

FOCUS

on Radipole

News from your Lib Dem team,
Councillors Matt Bell, Louise Bown
David Civil and David Harris



LIB DEMS INVEST IN OUR ROADS

Dorset Council Budget is Protecting Services and Investing in Dorset's Future



Dorset Council has set out plans for the coming year, including major investment in roads after pressure from Liberal Democrat councillors. Its main priority is protecting essential services and supporting residents who need extra help across Dorset now. The Council Tax rise reflects the strain on local government finances and continued underfunding from the Labour government.

The budget provides extra funding for Adult Social Care, Children's Services and support for young people moving into adulthood.

Lib Dem councillors have also made roads and highways a major focus. The council is putting more money into urgent repairs, flood recovery work and a new gully-cleaning team to reduce the risk of further problems after recent flooding. Altogether, this amounts to a record £50 million investment.

The council also plans to work more efficiently by cutting waste. Residents should see progress on local projects over the year ahead, including flood protection, road and car park resurfacing, and regeneration work in Weymouth and South Dorset.

Cllr Matt Bell said: "Weymouth is an exciting place to be, with big strides being taken to secure the area's long-term economic prosperity."

Cllr Louise Bown said: "Dorset residents are being asked to pay more because Dorset still gets less funding per head than many other areas. We will keep calling for a fairer settlement from central government to ease the pressure on council tax in future."

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THE HIDDEN CAUSES OF FLOODING

Recent flooding has caused road closures, travel disruption, and damage across Dorset. Your Lib Dem councillors know how distressing this has been and have pressed for help where it is needed most.

Dorset faces several types of flooding, including surface water, river and groundwater flooding. Much of the recent flooding has been driven by high groundwater levels, worsened by continuing rain. When the ground is already full, even small amounts of extra rainfall can cause problems. Highways teams have worked to clear drains, manage road closures, such as those on Radipole Lane, and respond locally.

Drains and gullies help water flow away, but they are not the main cause of flooding. That's why the council is investing in clearing, better maintenance, and long-term climate adaptation to improve resilience during extreme weather. Matt Bell has campaigned since 2023 for improvements at Radipole Lake and the River Wey, helping secure £280,000 in CIL funding for water management at Westham Bridge.

Cllr David Civil said: "We know the damage and frustration persistent flooding has caused for residents. We will keep working with local partners to reduce the risks and support the work Matt continues to lead."

Cllr Louise Bown added: "There was no dedicated budget for ditch and gully clearing, so Lib Dems created a gully cleaning crew to unblock drains. Common sense!"

Renters' rights and housing register changes

- » New rights on damp, mould and no-fault evictions
- » Some Housing Register applicants may need to reapply.

Big changes are coming for renters, landlords and some people on Dorset's Housing Register.

New rights will help renters challenge problems such as damp, mould and unfair treatment. Planned changes also include the end of so-called no-fault evictions.

There are also changes to Dorset's Housing Allocation Policy for people applying for low-cost social housing through the Housing Register. The updated policy came into effect in April, and some applicants may need to reapply.

Please take a look at the new guidance - make sure you understand your rights and do reach out if you need support. If you are on the Housing Register and your circumstances change, contact Housing for advice. We are keen to make sure local people

understand these changes and get the support they need.



FIND OUT MORE

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/renters-rights-2025

A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR RADIPOLE LAKE



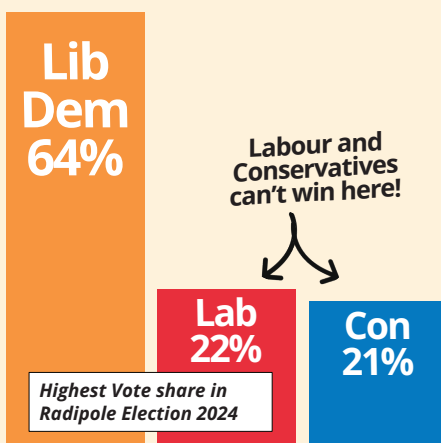
There has been an important step forward for Radipole Lake, with £280,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy funding now secured for improvements at Westham Bridge.

The work will include new sluice gate controls to improve maintenance access and help manage water levels more effectively, especially in emergencies. The current system is difficult to maintain and can involve divers carrying out manual work, so these changes should make management of the lake safer and more reliable.

Local Lib Dem councillors have been calling for action on Radipole Lake and the River Wey for some time. Matt Bell has campaigned on these issues for several years, including launching a petition in 2023 to raise the profile of long-standing concerns. It is encouraging to see the lake now recognised as part of the wider regeneration plans for Weymouth.

Matt Bell said: *"This funding is a major step towards improving the future maintenance and management of Radipole Lake and the River Wey. There is more to do, but this is real progress and I will keep pushing for further improvements."*

IT'S THE LIB DEMS IN OUR AREA...



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Let us know your issues and concerns below:

The Lib Dem team rely on support from local volunteers to help deliver our regular newsletters.

Could you help out with delivering leaflets like this in your local area?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please leave your contact details below, so that the team can get in touch about the issues you've raised.

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Post Code: _____ **Phone:** _____

Can we keep you updated about the Liberal Democrats' campaigns and ways to get involved?
☐ Yes ☐ No

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