



BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY BULLETIN

the official newsletter of Bridport Town Council

Quarterly
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Town seeks new Crier

Bridport Town Council is looking for someone with a strong voice and a pleasant outgoing personality. An interest in maintaining the civic traditions of the Town Council and the historic market town of Bridport is essential.

No, we do not need another town councillor, but we are looking for a replacement Town Crier! So, here's your opportunity to project yourself!

Anyone interested must be able to 'throw' their voice and be available in Bridport and the local area, often at weekends, representing the town.

It is an honorary position and a uniform will be provided.

In addition to 'crying' for local charitable and other events, the successful applicant would also be expected to attend a small number of civic events.

Suitable applicants will be asked to 'cry' and attend a short interview.

How to apply

Applications in the form of a brief covering letter, giving details of why you should be considered, should be sent to the Town Clerk, Bridport Town Council, Mountfield, Bridport, Dorset. DT6 3JP, or fax (01308) 456112, or e-mail your letter to enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk.



John Morey, our recently retired Town Crier
(photo: Bridport News)

... and a Tree Warden

The Town Council is responsible for a large number of trees in and around Bridport.

As well as those on the play areas and open spaces administered by the Town Council, we have an agency agreement with the County Council to look after the highway trees in the town.

In the past, Robin Wilkinson has acted as Tree Warden, offering help and advice on existing trees, new planting schemes and also on planning applications where trees are an issue.

Robin's help and advice over many years have been

invaluable, but sadly he has now decided to retire.

We are looking for someone to take on the role. Ideally, the person will have a knowledge and understanding of trees, but he or she will not be expected to deal with detailed inspections or day-to-day problems.

It's the opportunity for someone to provide another set of eyes and their expertise to make things just that little bit better in and around Bridport.

If you are interested, please contact Bernard Paull, the Town Surveyor, at Mountfield, 01308 456722.

Mayor beats the bounds

The Town Mayor, Sandra Brown, will be leading a walk of some of the Town boundaries on Easter Monday, 17 April, starting at 10am at West Allington.

Cost will be £1 to go to a charity chosen by the Mayor.

A map and further information will be available nearer the time. Please phone 01308 423078 for information.

This newsletter is written, edited and produced by members and officers of Bridport Town Council, and hand-delivered to all households in the parish.

Grant applications

Last year saw the revision of the procedures associated with grant applications, which in essence updated the criteria and drew up a timetable for applications to be made to the Town Council.

Because it was the first year of the revised procedures, town councillors agreed to accept late applications. However for 2006 the new procedures will be applied and late applications will not be accepted. The timetable for applications is as follows:

- Press and noticeboard advertisements inviting grant applications to appear by 12 May 2006.
- Grant applications would be required to be submitted by no later than 26 June 2006.
- The applications will be researched and reviewed by the Best Value and Scrutiny sub-committee by the end of July 2006.

- Their recommendations are then forwarded to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in September 2006 for approval.

- All grants are payable only in that same financial year.

- In rare and exceptional circumstances, grants requested for a future financial year would only be agreed after a detailed review by the full Town Council.

- When making an application, please study the criteria, which will be applied by the Town Council when evaluating the applications.

The Town Council will also be entering into service level agreements with the Arts Centre, the Leisure Centre, Bridport Museum and the Citizens' Advice Bureau. These agreements are designed to help to plan the financial management for all these organisations and the Town Council for the next three years or so.

Update on Open Spaces survey

The Autumn Bridport Town Council newsletter contained a survey form asking residents how they used the open spaces in Bridport and asking them to put forward any improvements they would like to see. A big thanks to everyone who took the trouble to fill in the survey form.

From the responses so far we understand that the open areas in and around Bridport are greatly valued by the residents and used for a variety of purposes including walking, taking part in sports and informal games, exercising dogs and observing wildlife.

A need for more children's play areas has been identified in West Bay and in the East of Bridport. Young people have also participated in the survey and raised the need for play equipment for older children, a young person's shelter and a basketball practice hoop.

Several difficulties with access to some of our open spaces have been raised plus a general call for better upkeep of footpaths and better signage to the green ring and river walks. A common theme was the need for more litter bins, doggy bins and benches throughout the town.

Many comments applied to areas not controlled by Bridport Town Council such as Allington Hill, Happy Island Way and Bothenhampton Local Nature Reserve. We will pass on your comments to the appropriate parish council or controlling body.

WHAT NEXT? IT IS STILL NOT TOO LATE TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS. Please fill in the survey form and return to the Town Council or download from our website www.bridport-tc.gov.uk - just follow the links via 'town council' and 'contact us'. Replies can be e-mailed to enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk

We have already incorporated some suggestions into the 2006/7 budget and will be phasing others in following years. We will consult again when we have firmer plans for some of the bigger projects like the West Bay Play Area to ask for local residents' views on the design of play equipment.

Cllr Gill Fifield

St Andrews Road crossing

Coming Soon! a new "PUFFIN" crossing at the top of St Andrews Road between the King's Head public house and the Gore Cross Roundabout. A Puffin crossing is the new design which is "more intelligent" than the earlier pelican crossings.

Before it stops the traffic, it checks to see if you are still there and if you have gone away it cancels the stop request.

If all is well, it stops the traffic and you cross the road.

If you are slow to cross, it notices this and gives you a little more time.

The Town Council's request for a crossing has now reached number two in the County Council's "to do" list. This means that it should be installed within six or seven months: we are told it should be ready about October/November.

Cllr Martin Ray

Chairman, Highways and Transportation Sub-Committee

Bridport Museum

Bridport Museum continues to move ahead very positively under its new curator Alice Martin.

Having been in post for six months, Alice now has her feet firmly under the table, and we shall be able to enjoy several new exhibitions when the Museum opens again in time for Easter. As well as being able to see the Dr Roberts items which were bought at a sale about two years ago, there will also be a chance to see the 40s house again, although a little smaller than in the Town Hall; a look at Bridport Grammar School and Colfox School in 1956 when the

Grammar School closed (goodness is it really that long ago!!); Bridport Fire Service; and Wages and Poverty in Dorset, which will include coins and tokens.

The Friends of the Museum put on a fundraising event most months. All are welcome at these events. If you would like to become a Friend, which entitles you to free entry to the museum please contact Sandra Brown on 423078, or Alice Martin at the Coach House, Gundry Lane (458703) where you will always find a warm welcome.

Sandra Brown, Chairman of Trustees

Forthcoming Council meetings

Town Council (Bridport Town Hall)

Tuesday 25 April, 7 pm;

Tuesday 2 May, 7 pm (Annual Town Meeting);

Thursday 25 May, 7 pm (Mayor Making).

Town Council Plans Committee

Mondays, 18 April, 15 May and 12 June, 7 pm, Mountfield.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Wednesday 5 April, 7 pm, 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.