

BUSES - PRESSURE ON POOLE COUNCIL AND BUS COMPANY GETS RESULTS

Merley and Bearwood residents can now enjoy a slightly improved bus service. Liberal Democrat Councillors and Annette Brooke MP were pleased to support local residents in their fight for better bus services. The route for the Wimborne Flyer is due to be changed for October 2nd.

At long last Wilts and Dorset have agreed to abandon Merley Lane in favour of Merley Gardens and Sopwith Crescent. Safety in Merley Lane was threatened. The Route 32 bus service will now be run by Shamrock who have added an extra link through Bearwood to Bournemouth Hospital. However, the message still remains the same: use the service or lose it.

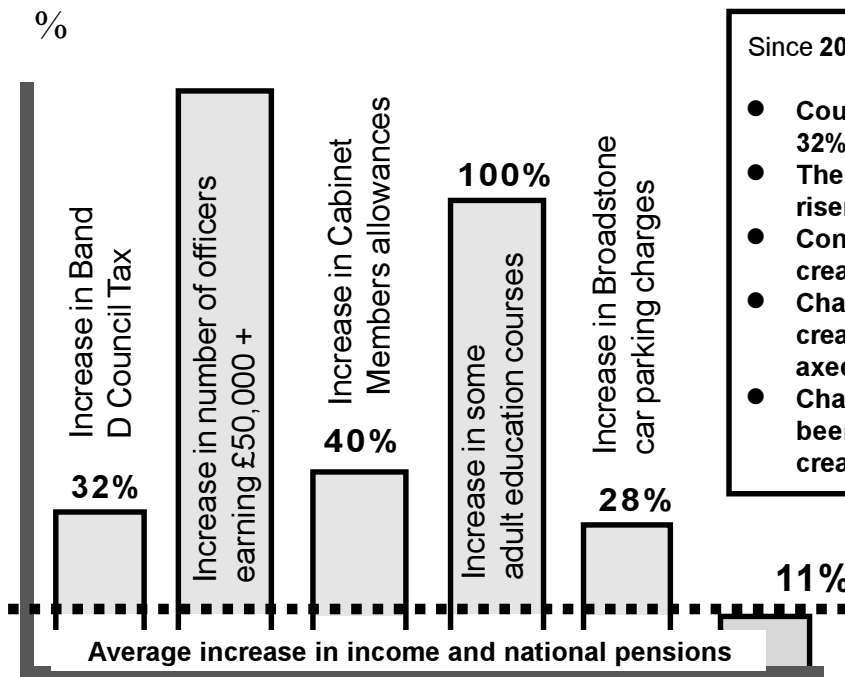
"Public Transport is important, Liberal Democrat Councillors will be watching very carefully for more Tory cuts in bus subsidies." said Annette Brooke MP.



The route 32 to Poole will now be run by shamrock

COUNCIL TAX - LOCAL RESIDENTS DESERVE VALUE FOR MONEY

Despite year on year under-spends amounting to some £13 million pounds since 2003 we are being warned by the Council Leader that Council Tax could rise significantly again this coming year.



Since 2003:

- Council Tax has risen by nearly £300, an increase of 32%. (Band D)
- The number of officers earning more than £50,000 has risen by 25, an increase of 125%
- Conservative Cabinet members' allowances have increased by 40%
- Charges for many adult education courses have increased by more than 100% and many more have been axed altogether
- Charging for winter car parking at our beaches has been introduced and district parking charges increased by more than 28%.

MP's Green Pledge

Local MP Annette Brooke has begun her own campaign for a greener Poole. Read about her plastic bag pledge at: www.campaigns.libdems.org.uk/rrr

NEW LIBRARY VAN ON ITS WAY - THREE YEARS LATE

It seems a long time since December 2003, when the Conservatives revealed their intention to scrap the mobile library service. Claiming that the old van was too shabby, they announced that it was time for this extremely valuable community service to be discontinued.

After a successful campaign to save the service, we were told that a replacement would arrive in late 2004. Now it seems they have finally approved the purchase for a new vehicle, arriving in 2007!

Focus Editor David Brown said; "Now almost three years later they have finally got round to ordering a new vehicle. The Mayor's new stretched limo, which was discussed at the same time, was in service by the spring of 2004!"



The old van is due to be replaced early in 2007

WEEDS AND LITTER



Weeds and litter seems to be a growing problem in Merley and Bearwood. In Merley, the area round the shops and the footpaths leading to the shops are nearly always suffering from litter and untidiness.

In Bearwood, there is general untidiness and areas such as the bottom of Viscount Walk often suffer from litter. Cllr Jane James feels strongly that Poole Borough Council is not doing enough to look after the area.

"Local residents can contact me if they have any particular problems with litter in their street. I have been pressing the Council to do more about this, as this type of basic service is supposed to be what people pay their Council Tax for." said Jane.



COMMUNITY CENTRE

The community cafe has recently been completed and hosted its first coffee morning at the end of September. The event was very successful with a many people turning out to support the centre. "Congratulations to all of those who have helped get the centre back into commission again." Said Focus Editor David Brown

Got a problem or concern?

If you need some advice on a problem or concern you are having please feel free to contact us. Write in the space below or ring our Focus team on the numbers provided on the right.

Name

Address

Email

Phone.....



Return to: Cllr Jane James
Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST, 14 York Road, Broadstone, BH20 6BR

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**Working all year round to
support the local community**