



ROB SMITH
LYME TOWN COUNCILLOR



BELINDA BAWDEN
LYME TOWN COUNCILLOR
&
DORSET COUNCILLOR
LYME & CHARMOUTH

THE BIG CLEAN UP

BEATING POLLUTION TOGETHER

It's distressing to hear about pollution in our rivers, the landfill debris affecting our beaches and concerns about harbour dredging. But despite the scale of the problems we've got some **good progress** to report.

WATER COMPANIES FAST TRACK INVESTMENT

Thanks to the efforts of the 'Citizen Science' volunteers of River Lim Action with the backing of the town council, South West Water will apply to the water regulator, Ofwat, this autumn to **bring forward a £20 million investment** programme in Lyme Regis. This should reduce sewage spills and clean up the Lim.

In **Charmouth**, Wessex Water is also fast-tracking work at Newlands Bridge. Previously scheduled for 2025-30, the work to eliminate all spills at the sewage overflow is due to begin later this summer.

Councillors **Belinda Bawden** and **Rob Smith** have been in regular partnership meetings with South West Water, the town council, Dorset Council, Environment Agency and the River Lim Action Group to resolve sewage problems. Belinda is one of the River Lim water quality and river fly monitors.



Belinda Bawden, your local councillor and river monitor



Councillors Rob Smith and Belinda Bawden requested monitoring of harbour dredging operations

HARBOUR DREDGING TESTS – ALL CLEAR

At the request of Cllr Bawden, Dorset Council agreed to carry out **testing of the harbour dredging** in Lyme Regis. Local residents had been concerned about contamination of the sandy beach. The tests for heavy metals and hydrocarbons showed there was **minimal risk**. Belinda thanked Dorset Council for excellent co-operation with residents and the town council, for undertaking the sediment tests and for prioritising Lyme's harbour dredging earlier in the year.

LYME REGIS EAST BEACH LANDFILL

Cllr Bawden has asked Dorset Council for regular monitoring, clean-ups where necessary and **better signage** in Charmouth and Lyme to warn beach visitors of the hazards.

FOOTPATHS UPDATE



The footbridge over the river at **Charmouth Beach** – which is a vital link to the beach and also part of the South West coast path – had been causing safety concerns due to wear and tear. Cllr Bawden responded to **residents' concerns** and Dorset Council has now made the necessary repairs.

In **Lyme Regis** the path through the Town Mill complex to the car park is in urgent need of repair. Cllr Bawden has talked to local traders and is **pressing for ongoing maintenance** of the path, bridge and steps. There's also a proposal to replace some of the car park spaces at the top of the steps with cycle racks. *Please let us know what you think about this.*

Safety, traffic and parking issues are constant concerns in Lyme and Charmouth. Belinda is working with Dorset and local councils to consider 20 mph zones and parking restrictions. Specific concerns should be reported via www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/contact-parking and copied to Belinda to increase enforcement and provide data for improvements.

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

You can drop in to see your Dorset Councillor Belinda Bawden at her surgeries in:

Charmouth:

Usually the last Monday of the month 2pm to 4pm at the Charmouth Community Library, The Street, DT6 6PE

Mondays: 31st July, 21st August, 25th September, 30th October, 27th November, 18th December

Lyme Regis:

Usually fortnightly 10am to 12pm at the Community Café, The Hub, Church Street DT7 3BS

Thursdays: 20th July, 3rd August, 17th Aug, 31st Aug, 19th Sept

GOOD TO HAVE OUR POLICE STATION BACK

We welcome the **reopening** of the Lyme Regis police station front desk on Tuesdays and Thursdays (it's behind Woodmead Halls). Cllr Bawden says: "I have been dealing with cases of anti social behaviour in the town, which is really disheartening and damaging to those affected by it. We hope that having a drop-in desk will encourage residents to report any concerns so the police can deal with problems more effectively".

DORSET'S GREEN COUNCILLORS



Did you know that Dorset Council has **five Green councillors**? Belinda was most recently elected in 2022. She joined Kelvin Clayton from Bridport, and Clare Sutton, Brian Heatley and Dr Jon Orrell from Weymouth who were elected in 2019.

You may have heard that in May the Green Party nationally saw its best ever local election results in its 50 year history. It made **200 gains** including 155 net gains from the Conservatives.

CONTACT US

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🌐 Get involved and help the Greens:
<https://dorset.greenparty.org.uk>

