



# BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY BULLETIN

*the official newsletter of Bridport Town Council*

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## Bridport—a great place to shop

There is good news to report from an audit of town centre and West Bay products and services, carried out by Bridport Town Council.

The results of the audit were compared with a similar survey from 2001/02. The results showed that overall there is a significantly wider selection of products and services available today than there was in 2001.

Unlike 2001, the empty shops are now trading.

Good news too that, bucking the national trend, there remain a large proportion of

'local/sole trader' retail outlets; about 70%!

Whilst some areas declined in number such as antiques, clothes, TV specialists and dry cleaners, others had grown significantly. These include art galleries, specialist food outlets, alternative therapy, computer/telephone services, and restaurants/takeaways.

The results can be seen on the town council's website ([www.bridport-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk)), at the Library and in the town council's office at Mountfield.



*East Street, Bridport  
(photo: Linda Bullock)*

## Moving forward: our Town Plan

Launched as a pilot in 2005, the Bridport and West Bay Town Plan is now approaching the completion of its first full 2006 operating year.

The Town Plan aims to provide an annually updated three-year rolling plan of 'joined up' projects that the town council plans to achieve.

Even in the pilot year there were many successes including upgrading play areas such as Skilling; supporting community partnerships such as the Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP); opportunities for public involvement at BTC meetings; the publication/delivery to all residents of quarterly newsletters and an Annual Report; greater transparency and clearer presentation of financial results; implementing Freedom of Information

legislation; and the introduction of comprehensive criteria for awarding grants.

This year has seen the start of an audit of our open spaces and recreation areas; moves towards improving facilities in West Bay for children and young adults; extending the Skilling Allotments; taking over the Salt House for community use; an upgrade to our website and the information available; the design of a Town Guide (now at 'proof' stage); the introduction of 'bio-degradable' and re-useable alternatives to plastic bags for market traders; implementing a pilot Park and Ride scheme between West Bay and the town centre; and entering longer term funding agreements to help the Leisure

Centre, the Museum, the Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Arts Centre.

The Town Plan has also been the vehicle to expand the Market Sub-committee to give a voice to local traders, and to introduce the town council's first new main committee in many decades. The Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held its inaugural meeting in November.

The Town Plan can be viewed on the town council's website ([www.bridport-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk)), at the Library and in the council's office at Mountfield. It has been widely distributed to other groups.

Residents' observations and suggestions are especially welcome.

*This newsletter has been written and edited by members and officers of Bridport Town Council. Members of all political groups (and none) have been invited to submit contributions, and the content represents the material which has been submitted.*



*Daryl Chambers (left), our new Town Surveyor, on a site inspection of town council land at Rivervale with Councillors Maggie and Martin Ray, and the Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Ackerman*

## Welcome to Daryl—our new Town Surveyor

Mr Daryl Chambers has taken up post as the town council's new Town Surveyor.

The Town Surveyor's principal role is to provide technical advice to the town council and to manage the outdoor amenity areas, e.g. St Mary's Playing Field and Bucky Doo Square etc and property, e.g. Mountfield and the Town Hall, etc, under its control. It is a part-time post comprising three days per week and Daryl will deputise for the Town Clerk in his absence.

Daryl is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Building and prior to his appointment was the Property Services Surveyor for Christchurch Borough Council.

Our thanks to Bernard Paull the former Town Surveyor for his sterling service of nine years.

## Yellow lines agreed

Many residents will be wondering what happened to the yellow lines they requested some three years ago.

Staff changes at Dorset County Council have resulted in a delay in implementing these lines but we are now assured they will be painted on the roads in early 2007.

Roads affected include:

Asker Mead  
Diment Gardens  
Meadowlands  
Mount Pleasant  
Shoe Lane  
St Andrews Road  
Wanderwell  
Wellfields Drive.

## Other parking changes

South Street (outside the Spar shop) waiting will be restricted to 20 minutes.

On street parking in East Street, West Street and South Street will be restricted to market stall holders on market days. This will address the long-standing problem of market stall holders having to double park when loading and unloading their goods.

Double yellow lines will be removed on a short stretch of St Andrews Road near

Bedford Place to give additional on-street parking.

New requests for changes in road markings should be made to the town council officers or via one of your town councillors.



photo: First Bus Company

## Park and Ride

During the summer holidays a pilot Park and Ride scheme on market days was initiated by the town council to help overcome the congestion in the town centre. Previous research has shown that there is plenty of parking spaces on most days of the week and in the winter months, so the solution was to provide the park and ride scheme when the demand is greatest.

Based in the West Bay Road car park, the scheme allowed a car full of people to park and ride (return) for £1.50 a car. It also allowed foot passengers without a

car to ride. Those with a senior citizen bus pass travelled free.

Figures for the pilot scheme show that on the eleven days the bus was available at least 1414 people used it, with up to sixty cars a day being kept out of the town centre.

Local residents also used the bus in the opposite direction for a trip to West Bay.

The town council is now investigating the cost of running the scheme next year.

The aim of the Park and Ride is to bring more people into Bridport without their cars; to boost the income of our retailers and market stall holders; to cut down congestion around the Morrison's traffic lights and reduce pollution; all of which benefit the residents of Bridport.

## Football Club car park to be signed as Market car park

The town council has asked for the Football Club car park to be signed as the 'MARKET Car Park' rather than an 'Overflow' car park.

The town council is distributing posters to businesses promoting the car park, which is currently underused. The car park only costs 50p a day and half the proceeds go to our local football club.

Can you display a poster? Contact the town council office on 01308-456722.

## The Bridport Millennium Green—open space for all

The Millennium Green comprises the garden of the house at Mountfield which is, at present, used by the Bridport Town Council and others for offices, and ten acres of meadowland on Coneygar Hill made available by the developers of Downe Hall to the north of the Hall.

Both the garden and Coneygar Hill form a very important rural space within the centre of the town of Bridport. There are extensive fine views from Coneygar Hill

looking out over the town and beyond. Woodlands surround the land to the north of the Hall.

The garden and lands are vested in the names of the Trustees of the Bridport Millennium Green and maintained by Bridport Town Council.

The garden of Mountfield has been restored and is used for informal recreation play and other leisure-time occupations and events.

There is public access to Coneygar Hill and woodlands and a grazing regime is in place for the lands: this ensures that all the natural features and nature conservation interests are properly protected.

This is an attractive open space for people to visit, to take air and exercise and generally to pursue leisure activities.

*Councillor David R. Tett (Trustee)*

## Melplash 2006

As is now the tradition, the town council's stand in the Bridport Marquee at the Melplash Show in August was manned throughout the day by members and officers of the council.



*Councillors Tony Harrison and Frances McKenzie (Deputy Mayor), and Town Clerk Ron Gregory at the town council stand.*



*Councillors Richard Nicholls, David Tett and Tony Harrison in welcoming mood at the town council stand*



*The Mayor, Councillor Geoffrey Ackerman, and his Escort, West Dorset District Councillor Gillian Summers, visit the Bridport Marquee (photos: Charles Wild)*



*Mrs Jane Silver Corren*

## New Town Crier appointed— but light bell wanted!

Bridport has a new town crier!

Following an article in the Bulletin earlier this year, Mrs Jane Silver-Corren of Walditch expressed an interest in the post. Jane's subsequent interview with town councillors was more of an audition: she carried out a spot of "town criering" in the Borough Gardens with great aplomb, demonstrating her skills in rendering the classic "Oyez, Oyez".

Jane will be the first woman to occupy the post. A new uniform has been

designed and is being created by a local seamstress.

The current bell, wielded to great effect by the previous town crier is too heavy for her, so the search is on for a lighter bell, perhaps similar to those used in yesteryear's primary school playgrounds.

If anyone has a light bell of this sort and is prepared to lend or donate the bell to the town council, please ring the town clerk on 01308-456722.

## Mayor's report

It was with great pleasure in May that I accepted the honour of becoming town mayor for a fourth term of office. This got off to a good start in June with the sailing of the passenger ship Balmoral to view the Jurassic Coast. This was a historic event—the first since 1937. On the bridge with me was the Chairman of West Dorset District Council, Councillor Mary Penfold, as far as Weymouth. Then it was on to the Isle of Wight.

The last four or five months have been very busy with lots of engagements throughout the county. A few local highlights include the Bridport Carnival, to lead the 28<sup>th</sup> torchlight procession (best ever), the Beer and Food Festival in Asker Meadows, the Melplash Show, also a twinning visit to St Vaast in June which went well with good weather throughout.

*Councillor Geoffrey Ackerman  
Town Mayor*



*photo: Bridport News*

## Forthcoming Council meetings

**Town Council** (Bridport Town Hall)  
Tuesday 6 February 2007, 7 pm.

**Town Council Plans Committee**  
Mondays, 18 December 2006, 22 January  
and 19 February 2007, 7 pm, at  
Mountfield.

**Finance and General Purposes  
Committee**

Wednesday 24 January 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.

*Our next Bulletin will be published in February 2007. If you have suggestions for items you would like to see included, please send them to us c/o the town council office at Mountfield, or e-mail enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk*