

# BRIDPORT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP

## **BLAP Community Plan for 2011-2014**

### **The Bridport Local Area Partnership**

The Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) was set up in 2004 to give local communities more say about what happens in the town and neighbouring parishes. With a membership of nearly one hundred local community-based organisations, the Partnership provides a stronger voice to help local people to influence decisions made by the service providers, local authorities and other bodies which affect services and development in the area. It also helps communities to take action on local issues themselves, through community projects and other activities, and supports community groups.

Bridport Local Area Partnership covers an area which includes Bridport and West Bay and surrounding parishes, as far as Charmouth in the west and Puncknowle in the east. Its members are a wide range of community-based organisations from across the area, including the town and parish councils, voluntary agencies, residents' associations, business organisations and a variety of community groups with interests in sport, the arts, history, leisure and social activities; addressing concerns about the environment, health, transport, access etc; and dealing with issues affecting all sectors of the community, including the elderly, the young, the less able, carers, etc.

Bridport Local Area Partnership has no money of its own and no executive powers. It has one officer post funded jointly by West Dorset District Council and Bridport Town Council, which also provides office space and administrative support.

### **The BLAP Community Plan 2011-2014**

The first BLAP Plan was published in 2006, and was the outcome of a major mapping exercise of all the local community consultations carried out in previous years, including those carried out under the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative, as well as consultations for the regeneration of West Bay and Bridport's South West Quadrant and for parish plans in the Bridport area.

The Plan formed the basis of Annual Action Plans for each of the years 2007 to 2010. These Annual Plans focused on Key Actions which were seen as achievable in the short term and where it was felt BLAP could make a difference.

In 2009 it was decided to update the original 2006 Plan and to carry out a major review of activities, plans and priorities for the Bridport area. During 2010 further consultation took place, through questionnaires circulated to local groups and organisations, at the Melplash Agricultural Show in August 2010, and by direct contact with groups and organisations, to update information on their current activities, plans and objectives.

The BLAP Community Plan for 2011-2014 is the outcome of this review and accompanying consultations, and it is intended will form the basis for Annual Action Plans for the each of the years 2011 to 2014.

For further information contact the BLAP Community Planning Officer, Tessa Greenaway, c/o Bridport Town Council, on 01308-456722 (t.greenaway@bridport-tc.gov.uk).

## Activities and Actions

The BLAP Plan 2011-2014 recognises BLAP's non-executive status and limited resources, and focuses on activities and actions through which it can support, strengthen and in some cases co-ordinate the work of local groups, organisations and councils working for the wellbeing of the Bridport area community. These activities are grouped under the headings representing the themes identified by BLAP as being its principal areas of concern.

<b>General</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate environmental sustainability principles within all BLAP policies and activities.</li> <li>• Incorporate Equal Opportunities/Inclusion principles within all BLAP policies and activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Major projects cross-cutting BLAP themes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridport South West Quadrant – monitor progress, and support development of partnerships to take forward regeneration in line with community priorities established in SWQ Regeneration Framework and subsequent public consultations, particularly, protection of existing employment, preservation and enhancement of Conservation Area, retention and improvement of public transport interchange, provision of affordable housing.</li> <li>• Support continuing development of Bridport Local Food movement as a key element in the local economy and sustainability.</li> <li>• Investigate the potential for additional co-operation between parish and town councils on joint service provision through clustering (as in Lengthsman scheme).</li> </ul>
<b>Accessibility/disability</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support work of groups addressing accessibility/disability issues, including Bridport Area Disability Forum and Bridport Area Fiftyplus Forum Access Action Group.</li> <li>• Lobby for improved access, e.g. to shops, post offices, footpaths etc.</li> <li>• Support parish councils seeking to provide/upgrade disabled access to village halls.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change/sustainability</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate environmental sustainability principles in BLAP plans and activities.</li> <li>• Review and respond to consultations on community and land use plans for incorporation of sustainability principles and appropriate actions.</li> <li>• Offer start-up support to groups and organisations working to raise awareness of climate change issues and implement locally achievable carbon reduction measures.</li> <li>• Support initiatives aimed at improving energy efficiency in homes, workplaces etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Community facilities, capacity building and empowerment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer start-up and administrative support for community groups working to implement wider community and/or BLAP objectives, e.g. Bridport Area Development Trust.</li> <li>• Support initiatives to improve and enhance local community facilities and to provide new facilities for the benefit of the community.</li> <li>• Actively seek and develop opportunities to increase engagement of Bridport area community in community planning, particularly harder-to-reach sections of the community.</li> <li>• Develop and follow good practice on public consultations.</li> <li>• Support production of parish plans in local parishes.</li> <li>• Provide advice to community groups and signpost to other sources of information on funding.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve networking and access to information e.g. websites, directory of local organisations, noticeboards etc.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor requirement and opportunities for provision of a community resource centre.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for retention of local services (libraries, mobile library, shops, post offices etc).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby (through Planning Working Group) local planning authority and others on planning system, planning issues and policy, and planning applications, and respond to relevant consultations on environmental, economic and social issues affecting the area community. Facilitate communication on planning issues between area community and Local Planning Authority.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to seek implementation of recommendations of 2008 Space Needs Survey.</li> </ul>
<b>Community safety</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support efforts of councils &amp; parish plan groups for appropriate speed restrictions, road safety measures and driver awareness.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider community safety issues raised by local PACTs through BLAP Steering Group.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support initiatives intended to address community safety issues, e.g. Community Justice Panels.</li> </ul>
<b>Culture</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support initiatives and projects which enhance cultural life of area, and those which promote and celebrate the cultural, social and industrial heritage of the Bridport area.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and promote initiatives to develop and strengthen Bridport's image as a vibrant Arts location, including promotion of Bridport as a festival town.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and promote initiatives that seek to widen participation in arts and culture, including for children and young people.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support for arts and heritage organisations with specific needs, e.g. to find premises.</li> </ul>
<b>Employment and Training</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to ensure that Employment issues and needs are treated as a high priority in development of community and land use plans, and that relevant consultations engage with employment interests.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support work of BLAST group and West Dorset Learning Partnership to develop local training opportunities for under 25s.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate need for mechanism to improve skills training and education opportunities for over 25s.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Through Planning Working Group) work to improve environmental safeguards offered by planning policy, development control and enforcement processes locally, by lobbying, responses to consultations, planning proposals etc (relating both to natural and built environment).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support recycling initiatives within Bridport area.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Through Coastal Communities Working Group) monitor environmental impacts of World Heritage status and endeavour to influence authorities on same.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support local food initiatives, including Local Food Group, Farmers' Markets, Bridport Food Festival, Bridport Centre for Local Food, Allotments Society etc.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support initiatives from Allotments Society, parish/town councils and landowners to provide more allotments.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate potential for mechanisms to provide better co-ordination of conservation work in Brit Valley and Bridport area, particularly for volunteers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support beach cleaning initiatives.</li> </ul>

Equal opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate Equal Opportunities principles within all BLAP policies and activities.</li> <li>• Contact or establish forums for minority and hard-to-reach groups.</li> </ul>
Health and Social Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop channels to comment and lobby on Health and Social Care issues, following closure of Bridport Area Health Forum.</li> <li>• Monitor service levels in relation to community facilities and vulnerable members/sectors of area community, and support groups seeking to address problems.</li> </ul>
Housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Through Affordable Housing Working Group) investigate mechanisms for improving delivery of affordable housing in the Bridport area.</li> <li>• Support local (parish) initiatives to set up registers of housing need, identification of suitable land, community consultation and efforts at consensus building.</li> <li>• Work with Local Planning Authority to develop policies and structures favourable to the delivery of affordable housing.</li> </ul>
Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support initiatives to reduce traffic congestion, e.g. Park and Ride, improved car park signage.</li> <li>• Lobby for better maintenance of SW Coast path and other footpaths, signage etc.</li> <li>• Support extension of cycle networks.</li> </ul>
Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby providers and funders for better provision of adult education classes.</li> </ul>
Leisure and recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support partnerships and initiatives to improve sporting facilities in Bridport area.</li> <li>• Support initiatives to improve environmentally appropriate water-based sporting facilities at West Bay.</li> <li>• Support initiatives to provide new play areas/facilities for younger and older children</li> </ul>
Older People
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support work of Bridport Area Fiftyplus Forum (BAFF) and its action groups, and other groups working for the interests of older people (e.g. POPP).</li> </ul>
Tourism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to influence local tourism strategies, particularly on sustainability and benefits to local community.</li> <li>• Support tourism initiatives (e.g. Jurassic Coast, 2012) where these seek to bring long-term benefits to local environment and resident community.</li> </ul>
Transport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Through WATAG) monitor public transport services, liaise with service providers and local authorities, and campaign for improvements.</li> <li>• Support initiatives to provide and sustain services which serve disadvantaged groups, including older people, disabled and younger people and isolated locations (including demand-responsive schemes), and which help to reduce dependence on private cars.</li> </ul>
Young people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate potential to establish a Bridport Area Youth Forum</li> <li>• Seek links with potential partner organisations and ways to hear and involve young people in community planning.</li> <li>• Support initiatives involving younger people, e.g. Democracy Days, Rights Respecting.</li> </ul>