

Poole People

independent and local



Local elections on 4th May!

Poole People is Hamworthy's and Poole's genuinely independent party. We work to improve the quality of life of residents by strengthening communities, improving local facilities and promoting good governance.

Poole People briefly shared power as part of the cross-party **Unity Alliance** between May 2019 and October 2020. Our main achievement was maintaining the financial stability of the Council and supporting vulnerable people during the pandemic although we did allocate resources to reopen public toilets. We are looking for your support so that we can **rescue the Council from the mismanagement of the current Conservative and Poole Engage administration and deliver a new vision for Poole**. Poole Engage is an offshoot of the Conservatives containing mostly ex-Conservative councillors and supporters.

Meet Brian Hitchcock - your Hamworthy candidate

So a bit about me, I served a three-year mechanical apprenticeship from school and have worked in vehicle industry most of my life. I have two sons and four grandchildren. I am a keen sailor and dedicated gardener.

I've extended two family homes and built seven new houses so I know the planning ropes. I have an eye for what looks right and fits the street scene without being overbearing to other households.

I have the courage to speak up for what needs to be done. If elected, I will protect residents' interests and show the utmost accountability for every decision and every penny spent in your name.

I have only lived in Hamworthy for six years but I have been holidaying here since a small child. I feel lucky to live in such a beautiful place and I am very passionate about the town. **I now feel it is time to put something back by helping to maintain the qualities that attracted me to the area.**



Hamworthy's future

Hamworthy is changing. Private development has accelerated, and major schemes are in the planning process. BCP Council will develop the old power station (Holes Bay) site and there is uncertainty as to its plans for Turlin Moor. When the Conservatives took control of the Council in Oct. 2020, they established a development company called Future Places, but **no coherent plan has emerged for Hamworthy or Poole Town.**

There is an urgent need for proactivity to secure the interests of residents. If we succeed in regaining control of the Council, we will prioritise the development of a masterplan for Hamworthy and Poole Town that delivers **high quality parks, surgeries and other amenities, minimises congestion and enhances Hamworthy's connection with nature.** Residents must be fully involved.



When the Unity Alliance was in control between May 2019 and October 2020, **Poole People** councillor Mark Howell was instrumental in the purchase of the Holes Bay site as Cabinet Member of Regeneration. Now the Council is in a position to make development happen on this site. **We will ensure it enhances Hamworthy's centre and benefits current residents.**

Sustainability is a key priority and is important for Hamworthy's future given its environmentally sensitive and low-lying location.

Safe and quiet neighbourhoods

Poole People has always promoted healthy neighbourhoods, and walking and cycling (active travel). This is government policy too and during the pandemic, the government funded councils to deliver active travel schemes. The Unity Alliance introduced several schemes when in control, including the Quay and Lower High Street. The Conservatives (backed by Poole Engage members) have introduced other expensive schemes since then, such as the Wimborne Road cycle lanes, Ringwood Road bus priority and cycle lanes, and the New Inn/Darby's Lane Junction redesign.

We see 20 mph zones as an affordable compromise solution on narrower roads, with more protection around schools. There should be **early consultation with residents where government timelines permit.**

Conservative takeover of the Council

Unfortunately, a vocal minority objected to the initial schemes. **Hamworthy councillors Julie Bagwell and Dan Butt left Poole People and supported the Conservatives on the Council**, initially as independents and then as Poole Engage councillors. With the death of two Unity Alliance councillors, this allowed the Conservatives to take control.

We believe Julie and Dan should have resigned their seats as their election flyer in 2019 said they would seek to change the political balance of the new merged Council away from Conservative control. We believe they will be standing for Poole Engage in this election.

Openness and accountability

The current Conservative and Poole Engage administration has been a costly embarrassment to residents. Conservative councillor Drew Mellor recently resigned as Leader of the Council **having pursued financial strategies of a kind that were labelled “dodgy” by a government minister**, including a plan to sell the Council’s beach huts and, when that was rejected, gone begging to government for an emergency loan.

Publicised wasted expenditure includes £165,000 on a failed beach bar and £110,000 on a survey of Barclays House which was never going to be a viable purchase, but **tens of millions is being sunk into a transformation process which is still failing to deliver results four years after the merger** of Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch councils. The planning department is in crisis and other departments are struggling due to low morale and the poor reputation of the Council as an employer. **Poole People’s** record shows that we are committed to working collaboratively with other parties and residents to find the best solutions.

Poole’s future post-merger

Poole People councillors strongly opposed the Conservative merger of Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch councils in 2019. As we feared, officers have sought to centralise administration in Bournemouth and the Council has distanced itself from residents.

We believe strongly in a localised approach and will **seek to maintain three vibrant centres (Poole and Bournemouth) with sustainable local centres including Hamworthy.**



Don't forget your Photo ID!

You **MUST** take one of the following to the polling station to be able to vote:

- passport
- driving licence
- blue badge
- various older person's travel cards and other government passes (see online for details)

Out of date documents are valid if you can still be recognised from the photo.

If you do not have any of these and want to vote in person, you need to **apply for a Voter**

Authority Certificate online or by post by 5 pm on Tuesday 25 April.

Alternatively, you could register for a **postal vote**. The elections are two days before the Coronation and fall between two bank holidays so please check if you will be away from Hamworthy. If so, or if you may be too busy to vote on 4th May, you can apply for a postal vote online or by calling the Council's Elections Team on 01202 123 400 by 5 pm on 18 April.

Please remind any young people and other residents you know who may be away or may not have the correct ID of the new rules.

Contacting **Brian Hitchcock**

Brian is keen to hear your concerns about Hamworthy and BCP Council services. You can contact him on **07768 127778** or at **brianhitchcock@hotmail.com**.

More about **Poole People**

Although **we** have a set of broad policy objectives (see **poolepeople.org.uk**) which our councillors subscribe to, we do not tell them how to vote. We trust them to act in your best interests.

Keep up to date by viewing our posts or signing up to our **e-news mailings** at our website: **poolepeople.org.uk** (accessible via the QR code next to this paragraph) or by following us on Facebook.



Look for the Poole People anchor on the ballot paper

