

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 facilities and promoting good governance.**

Poole People won a seat in Parkstone in 2019 and 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.

Parkstone's future

We are fortunate to live in such a wonderful place. We believe we should do our best to **protect Poole and the wider BCP area for future generations, while developing its offer in a way that inspires young people and delivers a vibrant, sustainable economy.**

Local elections on 4th May!

On Thursday 4th May, **Poole People** candidates - **Susan Stockwell** and **Matilda Northover** - will be seeking your votes in Parkstone.

A message from Susan Stockwell

I have lived in Parkstone for 30 years, being a mum, acting as a student host and running my own marine business.

My exercise in lockdown was litter picking, which got me into reporting dangerous pavements, dog mess and obstructions to prams and wheelchairs.

I feel I can do much more for Parkstone if you elect me.



My passion is making it safer and easier to travel locally and protecting our environment. **Times are getting tougher, so we need a more inspiring and efficient Council**, and we need to work better together in communities. Vote for me for a safer, kinder and more sustainable Parkstone.

A message from Matilda Northover

I am proud to be a teacher and a guide leader in Poole. As a geographer, I specialize in CO2 reduction, and I am passionate about preserving our local environment for future generations.

I am standing for Council because I care deeply about the well-being of all our residents. I believe we can create a more pleasant and sustainable environment for everyone. I am committed to making a positive difference in our community.



As your representative, I will listen to your concerns, work tirelessly to address them, and ensure that our community remains a great place to live for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.

The battle for Keyhole Bridge

Poole People has always promoted healthy neighbourhoods, walking and cycling. This is government policy too. During the pandemic, the government funded councils to deliver active travel schemes. The Unity Alliance introduced several schemes on the advice of council officers including the closure of Keyhole Bridge to vehicles between Poole Park and Whitecliff. **As a result, pedestrians, disabled people and families with small children and pushchairs felt safer and their usage of this route increased.**

The three Poole Town **Poole People** councillors supported this measure. The **Poole People** councillor in Parkstone - Steve Baron - opposed it. Steve left **Poole People** and accepted a position with the new Conservative administration, which his departure in 2020 helped to facilitate. He has since joined Poole Engage, an offshoot of the Tories containing mostly ex-Conservative councillors and supporters.

We stand by the decision to promote active travel through Keyhole Bridge. Its reopening to vehicles by the Tories has allowed drivers to save a few minutes but it has significantly reduced the number of people walking and cycling this route and increased the amount of through traffic and pollution in Poole Park, detracting from users' enjoyment of the park.



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 are still being sunk into the delayed transformation process four years after the merger** of Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch councils. Departments are struggling due to low morale and the instability associated with transformation. **Poole People’s** record shows that **we are committed to working collaboratively with other parties and residents to find the best solutions.**

Public toilets, sewage, climate and our environment

When the Unity Alliance was in control, we reversed the previous Conservative decision to close public toilets in Poole, allocating funds for the **reopening of the blocks at Ashley Cross, the Quay and Lake Pier.**

Poole People councillors were first to raise the issue of sewage in Poole Harbour. We have asked the right questions. 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 declare a Climate and Ecology Emergency in 2019 and will not shy away from decisions needed to deliver net-zero targets. **Poole’s geography makes it vulnerable to flooding, cliff erosion and heath fires** 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 Parkstone**. 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 need to apply.

Contacting **Matilda** or **Susan**

We would be pleased to hear your concerns. You can contact **Susan Stockwell** on **07926 150 725** or at **stockwell_susan@hotmail.com** and **Matilda Northover** at **northovermatilda@gmail.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 this QR code) or by following us on Facebook.



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

