

# BRIDPORT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP

## BLAP Action Plan for 2012

### 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.

### Our Local Area Action Plan

In 2005-6 the Bridport Local Area Partnership developed a Community Plan for the Bridport area, which aimed to identify and address the issues of concern to the Bridport area community. This 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.

This was followed up with a series of Annual Action Plans for the years 2007-2010, which focused on activities where BLAP could have an active or a supporting role and where it could make a difference.

In 2010 a further review and consultation was carried out which updated the original research and resulted in the BLAP Community Plan for 2011-2014. This Plan forms the basis for Annual Action Plans for each of the years from 2011 to 2014.

This Action Plan for the year 2012 lists the Ongoing and Supporting Activities identified in the BLAP Plan for 2011-2014, and also highlights a number of Key Actions which will be undertaken during the course of the year.

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).

## (1) 2012 Key Actions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish report and recommendations emerging from the joint BLAP/BADT Seminar on Affordable Housing held on 29 November 2011.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor developments affecting the future of services at the Bridport Community Hospital.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and influence development of the new West Dorset District Local Plan to ensure that it supports the aspirations and objectives of the BLAP Community Plan for the Bridport area,</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and update the 2008 BLAP Community Space Needs Survey.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore additional opportunities for parish clustering following success of the Lengthsman scheme.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Bridport Town Council and other groups to develop a plan to strengthen and promote Bridport's role as a public and community transport hub for the Bridport local area, and in particular to protect and enhance the role of the bus station as a public transport interchange.</li> </ul>

## (2) Ongoing and supporting activities

*(from BLAP Community Plan 2011-2014)*

<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> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support continuing development of the Bridport Local Food movement as a key element in the local economy and sustainability.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 Access Action Group.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for improved access, e.g. to shops, post offices, footpaths etc.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and respond to consultations on community and land use plans for incorporation of sustainability principles and appropriate actions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support initiatives to improve and enhance local community facilities and to provide new facilities for the benefit of the community.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and follow good practice on public consultations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support production of parish plans in local parishes.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• (Through Planning Working Group) lobby 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>
Community safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support efforts of councils and 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>
Culture
<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>
Employment and Training
<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>
Environment
<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> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact or establish forums for minority and hard-to-reach groups.</li> </ul>

<b>Health and Social Wellbeing</b>
<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>
<b>Housing</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Through Affordable Housing Working Group) investigate mechanisms for improving delivery of affordable housing in the Bridport area, including Community Land Trusts.</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>
<b>Infrastructure</b>
<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>
<b>Learning</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby providers and funders for better provision of adult education classes.</li> </ul>
<b>Leisure and recreation</b>
<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>
<b>Older People</b>
<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>
<b>Tourism</b>
<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>
<b>Transport</b>
<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>
<b>Young people</b>
<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>