

FOCUS

on SOUTH EAST PURBECK

News from your ward councillor
Ben Wilson and the Lib Dem team

IT'S THE **LIB DEMS** OR THE
CONSERVATIVES IN SOUTH
EAST PURBECK

Lib
Dem
58%

Con
36%

Labour
can't
win
here!

Lab 6%

Vote share for South East
Purbeck councillor
candidates in May 2024
Dorset Council elections.

Lib Dems Expose £13m Waste At Dorset Council



Lib Dem-led Dorset Council has uncovered historical failures in the Council's management of finances.

When the Liberal Democrats took office in May 2024, they immediately scrutinised Dorset Council's finances.

By November, the review revealed:

- ◆ £13 million spent with no checks or controls.
- ◆ Evidence of fraud, corruption and waste going back to 2022/23.

Auditors identified "significant weaknesses" in the culture around spending, raising concerns about value for money on millions of pounds worth of council spending.

Cllr Ben Wilson said: "There is clearly an urgent need to strengthen the Council's governance and processes. In my Cabinet role **I will be pushing Council officers to ensure that all necessary changes - including changes to culture - are embedded so that a future recurrence is not possible**"

REPORTING BACK: FERRY INQUIRY

Starting in July 2024, Cllr Ben Wilson led the consortium of seven County, Town and Parish Councils to represent local residents in opposition to the proposed toll increases by the Sandbanks Ferry company and proposal to reintroduce a toll on Ferry Road.

After a public Inquiry in January 2025 and a further 10 month wait, the Inspector delivered a mixed result - to accept a majority of the toll increases but with amendments to **reduce** the increase to foot and cycle passengers and **without** the charging of tolls for use of the road - both matters on which local residents had pressed hard.

Ben will hold the Ferry Company to account for delivering on their promise of a sustaining Ferry operation and to use the fare increases to fund the replacement of the Ferry by 2034.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR



Cllr Ben Wilson

"If you ever have any issues you want to raise, you can always get in contact with me"

@ cllrben.wilson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

07767 398627

If you would like to volunteer with the local Lib Dem team and help us deliver for your local communities, please contact us at:

info@sdlibdems.org.uk

Six to Fix: 18 Months In

"When I was elected I made a promise of my 'six to fix' – six priority areas identified for South East Purbeck that I am seeking to address in my time as Councillor. 18 months in feels a good opportunity to reflect on the progress made." **Cllr Ben Wilson**



Traffic and Road Safety

20mph zones have been implemented in Langton Matravers. There are also plans for similar 20mph zones in Studland and 30mph for Church Knowle.

Cllr Ben Wilson has also addressed speeding concerns, dangerous parking, and enforced overnight parking restrictions on Ferry Road to tackle summer encampments.



Better Bus Services

Cllr Ben Wilson is continuing to campaign for better year-round bus services, especially along Valley Road and Harman's Cross, as well as supporting funding for a Corfe Castle shuttle planned for next year.

Delivering Affordable Homes



The Lib Dems have been working hard to increase affordable housing across South East Purbeck, including securing more socially rented homes at Binnegar hall.

"I am working with Dorset Council to ensure housing association sales remain permanent residences and are used to provide homes to local people." Cllr Ben Wilson said,

"I'm also championing Community Land Trusts (CLTs) and proposing a centre of excellence to support CLT boards across Dorset."

Supporting Small Businesses

In response to restrictive camping license changes, which were threatening local businesses, Cllr Ben Wilson has worked with campsite owners and Dorset Council to revise regulations, enabling seasonal sites to reopen.

The Lib Dems have also formed a working group to develop Purbeck Park as a visitor hub to support local businesses and reduce traffic.



Preserving Local Services

Cllr Ben Wilson continues to support community campaigns for Swanage MIU and Ambulance Car.

Protecting Dorset Council services, including Household Recycling Centres, remains a top priority.

Protecting Our Environment

The Liberal Democrat administration declared a nature emergency. Cllr Ben Wilson said: "I will continue to support local efforts by groups like the National Trust and Planet Purbeck.

"My focus includes reducing car traffic in Purbeck through better public transport and active travel options, especially around Purbeck Park."

Flood prevention remains a priority, particularly in Langton Matravers, where collaborative efforts are ongoing.