

IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE - A FAIRER DEAL FOR DORSET

Dorset Deserves Better - Liberal Democrats will work for a better Dorset

► **Economy.** Fight for all year-round innovative employment opportunities, which will encourage young people to stay in South Dorset.



► Take all necessary action to ensure we protect and conserve our **natural environment**. Campaign for clean rivers and beaches.



► **Seek major improvements health facilities** including mental health care, dental provision and adult social care.

► Campaign for proper **funding for all schools**, ensuring they receive full support for pupils who have special educational needs.

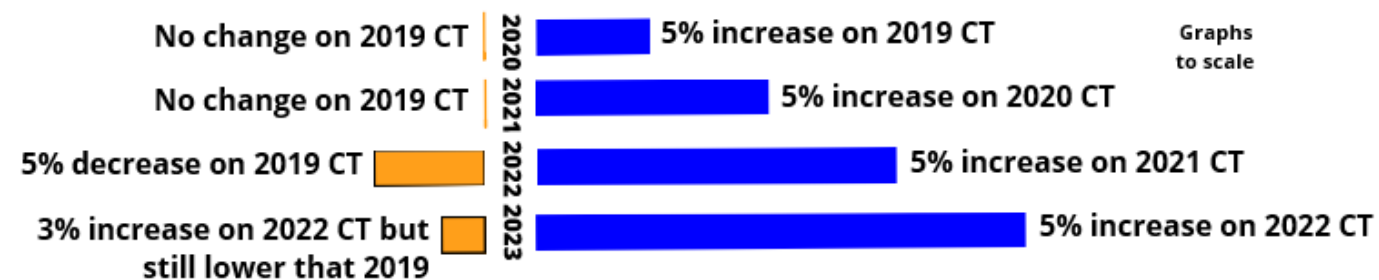
► **Support our military heritage** by ensuring that military personnel are sufficiently equipped and always respected. Work to ensure there is always a strong moral and ethical basis for military action.



COUNCIL TAX CHANGES SINCE 2019

LIB DEM led Weymouth Town Council

Conservative led Dorset Council



LIB DEMS have REDUCED Weymouth Town Council council tax overall by 2% since 2019

While Conservatives have INCREASED Dorset Council council tax overall by a whopping 21.5% since 2019

Contact your local Lib Dem Team:

David Gray
cldrgray@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
07889 752 224

Matt Bell
mattbellsouthdorset@gmail.com
07859 898 210

Pete Barrow
cldrpete.barrow@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
07741 252 302

Louise Bown
louisebown@outlook.com
07789 098 412

For all Weymouth Town Council queries contact David Harris:
davidharris@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk
07951288466

And we always welcome residents who want to help us by putting a few of these leaflets out in your street. This will give us more time to help you. Just give us a ring.

PUTTING COMMUNITY BEFORE POLITICS

If you respond to this leaflet with your contact details, the Liberal Democrats, locally and nationally, may use information provided, including your political views, to further our objectives, share it with other elected representatives and/or contact you in future using any of the means provided. Some contacts may be automated. You may opt out of some or all contacts or exercise your other legal rights by contacting us. Further details are in our Privacy Policy at www.libdems.org.uk/privacy
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FOCUS

On Radipole

Early spring 2024

Liberal Democrats

ANNOUNCING YOUR CANDIDATES FOR DORSET COUNCIL

Cllrs Peter Barrow and David Gray are standing down at the forthcoming elections for personal reasons. See page 3 for a message from both of them. We would therefore like to introduce you to our candidates for the Dorset Council elections in May to give you a chance to get to know them. Our candidates for Weymouth Town Council will be featured in a later Focus.

MATT BELL



Matt has proudly called Weymouth his home since childhood. He now has a young family and works as a secondary school teacher in the town and is keen to champion the issues and views of young people as much as possible. He was elected to Weymouth Town Council in 2022 in the Wey

Valley Ward by-election and has been very active since in his roles of Sports and Activities Champion, Rights of Way Liaison Officer and Vice-Chair of the Environment and Services Committee, as well as sitting on the Planning and Licensing Committee.

Matt has also been quick to support local residents in opposing the unfair car park charges and has supported local voluntary clubs applying for grants. His passion for sustainability and encouraging residents to be involved in activities that make the most of our amazing natural and built environment has been recently demonstrated by the petition he started for better flood mitigation for Radipole Lake and the River Wey Valley.

Matt feels also honoured to have been chosen to stand as the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for South Dorset in the general election. More about this in future Focuses. Matt will use his endless enthusiasm to get to know the needs of local residents and he will fight every day for a better future for the residents of South Dorset.

LOUISE BOWN



Louise is proud of having lived in Weymouth nearly all of her life. After attending university and starting her career, she moved back to start her family and has lived happily since in and around Southill and Westham.

Louise enjoys being active in her community and especially representing people. She has been a parent governor at Southill School, a committee member at Southill Pre-School, Secretary of the University and College Union at Weymouth College and a union representative for the National Education Union at Poole High School.

Her varied career in education includes eight years at Weymouth College and eight years in secondary schools. Louise has also held educational roles with Dorset Police and the Prison Service, and has developed a real insight into the challenges faced by many people.

She no longer teaches and her grown up daughters have moved away, so Louise has more time to represent the views and needs of her community. She still enjoys a pastoral role supporting local children with additional learning needs and relaxes by playing skittles in a local league and year round sea swimming.

BUS UPDATE



Photo courtesy of the Dorset Echo

Cllr David Harris is delighted to announce that, at a meeting he has recently had with First Bus, he was told that the no.3 bus will definitely be in the schedule starting in May. They are also experimenting with an additional bus in this service leaving town at 5.00pm to bring people home at the end of the afternoon. There has been a slight change in other times. Again, the more people who use it, the more likely the service will stay and we might even be able to add to it.

To help improve their support for customers they now have an App, (doesn't everyone have an App?), called First Bus App, you might want to download it and open it for Wessex (Dorset and Somerset) and you can not only see all the timetables but also where the buses are at any one time. This shows you if there is a hold up.

Lib Dems - keeping in touch throughout the year

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOODING



Matt at Radipole Lake earlier this year showing the obvious effect of flooding on local businesses and the need for action.

There has been significant flooding in the area recently. The climate is changing and we are likely to get more extreme weather which will mean that flooding will be more frequent. **Matt Bell** has been concerned about Radipole Lake and flooding in that area. The reserve, owned by Dorset Council, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) so a very important environmental site. He has spoken to the RSPB who are the leaseholders who are also concerned about siltation. **Matt** started a petition calling on experts to make urgent progress on silt removal. However, both Cllr Matt Bell and the RSPB, are now dependent on Dorset Council, as the landowners and Local Lead Flood Authority, being willing to carry out the necessary assessments and subsequent work.

The petition has prompted Dorset Council to promise a review of the current situation at the lake and an investigation into what actions have, or should have, taken place over the last decade. **Matt** is pursuing this and will keep you in the loop. A meeting of the organisations involved in the management of the lake is now scheduled for 8th Feb and a list of investigatory actions has been formulated.

If you would like to sign the petition it can be found at www.change.org/dredgeradipolelake.

IN YOUR SURVEY RESPONSES; YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

Residents were concerned about all aspects of our environment.

Nationally we continue to campaign on water quality. Locally both Weymouth Town Council and Dorset Council declared climate emergencies when the new councils

were formed. Weymouth Town Council have a good plan which they are working through. Dorset Council unfortunately is not making good progress on their plans. There is so much that could be done that is not being done.



ROAD SAFETY



Temporary signs at Wessex Way roundabout. Louise will continue campaigning for a safer crossing.

Cllrs Pete Barrow and David Gray have been campaigning hard to improve road safety in the ward. Speeding on Radipole Lane is a major concern and is raised regularly as was the spate of recent collisions on Radipole Lane. Pete has been in contact with Dorset Council to see what they intend to do to prevent more collisions.

Pete and David have also been supporting a local campaign to get a controlled crossing installed on the Wessex Way roundabout to make it safer for pupils to walk/cycle from Southill to Budmouth School. Pete said 'So far we've had a traffic survey done, which clearly showed a controlled crossing is required. In addition we have been told that Dorset Council are now working up a design for the crossing and once agreed funding will need to be found.'

In our view it is all taking too long and we are keen that **Matt and Louise** should take this over to ensure this is progressed. We are involving them in

conversations on this issue. **Louise** said 'We have been really grateful for the work Pete and David have done. I live quite close to this junction so will certainly take the reins up and keep pressing to get a crossing installed.' David said 'As the crossing is going to take so long to install we have asked for temporary measures to be installed to improve safety in the short term.' The pic shows the temporary signs installed.

Message from David and Peter

Cllrs Pete Barrow and David Gray are not re-standing for election to DC/WTC in May for personal reasons. They would both like to pass on a massive thank you to all the residents who have supported them over the past five years. It's been a real privilege to represent the residents of Radipole Ward.

Pete and David have tried to represent residents as effectively as possible with the many issues that have arisen over the past five years. Two standout out issues were covid and the campaign to save Redlands Sports Club.

During covid Pete and David set up and ran a delivery service during the first lock down to keep shielding residents supplied with essential items, during what was a very difficult time. This was totally reliant on the fantastic support of local volunteers. Pete and David also played a leading role in the campaign to save Redlands Sports Club, again it was the support of thousands of local residents that persuaded DC not to demolish the Sports Club buildings.

Pete and David have also represented many local residents with individual issues that required help to resolve. They would like to pass on their thanks to all the residents who they worked with in what were sometimes very difficult situations.

Pete and David have also tried to use their previous professional experience for the benefit of residents. David has used his business experience to support the work of DC/WTC, being particularly active in financial matters. Pete has used his Fire and Rescue Service experience to support the work of The Dorset Fire and Rescue Authority and the Dorset Police and Crime Panel.

Pete and David have both found that residents and Councillors working together can often achieve a result for local communities, so local politics does matter, although they would also confirm you can't win every time.

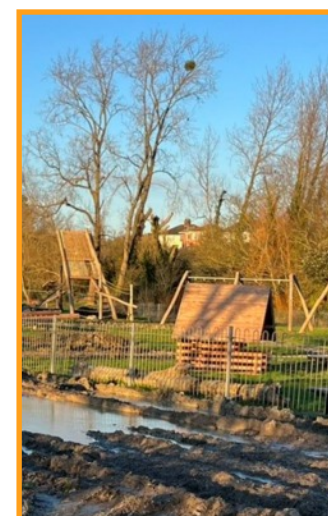
So it's a goodbye from Pete and David, but a warm hello to Matt Bell and Louise Bown.

Pete and David are very pleased that these two local residents have come forward to stand as candidates at the election in May. Please continue reading our Focuses to see why Matt and Louise are standing for election and what they hope to achieve.

David and Peter

***** LOCAL UPDATES *****

RADIPOLE PARK GARDENS



We are really pleased to see that the Radipole Park and Gardens Project is well underway. Huge thanks to the Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens and to WTC staff for all their hard work over many years.

Work has been delayed by the severe weather, but all should be finished by the spring. The work includes a café, a new play area, refurbished tennis courts, basketball/football area, a sensory garden, a petanque terrain and outside table tennis.

MARCHESI HOUSE



Louise said 'We need housing; this site cannot stay like this.'

As local residents will know, there has been no action on site for ages. Previous updates have let residents know that the costs for the original scheme rose dramatically due to recent inflation and exceeded the money BCHA had available. Work stopped to allow them to decide what to do next.

BCHA have now appointed a new Director of Development who has developed some ideas for a new way forward. He has agreed to meet Pete, David and Louise on site to discuss the new ideas and we will let residents have an update as soon as we can.

In the meantime, BCHA has stated that they will ensure the site is kept enclosed and as secure as possible. They will monitor the situation and take any additional steps necessary. As you may have seen, the height of the crushed material has been reduced and the fencing around the site has been improved. Louise will be taking over this issue to make sure residents are involved in the final decision so if you have concerns please contact her.

Thank you to everyone in Radipole who took the time to fill in the survey we sent out to households recently and spoke to us when we were knocking on doors. From your responses, we've identified some key areas that your local Lib Dem team will be working hard to see improved on your behalf.