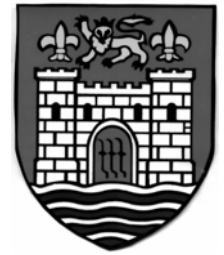




# BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2004-2005



*Bridport Town Mayor, Councillor Sandra Brown, standing beside one of the Welcome signs which were installed at the entrances to Bridport and West Bay during the year.*

## Welcome to our second Annual Report

This has been a productive year for the Town Council, during which members have continued to work constructively together for change, for improvements in services and for good value for the Town Council share of the precept, with the full support of the Town Clerk and all the Town Council officers and staff.

What has been particularly pleasing has been the willingness of local organisations like the Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the local branch of the Market Traders' Association to work with the Town Council in the best interests of the town, and the committed participation of neighbouring parishes and other community organisations in the formation and development of the Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP).

Ron Gregory's report to the Annual Town Meeting in May 2005, which is reproduced below and on the next page, is a record of the range and complexity of activities undertaken by the Town Council during the municipal year.

*Charles Wild, Leader, Bridport Town Council*

## Town Clerk's Report, 2004-2005

This has been yet another busy year with the Town Council playing an active role in delivering services and working with partner organisations on behalf of local communities in Bridport as well as playing its part in planning the future of the town.

### Allotments

The allotments continue to be well used with 80 tenants on the 64 allotments. There are 26 on the waiting list. All of the allotment holders were consulted on their preference on allotment size in order to help formulate a strategy for allotments in and around the town.

The council has opened consultations with neighbouring parishes and with the Bridport Allotments Society in efforts to increase the provision of allotments in the Bridport area.

### Asker Meadows

Working in partnership with West Dorset District Council, a grant was awarded for Countryside Stewardship from DEFRA and a local nature reserve created.

### Cemetery

As well as the normal maintenance issues, a section of the southern boundary wall had to be rebuilt. Although this would have been necessary in a few years' time, the need was exacerbated by deliberate acts of damage to the wall.

### Bridport Market

The street market is an essential feature of the town's character and this has been another successful year for the market with average attendance of 75 stalls on Saturdays and 33 on Wednesdays. To improve communications and to provide a

wider perspective, the Chairman of the local branch of the Market Traders' Association and a representative from the Bridport Chamber of Trade & Commerce now attend meetings of the Market Sub-committee. This has worked well to ensure that views are obtained from the various interests in the market.

Tolls were again reduced to regular stallholders during the winter months. A new leaflet and improved advertising has been produced to publicise this popular amenity.

### Mountfield/Millennium Green

Following the advice of the Police Crime Reduction Officer, an alarm system and other security improvements have been installed in the building. Also, works have been carried out in the grounds to reduce the levels of anti-social behaviour.

In accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, the following have been provided: loop systems in the Marriage Room and Town Council reception office at Mountfield; an intercom between the hallway and Town Council reception and a minicom telephone system in reception.

### Outdoor Amenities

The Council's outside staff continue to maintain the cemetery, amenity areas, play areas, football pitches etc. in excellent condition. They do this with a cheerful good nature and minimum of fuss.

*(report continued on page 2)*

### Bridport Town Hall

The exterior of the building was painted and woodwork repaired during the winter months.

The big disappointment of the year was the West Dorset District Council decision to withdraw funding for the maintenance of the town hall toilets. Following negotiations it has been possible to include the cleaning within the contract run by the district thus achieving some savings on the overall cost. However, the cost of operating and maintaining this facility falls solely on the residents of the parish of Bridport, which has increased the precept considerably.

A great deal of backroom work has been undertaken to ensure that the proposals for improving public access to the Town Hall and associated refurbishment work are feasible and hopefully will meet the approval of English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Further public consultation will now take place before we are in a position to submit a Lottery application. The formation of a council working party to oversee this development and its relationship with Bucky Doo Square, the Arts Centre and the Museum, has been most useful in providing a holistic perspective to the proposals.

### Partnership working

The Town Council has continued to work with a number of partners including local organisations, local authorities and government agencies.

**The Bridport Local Area Partnership** was established in September 2004 and this Initiative provides an opportunity to enable the community both in Bridport and surrounding parishes to engage actively in the community planning process.

**Highways Partnership:** The Town Council, working in partnership with Dorset County Council, provided the capital cost for new street lighting in Foundry Lane and St Michael's Lane. Again, working as agents with Dorset County Council, the Town Council maintains the highway trees in the town. All of the trees were inspected and the recommendation of the inspections dealt with.

The establishment of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee has provided a useful link between the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade to the County and District Councils for highway and parking issues.

The County Council, following representation from the Town Council, carried out improvements to the traffic signals at the Safeway junction and the Town Hall, including a dedicated light controlled pedestrian crossing on South Street.

Also, the traffic calming system has been introduced on the roads adjacent to the Bridport Primary School, St Andrews Road.

### Planning

The Town Council is a consultee for planning applications. Over the past year 182 applications were considered and comments passed to West Dorset District Council on these.

### Play Areas

Following a successful public consultation, helped by the owners of Skilling Stores, new play equipment and fencing was provided for Skilling Oval. The new equipment supplements the existing and caters for younger children.

At the Peter Foote Play Area, new fencing has been provided to protect the two neighbouring properties from nuisance from the play area.

Heavy duty bins, designed in-house and built by our ground staff have been provided at the skate park, Peter Foote Play Area and Court Orchard. These replaced the conventional bins that suffered from repeated vandalism and arson.

### Seats

A new seat has been provided in West Bay Road close to the Roundham's bus stop. Several new seats have kindly been donated in the Cemetery.

### Websites

The Town Council web site ([www.bridport-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk)) has been revamped, and the community web site has been relaunched and made available for use by community groups and businesses ([www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk](http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk)). For further information contact Mrs Linda Bullock (e-mail [l.bullock@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:l.bullock@bridport-tc.gov.uk), or telephone 01308-456722).

### Conclusion

The municipal year 2004/2005 has been similar to previous years in that it has been both a challenging and a demanding year for officers and councillors alike. I am pleased at the positive way in which the Council as a whole, and our partner organisations have carried out all of their various activities. There is much more of a cohesive feel about the way our business is conducted.

The staff at Mountfield plus our outside staff contribute immensely and provide the cornerstone for our continuing development and achievement. Things do not just simply happen on their own: it is all about outstanding teamwork and effort.

*Ron Gregory, Town Clerk, May 2005*

## Bridport and West Bay

Bridport is an historic market town dating from Saxon times, surrounded by beautiful hills and rolling West Dorset countryside. The town was granted its Royal Charter in 1253, as it was the country's most important ropemaking centre. The rope and netmaking industries flourished and expanded to trade all over the world. It is upon these two industries that the town's fame and fortune was built. Today Bridport continues to provide netting worldwide for sporting and military needs.

The main streets are among the widest in the west of England, with over 1,000 listed buildings of historical or architectural merit, including a unique thatched brewery and a 13th century Chantry. Many of these houses were built for successful businessmen associated with the ropemaking industry.

The parish of Bridport includes the picturesque harbour of West Bay, with its shipbuilding past and its present-day life as a fishing village and popular holiday destination. Bridport acts as a market town and focus for about fourteen surrounding parishes.

The population of the parish is 7,600, that of the wider Bridport 15,000, many of whom enjoy participation in the wide variety of clubs and organisations within the community. The town has a thriving Arts Centre and Leisure Centre, a large number of churches, three supermarkets, and a flourishing local food scene which has earned the town Beacon status.

### Gateway town to the Jurassic Coast

Bridport, with its harbour West Bay, is one of the Gateway towns to the Dorset and East Devon coast, which in 2002 won status from UNESCO as England's first natural World Heritage Site. The new harbour currently being constructed at West Bay will provide improved access to the coast and spectacular views of some of the most outstanding scenery along this magnificent coast, with the limestone cliffs and the Chesil Beach stretching away to Portland Bill. Bridport is taking a prominent role in helping develop interpretation themes and opportunities relating to the coast with the World Heritage Site Management Team.

## 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 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 8.30 am-4.30 pm).

### Officers

**Town Clerk:** Mr Ron Gregory  
**Town Surveyor:** Mr Bernard Paull  
**Office Manager:** Mr Paul Fuszard  
**Community Partnership Development Officer:**  
Miss Susan Anders  
**Administrative Officer:** Mrs Linda Bullock  
**Office Staff:** Mrs Jill Cox, Mr Steven Yarde

There are five other staff, who are: -  
Mr Carl Stoodley (Cemetery Superintendent)  
Mr Colin Divall (Caretaker)  
Mr Andrew Franklin (Senior Groundsman)  
Mr Robert Goodland (Groundsman)  
Mr Ray McLaren (Gardener & Market Supervisor)

### 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 2005-6 is Councillor Sandra Brown, and her deputy, after three years as Town Mayor, is Councillor Geoffrey Ackerman. Councillor Charles Wild was re-elected Leader of Council for a third consecutive year in May 2005. The two main committees are chaired by Councillor Martin Ray (Finance and General Purposes) and Councillor Carole Murless (Plans).

### Town Councillors

Bridport's eighteen town councillors represent the two wards in the town. They are elected every four years. The last election was in May 2003.

#### North Ward:

Councillor Miss S.A. Brown, 67 North Allington, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5DZ; tel. 01308-423078  
Councillor A.L.G. Harrison, 17 Lake Lane, Bothenhampton, Dorset DT6 4JY; tel. 01308-459863  
Councillor Ms F.K. McKenzie, 204 Orchard Avenue, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5RL; tel. X/D

Councillor R.H. Nicholls, 159 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3AG; tel. 01308-422679

Councillor C.M. Ray, 9 St Andrews Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3BG; tel. 01308-459095

Councillor Mrs M.J. Ray, 9 St Andrews Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3BG; tel. 01308-459095

Councillor R.J. Stoodley, Rogers Cottage, 88 St Andrews Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3BL; tel. 01308-456797

Councillor A.F.H. Tiltman, Flat 1, Borough Gardens, Gundry Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3RS; tel. 01308-424954

Councillor K.G. Wallace, The George, 43 Main Street, Bothenhampton, Dorset DT6 4BJ; tel. 01308-456454

#### South Ward:

Councillor G.J. Ackerman, 31 Crock Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4DF; tel. 01308-458098

Councillor Mrs S.A. Bagnall, 46 Vernons Court, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3QF; tel. 01308-459232

Councillor Ms C.L. Clare, 86 West Bay Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4AX; tel. 01308-425539

Councillor A.J. Fifield, 4 Meadowlands, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4SU; tel. 01308-456081

Councillor Mrs G.L. Fifield, 4 Meadowlands, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4SU; tel. 01308-456081

Councillor Mrs C.A. Murless, 68 St Michael's Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3RB; tel. 01308-424824

Councillor H.B. Samuel, 9 Norfolk Court, East Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3LL; tel. X/D

Councillor D.R. Tett, Beech House, 1 De Legh Grove, West Allington, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5QY; tel. 01308-425070

Councillor C.D. Wild, 9g Station Road, West Bay, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4EW; tel. 01308-420808

### The council and its committees

The full Council oversees all the activities of the Town Council. Two main committees cover the work of the council, namely Plans and Finance & General Purposes, and they are supported by a number of sub-committees.

The Council meets six times a year at 7.00 pm normally on a Tuesday. The Plans Committee meets on a three/four week cycle, normally on a Monday. The Finance & General Purposes Committee meets on a Wednesday five times a year. The sub-committees meet once a quarter.

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 (www.bridport-tc.gov.uk).

The press and public are welcome to attend all 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 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 of the main Committee meetings are available within ten working days following the meeting. The minutes are not a verbatim account of the meeting but detail the decisions and recommendations made. They are available to the public and can be found at the library, on the notice boards, at the Town Council office and on the town council website. They are also circulated to the various local media organisations.

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2006

CURRENT ASSETS

Payments in advance	6,094
Debtors	21,399
Treasury Deposit	480,000
Cash at bank	93,299
Cash in hand	<u>100</u>

TOTAL ASSETS 600,892

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors 105,507

NET ASSETS 495,385

REPRESENTED BY:

Capital reserve as at 1 April 2005  
15,300  
Net movement during the year \_\_\_\_\_ -  
Capital reserve as at 31 March 2006  
15,300

General reserve as at 1 April 2005  
411,179  
Net surplus for the year 68,906  
General reserve as at 31 March 2006  
480,085

TOTAL RESERVES 495,385

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

INCOME

Precept	339,026
Interest	21,630
Allotments	943
Cemetery	22,362
Civic	145
Frontages	590
Market	98,504
Amenity Areas and Playing Fields	1,169
Mountfield	53,005
Millennium Green	566
Town Hall	<u>8,606</u>

546,546

EXPENDITURE

Administration	161,697
Office Expenses	16,372
Mountfield	22,198
Millennium Green	13,385
Town Hall	28,677
Cemetery	42,930
Civic	10,022
Market	32,137
Other Services	59,249
Section 137	10,030
Amenity Areas and Playing Fields	80,943

477,640

NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR  
68,906

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of Bridport Town Council  
as at 31 March 2005 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.