



Dorset Cuts Bus Services....WHY?



Poundbury electric bus, photo by Charlie

Just imagine...

Bridport bus station, 2020. The hourly 40 from Beaminster swishes to a halt over the induction loop where it'll re-charge for 15 minutes before heading back via the hospital, this time to Yeovil.

The young woman shakes her head in mild annoyance as she walks away from the bus, losing its wi-fi signal, then perks up as the town network kicks in. Smiling at the barista as she grabs a coffee from his street cart, she notices the elderly man who'd got off behind her – he's off to the mobility scooters lined up nearby at the charging points. Two minutes later he's swiped his card, unlocked the scooter and is off into town...

Science fiction? In Austerity Britain, yes. And **with Tory controlled Dorset County Council in charge of bus routes like the 40, no chance!** But this need not be fantasy – **buses really could be like this if we chose.** The Green Party promises to invest in increased rural bus services. Ask your Tory county councillor Keith Day why DCC cuts local bus services when **buses pay back at least twice what it costs to keep them running.**¹ Tory Devon and Tory Wiltshire haven't slashed rural buses – **why Dorset?**

1. KPMG, *The 'True Value' of Local Bus Services* (June 2017), p.6.

VOTE ANDY JEFFERIES FOR BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

By-election
for Bridport
South:
Thursday 2nd
November



Andy Jefferies has a long association with Bridport and the area. He works in rural economic funding supporting small business and agricultural development in Dorset, and runs a wildlife conservation holiday business operating in the area and beyond.

He has two children in Bridport Primary School and Colfox and is a founder of the Bridport Community Orchard.

Andy says, "We all know Bridport is special: that's why we're all here. As a town councillor I will work to support residents, local businesses, and to protect and promote our rich cultural and natural heritage."

Councillor Surgeries

Concerned about something in Bridport? Like to know more about what the Green Party is doing both locally and nationally? Why not drop in for a chat with one of your Green town councillors?

Either Julian Jones or Kelvin Clayton will be in the **BearKat café, at the Lyric Theatre in Barrack Street, every Wednesday between 10 and 11am.** It's good to talk!

Who will face the climate challenge? Maybe everyone.

For years – decades – we have been warned that carbon dioxide alters our climate in dangerous ways.

Few of us want to admit it, but it's *us!* We are the ones producing most of the carbon dioxide from our cars, planes, homes and the goods we buy. Most Africans and Asians have a very low carbon footprint.

In both World Wars, the dangers were obvious – and the government introduced rationing to make sure that everyone had enough to eat. The schemes were necessary and fair.



Photo by 10:10 (CC BY 2.0)

Because of the climate crisis, the Green Party is in favour of a system of *Tradable Energy Quotas* (www.teqs.net). Every adult would be given a quota for gas, electricity and motor fuel; those who use less than their quota would be able to sell on a government website; those who want more, would need to buy. The result would be a strong incentive to conserve energy. The whole community would be involved with solving this problem instead of simply leaving the issue to the politicians. A definite limit could be set for each year – and reduced annually after that until, with luck, climate calamity is averted.

One advantage is that there would be some transfer of wealth from the richest to the less well off.

It is easy to think of objections. That's fine - so long as objectors propose something better.

Plastic Waste, Local Solutions

The United Nations predicts that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish and sadly 99 per cent of seabirds will have ingested plastic.



© Copyright Bob Jones and licensed for reuse under CC Licence. geograph.ie/photo/1088710

Single-use plastic is a major culprit. It's estimated that 500 billion plastic bottles will be used in 2017 – what a waste! The average plastic bottle takes 450 years to degrade.

So will you take the pledge to give up plastic bottles? Use a stainless steel re-usable bottle instead, then fill up with tap water - it's free! Many local cafes will happily refill your bottle as part of the #RefillDorset scheme - details on our website.

We are also working to get public water taps installed in Bridport - watch this space!

A personal message from Kelvin Clayton:

"It seems ages since the May County Council elections, and the General Election in June. It was my honour to stand for the Green



Party in both of these to argue our case.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Bridport who voted for me and who helped in our campaigns. In the coming months I will continue to fight for a Green, sustainable future, one in which we and future generations can all flourish within a just, healthy and safe environment."

