



# BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY BULLETIN

*the official newsletter of Bridport Town Council*

Issue no. 13

December  
2009

## Town Hall Lottery Success

The Town Council has been successful with its second stage bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), giving the Council the green light to deliver 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 community space. It is also hoped, subject to the approval of West Dorset District Council, that the Tourist Information Centre will re-locate to the new ground floor.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a second-round pass which means that the Town Council will receive an HLF grant of £600,000 towards the overall costs of the project, which are estimated to be almost £1.4 million.

The Town Council itself has agreed to commit £400,000 of its reserves to the project with other funding being provided by West Dorset District Council (which includes the costs of relocating the public toilets) and Dorset County Council.

The development of the project has shown the level of public support for this exciting scheme, which will ensure that the Town Hall can be enjoyed by all. As well as the physical work on the

building, there will be an opportunity to fully involve people, and particularly young people, in a range of activities to appreciate the history and tradition of this fine building.



The Fra Newbery Exhibition of 2008, which was also supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, brought the Town Hall interior into regional and national focus and was very well supported by the public. Many people attending that Exhibition and subsequent events asked why the Town Hall could not be open more. The Town Council now has the opportunity to put the building back at the very heart of civic and community life in Bridport.

Information will be widely available at all stages of the development. The first thing will be to confirm the timetable for the works, which are scheduled to start in Spring 2010, but this will be confirmed after Christmas.

The Town Hall toilets are to be removed as part of the project. The proposed new town centre location for the toilets is South Street car park although this is subject to relevant approvals. When the Town Hall toilets close, replacement facilities will be available in the town centre.

## West Bay Methodist Chapel

A feasibility study has been produced by West Dorset District Council looking at potential uses for the building. The Town Council was asked for its views and agreed that the interest expressed by the Bridport Museum Trust provides an opportunity to develop the West Bay Methodist Chapel in line with the intention to provide a visitor attraction or similar community use. The Town Council also asked that the District Council should continue to keep all options for the building under review.

## Plottingham Bridge

It is intended that the work on the replacement bridge at Plottingham will take place over this winter. It is then intended that the bridge will be adopted by the County Council.

## The Lengthsman Scheme

Bridport Local Area Partnership, on which the Town Council, local parish councils and community groups are represented, has been looking at the feasibility of parish and town council clustering. This could offer the potential for the town and parish councils in the area to deliver more services locally, in response to the needs of their communities.

The first stage of this work has been to look into the possibility of adopting the Lengthsman Scheme in the area. This follows the invitation from Dorset County

Council, for expressions of interest in the scheme.

The County Council states that the Lengthsman would be a person employed locally to undertake those minor, but locally important, odd-job activities like ad-hoc litter picking, refuse spills, dog fouling, cutting back overhanging twigs or brambles, clearing leaf build up or verge overgrowth, minor repairs and local works etc.

The feedback from other councils, where such a post has been established, is that it brings more local control and accountability over these services and enables these tasks to be undertaken quickly and provides an enhanced service for the area.

The Town Council has agreed to earmark funding in its budget for next year to match fund the £10,000 being offered by the County Council. It is proposed that the Lengthsman would be employed by the Town Council and that parish councils could buy a set number of hours per week or month, for the postholder to work in their area.

### **Bridport Magistrates' Court**

The Government has outlined plans to close 21 courts around the country, which are said to be "underused and do not meet the standards the public should expect." This includes Bridport Magistrates' Court. The Town Council has discussed the proposals and expressed its strong disappointment and regret at the loss of the town's court and local justice service, which was an important part of the community and the town's heritage.

If the closure did go ahead, the Town Council asked that some of the forecast savings were put back into local community justice to help establish community justice panels that were being looked at by the Town Council.

### **Bridport Community Fund**

West Dorset District Council's community fund opened on 1 December. This distributes funding from the West Bay Car Boot Sale to voluntary and community groups, whose work benefits people in the Bridport area. Grants range from £50 to £3000, with up to £15,000 in total to be made available. Applications can be made from 1 December to 31 March 2010 and forms can be downloaded from DorsetforYou and are also available in the Town Council's office.

### **Community Orchard – Tree Planting Day**

The next tree planting at the Community Orchard is to take place on Sunday January 10th at 11am.

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

All Town Council meetings are open to the public.

Plans Committee  
4 January 2010 at 7.00pm  
(Mountfield)

Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee  
13 January 2010 at 7pm  
(Mountfield)

Finance & General Purposes Committee  
20 January 2010 at 7.00pm  
(Mountfield)

Highways and Transportation Sub Committee  
28 January 2010 at 2.30pm

## **Your Town Councillors**

### **South Ward**

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

### **North Ward**

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

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