

Poole People

a brighter future for Poole



Poole People councillors will deliver for you!

It would be easy to make empty promises and issue catchy soundbites as some other parties do, but **Poole People** councillors believe in being **honest and straightforward**. The Conservatives have left the Council in a financially precarious position and inflation and the cost of living crisis are making matters worse, so prudence will be needed. However, we believe **we can deliver better results** for Poole's residents with our Unity Alliance colleagues by:

- taking a **collaborative, transparent and inclusive approach** to governance, listening to residents and making considered decisions in public
- creating a **deliverable regeneration strategy** for Poole town centre, lower Hamworthy and other key sites such as the Civic Centre focused on improving amenities for new and existing residents
- **strengthening the local economy** by improving marketing of the area and helping local businesses to adopt sustainable approaches
- **empowering local communities** by supporting community groups and introducing measures to make them safer, healthier and stronger (including a community centre on the Oakdale Adult Ed. site)
- **protecting the heritage and natural spaces** within Poole, Christchurch and Bournemouth
- ensuring that flood protection grants the Unity Alliance won are well spent and **reorientating the Council around sustainability**
- **tackling congestion and dangers on roads**, especially around schools and play areas
- **improving the resident and visitor experience** in Poole Town centre by tackling anti-social behaviour, providing facilities that enhance wellbeing and increasing the range of year-round family friendly options



Poole People and the Unity Alliance

Poole Council, Bournemouth Council and the Christchurch element of Dorset/East Dorset Councils were merged by their Conservative administrations in 2019 to form BCP Council. **Poole People and other opposition parties opposed the merger** because we believed it would weaken democratic accountability and undermine the distinctiveness of Poole and Christchurch, which has proved to be true since then.

Following the first BCP Council elections in 2019, the groundbreaking **Unity Alliance** took control of the Council. The Unity Alliance consists of members of **Poole People**, Bournemouth Independents, Christchurch Independents, the Lib Dems, the Green Party and the Labour Party (i.e. all parties then represented on the Council other than the Conservatives and UKIP). **Poole People** has always recognised that its **councillors need to collaborate with those from other parties to deliver for Poole and its residents.**

A titanic struggle for Poole's future

The Unity Alliance administration successfully managed the Council's pandemic response and finances from May 2019 to October 2020, while:

- Securing the **purchase of the Power Station site**, a development site that had been stalled for 20 years.
- Winning a heritage grant, which funded **renovation of heritage assets** in Poole town centre.
- Winning an £87M grant from the government to **support walking, cycling and bus travel**
- Allocating funds for **reopening of toilets in Ashley Cross, the Quay and Lake Pier** previously closed by the Tories.
- Declaring a **Climate and Ecological Emergency**, and committing to carbon neutral targets.



During the pandemic, the Tories took advantage of the deaths of two alliance councillors and secured some defections, seizing control of the Council. They adopted a **closed, combative approach, marginalising opposition councillors, and recklessly undermining council finances**, increasing debt and burning through reserves. They tried to spend future Council income by attempting to sell off the beach huts for an upfront capital sum, but this was stopped by the government. They then requested an emergency loan of £76 million, which was refused. This led to a panicked fire sale of Council investment properties to plug the holes in their budget.

You may have seen leaflets from a new party called Poole Engage, which was created by former Tories and other councillors who have been maintaining the Conservatives in power for the last two years. Their voting record and the background of other Poole Engage candidates suggest **Poole Engage would team up again with the Conservatives in the new Council**. If they were to secure a majority together, we believe Bournemouth would continue to be prioritised over Poole.

A simple choice

You deserve better than the Tory mismanagement that has blighted Poole for years. This is the tipping point and **you can make the difference!**

You live in a ward where **Poole People** is the **lead Unity Alliance partner** by having existing councillors and polling more votes. The Lib Dems, Greens and/or Labour may also be putting up candidates in your ward, but this will be partly to enhance their general election chances.

The new Council is likely to be divided between **Poole People and other Unity Alliance parties on one side** and the Conservatives/Poole Engage on the other. The larger grouping will form the administration and dictate the future of Poole over the next four years.

If you want a Unity Alliance administration, your best option would be to **vote for Poole People** candidates:

BRIAN HITCHCOCK	Hamworthy	SUSAN STOCKWELL	Parkstone
PETER MILES	Oakdale	ANDY HADLEY	Poole Town
FELICITY RICE	Oakdale	MARK HOWELL	Poole Town
MATILDA NORTHOVER	Parkstone	CHARMAINE PARKINSON	Poole Town

If you live in Hamworthy, we recommend you give your second and third votes to candidates of other Unity Alliance members (Lib Dems, Greens or Labour).



Look for the Poole People anchor on the ballot paper

Poole People - independent and local

poolepeople.org.uk