

Poole People

independent and local



About Poole People

Poole People is 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**. All our councillors are free to vote in the best interests of their residents (i.e. we do not impose a party whip).

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 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 former Conservative councillors and their associates.

Local elections on 4th May!

On Thursday 4th May, your current **Poole People** councillors - **Pete Miles** and **Felicity Rice** will be seeking re-election in Oakdale.

A message from Pete Miles

I was born and raised in Oakdale in Stanley Green Road and my parents still live in the same house. I have since raised my own family in Poole. I started my working life in the port's pilot boat service. I built my first fishing boat and began fishing for prawns, later opening a wholesale business, which markets shellfish and other Dorset produce across the country.

Over the last four years, I have **dedicated myself to responding to queries and concerns that Oakdale residents have brought to my attention**. I see my main role as understanding and representing the views of the majority. For example, I worked with residents to secure the reopening of Kingsbere Road.



A message from Felicity Rice

I live in Oakdale and previously worked as a GP in Poole. I am a governor at Oakdale Junior School, which my children currently attend. **I am passionate about keeping and creating community spaces (buildings/play parks/green spaces, play streets), reducing inequality (particularly in the housing sector/cost of living crisis) and protecting the environment.**



I pushed for a **new tool-kit for schools to tackle air pollution** to be developed (previously refused by the Conservatives) and have organised the **first 'school play street' in BCP**, next to Oakdale School, where we had 100 kids and their relatives having fun in the sun, at school pick up time.

I am a strong advocate of community energy and have **organised for Oakdale School to triple the amount of solar panels on its roof**, helping to keep energy costs low for the school in the cost of living crisis. I also proposed a motion asking the Dorset Pension Fund Committee to move all remaining energy investments in the pension fund to sustainable energy investments by the end of 2024 which was passed by Council in March.

A new community centre for Oakdale

Felicity and Pete have campaigned for a **community-focused 'heart' for Oakdale**, and in particular have pushed for a community space within the development proposed for the Adult Education Centre. They have supported funding applications to improve the playpark next door, and also want to see a cafe/toilets as part of the new development, adding facilities to the park.



Safe and quiet neighbourhoods

Poole People has always promoted healthy local neighbourhoods and walking and cycling. This is government policy too. During the pandemic, the government funded councils to deliver active travel schemes quickly so the Unity Alliance introduced several schemes on the advice of council staff.

The Tories (backed by Poole Engage) have introduced expensive schemes since then, such as the Wimborne Road cycle lanes, Ringwood Road bus priority/cycle lanes and the New Inn Junction redesign. We see 20 mph zones as an affordable compromise solution on narrower roads, with more protection around schools. Spare highway should be converted to public space. **Early consultation is key where government timelines permit.**

Flooding in Oakdale / Harbour sewage

Felicity and **Pete** have worked hard to organise a clearance of the culvert next to Oakdale School, which has been neglected for many years. They have pushed for investigation of the Fleetsbridge roundabout flooding, and improvements in the management of the underpasses, and for prevention measures for the streets in Oakdale that are subject to frequent flooding.



Pete's detailed understanding of the health of the water within the harbour and **Felicity**'s experience as former BCP Environment Portfolio Holder have enabled them to ask the right questions about the harbour sewage issue and **ensure that the complex issues involved are being worked through by Wessex Water and regulators**. We are a long way from a healthy Poole harbour and beach, but we will keep challenging and campaigning at local and national level.

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 4 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.

Relationship with Bournemouth and Christchurch

Poole People councillors strongly opposed the Conservative merger of Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch councils in 2019. As we feared, since then officers have sought to centralise administration in Bournemouth and service quality has declined, especially in customer services and planning.

We believe in a localised approach, maintaining 3 vibrant town centres while increasing sustainable options in local centres including Oakdale.

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 Oakdale. 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 Felicity or Pete

We would be pleased to hear your concerns. You can contact **Felicity Rice** on **07817 062913** or at **felicity.rice@bcpcouncil.gov.uk** and **Pete Miles** on **07843 613802** or at **peter.miles@bcpcouncil.gov.uk**.

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 this QR code) (accessible via this QR code) or by following us on Facebook.



Look for the Poole People anchor on the ballot paper

