



BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



I am very pleased to present Bridport Town Council's annual report for 2022/23. 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 2022/23



Ukrainian guests celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day (top), and Jurassic Fields returns after a two-year hiatus

2022/23 — New Challenges

A year we hoped would bring a sense of 'normality' following the lifting of pandemic restrictions, instead delivered some unexpected challenges. The war in Ukraine saw some 60 refugees arrive in the Bridport area, and the Town Council helped to ensure that support was in place. The town felt the effects of the cost-of-living crisis, and again the Town Council was at the forefront of the community response.

Despite these sudden changes to our priorities, the Council made good progress with a number of key projects (see below), supported a return to a full events calendar in 'Dorset's Eventful Town', including marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and later her sad passing.

The Council also made a successful application to expand its boundary from April 2024.

Town Council Projects 2022/23

Some of the projects undertaken this year include:

Beach Matting & Wheelchairs With significant support from local volunteers and community groups, the Town Council installed beach matting on West Beach in July 2022 to enable wheelchair users to access the beach. In March 2023, a Beach Wheelchair Scheme was launched, with three specialist wheelchairs enabling users to access other parts of the beach, and the sea.

Bridport Investment Plan In November 2022 Bridport Town Council launched its Investment Plan for Bridport, following engagement with local businesses and the community. The plan forms the basis for funding bids to improve the Town Centre, and to support businesses in the Bridport area to undertake the transition to a net zero future.

Changing Places Toilets The Council secured funding for two Changing Places toilets, and began building the first at West Bay Road Car Park. These facilities extend toilet provision to people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well other disabilities that severely limit mobility

Community Governance In July 2022, the Council's proposals to bring together, most of the four parishes that make up the built-up area of Bridport, were approved by Dorset Council. A transition plan has commenced, ahead of the implementation in April 2024.

Cost of Living Crisis Working with community partners, the Council developed a network of 'Warm Hubs', to provide warmth and advice for those in fuel poverty. We also partnered in the creation of a community hardship fund, and delivered advice 'roadshows' and leaflets for residents.

Mountfield Window Replacement We replaced most of the old, single glazed windows at our Mountfield offices with wooden-framed heritage double glazing. This has reduced our energy use, contributing to a reduction in our carbon footprint of 18% during 2022/23.

Public Art We unveiled a collection of sculptures, gifted to the town by renowned artist Greta Berlin, at Riverside Gardens. We also partnered with Bridport Arts Centre, artists, and volunteers to deliver the longest mural in the UK at Bridport Football Club. A second mural was later added at Plottingham Fields.

Solar Car Ports Construction was completed in January 2023. This installation will provide energy to the national grid, and electric vehicle charging for public and the Council.

Tennis Courts Major engineering works were undertaken to shore up the ground beneath the tennis courts at Plottingham Fields, where river bank erosion had destabilised one corner.

Town Council Services 2022-23

Allotments: The Town Council has 205 allotment plots and at the current time there are 106 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 the New Zealand site are overseen by a well-supported community group. In the last year the showground has returned to full use, hosting the Food and Beer Festivals, Jurassic Fields, the Circus, and Action Challenge. The meadows continue to be a location for tree planting and other biodiversity initiatives, part of the local response to the climate and ecological emergency.

Beach Wheelchair Scheme This scheme provides access to West Beach using dedicated beach matting, and three specialised wheelchairs that extend this access to other areas of the beach, and into the sea.

Borough Gardens: The Borough Gardens community group, supported by the Town Council, has met regularly on site, making continued improvements to the Gardens. The group celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2022.

Bridport Football Club: The Town Council has the freehold ownership of this land and the Football Club has recently entered into a new 99-year 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 continues to meet 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 the public car parks at Plottingham and Bridport Football Club. The management of pay and display parking is undertaken by Dorset Council on our behalf. We also provide a limited number of parking permits at The Grove in Rax Lane. We have installed 'solar car ports' at Plottingham, to generate electricity for the local grid and for electric vehicle charging.

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 the Energy Champions initiative that aims to address fuel poverty and reduce the carbon footprint of local residents. In 2022 we also installed solar car ports, and replacement windows at Mountfield.

Civic and Ceremonial: The Town Council elects and supports the Town Mayor, who carries out civic roles on behalf of the town. In the last year the Mayor attended 136 engagements, raised funds for Bridport Youth & Community Centre and the Bank of Dreams & Nightmares, alongside his tireless efforts organising community litter picks throughout the year. The Mayor also publishes a regular 'blog'.

Communication: The Town Council issues an annual report on its work, 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 a wide social media presence. We also maintain a Town Council-specific Facebook page with over 1,300 followers. The Council, through the TIC, is able to take online bookings for events on its 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 replaces one cut by the former Dorset County Council, and provides access to the town centre for residents of Bridport and three of the surrounding parishes. A stakeholder working group provides professional and community input.

Consultation: The Town Council has responded to a number of consultation exercises from over the past year, ensuring that the views of the town are taken into consideration on a variety of matters, including on the Government's Shared and Rural England Prosperity funds. The Council continues to provide public open forums at its meetings. The Town Council itself undertook consultations in 2022/23 on the Bridport Investment Plan, Streetscape & Heritage Interpretation Study, and Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Town Council Services 2022-2023

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. In 2022/23, the Mayor made youth a specific area for civic focus, and the theme of his Civic Day. We supported a new youth event, The Plott, and young people have been involved in a number of projects including the design and painting of murals.

Events: Bridport's wonderful calendar of community events was restored to full health in 2022/23 following the lifting of pandemic restrictions. The Town Council provided essential logistical and other support to the Food Festival, Beer Festival, Jurassic Fields, The Plott, Folk Festival, Carnival, Torchlight Procession, Hat Festival and Christmas Cheer, and delivered events in support of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the proclamation of the death of the Queen.

We also provide the Community Charter Fair, street music in Bucky Doo Square, and the Remembrance Sunday Parade in November, and we support a host of smaller events throughout the year. 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 again 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 tree planting and other biodiversity enhancements, and has added to the Bridport Sculpture Trail. The committee has been at the forefront of the Council's work on beach matting, beach wheelchairs, and the cost-of-living crisis. The sub committee has maintained its focus on the climate emergency, delivering solar car ports and replacement windows at Mountfield, and developing the Energy Champions scheme.

External Funding: During 2021/22, the Town Council secured external funding for a range of projects including research into a college of sustainable technologies, Changing Places toilets, the cost-of-living crisis, support for Ukrainian guests, and water refill stations.

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 2022/23, taking into account a number of factors including the significant impact of increased project activity, and major cost rises stemming from uncontrolled inflation. 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.

Foundry Lea Working Group: This working group brings together local councils and other stakeholders, with the developers of Foundry Lea, with the aim of achieving the best possible development for the area. In 2022/23 we moved from discussion of the detailed planning application for the housing element of the site, to in-depth discussions about next steps including the Miles Cross junction. We also liaised with the developers to secure 'reparations' for the erroneous removal of trees and hedgerow on West Road.

Governance: The Town Council has a series of policies that regulate its proceedings, including a Code of Conduct, 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. In 2022/23, the Council started work on a transition plan ahead of major changes to its boundary from April 2024.

Grants: The Town Council agreed to continue funding –supported by a service level agreement) for the Leisure Centre, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Bridport Area Development Trust (for the LSi and West Bay Discovery Centre), Bridport Museum, Bridport Arts Centre, 2020 Skate & Ride, and Bridport Youth and Community Centre. We also provided one off funding for community groups to support the delivery of projects – through our community and car boot sale schemes. In total, the Town Council awarded almost £63,000 in grant funding in 2022/23.

Highways and Transportation: The Working Group, which reports to the Planning Committee, considers local public highway and transport matters, with co-opted support from the Western Area Transport Action Group.

Town Council Services 2022-2023

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, and has adapted the cutting regime to promote biodiversity.

Homes for Ukraine In 2022, the Town Council established itself as the local contact point for advice and help to hosts and their guests arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We have coordinated welcome information in written and video form, helped set up a weekly 'get together' for hosts and guests, and obtained free access to leisure and bus services for guests. We have also supported dedicated events for our guests, and have included them in our own activities, inviting a Ukrainian choir to perform at civic and community events.

Lengthsman: The post of Lengthsman is funded by the Town Council and the parish councils participating in the scheme - Bothenhampton & Walditch, Symondsburry, Litton Cheney and Bradpole. The Lengthsman's work includes gully clearing, repairing notice boards, removing fly posting, grass cutting, weeding, repairing benches, 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 for other organisations.

Market: The Town Council manages the street market, a major tourist draw and an important local facility. In 2022/23 we saw a continuation of the good attendance by stallholders following the lifting of pandemic restrictions. The area occupied by the market has expanded into Downes Street and laybys — originally to enable better social distancing but so well received that we have continued the arrangement — and speciality markets have continued in West Bay.

Market & Business Liaison Working Group: The Working Group includes representatives from the Bridport & District Tourism Association, Bridport Business Chamber, other business organisations, 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 2022/23 this included restoration work on the original 'gateway' at the foot of Coneygar Hill. The gardens at Mountfield continue to be popular as a venue for community events during the year, including the Community Charter Fair, theatrical productions, and even a circus. Inside Mountfield, we replaced most of our windows this year, and moved the Town Council's offices from the second to the ground floor.

Neighbourhood Plan: The Town Council worked with Allington, Bothenhampton & Walditch, Bradpole and Symondsburry Parish Councils to develop the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan. The delivery of the Plan is overseen by a Joint Committee of participating councils, supported by the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer. The Plan 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, the Police, Bridport Business Chamber and other business groups, Tourism Association, Dorset Council, Magna Housing, the Western Area Transport Advisory Group, and other local councils. During 2022/23 we worked closely with the business community on the Bridport Investment Plan. 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, 102 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, and lobbies for change. In 2022/23 a major area of focus was on reducing obstacles to energy efficiency improvements to listed buildings. Committee members may 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 award-winning and fully accessible West Bay Play Area. The Town Council has a programme of improvements that saw new equipment installed at West Bay and North Mills in 2022/23. We also continued to develop a project to replace the outdoor skate park and upgrade play facilities at Plottingham Fields, and we worked in partnership to refurbish the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at St Mary's.

Riverside Gardens: The Town Council owns and maintains the Gardens in accordance with a management plan developed in consultation with the community. In 2022/23 we welcomed a prestigious collection of sculptures to the gardens, gifted to the town by artist Greta Berlin.

Town Council Services 2022-2023

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.

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 policies, schemes and budgets.

Town Hall: The Town Hall is usually open to the public six days a week and bookings are taken through the Tourist Information Centre. Bookings remained strong in 2022/23 following a recovery the previous year.

Weather: The Town Council is part of the county Emergency Planning arrangements, playing its part in responding to severe weather events such as flooding or snowfall. In addition, the Town Council provides and fills a number of grit bins around the town. In 2022/23 we established a team of Flood Wardens who, along with the Council's grounds team, are the first line of the community response to flooding.

West Bay: The Salt House is owned by the Town Council and made available for public use. The neighbouring Water Sports Centre is used by the Canoe Club and the Gig Club. The Council continues to support the West Bay Forum and we also work closely with the Harbour Master. We provide free public WiFi across the centre of West Bay, and manage the cycle/foot path on the Old Railway Line, West Bay Play Area, and Harbour Green including the new 'welcome hub' seating area.

West Bay Car Boot Sale: The Council runs the weekly car boot sale on Sundays from Easter to October. Income from pitch fees is distributed in the form of grants to community groups. In 2022/23 the total grant funding was £8,850.

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, and now hosts five different youth clubs.



Melplash Show



Greta Berlin Sculpture



Bridport Investment Plan



"The Plott" Youth Event

Will Austin
Town Clerk

Report of the Town Mayor

As your Mayor I am Chair of the Town Council and the civic ambassador and advocate for our wonderful town. The opportunities to promote the town more widely have gradually increased as the constraints associated with Covid during my first year as mayor have started to become a distant memory. As a result I am sure you will all be pleased to hear that I am being kept busier and busier with every week that passes.

I am proud to a resident and Mayor of of Bridport but there have been numerous occasions this year, when I have been extremely proud of Bridport. And I would like to share just four of those times with you this evening.

Firstly - the way in which our community continues to rally round and supported each other through the trials of the covid years and the current economic and energy crises.

Having met many community groups, business owners and individual volunteers I know, possibly better than anyone else in the town, just how many amazing things so many people have been selflessly doing for the benefit of others.

To all of those people, too numerous to mention by name, I say thank you.

The establishment of the Bridport Hardship Fund managed by the Food Bank in collaboration with the Town Council and Citizens Advice is the latest example of this.

Secondly - Bridport may have achieved Plastic Free status and we have a wonderful small but ever growing army of Litter Free Street Champions who have become guardians of the streets they live on.

There are now over 100 Litter Free Street Champions in Bridport and the neighbouring parishes. Added to that are the twice yearly From Street to Sea mass litter picks when the streets, green spaces, rivers and beaches are all being cleared of litter.

The first of this years picks is scheduled to take place on the morning of Monday 8th May as part of the Volunteering Day to mark the coronation of King Charles III. I hope to see you all out there with your litter pickers.

On becoming Mayor for the third time at the Mayor Making ceremony last May I launched a campaign to encourage the use of sustainable palm oil. I am pleased to report that Bridport already has two businesses that have achieved Champion status and nearly every restaurant and cafe has signed the pledge to only use palm oil if they really have to and to accept sustainable palm oil products such as biscuits and cakes form their suppliers. If all those businesses already on the first rung of the ladder complete the next two levels Bridport will become the first Sustainable Palm Oil town in the UK.

To all the businesses and community groups that have achieved Plastic Free status, who are working towards Sustainable Palm Oil Champion status and the amazing Litter Free Street and Beach Champions I say thank you, your efforts are making a real difference.

A special thank you Daryl and your team for the supply of gazebos and collection of the mountain of litter collected from the Morrisons and Co-op assembly points.

Thirdly - the Mayors Civic Day which took place on Wednesday 28th September 2021 the theme of which this year was Youth and Young people. On a glorious sunny day Mayors and civic leaders from across Dorset came to Bridport and were blown away by what they saw and were told about, including how the Town Council is delivering on supporting whenever and wherever it can the young people of Bridport.

Particular highlights were the visit to the newly refurbished MUGA - Multi Use Games Area adjacent to the Football Club. This was followed by a visit to the Brediport Youth and Community Centre where refreshments were served followed by presentations from Youth Centre staff, The bank of Dreams and Nightmares and Colfox School.



continued overleaf...

Report of the Town Mayor (continued)

After lunch we visited Bridport Primary School and the newly refurbished Brenden's Trail. The visit ended with a visit to Seals Cove and the indoor skate park where they were able to see some highly skilled young people on the climbing walls and performing some very exciting tricks on their scooters, skateboards and cycles. It is fair to say our visitors left feeling very envious of the resources we have availed here in Bridport. But more than the physical resources on show it was the commitment of the people at each of the places we visited, to provide the best for our young people that shone out loud and clear. My thanks to Jill Beed and Grace Maynard for all their help and support in making the day such a great success.

Fourthly - a civic duty I never imagined I would be called upon to perform. Only a few weeks after celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee I like millions of others around the world was stunned when I heard that the Queen has passed away. Rather like knowing exactly where I was when I heard the news of the assassination of President Kennedy on the 22nd November 1962, and the terrorist attack on New York's twin towers on September 11th 2001, the afternoon of September 8th 2022 will be forever etched in my memory.

Operation London Bridge swung smoothly into action with flags lowered, then raised, and then lowered again, a book of condolence opened and at 3.00pm on Sunday 11th September I stood in front of a small crowd in Bucky Doo Square to read the Form of Proclamation For Proclaiming The New Sovereign in the United Kingdom - King Charles III. The last Mayor to do this was some 70 years ago in 1952 and before I was born. Standing there dressed in full Mayoral regalia I felt extremely nervous, proud and humbled to be the one performing this ancient solemn task.

The Covid Pandemic continues to cast a shadow on our lives as we continue to come to terms with learning to live with it. In recent months the number of people catching the dreaded virus has ebbed and flowed but it is still with us. Thank goodness those of who have caught it more recently have been subjected to the less nasty variant, which particularly for those who are triple vaccinated, has been a relatively mild experience.

The combined fallout from the covid pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine has resulted in rapidly rising fuel and food prices plus rising costs across the board. To say we are living in challenging times is an understatement. But Bridport is a resilient and compassionate town. I am aware that our Food Bank has seen a rise in the number of people using it. To cater for those in work who are struggling to make ends meet the Food Bank now operates an evening session every Monday at the Youth and Community Centre. Citizens Advice and other support groups have also seen an increase in the number of people seeking advice and support.

Bridport always shows amazing generosity towards those less fortunate. This has never been more the case than in the response to the ongoing situation in Ukraine. The Bridport to Ukraine appeal collected and delivered numerous lorry loads of aid and raised thousands of pounds through its sale. Added to this the number of people offering their homes as places of safety to Ukrainian refugees has been truly heartwarming. Despite the tortuous bureaucracy in place the first few are now safely housed here in Bridport.

The support networks and volunteer culture in Bridport is fantastic. My thanks go out to all those community groups and individuals providing much needed advice, guidance, support and sustenance.

One final special thank you goes to the Deputy Mayor Dave Bolwell who apart from deputising for me on a number of occasions is someone I know I can always turn to for some sound advice whenever I am unsure about something. Thank you Dave.

Oh and I nearly forgot to thank Will Austin, Town Clerk, for all his support and guidance along the way. Your delicate balance of encouragement and restraint has kept me on the straight and narrow when on occasion I could very easily have found myself in hot water. Thank you Will.

I am extremely proud to be a resident, Councillor and Mayor of this amazing town.

I could go on talking about a very long list of visits and events I have attended as Mayor, and extolling just how wonderful this town and the people who live in it are, but I would be here all night, and we have numerous other items of business on the agenda this evening. So I will stop now.

But finally for those of you who would like to know exactly what I have been doing this past year, a full list of my engagements can be found in the Town Council Full Council Meeting minutes, which can be found on the Bridport Town Council website. Our website is also where you will find copies of my Mayors Blog. Simply go to the Bridport Town Council website click on News then click on Mayor's Blog and the latest one will appear via the magic of the internet.

Report of the Leader of the Council

Yet again this has been a very busy and eventful year for the Town Council as we continued to recover from the restrictions and disruption of Covid, whilst at the same time undertaking many new projects and managing the development of existing on-going longer term aspirations.

On the Environmental side, Our Solar Car Ports project, that has been dogged by delays and complications, is now very close to being fully functional at Plottingham. Our energy champions project has been providing information and support for local residents to reduce energy use and green up their lifestyles. We are supporting the Food Matters project to improve food security within our town making local food available to reduce our reliance on national distribution. We have also assisted Sustainable Bridport to develop their edible gardens projects at St Mary's and Bridport Primary Schools and the local tree group to increase the planting of hundreds of trees around the town. We have also received planning permission to proceed with our low carbon footprint community building on the Old Dairy site.

Our capacity to deliver the Environmental and Social Wellbeing projects which are the envy of many other towns has been bolstered by the appointment of Caroline Pierce last May as support projects officer to work alongside David Dixon. She hit the ground running and has been a great asset.

Two major issues have taken up significant capacity during the year. Firstly the ongoing Foundry Lea development: we have had fairly regular working group meetings with the developers and have built a relationship with them which unfortunately was severely compromised by the disastrous lack of management regarding the preliminary work on clearing the hedgerows prior to developing access roads to the construction site. Whilst they have eaten humble pie with a cherry on top, it only strengthens our resolve to hold them to account every step of what could be a long journey.

Finally the ever present issue on our agendas this year has been the Community Governance Review. The work started during the last half of last year and in the summer Dorset Council approved the expansion of Bridport Town Council to embrace the con-urbane parishes of Bothenhampton & Walditch, Bradpole and Allington with the adoption, from Symondsburry Parish, of the major portion of the Vearse Farm development site. As we speak the official Legal Order has yet to be delivered to ourselves and more significantly the other involved parishes which has caused an annoying delay in our preparations as they have until the beginning of this month refused to engage in any dialogue. We trust this will now begin in earnest although our Town Clerk and Surveyor have been pressing on with their preparations.

The list of other projects and achievements is as long as your arm and if you need reminding just revisit the minutes of our Council Meetings over the last 12 months. I would like to thank all councillors for their engagement and support for our unique and ambitious programme of innovative and inclusive policies for the people and environment of our wonderful town and of course all the Council staff who have made so much happen this last year as always.



Cllr Dave Rickard
Leader of Bridport Town Council, 2022/23

Star Council Awards 2022 finalist

We've done it! We've been named a finalist in the National Association of Local Councils' Star Council Awards for Council of the Year!



nalc

BHIB
INSURANCE BROKERS

Aubergine

biochere

CCLA
GOOD INVESTMENT

DDK
Accounting
Solutions



Bridport Food Festival



Town Hall Clock lit up for the Jubilee



St Vaast La Hougue "Fete de la Mer"



Proclaiming the Queen's Passing



Hat Festival

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
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 Website: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk

The Mountfield offices are open:

Weds/Thurs, 9.00am to 5.00pm
 Friday, 9.00am 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:** David Dixon
- Project Manager:** Caroline Pearce
- Clerical Officer:** Claire Peters-Way
- Clerical Assistant:** Steven Yarde
- TIC Manager:** Terri Foxwell
- TIC Assistant Manager:** Rebecca Jones
- TIC Assistant:** Jill Beed
- TIC Assistant:** Grace Mynard
- TIC Assistant:** Georgia Chesterman
- TIC Assistant:** Billy Shearer
- TIC Assistant:** Charlotte Hicks
- Grounds Supervisor:** Sean Coombs
- Groundsperson:** Tim Smith
- Groundsperson:** Paul Sanderson
- Groundsperson:** Tom Hillier
- Groundsperson:** George Foster-Grellis
- Market Superintendent:** Ken Hussey
- Cemetery Superintendent:** Paul Violet
- Lengthsman:** Ed Wootton
- Town Hall Caretaker:** Darryl Hills
- Mountfield Cleaner:** Clare Violet
- East St Car Park Toilets Cleaner:** Lisa Craig

Bridport Town Councillors



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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 website (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 2023**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

CURRENT ASSETS	£	£	INCOME	£	£
Payments in advance		13,266	Precept		766,035
Debtors		36,391	Interest and investments		14,885
Stock		5,112	Allotments		6,754
Money Market Deposits		211,978	Cemetery		26,542
Cash at Bank		352,294	Sitting Out Licences		1,800
Cash in Hand		<u>0</u>	Market		96,157
			Amenity Areas/Playing Fields		50,180
TOTAL ASSETS		619,041	Mountfield		58,252
			The Grove		38,790
CURRENT LIABILITIES			WI Hall		1,851
			Salt House		8,331
Creditors		<u>192,635</u>	Town Hall		20,738
			Tourist Information Centre		236,893
NET ASSETS		<u>426,406</u>	Parish Clustering		10,793
			Events		2,631
			CCTV		16,837
REPRESENTED BY:			Town Plan Projects		15,980
			West Bay Car Boot		5,905
General reserve at 1 Apr 2022	186,942		Salary Contributions		1,235
T/f from Tourist Information Reserve	20,000		Covid-19		<u>0</u>
Net surplus for the year	<u>10,011</u>				1,380,589
			EXPENDITURE		
General reserve 31 Mar 2023		216,953	Administration	323,706	
			Office Expenses	11,302	
Climate Emg reserve 1 Apr 2022	79,721		Mountfield	40,994	
Grant Funding	22,442		The Grove	21,634	
Payments during the year	<u>-102,163</u>		WI Hall	1,241	
			Salt House	5,142	
Climate Emg reserve 31 Mar 2023		0	Town Hall	29,025	
			Tourist Information Centre	392,276	
Earmarked reserve at 1 Apr 2022	293,493		Cemetery	22,393	
Contribution to reserves	37,400		Civic	6,869	
Earmarked funds released	<u>-121,440</u>		Members' Allowances	14,184	
			Market	15,415	
Earmarked reserve at 31 Mar 2023		209,453	Amenity Areas/Playing Fields	329,941	
			Grants and Donations	62,905	
TIC reserve as at 1 Apr 2022	20,000		Community Bus	6,000	
Transfer to general reserves	<u>-22,000</u>		CCTV	22,220	
			Town Plan Projects	23,921	
TIC reserve at 31 Mar 2023		0	Other Services	41,410	
			Covid-19	<u>0</u>	
Capital reserve as at 1 Apr 2022	87,257				1,370,578
Payments during the year	<u>-87,257</u>				
			NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>10,011</u>
Capital reserve at 31 Mar 2023		<u>0</u>			
TOTAL RESERVES		<u>426,406</u>			

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of Bridport Town Council as at 31 March 2023 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.



Bridport
Town Council