



# BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



I am very pleased to present Bridport Town Council's annual report for 2020/21. The report provides a summary of the projects delivered by the Town Council over the past year, followed by more detailed information on its operational services, organisation and accounts.

**Councillor Ian Bark, Town Mayor and Chairman 2020/21**



BRIDPORT COMMUNITY SUPPORT



### CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

Are you vulnerable or self-isolating? Do you know someone else who is?  
For help in the Bridport area, call:

**01308 808900**

or email [enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk)

visit [www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/covid19](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/covid19) for more information

If you are self-isolating or vulnerable due to Coronavirus, we can help with:

- Shopping for food and groceries
- Regular checks or a friendly chat
- Collection of prescriptions and medicine
- Health and wellbeing including mental health concerns

We can also help you find any other support you need.

Information on the helpline was sent to 11,500 households

### 2020/21 - A Year Like No Other

As the municipal year began in May 2020, Bridport - like the rest of the world - was gripped by the Coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions in place to control the virus. Bridport Town Council has been at the heart of the work to support the community during these most challenging of times, whilst simultaneously maintaining as many of its services as possible.

Perhaps the most notable achievement in response to the crisis was our instigation of a support helpline, coordinating the work of 20+ local organisations, and supported by over 170 volunteers. Over 2,000 vulnerable local people have benefited from the service.

## Town Council Projects 2020/21

Some of the projects undertaken this year include:

**Access & Movement Study** We launched a project to develop options to make it easier to walk, cycle and use public transport in and around the town centre, with the aim of reducing reliance on the car. Over 6,000 people engaged in an interactive map published to collect views and concerns.

**Bridport Sculpture Trail** Working with the Arts Development Company and Dorset AONB we unveiled a sculpture trail. 2020 was the 60th anniversary of the AONB and the trail showcases sculptures from Dorset AONB artists, along the Bridport Green Route; a 3 mile walk around our historic market town.

**Bridport Area Tree Plan** The tree plan provides guidance and a start point for discussion for landowners, local authorities and local voluntary groups interested in helping meet national targets for tree planting. Natural regeneration as well as planting a mix of tree species is part of the response we are looking to encourage. The plan also identifies areas unsuitable for tree planting.

**Coronavirus Response** In addition to the creation of a helpline, we supported the community with measures such as 'welcome back' campaigns following lockdowns (video promotions, banners, press work etc.), highway changes and markings to assist with social distancing,

outdoor venues for speciality markets, support for two Covid-secure music festivals, and logistical support for the testing and vaccination centres.

**Local Plan** The Council analysed the draft Dorset Council Local Plan in fine detail, and provided a 28-page response highlighting the concerns of the local community. We also led a media and social media campaign to promote community engagement in the Dorset Council public consultation.

**Play Equipment** As part of our long-term improvement plan, we installed six new pieces of play equipment at St Mary's Play Area, extended the space available, and added a mural on the boundary fence to complement the one previously created around the storage building located in the same space. We also built a tree house at the nearby St Mary's Primary School, and supported the new 2020 Skate and Ride project, which opened a new indoor skate park in 2020. We also launched a project to provide a new outdoor skate park at Plottingham Fields.

**Virtual Working, Meetings and Events** Covid restrictions meant that much of our work had to be made available online. Staff we equipped for home working during lockdowns, virtual council meetings were implemented, and civic events such as VE and VJ Day, Commonwealth Day and Remembrance were streamed to the community via our website and social media.

## Town Council Services 2020-21

**Allotments:** The Town Council has 205 allotment plots and at the current time there are 82 people in the parish on the waiting list. The Town Council works closely with the Bridport and District Allotments Society on all aspects of the management of the allotments.

**Asker Meadows:** The open space and adjoining New Zealand site are overseen by a well supported community group. In the last year the showground has been used less than in most years for events due to Coronavirus, but still hosted the Circus and Action Challenge. The meadows have seen over 100 new trees planted in the last year, part of the local response to the climate emergency.

**Asset Transfers:** The Town Council has negotiated the transfer of several areas of land from Dorset Council, which we will use for community benefit. In addition we have taken a long lease on The Grove, a grade 2 listed building on Rax Lane, which provides a combination of community use and commercial rent income.

**Borough Gardens:** The Borough Gardens community group, supported by the Town Council, has met regularly on site, making continued improvements to the Gardens. The Gardens host one of the pieces for the Bridport Sculpture Trail.

**Bridport Football Club:** The Town Council has the freehold ownership of this land and the Football Club has an existing lease. Dorset Council manages the car park on behalf of the Town Council, with the proceeds split equally between the Football Club and Town Council. The multi use games arena on the site is free to use during the day and continues to be very popular.

**Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP):** The Town Council continues to support BLAP and has met the funding shortfall arising from the loss of a £6,000 Dorset Council grant. In the past year, BLAP has continued to work on projects, looking at homelessness and health & wellbeing. It has also worked with parish and town councils, to look at the options to work together on delivering services, and on future town and parish council engagement with the new Dorset Council.

**Car Parking:** The Town Council owns and manages the public car parks at Plottingham and Bridport Football Club, and provides a limited number of parking permits at The Grove in Rax Lane.

**CCTV:** The town centre CCTV contract with Dorset Council has continued over the past year, with funding from the Town Council.

**Cemetery:** The Town Council manages Bridport Cemetery, which is such an important and highly regarded asset for the town.

**Climate Emergency:** The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and published an action plan in the same year. Actions from the plan are being delivered, including a project to install 'solar car ports' at Plottingham Car Park and a 'Healthy Homes' initiative.

**Civic and Ceremonial:** The Town Council elects and supports the Town Mayor, who carries out formal and informal civic roles on behalf of the town. In the last year the Mayor attended 79 engagements, and led commemorative events to mark the unveiling of a memorial to US service personnel based in Bridport, the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

**Coastal Community Team:** The Town Council supports the Bridport and West Bay Coastal Community Team (CCT), which is a local partnership formed to produce an Economic Plan for the area. The CCT includes representatives from the Bridport Local Area Partnership, Bridport Area Development Trust, Bridport & District Tourism Association, Bridport Chamber of Trade and Commerce, West Bay Community Forum, and Dorset Council. The West Bay 'Welcome Hub' – enhancements to the community space at Harbour Green was delivered in 2019 along with the cycle/pedestrian path along the former railway line and free public WiFi in West Bay.

**Communication:** The Town Council issues an annual report on its work, which is widely available throughout the town, along with a supporting video presentation and newsletters for events. An occasional Market Newsletter is also issued for market traders. The Town Council hosts its own web site and a community web site, and the TIC has long had a social media presence. We added to this with a Town Council-specific Facebook page in 2020. The Council, through the TIC, is able to take online bookings for events on the community web site. A weekly Town Council bulletin is issued to all town councillors. All of our formal council meetings are open to the public, and town councillors and the Town Clerk regularly attend meetings of other organisations and groups to provide updates on our work.

**Community Transport:** The Town Council's round-Bridport bus continued to operate this year albeit interrupted for a period by Covid restrictions. A stakeholder working group provides professional and community input.

## Town Council Services 2020-21

**Consultation:** The Town Council has responded to a number of consultation exercises from national and local government over the past year, ensuring that the views of the town are taken into consideration on a variety of matters. The Council continues to provide public open forums at its full Council and committee meetings. The Town Council undertook consultations on the Access & Movement Study, Bridport Area Tree Plan and the Jellyfields and Bothenhampton Nature Reserve Management Plans in 2020-21.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19):** The Town Council continues a support helpline that provides access to help with food provision, medication, health including mental health support, legal and financial advice and social wellbeing support. The helpline gives direct access to help provided by 20+ organisations, all coordinated by the Council.

**Democracy - Working with Young People:** The Town Council continues to support the Bridport Youth and Community Centre, and engages local schools in the Rights Respecting project, led by the Town Council. Schools have been involved in other Town Council initiatives, such as Commonwealth Day and support for the renovation of 'Branden's Trail' at Bridport Primary School. We also worked this year with local volunteers on the provision of an indoor skate park, and youth groups on plans for a new outdoor skate park.

**Events:** Bridport's wonderful calendar of community events was sadly interrupted in 2020/21 by Covid-19, but the Town Council supported two small, Covid-secure music festivals - "Bridport Bounces Back" and "Roped in for Bridport" and has maintained street music in Bucky Doo Square whenever this was possible. We facilitated the Black Lives Matter event and later in the 2020 replaced the annual Christmas Cheer event with a more limited event, "Christmas Cheer Up". We also organised the Remembrance Parade in November and supported the activities for VE Day, VJ Day and the unfortunate passing of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. The Town Council provides flags and bunting for the town centre in summer, puts up Christmas lights and erects promotional banners on town centre lamp posts and elsewhere.

**Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee:** This committee's main business this year has been the delivery of its Climate Emergency Action Plan, for which it has appointed a dedicated sub committee. It has also provided continued support for the Rights Respecting project and tree planting, and has delivered the Bridport Sculpture Trail. The committee has been at the forefront of developing an Ethical Decisions Policy for the Town Council.

**External Funding:** During 2019/20, the Town Council secured external funding for its Coronavirus response work, the Access & Movement Study and the tree house at St Mary's Primary School.

**Finances:** The Best Value and Scrutiny Sub Committee received reports during the year on all aspects of the financial management of the Town Council, including reports from the Council's Internal Auditor. The Town Council receives regular budget monitoring reports and the Town Council's Budget Working Group looked in detail at the budget.

The Town Council agreed its budget for 2020/21, taking into account a number of factors including the significant impact of Covid-19 on both income and expenditure, increased responsibility for assets and services.

The Council's Internal Auditors make three visits during the year and it was pleasing that there were no issues reported, either as part of the internal or external audits. The Auditors also work with the Council to update an annual Corporate Risk Assessment, which is reported to members.

The Town Council has also agreed a capital budget to support the delivery of projects in the next 3 years, and a medium term financial plan.

**Governance:** The Town Council has a series of policies that regulate its proceedings, including a Code of Conduct for Councillors, Financial Regulations, Standing Orders etc. It also has a number of other key documents that it reviews each year, including its Asset Register, Risk Management Policy, Health and Safety Policy and Investment Strategy.

**Grants:** The Town Council agreed to continue funding the Leisure Centre, Citizens' Advice Bureau, West Bay Discovery Centre, Bridport Museum, Bridport Arts Centre and Bridport Youth and Community Centre under Service Level Agreements at existing levels, which run until 2024. We also provided one off funding for community groups to support the delivery of projects – through its community and car boot sale schemes. In total, the Town Council awarded almost £51,000 in 2020/21.

**Highways and Transportation:** The Working Group, which reports to the Planning Committee, considers local public highway and transport matters. We are grateful for the support it receives from Alan Williams of the Western Area Transport Action Group.

## Town Council Services 2020-21

**Highway Verge Maintenance:** The Town Council continued to maintain the highway verges, as part of a Service Level Agreement with Dorset County Council. The Town Council receives a grant from Dorset County Council to assist with the work. This year we introduced a new verge cutting mower, which improves the quality of cutting and will help us to promote wild flower growth.

**Lengthsman:** The post of Lengthsman is funded by the Town Council and the parish councils participating in the scheme - Bothenhampton & Walditch, Symondsbury, Litton Cheney and Bradpole. The work of the Lengthsman includes gully clearing, repairing notice boards, removing fly posting, grass cutting, removal of weeds, repairing benches throughout the town and similar tasks. The Town Council receives good feedback from the parishes in the scheme and has also taken on some additional 'one-off' work on behalf of other organisations.

**Market:** The Town Council manages the street market, a major tourist draw and an important local facility. In 2020/21 there has been a significant reduction in revenue due Covid restrictions which prohibited most stalls during lockdown periods. However, the area occupied by the market has expanded into Downes Street and laybys to enable better social distancing, and speciality markets have been given a new home in Barrack Street because they have been unable to operate in their previous indoor venues.

**Market & Business Liaison Working Group:** The Working Group includes representatives from the Bridport & District Tourism Association, Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Market Traders and the Bridport Local Area Partnership. The Working Group considers reports on the Tourist Information Centre, the market, town events and co-ordinates town publicity and promotion.

**Mountfield/Millennium Green:** The Town Council continues to work with the Millennium Green Trust on the delivery of its management plan for the area, and general grounds maintenance. In 2020/21 this included improvements to footpaths, the opening up of the 'Ice House', and addition of new fencing. The grounds are among the few places that have been used for community events during the year, including two mini music festivals.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** The Town Council works with Allington, Bothenhampton and Walditch, Bradpole and Symondsbury Parish Councils on the development of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan. The delivery of the Plan is being co-ordinated by a community-led Steering Group, overseen by a Joint Committee of all the participating councils, supported by the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer. The Plan was 'made' (formally adopted) in May 2020, so now forms part of the statutory planning framework.

**Priory Lane - Community Orchard:** The Bridport Community Orchard Group manages the Orchard site and hosts a number of popular events during the year, including the Apple Day and Wassailing events. The Orchard Group also manages the land at the top of Park Road. The sites are managed in partnership with the Town Council.

**Partnership Working:** The Town Council continues to work with a large number of partners, including local community groups, Bridport Local Area Partnership, Bridport Collaboration Group, the Police, Chamber of Trade, Tourism Association, Dorset Council, Magna Housing, the Western Area Transport Advisory Group, other local councils and many other organisations. During 2020/21 we have also worked closely with the Bridport Coronavirus Community Support Network to deliver help to the vulnerable during the pandemic. The Town Council appoints representatives to a large number of local and regional bodies and officers also attend networking meetings, including the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC), Society of Local Council Clerks etc.

**Planning:** The Town Council is a consultee for planning applications. Over the past year, 85 applications were reported to its Planning Committee and comments passed to Dorset Council. The committee also responds to relevant planning policy consultations on behalf of the council, including this year an extensive response to the draft Dorset Council Local Plan. Committee members also speak at meetings of Dorset Council's Planning Committee, when significant Bridport items are considered.

**Play Areas:** The Town Council maintains a number of play areas, including the fully accessible West Bay Play Area, which added to earlier awards in 2020 with a bronze at the Dorset Tourism Awards. The Town Council has a programme of improvements that saw a major upgrade at St Mary's in 2020/21. We also initiated a project to replace the outdoor skate park and upgrade play facilities at Plottingham Fields.

**Riverside Gardens:** The Town Council owns and maintains the Gardens and over the last year has developed a management plan in consultation with the community. A tree planting programme in 2020/21 has seen over 500 whips planted at the north end of the gardens.

**Salt House:** Usually a popular meeting and event venue, the Salt House has been little used during 2020/21 due to the pandemic.

**Sitting Out:** We administer sitting out licences in Bridport, and these have been a vital element of the Covid recovery programme in early 2021.

**Staff:** The Town Council has 21 members of staff, who support the delivery of our services and are listed overleaf.

## Town Council Services 2020-21

**Tourist Information Centre:** The Town Council runs Bridport TIC, having taken it over from the District Council in 2017. As well as providing a huge range of information and services to visitors and residents, the TIC provides Box Office services to local organisations, and manages the Town Hall, Bucky Doo Square, the Bridport and West Bay web site and the production of the Town Guide. The TIC is very popular and visitor numbers remain very high. We are very proud that in 2020/21, the TIC won a gold award at the Dorset Tourism Association Awards, adding to four awards in the previous two years. Staff at the TIC were 'front line' call handlers for our Covid Helpline in 2020/21.

**Town Centre Working Group:** The Town Council operates a stakeholder working group to consider the future of the town centre, with a focus on vehicular and pedestrian access/circulation, and the public realm. The group has been a key driver in developing options for the future of the town centre through the Council's Access & Movement Study.

**Town Council Five-Year Plan:** The plan was refreshed in 2019 to cover the period to the next election in 2024, and provides a framework for the development of the Town Council's future policies, schemes and the formulation of budgets. The priority projects are reviewed regularly.

**Town Hall:** The Town Hall is usually open to the public six days a week and bookings are taken through the Tourist Information Centre. The pandemic has meant that it has not been in significant use in 2020/21.

**Vearse Farm Working Group:** This temporary working group brings together local councils and community organisations with the developers of the Vearse Farm site, with the aim of achieving the best possible development for the area.

**Weather:** The Town Council is part of the Dorset Council Emergency Planning arrangements, allowing it to play a part in responding to severe weather events such as flooding or heavy snowfall. In addition, the Town Council provides and fills a number of grit bins around the town. In 2020 we distributed over 300 sandbags to residents and businesses affected by flooding.

**West Bay:** The Water Sports Centre is owned by the Town Council and used by the Canoe Club and the Gig Club. The Council has continued to support the West Bay Forum, and the Coastal Community Team (CCT) which has helped to bring funding and new projects into West Bay. We also work closely with the Harbour Master. We provide free public WiFi across the centre of West Bay, and in 2020/21 we took control of both the new cycle/foot path on the Old Railway Line, and Harbour Green including the new 'welcome hub' seating area. We also oversaw temporary highway changes to enable better social distancing during the busy summer period.

**West Bay Car Boot Sale:** The Car Boot Sale was interrupted by Covid in 2020 but did run during periods of eased restrictions and is operating normally in 2021. The income from pitch fees is distributed in the form of grants to community groups across the Bridport area.

**Youth and Community Centre:** The Town Council continues to provide funding for the running costs of the Centre and also to support the provision of a Youth Club. The Centre continues to be very well used, albeit that it was closed for a significant proportion of 2020/21 due to Covid restrictions.

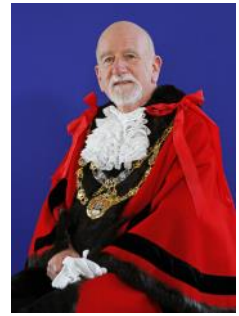
### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In addition to our day-to-day services, the Town Council responded to the Coronavirus outbreak in the following ways:

- We led a partnership of over 20 local organisations and community groups, supported by over 170 volunteers to provide an integrated support network for the most vulnerable in our community. We also set up an integrated phone network so that all of the support could be accessed via a single helpline number.
- We distributed a leaflet to 11,500 addresses in the Bridport area highlighting the sources of support locally, and provided further information via our website, social media feeds, postcards in retail outlets and posters around the town.
- In support of key workers locally, the Council installed a thank you banner on the Town Hall, the town clock cycled through rainbow colours at night, and the NHS flag flew on the Town Hall.
- We supported the development of a community archive of images and stories from the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, both during lockdown and beyond – see <https://www.bridportlockdown.org/>.
- During lockdown periods we moved all of our office-based staff to home working, equipped with laptops and supported by a virtual phone system that mirrored those used at the Town Council offices and the Tourist Information Centre.
- The Council continued to hold its meetings, virtually rather than at a physical location.
- Although the Town Council offices and TIC were closed, the Council continued to operate both facilities by remote means, and retained its main services including grounds and highway verge maintenance, Bridport Market, Bridport Cemetery, and seven allotment sites.

## Report of the Town Mayor

A little over 12 months ago I was elected Mayor of Bridport and a few days ago I was re-elected to serve as your Mayor for another year. It goes without saying that I am deeply honoured to be able to serve our wonderful town once again. Throughout my term of office our world has been impacted upon by the Covid-19 pandemic and there is not a corner of the planet that has not been affected. Here in Bridport, like everywhere else, we have had to become used to a new way of living with phrases like Social Distancing, Hands - Face - Space, Lockdown, Track and Trace and Furlough becoming a part of our every day reality.



The pandemic has also impacted on the role of Mayor. The planned calendar of events was very quickly kicked into touch on day one and I found myself:

- **Becoming a 'virtual' Mayor** - with Zoom and other video conferencing media being the means by which I have attended and chaired Town Council meetings and other events to represent the town. During the year I have been invited to speak to local WI groups, Round Table and Rotary groups, Transition Town and others, on several topics including how we can rise to the challenge of achieving Plastic Free Status for the town.
- **Writing a Blog** - something new for me and to my surprise significant numbers of people have been reading it and getting in touch with generally positive comments and suggestions for future blogs. As a result of my blog I have found myself doing some interesting things for example: milking cows on the pioneering Hollis Mead dairy farm at 6.30am on a chilly but bright autumn morning; walking the Green Route, Beach Cleaning, making rope in the Museum, meeting the Dove Man of Crock Lane, supporting the Bridport Tree Planting group and Allington Hillbillies and the list goes on.

Writing the blog has enabled me to support, encourage and praise organisations and people. It has also enabled me to respond to and bring to a wider audience issues and concerns that are of concern too many people. Most interesting of all it has enabled me to meet some amazing people.

The people of Bridport rose to the challenges posed by lockdowns by volunteering their time, energy and skills to support those in need by providing hot meals, collecting prescriptions, doing the shopping and other basic but essential tasks. I had the pleasure of standing alongside the Dorset High Sheriff, George Streatfield to present awards to just some of those who had been so generous.

Meeting and thanking the shopkeepers and their staff who had worked on the frontline throughout the pandemic to ensure that we were able to feed ourselves and collect our prescriptions has been another privilege. Adapting their businesses to include on line and home deliveries meant we did not have to put ourselves at risk. Without them our lives would have been so much more challenging.

As lockdowns have eased other businesses have been able to open including the market. I have had a great time meeting market traders and taking photographs of them the result of which has been seen in my blog and also as a poster on view at the TIC. The market is a vitally important part of our business community. Not only does it attract people into the town who then spend in our shops, restaurants and pubs, but it also is an opportunity for budding entrepreneurs to test the water and in time grow their businesses. As we emerge into the post pandemic era this will become even more vital.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks on behalf of the people of Bridport to the Town Council staff, who have all continued working throughout these most challenging times, have . Will Austin our Town Clerk and his team have been outstanding in leading and supporting us. Daryl Chambers our Town Surveyor and his team have not only quietly maintained our town to an incredibly high standard, but have been able to complete a number of new projects such as the installation of new benches in the Community Orchard and the construction of a tree house at St Mary's School, which I had the pleasure of officially opening, climbing into and sliding down the fireman's pole. Thank you all.

I have been able to use my role as Mayor to lend support to the Harmony Centre and Cupboard Love Foodbank charities, and the Plastic Free Bridport, Litter Free Champions campaigns. In doing so I have been surprised by how, just mentioning that I am the Mayor, doors are opened and people are willing to listen. However, it has been frustrating that I have not been able to be as active as I would have hoped with fundraising events, but I am told that my support in other ways has been of significant benefit in raising awareness and success with grant funding applications. One thing I will be repeating this coming year is the appeal I made to those who receive a winter fuel allowance grant to donate it to one of my charities which for the coming year will be the Harmony Centre and the Living Tree.

**continued overleaf...**

### Report of the Town Mayor (continued)

Because of the restrictions imposed to beat the Covid pandemic during my first term of office I have only attended one occasion in full robe and chain - Remembrance Sunday, three where I have worn full chain - one of which was a memorial service for Prince Philip held at Wimborne Minster, and four other occasions when I have worn 'the badge'. A very different experience to previous Mayors and of course all of these events have had to be held under the Covid restrictions in place at the time.

The impact of the covid pandemic cannot be overestimated and the lives of every member of our community have been impacted upon. I now look forward to the post pandemic era and embracing the opportunities that have started to emerge. Simply dreaming of returning to things as they were previously is not good enough. We need to strive to embrace the opportunities we are being presented with as we strive to build a better, fairer world for all our citizens. As a Town Council we must grasp the nettle and do our utmost to achieve this. If we think dealing with the pandemic has been tough we face an even greater challenge over coming years in dealing with the Climate Emergency. If we fail to meet that challenge future generations will not forgive us.

As your Mayor for the coming year I am really looking forward to moving from the virtual into the real world once again. I look forward to supporting and meeting face to face many more of the wonderful organisations, businesses and people of Bridport.

And finally - there a few people I would particularly like to thank for their support during the past year:

- Anne - my wife who has been behind me throughout, keeping me on schedule and presentable.
- Will Austin - for being a constant source of sound advice and support. Without your guidance Will I would have struggled to say the least at times.
- Jill Beed - the Mayors secretary who keeps me on track and more importantly proofreads my blogs and sorts out any spelling and grammatical errors - I call them typos!
- Sarah Williams - Deputy Mayor who has been there throughout ready to support and step in. Perhaps the post pandemic workload will enable us to get out and about more often together to support and promote our wonderful town.

**Clr Ian Bark**  
**Mayor of Bridport 2020/21**

### Report of the Leader of the Council

I am not going to list all our achievements, as these are detailed elsewhere in this annual report. I think the dominant aspect from my point of view is the way the whole Town Council, officers, staff and councillors, normalised the extraordinary circumstances and kept delivering services. Where this was not possible, we pushed forward with our ambitious climate change, transport and town centre programmes and looking into our rights and ethical policies. This has put us in good stead to push forward as and when we have the freedom to continue under 'normal conditions'.

Councillors have had more Planning, Policy and Consultation documents to contend with and more meetings this year than in previous years. This was helped by the ease of having small working groups 'virtually' to keep the momentum going. This was facilitated by the Town Clerk's 'techy' prowess, getting the necessary meetings up and running.



I would like to personally thank the Town Clerk for his endeavours, his positive attitude and going that extra mile, and making the time to keep us all up to date with the myriad of issues.

I would like to thank the Councillors for their efforts during the year, we have certainly moved many of our projects forward considerably.

It has been particularly pleasing to witness the number of very kind and complimentary comments from members of the public and the business community.

We have not used Covid as an excuse for slowing down – we made things happen. 'Well Done' everybody.

**Clr Dave Rickard**  
**Leader of Bridport Town Council, 2020/21**



Bridport Bounces Back Festival



Black Lives Matter Rally



Tree house at St Mary's Primary School



Farmer's Market in Barrack St



'Virtual' election of the Mayor

**Bridport Town Council**

The Town Council, as a democratically elected body, works in partnership with other agencies and community bodies to represent and promote the town, ensure the delivery of high quality services in response to local needs and improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of its area.

**The Town Council offices** are located at:

Mountfield, Rax Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3JP.  
Tel. no. 01308 456722  
Email address: enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk  
Website: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk

**The Mountfield offices are open:**

Mon to Thurs, 8.30am to 5.00pm  
Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm

**The Tourist Information Centre is open:**

Monday to Saturday,  
April to Oct, 9am - 5pm  
Nov to Mar, 10am - 3pm

**Staff:**

- Town Clerk:** Will Austin
- Town Surveyor:** Daryl Chambers
- Finance & Office Manager:** Paul Fuszard
- Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer:** David Dixon
- Clerical Officer:** Claire Peters-Way
- Clerical Assistant:** Steven Yarde
- TIC Manager:** Terri Foxwell
- TIC Assistant Manager:** Rebecca Jones
- TIC Assistants:** Jill Beed, Millie Webber-Cox, Grace Mynard, Georgia Chesterman and Billy Shearer
- Grounds Supervisor:** Sean Coombs
- Groundsman:** Tim Smith
- Groundsman:** Paul Sanderson
- Groundsman:** Andrew Hansford
- Volunteer Groundsman:** Tom Hillier
- Market Superintendent:** Ken Hussey
- Cemetery Superintendent:** Paul Violet
- Lengthsman:** Ed Wootton
- Town Hall Caretaker:** Darryl Hills
- Mountfield Cleaner:** Clare Violet

In June 2020, we said a fond farewell to Linda Bullock, who retired as Administrative Officer after 22 years' service to the Council.



## Bridport Town Councillors



Geoffrey Ackerman  
31, Crock Lane  
Bridport  
DT6 4DF  
(01308) 458098  
Bridport South



Kelvin Clayton  
Flat 7, The Strand  
West Allington  
(07952) 179850  
[kelvin.clayton@icloud.com](mailto:kelvin.clayton@icloud.com)  
Bridport South



Martin Ray  
11, Cordova Gardens  
Bridport DT6 3NG  
(01308) 459095  
[magieray@aol.com](mailto:magieray@aol.com)  
Bridport North



Rose Allwork  
2 Melville Square  
Bridport  
DT6 3LS  
[rose4bridport@gmail.com](mailto:rose4bridport@gmail.com)  
Bridport North



Karen Hunt  
4 South Mill Lane  
Bridport DT6 3PN  
(01308) 424671  
[karenhunt@myphone.coop](mailto:karenhunt@myphone.coop)  
Bridport South



Maggie Ray  
11, Cordova Gardens  
Bridport DT6 3NG  
(01308) 459095  
[magieray@aol.com](mailto:magieray@aol.com)  
Bridport North



Ian Bark  
c/o Bridport Town Council  
(01308) 420941  
(07870) 414222  
[ianbark@icloud.com](mailto:ianbark@icloud.com)  
Bridport South



Barry Irvine  
4, Sunnyside  
Bothenhampton  
DT6 4BL  
(01308) 423611  
Bridport South



Dave Rickard  
"Rydens", Westtown  
Bothenhampton DT6 4BQ  
(01308) 420908  
[daverickard@phonecoop.coop](mailto:daverickard@phonecoop.coop)  
Bridport South



Sandra Brown  
67, North Allington  
Bridport  
DT6 5DZ  
(01308) 423078  
Bridport South



Julian Jones  
4, North Mills  
Bridport DT6 3AH  
(01308) 428346  
[julian.jsl@phonecoop.coop](mailto:julian.jsl@phonecoop.coop)  
Bridport North



Anne Rickard  
"Rydens", Westtown  
Bothenhampton DT6 4BQ  
(01308) 420908  
[busychicks@phonecoop.coop](mailto:busychicks@phonecoop.coop)  
Bridport North



Dave Bolwell  
12, Maple Gardens  
Bridport DT6 4DE  
(07837) 359956  
[davebolwell@gmail.com](mailto:davebolwell@gmail.com)  
Bridport South



Ros Kayes  
Omen Cottage, Salwayash  
Bridport DT6 5HT  
(07920) 850167  
[roskayes@gmail.com](mailto:roskayes@gmail.com)  
Bridport North



Sarah Williams  
7, St Andrews Road  
Bridport  
DT6 3BG  
(01308) 459433  
Bridport South



Sarah Carney  
7, Lodge Lane, West Allington  
Bridport DT6 5QR  
(01308) 458179/(07703) 356462  
[SarahBridportCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:SarahBridportCouncil@gmail.com)  
Bridport North



Gill Massey  
The Retreat, 15, Rax Lane  
Bridport DT6 3JW  
(01308) 423817  
[paularthurandgill@gmail.com](mailto:paularthurandgill@gmail.com)  
Bridport North



Steve Williams  
7, St Andrews Road  
Bridport DT6 3BG  
(01308) 459433  
[cllrstevewilliamsbtc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrstevewilliamsbtc@gmail.com)  
Bridport North

### How the Council Works

The Council comprises 18 councillors - 9 to represent the South ward and 9 to represent the North ward.

All Councillors meet as the full Council to take the major decisions and oversee all activities of the Town Council. The Council appoints three main committees - Planning, Finance & General Purposes and Environment & Social Wellbeing. These are supported by a number of sub committees and working groups. Councillors are also appointed to serve on local outside organisations.

The Town Council meets six times a year at 7.00 pm on a Tuesday. The Planning Committee meets monthly on Mondays. The Finance and General Purposes and Environment and Social Wellbeing committees meet four or five times a year. The Council's Best Value and Scrutiny Sub Committee meets quarterly. Agendas are normally issued a week before the meetings and are posted on public notice boards 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 on the agenda, in public forums at the beginning of all of these meetings. The minutes are published on our website and can also be viewed at the library or at our Mountfield office.

The Calendar of Meetings for the Year is on the Town Council's web site ([www.bridport-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk)) and on notice boards. Please contact the Town Council for any information regarding Council meetings.

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Payments in advance		12,844	Precept		718,341
Debtors		37,759	Interest and investments		13,055
Stock		5,655	Allotments		7,380
Money Market Deposits		208,463	Cemetery		23,305
Cash at Bank		503,513	Frontages		0
Cash in Hand		<u>76</u>	Sitting Out Licences		606
			Market		38,399
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>768,310</b>	Amenity Areas/Playing Fields		61,618
			Mountfield		52,579
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			The Grove		36,027
			WI Hall		3,333
Creditors		<u>80,263</u>	Salt House		1,032
			Town Hall		16,050
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>688,047</u></b>	Tourist Information Centre		38,200
			Transfer from reserves		0
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			Parish Clustering		12,136
			Events		0
General reserve at 1 April 2020	236,137		CCTV		16,837
T'fer from Larger Project Reserve	47,569		Town Plan Projects		9,214
Net deficit for the year	<u>-87,880</u>		West Bay Car Boot		2,746
			Salary Contributions		6,312
General reserve 31 March 2021		195,826	Covid-19		<u>11,450</u>
					<b>1,068,620</b>
Climate Emg reserve 1 April 2020	100,000		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Payments during the year	<u>-2,000</u>		Administration	329,246	
			Office Expenses	8,952	
Climate Emg reserve 31 Mar 2021		98,000	Mountfield	46,782	
Earmarked reserve at 1 April 2020	141,972		The Grove	26,753	
Contribution to reserves	141,213		WI Hall	3,810	
Earmarked funds released	<u>-39,087</u>		Salt House	5,742	
			Town Hall	28,231	
Earmarked reserve at 31 Mar 2021		244,098	Tourist Information Centre	177,592	
			Cemetery	23,408	
Larger project reserve 1 April 2020	47,569		Civic	4,414	
T/F to general reserves	<u>-47,569</u>		Members' Allowances	14,184	
			Market	5,973	
Larger project reserve 31 March 2021		0	Amenity Areas/Playing Fields	294,471	
			Grants and Donations	44,796	
TIC reserve as at 1 April 2020	60,000		Community Bus	7,349	
Contribution to running costs	<u>0</u>		CCTV	21,771	
			Town Plan Projects	19,144	
TIC reserve at 31 March 2021		60,000	Other Services	75,969	
			Covid-19	<u>17,913</u>	
Capital reserve as at 1 April 2020	122,267				<b>1,156,500</b>
Payments during the year	<u>-32,144</u>		<b>NET DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>-87,880</b>
Capital reserve at 31 March 2021		<u>90,123</u>			
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>		<b><u>688,047</u></b>			

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of Bridport Town Council as at 31 March 2021 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.