

Crime: An ID card in your pocket or police on the street?

The Liberal Democrats are taking the lead on crime and anti social behaviour, proposing real action at a national level and acting to cut crime.

Many local people still see anti-social behaviour as one of the biggest problems affecting their daily lives. Labour have talked tough but have failed to deliver despite 10 years in power and the Tories are in disarray on crime. The last Tory government cut police numbers and let violent crime double.

“Your local Lib Dem team have been campaigning for better police funding for Dorset and to pay for more Police and Community Police Officers on the street instead of the expensive ID cards programme.” Said Cllr Jane James

The proposals include putting more Police on the street instead of wasting money on ID cards, freeing police from the burden of bureaucracy, reform the inefficient victims compensation fund and making it harder for prisoners to skip education and skills classes.



Annette Brooke MP and your Liberal Democrat team work closely with local beat officers.

BEARWOOD ADVICE SURGERY

Annette Brooke is holding an advice surgery with Cllr Jane James and local activist David Brown on Saturday 24th March from 10am - 12pm in the newly refurbished lounge at Bearwood community centre.

“I am pleased to be able to hold surgery at Bearwood community centre, I hope to hold surgeries at Bearwood more often now that this excellent local facility is available,” said Annette.

HAVE YOUR SAY JOIN THE WINNING TEAM

Please contact us with any local problems and/or concerns

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

_____ Email _____

Can you help? We rely on the support of local volunteers

- I could give an hour a month delivering Focus
- I could help with office work like addressing envelopes
- I enclose a donation of _____ to help pay for printing
- I would like to display a post/stakeboard at the next election

Thank you for your support

Return to: Liberal Democrats, 14 York Road, Broadstone, BH18 8ET

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FOCUS

Jan-Feb 07

On

Merley and Bearwood

Edited by Cllr Jane James and local activists Peter Maiden and David Brown

POST OFFICES - LIB DEMS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLOSURES

The Government recently announced shocking plans to cut 2,500 Post Offices. This news came on top of the 7,500 post offices closed under successive Labour and Conservative Governments.

Annette Brooke is concerned that Dorset post offices may well be threatened. She has been visiting all the Post Offices in the constituency and has already collected over 3000 signatures on our petition calling for no Post Office cuts.



(left) Local activists Peter Maiden and David Brown outside Bearwood post office. (below) Annette Brooke has collected over 3000 signatures to her Post Office petition..

“Our Post Offices are very important to the community, particularly when combined with other facilities such as the local shop.” Said local activist David Brown.

“It is important that local residents make their views felt now, while there is still the opportunity to pressurise the Government to change its mind.” local activist Peter Maiden.



DECADES OF TORY AND LABOUR CUTS



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The Lib Dem Action Plan

- £2 billion to invest in our Post Office branches
- Open new branches where there is need.
- Retain the Post Office card accounts for benefit payments (in danger of being lost)
- Free the Post Office from restrictions to let it develop new business
- New legal requirement for the Government to maintain the local post office network.

SIGN OUR PETITION - STOP THE GOVERNMENT CUTS

“We call on the Government to support our Post Offices and not to close them. We rely on the important services provided by our local post office.”

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Return to: FREEPOST Liberal Democrats, 14 York Road, Broadstone, BH18 8BR

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Local Environment Update

Protecting our Green Belt



Cllr Jane James at Green Belt land near Arrowsmith Lane

Your local Lib Dem team are concerned about the future risk of large developments in our area, on top of the thousands of new units coming into the town centre.

Bearwood has the remaining stock of 'white field' land available for future build alongside it, to be released when brownfield sites run out, but the demands of the regional strategists are far higher (22,000 new homes).

Due to the Tories removing 'Green belt' protection from the land around Bearwood, Merley and Oakley there is a threat that land in the area could be developed in the future.

Cllr Jane James and local activists David Brown and Peter Maiden believe protecting the Green Spaces between the communities in Merley and Bearwood ward is very important for our quality of life.

Footpath 5 Update

We are delighted to learn that the final planning hurdle appears to have been overcome on the footpath 5 link from Broadstone to Ashington. After over 40 years of wrangling it looks as though the link to Ashington Cutting will now go ahead.

"This will open up a footpath with outstanding views across the heath," said Peter Maiden. "We should all be grateful for the efforts of Annette Brooke MP and Liberal Democrat Councillors over the years to make this happen," he added. Work could start as early as February.

Litter... Litter..

Litter has been a common if unwanted feature of Merley and Bearwood wards.

David Brown has contacted the Council on numerous occasions about litter.

If there is any area which you feel the Council is neglecting, please give one of our team members a ring on the Contact details provided.

If you would like us to organise a community litter pick in your road, please give Jane James a ring on 571118.



Litter around both Merley shops and Bearwood shops continues to be a problem. Give us a ring if you would like to join a community litter pick.



Peter Maiden and David Brown at King John playing fields, one of the problem areas of litter.

GREEN BINS SCHEME TO BE EXTENDED - BUT WHERE?

The highly successful green bins scheme which went on trial last year in Merley is to be extended across the Borough of Poole, however the Council have not yet agreed with consultants whether Bearwood residents will benefit or not.

In the last Focus, Liberal Democrat Councillor Jane James and activist David Brown called for the scheme to be extended to those Bearwood residents in need of it, as many people in Bearwood are not able to get to the fortnightly skip service due to its limited hours and space.

"Merley residents have been telling us how pleased they are with their green bins. Congratulations to the Council for carrying on with this Liberal Democrat initiative." Said local activist David Brown.

"Although the scheme has been successful it is still only limited to Merley. We would like to see the service extended to the residents who need it in Bearwood. It is only fair that all residents get the same level of service for their Council tax." Added Peter Maiden, who lives in Merley.



"The Green Bin system could be just as successful as our current Blue Bin recycling." Said Peter Maiden (Pictured above with local activist Daphne Long)

Council Tax: what is in store?

February is the time when Poole's Council Tax will be announced. Will this be yet another year of above inflation increase? In 2003 the Conservatives said "Council Tax was too high" and four years later it has increased by over £300 (Band D) with more to come.

Do you remember this headline: **"A NICE LITTLE EARNER"** (Front Page, Daily Echo Sept 19th 2003) Increasing councillor allowances by 29% was the Conservatives' first major decision after gaining control of Poole Council in 2003.

Like the Sheriff of Nottingham the Leader of the Council voted himself a massive **£120 per week** increase and has continued to take more and more in taxes. He has built up reserves of more than £13 million in less than 4 years and you will not get any of this back. The Council Tax you pay will not be any less this year.

HOW THE RISES STACKED UP

