

## DEVELOPERS PILE ON THE PRESSURE

There is continued pressure in Alderney from developers. Residents from around Manor Avenue, fully supported by your Councillors, are working with Strategic Planning Officers to create a planning guidance that will define the special character of their area. This will not stop development, but might improve what is put forward as it would have to take account of, and maintain, the character of the area. These guidelines will eventually replace the current system of Local Plans set by Councils. We recommend that residents who are concerned about their back yard consider forming a neighbourhood/residents association to undertake a similar exercise.



**There are no easy answers to development pressures**

As for stopping development altogether there is no silver bullet. There have been proposals put forward by Liberal Democrats nationally to remove gardens from "brownfield" site classification. Despite recent Tory headlines, back in March David Cameron said he would make it easier for developers by removing red tape, describing opponents of development as "bananas". Locally, Conservative members of the Planning Committee seem unwilling to make a stand against back garden development.

The best defence is not to sell land to developers in the first place - after all the leafy suburb you might be about to move to could also be in the sights of a developer in the relentless rush towards replacing our green and pleasant suburbs with 21st Century versions of pre-war tenement blocks.

## BATTLE FOR BUSES GOES ON

Following our success pressing for The Rossmore Flyer and the temporary 7b "Bloxworth" bus, Officers have put out to tender two new routes we have been pushing for. The "No. 17" has been prepared in response to residents from the Western end of Wallisdown and Alderney West who lost their link with Ashley Road, Parkstone (where the nearest banks are located). It would run hourly from 9.30am from Tower Park via Alderney West, Wallisdown Road, Alder Parade, to Ashley Road and back. The other proposal is for a "No. 20" running from Corfe Mullen via Broadstone, Canford Heath, Alderney West, Wallisdown Road, The University, Moordown, and Bournemouth Hospital.



There is no guarantee that the tenders received back will be accepted by the Council. We put a motion to a recent Council meeting asking that they put back the £45,000 cut in this years budget from last years actual expenditure on supported services, and ensure that provision is made for the predicted increased costs in order to avoid further cuts in services. **This was not supported by the Conservative Group who preferred instead to take their begging bowl to Government - despite cutting their own support.** The possible good news is that due to increased competition between the smaller bus operators, there could well be savings on the school bus contracts.

We will continue to push as far as we can for a minimum of no loss of service - with hopefully some improvements slipped in. The new tendered services will come into effect from October.

# COUNCIL TAX - where your money has gone

Having said your council tax was too high the Conservatives have continued to increase the amount you pay by more than 13% over the last three years. This year your Council Tax rose by 3.5%. Your state pension rose by 2.7.% and inflation was only 2.0%.

Recent Government grants have been far more generous to Poole Council than in the past. Between 2003 and 2004 Poole's grant increased by £6m, the equivalent of 12% council tax, so why is Poole Council taking more and more money from you?

- **Conservative Cabinet Members' allowances increased by a massive 40% since 2003. In total they receive over £100,000**
- **Council employees earning over £50,000 has almost doubled since 2003 from 20 to 39 despite Conservative promises to reduce excessive staffing**
- **A further £4.8m added to reserves last year**
- **Winter beach car park charges introduced**
- **Adult education charges up and courses slashed**
- **Charges introduced for additional planning advice**
- **Grass cutting seems to be more infrequent and more weeds are growing**
- **Almost £2m has been spent on introducing a call centre**

If you think more of your council tax should be allocated to bus subsidies and less to other areas of expenditure please let us know. Write to Annette Brooke, FREEPOST, 14 York Road, Broadstone, BH18 8BR.



## REC. AND YOUTH CLUB TO GET A FACE-LIFT

Work is due to commence in the early autumn on two schemes in Alderney that have been close to our hearts for many years.

The improvement works to Alderney Recreation ground is about to go out to tender. Works include landscaping, the opening up of the water course, and construction of fishing lake with disabled access - ideas initially discussed with residents and supported by your Liberal Democrat Councillors four years ago. The project is partly funded by Wessex Water, the Borough of Poole "Planning Obligations Fund" and other grants. It is hoped that there will be additional grant funding to finance extra footpaths and seating.

The Bourne Valley Youth Club is also to undergo a improvement. The main entrance is to be moved, a new ball court constructed, car park relocated, and young children's play facilities added. There should be an open day soon to discuss details with residents and potential users. Check out our web site ([www.poolenorth.net](http://www.poolenorth.net)) for the latest information.

Special mention should go to Sarah Austin (The Bourne Stream Partnership), and Sarah Evans-Johnson (The Bourne Valley Youth Club), for their tireless efforts to press forward these schemes. Your Alderney Councillors will continue to work with all concerned to deliver for the community we represent.

## More Fun On The Heath!

Following on from the success of the Fun Day in April a "Mad Monday" Fun Day on Alderney Rec is planned for the 7th August (1-4pm). The event will include, sports coaches, a bouncy castle, and arts activities. Entry will be free. Bring a picnic and enjoy an afternoon out in these wonderful surroundings. For further information contact Kate Mitchell (Parks Warden) on 261339

### CONTACT YOUR FOCUS TEAM



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