BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Death of Councillor Bridget Bolwell

The death of Councillor Bridget Bolwell who passed away peacefully in her sleep last Sunday (8th November) has come as a great shock to the community of Bridport.

The Leader of Bridport Town Council, Cllr Paddy Mooney said:
"The very sad loss of Cllr Bridget Bolwell has shocked us all and our hearts and minds are with her family and friends. Bridget was an indomitable character, as well as a very hard-working Town and Dorset Councillor. She brought great energy and passion to every job she undertook.

"Her great motivation was in helping young people, but many residents will remember Bridget for her volunteering work with many organisations across the town and for her year as the Mayor's consort, when she supported her beloved husband, Dave, when he was Bridport's Mayor in 2023/24. Bridget was a force of nature, as well as being very generous with her time in support of others. We will miss her enormously."

Bridget was a popular and well-respected figure who brought enormous energy and commitment to everything she did. She had considerable professional experience within the education sector and was particularly interested in helping children and young people to achieve their full potential. At Dorset Council Bridget was Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, a member of the People and Health Scrutiny Committee and former Vice Chair of the School Transport Appeals Committee.

During her husband Dave's year as Bridport's Mayor in 2023–2024, she worked tirelessly for local residents and represented the town with warmth, humour, and integrity.

Since moving to Bothenhampton from Wiltshire in 2017, Bridget had been active within the community, volunteering with various organisations, including the Community Kitchen, the Arts Centre and the Electric Palace, as well as being a member of the local WI. Bridget represented the Bothenhampton and Walditch ward on Bridport Town Council from 2024 and earlier this year she was elected as deputy mayor, describing her appointment as a "privilege to engage with people in the town."

Her dedication, strong character and visibility made her widely known and trusted. Along with her late husband Dave, who sadly passed away in March this year they were a formidable couple. Dave was elected to Dorset Council in 2019, followed by Bridget in 2024. In the same year Bridget also won her seat on the town council. Together they ensured that Bridport's voice was heard clearly across the county.

Bridget is survived by her two sons and granddaughters.

Cllr Nick Ireland, Leader of Dorset Council said:
"I was desperately sorry to hear that Bridget Bolwell had died, coming so soon after the loss of her husband David earlier this year. My thoughts are very much with their family and with all those in Bridport who knew them both.
"Although Bridget had only been a member of Dorset Council since 2024, she made a real impact in a remarkably short time. She brought with her considerable professional experience in education and an instinctive interest in people, particularly children and young people. She put that knowledge and experience to particularly good use as Chair of our Corporate Parenting Board, a role she cared about enormously.

"Bridget had tremendous energy and curiosity. She wanted to understand things, challenge where necessary and, above all, get things done. She threw herself into council life, serving on People and Health Scrutiny and as Vice-Chair of the Appeals Committee as well as chairing Corporate Parenting.

"What I will remember most, though, is her extraordinary determination. Even through her illness, and after losing David, Bridget wanted to carry on contributing for as long as she possibly could. She was still determined to fulfil her responsibilities and remained deeply committed to the people she represented.

"Bridget cared deeply about Bridport and about the wider Dorset community. She will be greatly missed, as a councillor, a colleague and a friend."

Bridget Bolwell died on Sunday 8 November at the Weldmar Hospice in Dorchester.

ENDS

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