

BRIDPORT GREEN NEWS



Julian Jones
Bridport Town Council



Kelvin Clayton
Bridport Town Council

THE CASE FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

Vearse Farm has outline planning permission for 760 houses with proposals for 150 more on neighbouring land.

We need more local housing but **are these the kinds of houses we need in Bridport?**

How useful would they be to people working locally on mainly very modest incomes?

Would they be constructed with high insulation levels and solar panels?

Will the developments minimise the

loss of farmland and their impact on wildlife?

Will they be designed to encourage walking and cycling?

As things stand, probably not!



Housing for need, not for profit

Your Green councillors will do all we can to press the case for beneficial forms of housing.

With **representation on the new Unitary Council elected next May** we would argue for **compulsory purchase of sites** so that the Council can directly, or via housing associations, build **mostly social housing with rents no more than 50 to 60% of open market rents**. This would drive down private market rents and benefit a further tier of Bridport's residents.

And we would insist that **all new houses are energy-efficient**, so that the occupants benefit from lower fuel bills and we help to tackle climate change.

THERE'S A NEW BUS AROUND TOWN

The new **number 7** runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The route is, in this order: The Bus Station, Court Orchard, West Street, Bradpole, Jessops, Walditch, Sea Road South, Bothenhampton, West Bay, Skilling and back to the Bus Station.

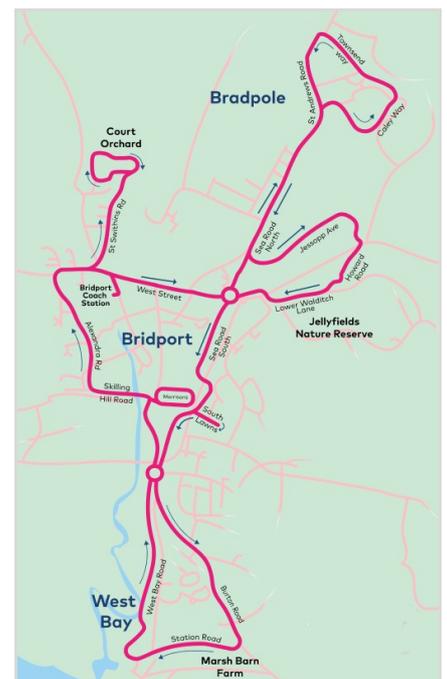
It is a £2 single or £3 return fare. Concessionary passes can be used.

The new bus is subsidised by the town council and **our Green councillors have supported the trial extension to 6 months** but warn it is a "Use it or lose it" service.

It's a handy and sociable way to get to town and back on market days.

Pick up a timetable at the Tourist Information Office.

All Aboard!



The bus stops at First bus stops but can also be hailed along the route.

POWER TO YOU

In a recent poll* only 16% of people said they trusted politicians whereas 79% said they didn't. Around a third of people don't vote in general elections, and less than half vote in local elections.

But if democracy consists of just marking a cross on a piece of paper once every 4 or 5 years, then is it any wonder?

We need good government so we need a healthy democracy.

Citizens Panels or Citizens Juries may provide one solution to our ailing democracy.

The idea is this: people are chosen **at random** from the population with an offer to become part of the panel. Those that wish to take part are given training, information and help from experts giving a balanced range of views on important issues for the council. The panel then comes up with recommendations which the council must adopt or explain why not.

Bridport Green Party Town Councillor Kelvin Clayton says "I would like to see these tried in Dorset as a way of enriching our democracy. The evidence shows that the **public trust Citizens Panels** because they consist of a random sample of the population, and they tend to come up with ideas that are for the long-term common good.

Other solutions we want to see are **Votes at 16**, and **Proportional Representation** so that every vote counts and all views are represented."

* IPSOS-MORI Trust in Professions: Long-term trends.



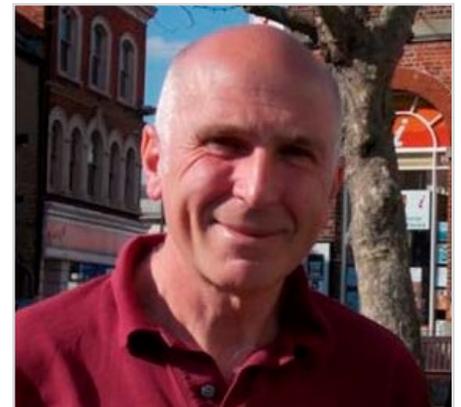
A Citizens Panel - it could be you!

IT'S GOOD TO TALK TOWN COUNCILLOR OFFERS CONSULTATIONS AT THE BEARKAT

On a Wednesday from 10am until 11am you will find Bridport town councillor Kelvin Clayton at the BearKat café in Barrack Street, but it's not just for their great coffee!

He is there to hear your concerns on any issue relating to the town, and he is equally happy talking about politics too!

Come and have a natter.



Kelvin Clayton

DORSET'S MISSING MILLIONS

LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY 6% OF ENERGY DEMAND

Dorset residents spend over £400 million each year on household energy with fossil fuel companies the winners. millions of pounds in the local economy at the same time as creating hundreds of skilled local jobs.

Currently, renewable energy produced within Dorset accounts for only 6% of the energy required to power our homes.* **We know we have to phase out fossil fuels entirely by 2050 in order to prevent catastrophic climate change so let's do it now and then we all benefit."**

Bridport Green Party Town Councillor Kelvin Clayton says, "The Conservatives have put a stop to onshore and offshore wind energy projects in Dorset (such as Navitus Bay) and prematurely removed subsidies for solar PV.

We're missing a trick here! The Green Party wants to see more community owned renewable energy schemes in Dorset. These would **retain tens of**

*For full calculations, see our website.



Go Green to Keep Money Local

PLEASE CONTACT US IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SHARE OR A CAMPAIGN YOU ARE INTERESTED IN.

You can contact us at:
westandsouthdorsetgreenparty@gmail.com

Or contact one of your Green Town Councillors with any issue that you think they could help you with.

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