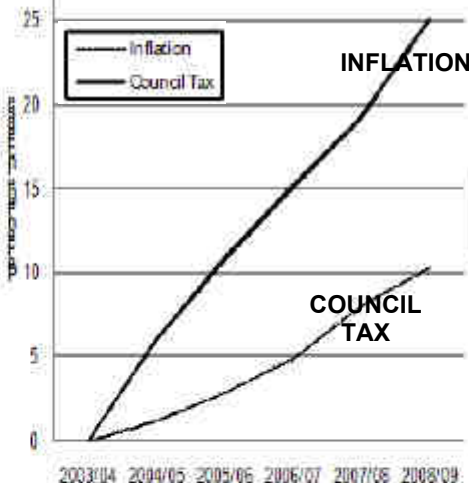


# COUNCIL TAX

Soars Above Inflation

Poole's council tax, set at 4.9%, is over twice the rate of inflation. This is an extra £63 for a Band D property making the total payable £1,342.

Since taking control in 2003 the Conservatives have increased council tax by 25%. Inflation has increased by only 10%.

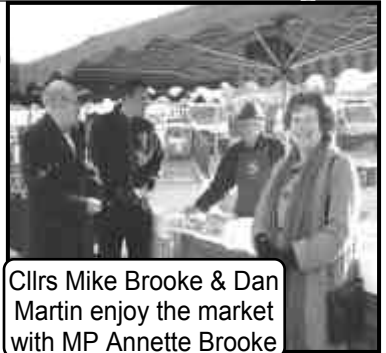


Did you know:

- Council reserves now total £18 million.
- Fees & charges, many of which are stealth taxes raise £22.5 million.
- Stealth taxes, eg car parking and home care charges, are increasing at rates in excess of 20%
- Total government grants to the Council exceed £149 million.
- Interest on capital exceeds £6 million.

Many residents are saying it is time for a fairer system. Cllr Mike Brooke agrees and added: "Stealth taxes are a major issue. The public should not be charged extra to offset the cuts being made by the Conservative administration".

## Farmers Market Finds New Home



Cllrs Mike Brooke & Dan Martin enjoy the market with MP Annette Brooke

Broadstone Councillors Daniel Martin, Mike Brooke and Graham Mason, welcomed the relocation of the Dorset Farmers Market to Broadstone First School after a period of discussion and uncertainty. Although February 16<sup>th</sup> was cold, the sunshine attracted many residents to the new site and prospects looked good for the market's continuation.

"We are delighted the Farmers Market is able to stay in Broadstone, and we hope this location proves successful. The market is an added attraction for the community and it draws people in from considerable distances." said Dan, while Mike added: "Our recent survey showed overwhelming support for the market with many residents suggesting this location".

"We are extremely grateful to Broadstone First School for allowing its playground to be used and we would like to thank all those involved in the negotiations for enabling this to happen." Cllr Mason added: "Don't forget the next market on Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>."

## Broadstone Library Services to be Cut

Your Lib Dem Councillors are fighting the proposed cuts to our excellent library service which could see book purchasing budgets slashed, hours cut and staff losses.

Broadstone library will bear the brunt of the cuts with 7 hours removed, with plans to open at 10.00am rather than 9.00am each day. All this is taking place against a background of 4.9% council tax

increase, massive rises in stealth taxes and reserves swelling to £18 million.

Cllrs Mike Brooke, Dan Martin and Graham Mason have successfully "called-in" the Conservative cabinet decision so it will now go to public scrutiny. "We will try to get the decision reversed" said Mike whilst Cllr Mason added: "It is outrageous that staff were not



**Appalled:**  
 Cllrs Mike Brooke & Graham Mason outside Broadstone Library

consulted before the decision was made and the changes to opening hours will affect many Broadstone residents, especially young mothers."

# How Safe is our Open Space?



All Lib Dem Cllrs are opposed to any private development on Poole's public open spaces and were astounded when the Conservative administration failed to confirm open space would not be sold when questioned at full council on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Leisure Services, who are responsible for our open spaces, have also said "there are deals to be done" and a road on Broadstone Recreation Ground is OK if "there is a comprehensive development to be had."

Cllr Graham Mason said: "This suggestion is disgraceful. This is an important recreational facility for all Broadstone residents and I will fight any proposal to sell any of this land to private developers."

## Antisocial Behaviour ON THE INCREASE

Following street meetings the police have increased patrols and Dan, Graham and Mike are currently looking into improved street lighting.

Broadstone has a Safer Neighbourhoods team, led by PC Steve Hawke, and regular consultation meetings are being arranged.

If you have any concerns do phone the police on 222222 or contact your councillors.



Your councillors are aware of increases in anti-social behaviour and damage to property related to underage drinking.

Cllr Mike Brooke at the new crossing



## Refuge Brings Crossing Safety

We welcome the pedestrian refuge recently built in the Broadway.

"This popular crossing point is now much safer" said Cllr Mike Brooke who had been involved in discussions with residents to establish the best site for the new refuge.

A new pedestrian crossing is to be constructed in Higher Blandford Road near Corfe Hills School to allow students to cross this dangerous road more safely.

## Working for you!



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Any problems? Let us know here.

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Contact Mike, Dan and Graham via our website: [www.mikebrooke.org.uk](http://www.mikebrooke.org.uk)

The Lib Dems and their elected representatives may use the information you provide to contact you about issues you may find of interest. You can opt out of some or all contacts at any time by contacting us. Published and Promoted by MDNP Liberal Democrats. Printed by York Road Print on behalf of MDNP Liberal Democrats 14 York Road, Broadstone.

## Help the local team in Broadstone

I will be voting for the Lib Dems at the next election

I will display a poster in my window at election time

I will deliver my road once a month

I would like to join the Lib Dems