



# FOCUS *On* BROADSTONE

## Where have all the buses gone?

Your MP, Annette Brooke and your Lib Dem Councillors, Mike Brooke and Graham Mason, have been inundated with phone calls and letters expressing concern over the massive cuts in bus services. Annette and Mike have taken up your case with Poole Council and Go-Ahead, the bus company involved. The privately owned bus company is pursuing what it considers are its commercial interests whilst the council has offered some subsidies. However, the unprecedented cuts in services suggest the amount is clearly not enough at almost 10% less than last year's subsidy.

During our discussions we have managed to secure some improvements to services for Broadstone residents including the Route 19 (Wilts and Dorset) Loop from Roman Road to the Broadway via West Way, and Roadliner's Route 32 from the Broadway via Barn Road, Steepleton Road and Gravel Hill to Tescos and Poole Hospital. We appreciate these are not ideal and we are still negotiating for both an increased frequency and variations in route to give elderly people in particular better access. Mike says: "It is ridiculous that free bus passes are available but many people are not actually able to use them because there are now no buses they can easily access. It is vital for our more vulnerable residents that this Council gives public transport a much higher priority."

The message is very clear – **use it or lose it.**

We do understand the difficulties for people getting to work or to appointments on time, if the bus services are not there at the right times.



**Your two new services arriving in Broadstone - use them or lose them!**

### You say...

"It's disgraceful to take all the buses away from us."

"Why aren't there any buses coming down West Way now?"

"As an elderly person I now find it impossible to get to a bus as I have to walk too far and it is nearly all uphill."

"With these cuts more people will be using cars and that isn't good for the environment."

"The new 32 route is good but it needs to be more frequent."

"Why can't the timetables be better coordinated?"

## Council Tax - Is your money being well spent?

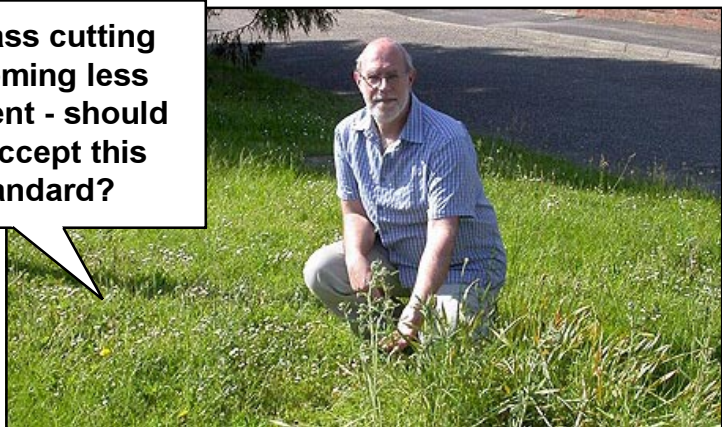
Having said your council tax was too high the Conservatives have continued to increase the amount you pay by more than 13% over the last three years. This year your Council Tax rose by 3.5%. Your state pension rose by 2.7% and inflation was only 2.0%.

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,
- Significant increases in car parking charges,
- Bus services slashed

- 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.
- Litter continues to be a problem. Despite putting a further £1m into street cleaning a recent survey placed Poole 229<sup>th</sup> out of 300 authorities for street cleanliness.
- Swimming pool charges up

Is grass cutting becoming less frequent - should we accept this standard?



### Education Questionnaire - Your response

Thank you to all who responded to our short questionnaire. 60% of respondents wanted "no change until 2017" with many additional comments asking for no change at all. Almost 40% of respondents supported a change to the age of transfer at the same time as the rest of Poole's schools. Concerns were also expressed over the enormity of the projected costs.

**EDUCATION UPDATE OVERLEAF**

## Broadstone Liberal Democrats - Working all year round

# GOOD NEWS FOR BROADSTONE'S POLICE



We have been fortunate over the years to have been served extremely well by our local police, especially our beat officers. We would like to offer our congratulations to Nick Wyre, who has recently been appointed Schools Liaison Officer for Poole. Nick has been Broadstone's beat officer for the last few years, working hard within the community. After a brief period of uncertainty we have just heard that a replacement has been appointed. We would therefore like to welcome PC1880 Steve Hawke to Broadstone and look forward to working with him.

The other good news is that reorganisation at Gravel Hill Police station should mean an additional police presence on our streets in the form of Community Support Officers. All will be under the leadership of Sgt Newitt of the Gravel Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team. The contact telephone number is 222222.

Government proposals to merge the Dorset Police Force have not yet materialised. Both Cllr Mike Brooke and Cllr Graham Mason continue to oppose such a merger and letters have been sent to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister requesting that the wishes of local residents are listened to and acted upon. Annette Brooke MP reports it is just possible the new Home Secretary, John Reid, may even scrap all proposals for merger before the summer recess.

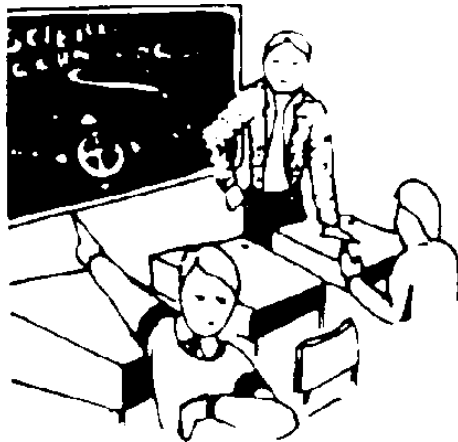
## Education Update – Uncertainty increases

There have been significant changes to the recommendations following an Audit Commission review and discussions with the Department for Education and Skills.

1. "Decision to post notices of change in the age in transfer to be deferred until December 2006"
2. "The date of actual change in age of transfer across the Borough be deferred until such time that an agreed delivery plan is in place."
3. "Develop a long term strategy for investment in schools" and "complete a detailed funding statement for the project that is deliverable within the Council's overall plans".

### What does this mean for Broadstone?

The most likely date for changing the age of transfer in Poole is 2012 but it could be even later. For Broadstone there is now no specific date for the change to be made. The timing will depend entirely upon having all funding in place but it is unlikely to be before 2012 and could be later than 2017. Whatever happens we will try to ensure further consultation is undertaken in Broadstone. One suggestion that has been put forward is to operate Corfe Hills School as a split site school so that change can take place at the same time across the Borough.



### JOIN OUR FOCUS TEAM

- I could spare an hour to deliver my road
- I could help with clerical work once a month
- I would like to join the Liberal Democrats

Name.....

Address .....

Email..... Phone.....

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

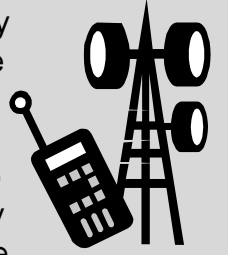
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**Working all year  
round to support  
the local community**

## Mobile Phone Masts

Don't be misled by what you may have read in other literature. The May 2000 ruling did not prevent Council land being used for phone masts but was designed to protect children in our schools by making it more difficult to use school land for mast sites. This had support across all three political parties on Poole council. It was the phone companies themselves who interpreted the statement as a complete ban.



To remove this confusion the Liberal Democrats recently proposed a motion to council to change the decision making process. The Conservatives amended the proposals so that now an Officer can make the decision without Councillors being involved. **Who has the control and where is the accountability?**

## Open Space Licensing

As you know a Premises Licence was granted by the Council for Broadstone Recreation Ground last February. This does provide the opportunity for rock concerts, boxing and wrestling promotions and the availability of late night food and drink.

This licence was granted despite considerable protest from local residents, whose concerns were totally disregarded by the Council. None of the events that currently take place on the recreation ground require a licence so why create the potential for problems?

## Fair Trade Update

We understand Poole is to gain Fair Trade Town status. After months of hard work by voluntary groups working in partnership with Poole Council the criteria have finally been met and we are just awaiting formal confirmation. We would like to extend our congratulations to everyone involved. It is an excellent achievement.

## Contact us

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**If you have a question about any of the issues raised here, or any other concern, please do not hesitate to contact us**