

# Poole People

independent and local



## About the Poole People party

**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. Poole has had a glorious past. We aim to **restore its reputation and make it a great place to live.**

**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.

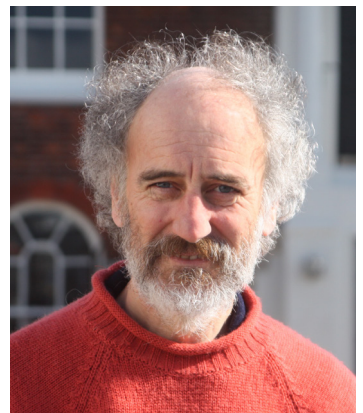
## Local elections on Thursday 4th May!

Your **Poole People** councillors - **Andy Hadley** and **Mark Howell** - will be seeking re-election in Poole Town together with **Charmaine Parkinson**, following L-J Evans' decision to stand down. Thanks L-J for your hard work.

### A message from Andy Hadley

As ward councillors, we have helped residents who were exhausted or frustrated with or just confused about Council services. For example:

- Responding quickly to concerns about **litter, drainage, housing, planning and parking.**
- Getting answers and clearer regular updates about the long overdue **recladding works.**
- Measures to prevent **speeding** on residential roads (some later undone by the Tories).
- Assisting a resident with bailing out water on New Year's Eve following **flooding.**



We have attended many local meetings, which have helped to secure the Christmas Maritime Lights, ensure heritage funding was spent wisely, develop area plans for Baiter and the Quay, and deliver other benefits.

## A message from Mark Howell

It has been a rollercoaster ride since I founded **Poole People** and was elected to Poole Council in 2010. At the 2019 BCP Council elections, we achieved our initial aim of being part of the ruling administration with Unity Alliance colleagues. This enabled us to craft policies beneficial to Poole.



We submitted a bid for heritage funding which has paid for the **restoration of heritage assets and the Gosse mural** (pictured opposite). The death of two Unity Alliance councillors and some defections enabled the Conservatives to regain control in Oct 2020 but we demonstrated that we can work effectively with other parties. These elections are an opportunity for us to regain control and deliver **positive change including regeneration that respects Poole's past while revitalising its centre and creating homes for local people.**

## A message from Charmaine Parkinson

I have lived and worked in Poole and Bournemouth all my life and served as a Councillor from 2011 - 15 with **Poole People** in Hamworthy. The **pressing need to improve our town centre** has inspired me to stand in Poole Town, where I now live.



We must deliver **more affordable housing**. I am a voluntary director for a local Community Land Trust, which has been exploring creative ways to deliver affordable homes for local residents.

We must find ways to resolve the democratic deficit that has existed since the formation of BCP Council and deepened under the Tories. Councillors need to **work collaboratively and give residents their voices back.**

## Safe and quiet neighbourhoods

One third of Poole Town households have no access to a car. **Poole People** has always sought to **balance the interests of car users with the need to improve public space and safety for pedestrians and cyclists and enhance public transport.** In the pandemic, the government funded councils to deliver active travel schemes. The Unity Alliance introduced several on officers' advice, including the Quay/Lower High St. The Tories have added others since, such as the Wimborne Rd. bus priority/cycle lanes. We see 20 mph zones as an affordable compromise solution on narrower roads. **Early consultation is key where government timelines permit.**

Anti-social behaviour is a recurrent issue in Poole Town. We are constantly liaising with the Council, Dorset Police and businesses to deal with situations that flare up. Together, we have **greatly reduced ASB in the bus station.**

### **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.

### **Sewage, the climate and our environment**

**Poole People councillors** were first to raise the issue of sewage in Poole Harbour. We asked the right questions and **the complex issues involved are now being worked through by Wessex Water and regulators.** We are a long way from a healthy harbour and beach, but we will keep campaigning at local and national level.

We pushed for the Council to make its Climate and Ecology Emergency Declaration in 2019 and will not shy away from the decisions needed to deliver net-zero targets. **Poole’s geography makes it vulnerable so we** have an extra incentive to help residents and businesses to adopt sustainable behaviours.



### **Poole’s future post-merger**

**Poole People** councillors strongly opposed the council merger. 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 and will seek to **maintain three vibrant town centres** with sustainable local centres.

## **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 Poole Town. 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 Andy, Charmaine or Mark**

We would be pleased to hear your concerns. You can contact **Andy Hadley** on **01202 389782** or at **andy.hadley@bcpcouncil.gov.uk**, **Charmaine Parkinson** at **charmainepp@gmail.com**, and **Mark Howell** on **01202 672505** or at **mark.howell@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) or by following us on Facebook.



**Look for the Poole People anchor on the ballot paper**

