



Bridport Town Council

PRESS RELEASE

10th October 2025

Bridport Town Council Agrees Local Plan Response

Bridport Town Council held an Extraordinary Meeting to complete the process of formally agreeing its response to the Dorset Council Local Plan and Transport Plan consultations. The response was completed by a Working Group specially set up for the purpose of examining the draft plans and responding accordingly.

Since the Plans were published the Working Group has met on several occasions to discuss the various aspects of both the Local Plan and the Local Transport Plan, listened to the views of members of the public at one Full Council meeting and two Planning Committee meetings and considered the numerous email submissions received. The challenge has been to assimilate the opinions of many into a cohesive response that represents what is considered best for Bridport going forward.

Councillors voted overwhelmingly in favour of supporting the submission of the draft response. Thanks are extended by the Town Clerk, Sally Freemantle, to all who contributed to this process, either by speaking at the public meetings, providing written information and opinions or calling in to the Town Council offices to be involved in the process. She commented, *“Councillors have worked extremely hard together to create a document which details the views of the Town Council, using members own extensive local knowledge and experience, and taking account of all of the comments expressed by members of the public”*.

Working Group and Planning Committee Chair, Councillor Ian Bark commented, *“This has been a challenging exercise for all involved and feelings and concerns on all sides are naturally strongly felt. Trying to balance the need for more housing, particularly affordable and social housing, and space where businesses can start up and grow, against the desire to avoid building on green fields is challenging to say the least. At the heart of that challenge is enabling Bridport to be a place where people can live, bring up a family, work and play; a place where younger people in particular feel they have a future rather than having to move away.”*

It is important to remember that this is only the first stage of the process in putting together Dorset Council's Local and Transport Plans. There will be another consultation around the middle of 2026 when the feedback from this consultation will have been used to refine the details in the draft plans. A key part of the process facing Dorset Council is deciding exactly which development sites are the most appropriate to include.

Dorset Council has released the following statement:

We've seen a very high level of interest from residents, which is encouraging and reflects the importance of the issues being discussed. Due to the volume of responses, to ensure no one is prevented from having their say, we will continue to accept email responses until 31st October 2025. Please send email responses to: planningpolicyconsult@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Please note this extension is for the Local Plan consultation only, not the Local Transport Plan.

enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk

Ends [Link to Bridport Town Council's response](#)