

# FOCUS

## The Isle of Purbeck Villages



FOCUS editor Ben Wilson

**Lib Dem campaigner and Worth Matravers resident, Ben Wilson, is now the candidate for the South East Purbeck ward for May's Council elections.**

### Introducing Ben

Ben grew up in a rural dairy farming area of Cheshire and graduated from Oxford university before making Purbeck his chosen home. He lives in Worth Matravers with his husband John and two dogs, Colby and Carrington. A keen hiker and marathon runner, Ben can often be seen somewhere along the Jurassic Coastline or Purbeck Way.



Ben has been a longtime member of the Lib Dems and Treasurer for the South Dorset constituency since 2020. Ben says, 'I joined the Lib Dems because of my strong beliefs in social justice, local community-based development and concern for the environment.'

Ben has had an international career as a Chartered Accountant and has experience with volunteering for a number of charities, including Amnesty International and ActionAid.

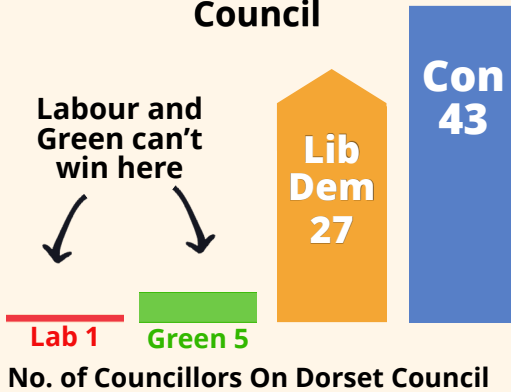
'Our area requires a careful balancing act that, on one hand, respects and preserves its rural areas, landscape and history whilst, on the other, ensures that we have a local economy, housing stock and infrastructure that supports our local communities - young and old,' says Ben.

'With my background and experience I believe I can be a fresh voice on Dorset Council and look forward to working closely with the parishes of SE Purbeck to make sure their views are properly represented.'



Ben is campaigning for lower speed limits where requested by residents.

**Only the Lib Dems can beat the Conservatives on Dorset Council**



### Improving Bus services



Lib Dems campaigning for better bus services.

Residents have raised the need to improve bus services for our local villages, such as Harman's Cross and Worth Matravers. There is no bus service for Harman's Cross outside the summer months leaving residents isolated during the winter. Dorset Council say they cannot afford to change this, despite recently receiving a 50% increase in funding from central government to improve local bus services.

Local Lib Dem campaigner Ben Wilson commented, 'It seems that the Isle of Purbeck is always at the bottom of the Conservative led Council's priorities when it comes to improving local services. We need a Councillor who will provide a real voice for the Isle of Purbeck villages.'

# BOOSTING LOCAL HOMES AT AFFORDABLE PRICES



## Lack of support from the Conservative run Council continues to put pressure on the housing crisis in South East Purbeck.

Time and time again local people raise with us the need for more affordable housing for local people.



Whilst the housing crisis is a national problem, our local area has been hit harder than

most due to lack of support from the Conservative run Dorset Council.

There has been only one year since 2019 when any affordable housing was built in the entire Purbeck area.

The Purbeck area has had less than one fifth of affordable houses built than expected given the population size when compared to other parts of Dorset.

Local Lib Dem campaigner Ben

Wilson expressed his disappointment at these findings, 'The Isle of Purbeck villages are getting a raw deal from the Conservative run Council. These figures show that we are not getting the affordable housing we need for local people compared to other parts of Dorset.'

We need change locally and at Dorset Council level if the Isle of Purbeck villages are to get the representation they need.'

## Ben Wilson: 'How long does it take to fix a pavement?'

Four months after first reporting it and after several chases, a dangerous area of pavement near the Kings Arms in Langton has **still not** been repaired at the time of going to print.

Lib Dem campaigner Ben Wilson says, 'This just isn't good enough. Dorset Council needs to be far more responsive in getting basic things sorted.'



Ben Wilson is calling on the Council to take better care of our roads and pavements.

## Can you help?

The Conservative government recently doubled the amount that political parties are allowed to spend during a general election campaign to £35 million. Faced by declining numbers of volunteers to help their campaigning they will be ever more dependent on the very wealthy and big business.

By contrast the Liberal Democrats rely on small contributions from members and our volunteers to produce and deliver our FOCUS community newsletters. If you are able to help either deliver leaflets in your area or make a small donation to costs of printing etc please respond via [info@sdlibdems.org.uk](mailto:info@sdlibdems.org.uk) or by scanning the QR code.



**Local Lib Dem Campaigner: Ben Wilson**

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## Updates on the repairs we reported:

### Langton Matravers:

- A replacement swing is to be installed in the children's playground at Nine Barrow View.
- The bus stop graffiti is to be removed and the road markings are to be improved at the junction of Spyway Orchard and Durnford Drive.

### Worth Matravers, East Creech and Langton:

- The potholes have been repaired.

### East Creech and Studland:

- The gullies we reported have been cleared.