

Matthew Burgess

Wallisdown & Winton West
Green Party candidate for BCP Council



Matthew says:

"I am keen to represent all the residents of this constituency, and have had extensive experience of working collaboratively with councillors of other parties, mediating between different constituent concerns and working with council officers. However, standing on a Green Party ticket means you can expect me to promote or vote for initiatives which will improve the environment within BCP and the wider world, and better the lot for the less advantaged constituents.

Reduced government funding for local councils, and the decisions which flow down from Westminster, limit what can be achieved from local initiatives -but I will work to maximise positive change, and reduce wastage on projects which benefit only a few with vested interests."

Matthew had 8 years of experience as a Councillor in Devon, up to 2007 where he:

- Co-founded and was Director of the largest community compost group in the UK
- Was Mid-Devon's Champion for Waste and Recycling at Devon County Council
- Negotiated a company partnership for kerbside battery recycling in mid-Devon
- Ring-fenced funding for public toilets in his ward

He moved to the BCP area to join his wife, and has lived in Winton since 2014.

He has been working here as a secondary school teaching assistant in Maths and Science since 2008, and has a degree in Geography from Oxford University.

Winton West & Wallisdown covers 2.4km² and has a population of almost 11,000. It includes Slades Farm Park and the Northbourne Allotments, abuts Turbary Common in the west, and extends to Wimborne Road in the east.

Bournemouth is already represented by two **Green councillors** who are highly regarded and have been successful in BCP Council in cross-party initiatives in the last term, including spearheading the **Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan** which the Council signed up to, with **153 action points to inform policy**.

The Greens in this election also support replacing the current cabinet system with a committee system at BCP: this would give proportionate weighting to the political groupings of councillors in committees and **promote more open, accountable and collaborative ways of working** and making decisions.

Matthew would run **regular surgeries for constituents to bring their issues to** – to keep him informed of what matters to you and represent this to council. He would also bring information back to you via newsletters and social media.

It is **important that BCP allows its residents to communicate with the council easily** by alternative methods to the internet – for not everyone has use of this facility.

BCP should ensure provision is made for recycling of small electrical items and bulbs which cannot be put in landfill waste bins -without everyone having to drive to the waste recycling centre.

Public toilets, libraries, play areas, green spaces and community facilities should be maintained and preserved and not further reduced. **Routes for cycling and walking should be safe** and usefully link areas e.g. serving school runs.

Beyond the Council's day to day priorities, Matthew is very keen to **improve ecological and social well-being** generally. For those not on the housing ladder, especially young people, **the housing situation is very bleak and needs a radical rethink**. It is at the crux of much of the current cost of living crisis, with many jobs hardly covering the cost of housing.

Educational opportunities are limited for adults, and should be improved and widened in scope. **Community health care access** is increasingly limited and overstretched.

Our environment is threatened by global problems such as climate change and **atmospheric pollution**, but also our **rivers and seas** are regularly facing problems due to **poor management of waste by water companies** and poor agricultural practice. Matthew will promote ideas to alleviate some of these problems for the council to highlight to policy makers higher in the political hierarchy, as well making **best efforts to improve the lot of BCP residents as a local representative**.

It is important that some other perspectives are brought to BCP other than having one party dominance by Conservatives. **Please consider giving Matthew one of your votes this May.**