the Town Council continues to support the popular gardens, meadow and woodland, all of which are open to the public.

New Zealand: the Town Council is working to ensure the successful transfer of land at the southern part of this site, to enable a community open space/nature reserve to be established.

Olympics 2012: the Town Council supported the establishment of a Bridport 2012 Steering Group, to act as the central co-ordinating body for activities around the Cultural Olympiad and 2012 games in the town.

Priory Lane—Community Orchard: The Town Council took over the lease of the land from the District Council. The Town Council manages the new allotments and will undertake maintenance of the site. The Bridport Community Orchard Group will manage the orchard site. This project has been a great success and it has been praised by BBC Breathing Places, who have provided some of the funding.

Outdoor Amenities: the Council's outside staff continue to maintain the cemetery, amenity areas, play areas and football pitches in excellent condition. There has been additional work for the outside team with the community orchard and new allotments. The river platforms at St Mary's Playing Fields were upgraded to improve access for people with disabilities.

Planning: the Town Council is a consultee for planning applications. Over the past year, over 140 applications were considered and comments passed to West Dorset District Council. The Plans Committee welcomes comments from members of the public.

Play Areas: the ongoing programme to upgrade the safety surfacing has continued. The options for the West Bay Play Area were reviewed, in the light of a new bid for funding to the County Council's play finder scheme. The bid was successful and this project is now being progressed.

Quality Council: the Town Council is working towards the achievement of Quality Council status.

Riverside Gardens: the freehold for the Riverside Gardens was transferred to the Town Council, and the Gardens are now maintained by the Council.

Salt House: over the past year, this has continued to be a very popular venue, with a large number of bookings.

Town Hall: the Town Council was successful with its first stage bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop its Town Hall Heritage and Conservation project. The project has been a long standing objective of the Town Council and will aim to restore this important building and make it fully accessible, with a new ground floor exhibition and meeting space. It is hoped to submit the second stage bid for the major capital funding of £600,000, by the end of the August 2009. A decision on the application should be known by December.

Town Hall Toilets: the Town Council pays the District Council to maintain and keep open the public toilets at the Town Hall. As part of the Town Hall Heritage and Conservation project, the District Council has given a commitment to provide an alternative town centre location for the toilets, to allow the ground floor to be opened up for community use.

Town Plan: the Bridport and West Bay Town Plan is in its fourth year, with most of the projects now complete. The Plan is being reviewed during 2009.

West Bay Methodist Chapel: the Town Council continued to work with the District Council to seek to identify community uses for this building. The Town Council is represented on the Working Group, which is looking at all the options for future community use.

Bob Gillis
Town Clerk

The Civic Year

I was very honoured to be elected Town Mayor for the municipal year 2008/09. Some of the highlights included the tremendous support from the town for the November Remembrance Parade and Service, the Late Night Christmas Shopping event, which goes from strength to strength, and working with the young students of Colfox School at the Democracy Day event. Part of the role of the Mayor is to visit other towns and it has been good to hear people from across the county speak so highly of Bridport. I also bring back to Bridport good ideas of best practice which I've seen in other towns. I consider myself very lucky to have been able to serve the town this year. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has helped me over the year. This includes my wife Maggie and my deputy mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Ackerman.

Martin Ray
Town Mayor 2008/9

Bridport Town Council

Bridport Town Council is the parish authority for the town of Bridport. It is the fourth tier of government after Parliament, the County Council and the District Council. Its legal powers are granted to it and regulated by various pieces of Government legislation. The Town Council supplements the provision of local government services in Bridport and provides a range of social and recreational facilities, while promoting and representing the town with other national and statutory bodies.

The Town Council offices are at
Mountfield, Rax Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3JP.
Tel. no. 01308 456722
Fax no. 01308 456112
Email address: enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Website: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk

The Council's offices are open Monday to Friday,
8.30 am–5.00 pm (Friday 4.30 pm).

Staff

Town Clerk: Bob Gillis
Town Surveyor: Daryl Chambers
Office Manager: Paul Fuszard
Community Planning Officer: Tessa Greenaway
Administrative Officer: Linda Bullock
Office Staff: Jill Cox, Steven Yarde
Caretaker: Michael Kellaway
Senior Groundsman: Robert Goodland
Groundsman: Sean Coombs
Groundsman and Market Superintendent: Ray McLaren
Cemetery Superintendent: Paul Pinkett

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Leader and Committee Chairmen

The Town Mayor is elected annually by fellow councillors. The Town Mayor for the year 2009-10 is Councillor Martin Ray, and his deputy is Councillor Geoffrey Ackerman. Councillor Dave Rickard was elected Leader of the Council in May 2009.

The Council and its Committees

The full Council oversees all the activities of the Town Council. It appoints three main committees - Plans, Finance & General Purposes, and Environment & Social Wellbeing. These are supported by a number of sub-committees and working groups.

The Town Council meets six times a year at 7.00 pm on a Tuesday. The Plans Committee meets monthly on Mondays. The Finance and General Purposes and Environment and Social Wellbeing committees meet on Wednesdays, four or five times a year. The sub-committees meet quarterly.

Agendas are normally issued seven clear days before the meetings and are posted on public notice boards throughout the town and on the council's website. The

press and public are welcome to attend all committee, sub committee and full Council meetings and the public may put questions or make statements on any matter in a 30 minute public period at the beginning of each main committee and full Council meeting. Members of the public and press are only asked to depart if there are any confidential items on the agenda and this is normally dealt with as the last business of the meeting.

The minutes are available within ten working days following the meeting. They are available at the library, at the Council offices at Mountfield and on the Town Council website.

Town Councillors

Bridport's eighteen town councillors represent the two wards in the town. They are elected every four years. The next election will be held in May 2011. The town councillors for each ward are as follows:

South Ward

G.J. Ackerman 31, Crock Lane, DT6 4DF
tel: 01308 458098
P.J. Colfox 1, Mill Lane, Symondsburry DT6 6HQ
tel:07918 188497
K.A. Day Delapre Lodge, St Andrews Road DT6 3BG
tel:01308 425465
J.D. Hunt 8, Meadow Court, Folly Mill Lane DT6 3UW
tel:01308 422719
D.G. Rickard Rydens, Westown, Bothenhampton DT6 4BQ tel:01308 420908
D.R. Tett 1, De Legh Grove, West Allington, DT6 5QY
tel:01308 425070
K.G. Wallace The George, 43 Main St, Bothenhampton DT6 4BJ tel:01308 456454
C.D. Wild Flat 3, Montrose, 91, Crock Lane DT6 4DH
tel:01308 420808
Ms S.J. Williams 88A, South Street DT6 3NW
tel:01308 459433

North Ward

Miss S.A. Brown 67, North Allington DT6 5DZ
tel:01308 423078
N.K. Cast 217, St Andrews Road DT6 3BT
tel:01308 456861
Ms R.C. Kayes Honeylands, Long Bredy DT2 9JB
tel:01308 482276
P.J. Lathey 5, Allington Mead DT6 5HF
tel:01308 458125
Ms F.K. McKenzie 204, Orchard Avenue DT6 5RL
tel:01308 425068
M.P. Parsons 3, Sparacre Gardens DT6 3NB
tel:01308 456697
C.M. Ray 9, St Andrews Road DT6 3BG
tel:01308 459095
Mrs M.J. Ray 9, St Andrews Road DT6 3BG
tel:01308 459095
R.J. Stoodley Rogers Cottage, 88 St Andrews Road DT6 3BL tel:01308 456797

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2009

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

CURRENT ASSETS

Payments in advance	7,526
Debtors	19,351
Treasury Deposit	650,000
Cash at bank	120,494
Cash in hand	<u>101</u>

TOTAL ASSETS 797,472

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors 172,776

NET ASSETS 624,696

REPRESENTED BY:

Capital reserve as at 1 April 2008	15,300
Net movement during the year	-
Capital reserve as at 31 March 2009	<u>15,300</u>
General reserve as at 1 April 2008	187,179
Transfer to Earmarked Reserve	-
Net surplus for the year	<u>17,217</u>
General reserve as at 31 March 2009	<u>204,396</u>

Earmarked reserve as at 1 April 2008	430,000
Transfer from General Reserve	-
Earmarked funds expended	<u>(25,000)</u>
Earmarked reserve as at 31 March 2009	<u>405,000</u>

TOTAL RESERVES 624,696

INCOME

Precept	373,025
Interest	27,358
Allotments	1,240
Cemetery	18,073
Civic	35
Frontages	500
Market	96,958
Amenity Areas/Playing Fields	9,525
Mountfield	47,386
Salt House	4,800
Town Hall	<u>19,009</u>

597,909

EXPENDITURE

Administration	194,741
Office Expenses	9,694
Mountfield	30,834
Salt House	5,537
Town Hall	62,495
Cemetery	37,249
Civic	8,069
Members' Allowances	7,407
Market	36,088
Other Services	68,444
Section 137	3,604
Amenity Areas and Playing Fields	<u>116,530</u>

580,692

NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR 17,217

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of Bridport Town Council as at 31 March 2009 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.