



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: EDITED BY CLLR JANE JAMES AND DAVID BROWN

## GREEN BIN SUCCESS IN MERLEY - BUT WHERE ARE BEARWOODS?

Merley's green bin service has been a great success. Our recent environment survey was filled with positive feedback for the scheme, originally proposed by Liberal Democrats.

Although Merley residents were very pleased with the trial service they received this year, there is a question mark over the Bearwood skip service. Rather than the green bins, Bearwood residents get a fortnightly skip collection from St Barnabas Church. Some respondents thought it unfair, since they pay the same amount of Council tax to Poole Council as Merley residents.

**Councillor Jane James wants Bearwood residents to get the same service as Merley. "Many people in Bearwood have large gardens so should be eligible for the service. It is also very difficult for elderly and disabled people to use the skip service." Said Jane.**

If you are a Bearwood resident and would like the green Bins service, please fill in the slip below and return it to us, so that we can lobby the Council on your behalf.



"The limited skip service for garden waste is not useful for all Bearwood residents." commented local activist David Brown, who still has a lot of garden waste.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR FOCUS TEAM



Your Focus Team, Cllr Jane James and Focus Editor David Brown, would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

"We promise to keep in touch all year round, not just at election time." Said Cllr Jane James (pictured right). Your local Lib Dem representatives contact details are available on the back page of this Focus issue.



### PETITION: GREEN BINS FOR BEARWOOD

"We the undersigned call for Bearwood to be provided with the Green Bin service, so that all residents in the ward can benefit from the same level of waste collection."

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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## POLICING IN MERLEY AND BEARWOOD

Although Merley and Bearwood has a fairly low crime rate in comparison to other parts of Poole and Bournemouth, Graffiti and criminal damage to private property is unacceptable. The police are undergoing regular checks on areas such as Merley shopping centre, to try and reduce the levels of anti social behaviour.

"It is no good just moving these youngsters from locality to locality", said Jane. "This solves nothing and can make matters worse by making them feel unwanted. Any solution must involve the young people themselves." In the meantime, if you spot any antisocial behaviour then please contact the police immediately on **01202 222222**.



A vandalised garage in Bearwood illustrates the problem some residents have with anti-social behaviour.

### Global Warming and Climate Change – a step in the right direction

Following continued pressure from the Liberal Democrats, the Council is beginning to change its attitude towards environmental issues including energy conservation and renewables.

Cllr Jane James fully supported the Lib Dems "environmental checklist" motion to Full Council, it has been agreed that this list should accompany the statutory design statement that now has to be submitted with every new planning application. As a result, we should see future developments adopting more environmentally friendly features. The new rules should contribute to a reduction in Poole's carbon footprint.

"Much of Poole's housing stock is relatively old we all need to do our bit towards energy conservation. Not only is this green, but it could save people money on gas and electricity bills." Said Cllr Jane James



Research shows that that by improving energy efficiency and using solar panels and wind turbines the average household would save £150 per year of their bills under the Lib Dem plans for each Council to have a combined heat and power scheme

### CONTACT US



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### Have Your Say

Please contact us with any local problems and/or concerns

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# AN UPDATE FROM ANNETTE BROOKE MP

Dear Resident

I am writing to update you on a number of issues I have been dealing with over the year in Merley and Bearwood. I will always make your concerns a priority and will continue to keep in touch all year round with our regular Focus leaflet.

Best Wishes,



Annette Brooke MP



## Buses

We are still campaigning hard to restore the original routes, so that everyone in Merley and Bearwood gets the service they deserve.

When we last updated you, we were expecting Poole Council to be providing a service to Sopwith Crescent, which clearly needs a bus connection. Unfortunately, this has not materialised despite lobbying from myself and your local Councillor Jane James.

I have recently written again to both the bus company and Poole Council and promise to keep the pressure up on restoring bus routes.

## Dorset Police Funding

Thank you to all of you who signed our recent petition calling for better Police funding for Dorset, I have written a letter to Tony McNulty, the Minister responsible for policing, to raise my concerns.

Dorset is still bottom of the pile in terms of funding and just this year, received a lower than average increase. Even worse, £300,000 of the Dorset Police budget was wasted in the aborted police mergers programme. The Liberal Democrats opposed the merger scheme from the outset, as yet another example of unnecessary Government interference. What we really need is more Police on the streets.



## Climate Change and the local Environment

Many residents have contacted me about both national and local environmental issues. Our survey earlier in the year showed climate change was a big concern for residents - nearly everyone surveyed thought we could be doing more both locally and nationally to improve our environment.

Merley and Bearwood residents' concerns ranged from the local lack weeds and litter clearance, positive comments about green bins, right up to the climate change bill at the national level. Thank you for those of you who returned the petition calling for less talk, more action, on climate change.

The pre-budget report shows the Government has not got the message on climate change. Gordon Brown only made a token effort to deal with this massive problem, despite more and more senior scientists warning us of the dangers for younger generations. Worst of all, the Chancellor risks giving green taxes a bad name because he has failed to use the revenue to cut income tax for the poorest. We need greener and fairer taxes, not higher taxes.

# WEEDS AND LITTER: POOLE 'COULD DO BETTER'

REPORT BACK: MERLEY AND BEARWOOD ENVIRONMENT SURVEY



David Brown has reported this the big litter problems on the footpath off Runnymede Avenue. Feel free to contact Jane or David about litter problems in your area

Annette Brooke MP, Cllr Jane James and local activist David Brown recently conducted an environment survey, asking local residents about issues that affect their quality of life. Thanks to those of you who replied and kept us up to date with issues that concern you.

Weeds and litter topped the bill as the worst aspect of the environment in Merley. Other complaints included speeding traffic and anti social behaviour in some areas.

Despite repeated calls from Councillor Jane James and Focus editor David Brown for the Council to clean up the mess, the overall problem has not improved.

"Local residents are still not getting a fair deal for their Council Tax. I will continue to lobby Poole Council for better service as the message has not yet got through that this mess is unacceptable." Reported Councillor Jane James.

## WHERE HAVE ALL OUR BINS GONE?

First it was bus services disappearing, now it is our litter bins and dog bins.

Local residents in Merley and Bearwood are noticing problems with litter and have reported that bins have disappeared. In Merley, after a litter bin was reported to have been turned over and emptied, rather than fix it the council have removed it completely, leaving nowhere to put litter. Residents have also reported problems with a lack of dog bins.

Focus Editor David Brown explained, "In my local park off King John Avenue in Bearwood, there used to be 7 dog bins but these have been disappearing in recent years. There are now only 4 dog bins left. Local dog owners are very responsible, but the council are making it harder to keep the parks clean."

"In July the council brought in new dog fouling laws with £75 fixed penalty notices, but they must back this up with more dog bins in convenient places and not removing those already in place. I'll be taking these issues up with the council on behalf of local residents." promised David.

Under the Liberal Democrats, Poole used the slogan "It's a Beautiful Place!" but this was dropped when the Conservatives took control. Sadly pride in Merley and Bearwood does not seem to be a priority for the Conservative run Council



"Several residents have returned our surveys complaining about the lack of Dog Bins" Said David.

