

A brief history of Bournemouth

Bournemouth has a population of 163,444, making it the largest settlement in Dorset. The town was founded by Lewis Tregonwell in 1810 and grew steadily and became a proper town in 1870, when the railway came. Since 1997 the town has been administered by a unitary authority.

The town is the home of the Bournemouth International Centre and is also home to several financial companies including JPMorgan Chase, Nationwide Building Society, Liverpool Victoria and Standard Life Healthcare.

In a 2007 survey by First Direct Bank, Bournemouth was found to be the happiest place in Britain with 82% of people questioned saying they were happy with their life.

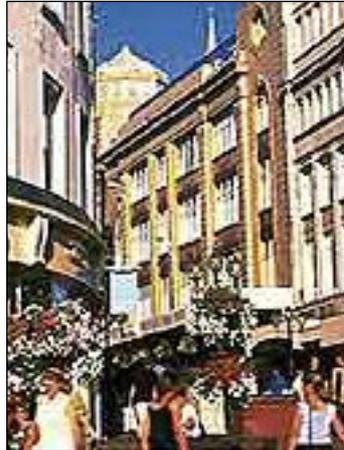
Politics

Bournemouth Borough Council is made up politically as follows:-
 Conservative (40)
 Liberal Democrat (7)
 Independent (4)
 Labour (3)

Literary links

Bournemouth appears as Sandbourne in **Thomas Hardy's** novels and the town also features in *The Well-Beloved* and *Jude the Obscure*.

In James Herbert's horror novel *The Fog*, the entire



population of Bournemouth runs into the sea and drowns in a mass suicide. It is also mentioned in Roald Dahl's *The Witches*.

The Grave of writer **Mary Shelley** is in Bournemouth as is the heart of husband Percy Bysshe Shelley.

J.R.R. Tolkien spent 30 years taking holidays in Bournemouth and eventually retired to the area.

Oscar Wilde and **Paul Verlaine** both taught at Bournemouth prep schools. **Edward VII** is said to have had his secret meetings with **Lillie Langtry**.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote most of his novel "Kidnapped" from his house "Skerryvore" on the west cliff, after coming to Bournemouth because of its health resort reputation.

Tony Hancock and **Stuart Granger** lived in Bournemouth. Popular local legend also notes that a small Russian colony at Southbourne meant that several well-known Russian

authors passed through the town, notably **Tolstoy**.

Shopping

The town's main shopping is centred around Bournemouth's gardens and spreads in several directions, either side of the small Bourne river. Full of many national brands, such as Argos, Beales, BHS, Boots, Borders, Debenhams, Dingles, Habitat, Marks and Spencer and WHSmith, Bournemouth also has numerous smaller shops, offering some of the best shopping in this area.

There are several modern shopping malls, galleries and Victorian arcades.

The shopping streets in Bournemouth are mainly

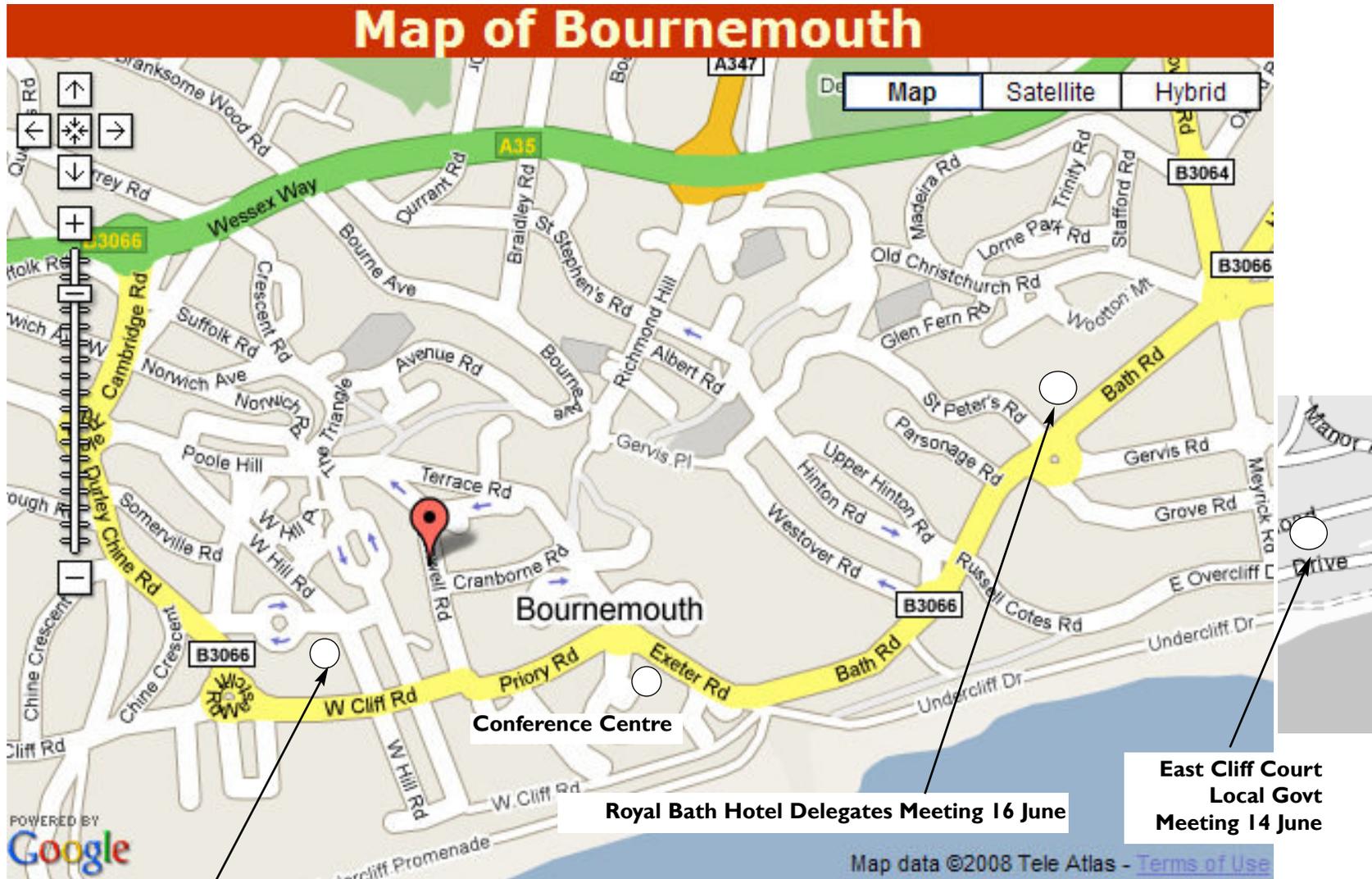
pedestrianised and close to the town centre, the district of Westbourne provides an excellent selection of designer clothes and interior design shops.

Nearby Boscombe has an enormous shopping street and this includes many national brands and smaller shops, antiques shops and fashion boutiques.



Wifi Hotspots In Bournemouth from

Edwards 19-21 Exeter Road	((myHotspots))
Inferno 38 Holdenhurst Road	Cricketers Arms 41 Windham Road
Malt & Hops 147 Parkwood Road	Jumpin Jaks The Waterfront
Hilton - Bournemouth Westover Road	Tapp & Hobbit 23/27 Bourne Avenue
Litten Tree Old Christchurch Road	Branksome Arms 152-154 Commercial Road
Brasshouse 8-9 Westover Road	Gulliver's 1492 Wimbourne Road
Dolphin Hotel 316 Holdenhurst Road	Sharkies 215A Old Christchurch Road
Cransley Hotel 11 Knyveton Road	The Athelstan 137-139 Cranleigh Road
Moon In The Square 4/6 Exeter Road	Crown & Sceptre Broadhurst Avenue
Cooper Dean Arms Castle Lane East	Fiveways Hotel 423 Charminster Road
O'Neills 227-229 Old Christchurch Road	The Bell 915 Christchurch Road
Sir Percy Florence Shelley 673/675 Christchurch Road	Portman Hotel 97 Ashley Road Bournemouth
Spyglass & Kettle 25-27 Stourwood Avenue	UK_Texaco Service Station
Bar Vin 165 Old Christchurch	Holdenhurst Road Star Sstn, 341 Holdenhurst Rd



Celtic Night, Wessex Hotel

Royal Bath Hotel Delegates Meeting 16 June

East Cliff Court
Local Govt
Meeting 14 June