



Bridport  
Town Council

# Dorset's Eventful Town

How Bridport Town Council supports local musicians

## Today's discussion:

- About me
- About Bridport and the Town Council
- Supporting music – what do we do?
  - Direct support
  - Partnership and influence
  - The role of town councillors

Will Austin, Town Clerk, Bridport Town Council

20/10/2023



# Introduction – Will Austin

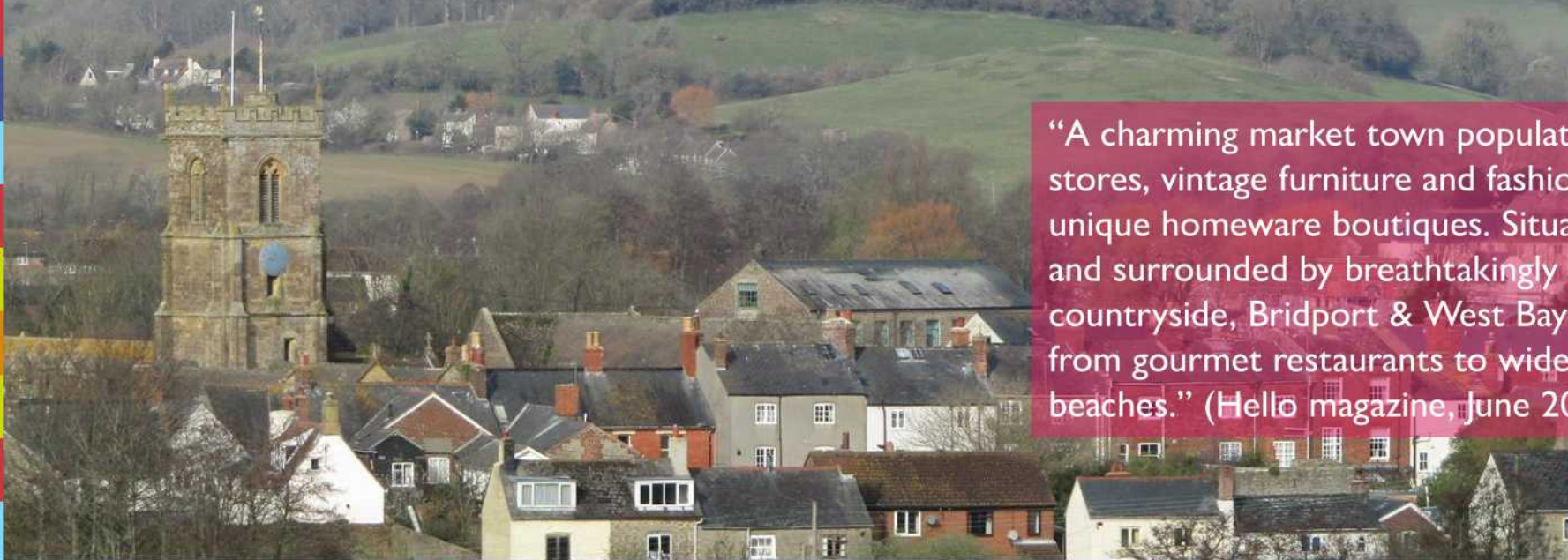
Local government stalwart – 33 years

Town Clerk for 12 years

Once a budding rock star, but it didn't quite work out that way (see left)...



# Bridport & West Bay



“A charming market town populated with zero-waste stores, vintage furniture and fashion markets, and unique homeware boutiques. Situated in rural Dorset and surrounded by breathtakingly beautiful coast and countryside, Bridport & West Bay has everything from gourmet restaurants to wide stretches of shingle beaches.” (Hello magazine, June 2023)





18 councillors

25 employees

£1.4m revenue budget

The UK's only Rights Respecting Town

“They do absolutely shed loads of stuff!”

Bridport resident, 2023

“In a town of just 8,500 people and with only 18 FTE employees, Bridport Town Council punches above its weight, delivering on a par with much larger counterparts.”

NALC Star Council Awards, 2022

# 3 examples show our support for local music

1

## **Financial, Promotional & Logistical Support**

Supporting 'Dorset's Eventful Town'

2

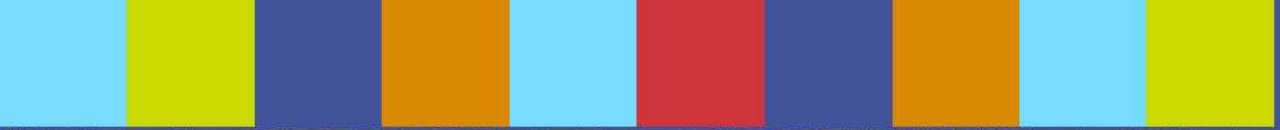
## **Partnership & Influence**

Using our involvement to encourage support for local music

3

## **The Role of the Town Councillor**

Musicians in the Council Chamber



# Financial, Promotional & Logistical Support

## Supporting 'Dorset's Eventful Town'

Events and grant funding £75,000

Event sponsorship

Tourist Information Centre Box Office

Event support – administrative, stewarding, road closure, utility supply, venues

Bucky Doo Square

Town guide and other publications

Town Council events



# Partnership & Influence

Using our involvement to encourage support for local music



Engagement with all event organisers

Funding agreements with Arts Centre and other venues

Bridport Investment Plan - working with arts and cultural organisations to develop the cultural economy and skills

Partnering in events



# The Role of the Town Councillor

## Musicians in the Council Chamber

Three councillors with an arts background (two pictured left)

Strategic priorities - Promoting Bridport as 'Dorset's Eventful Town', and Securing the development of cultural and recreational facilities available in the town

Ensuring musicians get a fair deal

Building arts and culture into other areas of our work





Bridport  
Town Council

**Thank you – any  
questions?**

