

MAY 2005

Dorset County Council Election

SWANAGE Thursday 5th May: 7.00am — 10.00pm

Elect PETER CLARK as your County Councillor for SWANAGE



After university and three years engineering in Stafford, Peter trained to be a teacher in 1966. He then taught in Hertfordshire before moving to Swanage Grammar School in 1972 and transferred to the new Purbeck School in 1974 to be Head of Physics. During his 25 years there, he also served for 13 years as a Teacher Member on the County Education Committee.

Peter is married and has two sons in their twenties. He is a member of All Saints Church, the May Day Singers and a prominent member of Swanage Cricket Club.

Peter was brought up in Stroud. Previous generations of Clarks came from Cerne Abbas. He sees himself as a West Countryman in pursuit of a fair society.

Postal vote?

Do you require a postal vote? If so, please contact Wendy Clark on 422118, well before the closing date of Tuesday 26th April.

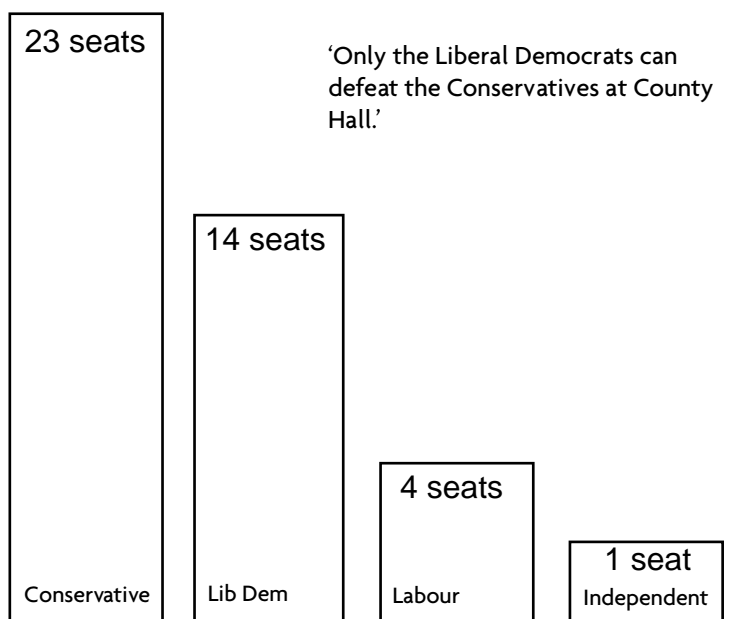
What does the County Council do?

Dorset County Council is responsible for:

- * Education and the Youth service
- * Environmental services, such as country parks and waste disposal (but not collection)
- * Social Services
- * Building and maintaining Highways

And why do the Tories constantly criticise what is done in Swanage when both County and District are Tory Controlled?

Your vote can make the difference for Purbeck



Peter Clark: working for you all year round — not just at Election time!

Education and young people

The Middle School

Conservative County Councillors have started a 'Great Debate' on the future of Education in Dorset as a result of falling rolls. Yet they have already closed middle schools in Shaftesbury and Blandford. The enlarged secondary school at Shaftesbury is not yet completed. Therefore system relies on temporary classrooms and the cost of the contract escalates. In the last twelve months, the Conservatives have also proposed the closure of Milton Abbas village school, Penwithen school for pupils with behavioural problems and Mountjoy special school.

A meeting about this Great Debate was held in January at the Springfield Hotel, Wareham and so the people of Swanage are said to have been consulted. The poorly advertised meeting was overflowing. It was difficult to pin the County Education Officer down to what was at stake but he did say that Middle Schools need to have at least 360 pupils to be viable. Since rolls at the area's four Middle Schools are destined to fall below that, it is not difficult to predict that the Conservative controlled council is looking for savings from buildings, equipment and land. Dorset's other Middle School systems at Corfe Hills, Dorchester, Ferndown and Wimborne are also under threat.

What should be done?

- * use falling rolls to improve education.
- * use every possible effort to keep village schools open.
- * don't change the Middle School system unless it is shown that pupils education will seriously suffer if it is left unchanged.

Money spent on good schools is not wasted.

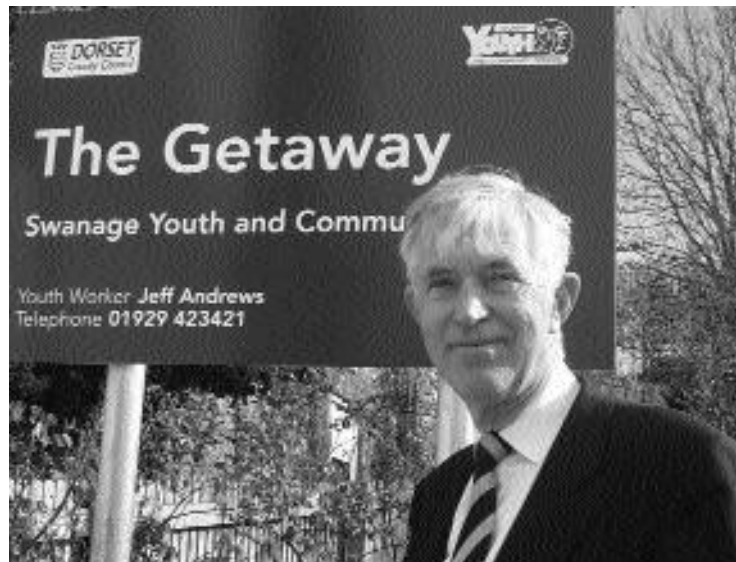
..and another thing:

The Tories say the county review of education is 'Government forced' when it was called for by the Tory Councillors.

Tories say 'Our schools are the worst funded in the country'. They are not. But the government grant which helps to fund them is the worst of the 36 counties.



Peter Clark with Parliamentary candidate Graham Oakes



Education and young people

The Youth Centre

A plan to move Swanage's youth leader to Wareham was defeated several years back after fierce resistance from local people. The youth service was again in line for savage cuts this year. Pressure from all sides caused the Conservative administration to relent.

If we are to help young people play a part in their communities, the investment in youth clubs is worthwhile.

Leeson House

This field studies centre does valuable educational work for children. Its fine old house is an asset. Peter Clark will work with his Langton colleague Bill Wilson to see that the annual threat of closure ceases.

Council tax — your money, plus 38%

Four years ago, the Conservatives promised to keep Council Tax rises to a minimum. They even demanded a rise of 0% on the placards which they paraded on the steps of County Hall. In fact, over the four years the Conservatives have increased the County's part of the Tax by a whopping 38%.

And they have used the lion's share of the increase in Council Tax on second homes for ordinary expenditure and not on social housing for needy locals. And they have increased borrowing.

What is going on?

Both the other parties have used Council tax to raise money for themselves by reducing the government grant to local authorities. This leaves councils having to make large tax increases and cuts at the same time. If you vote Conservative or Labour in the general election, you will get more of this. In addition, the revaluation of properties will further increase Dorset's Council tax, since our properties have gone up more than the national average.

The Council Tax system is broke. It is an unfair tax - introduced by the Tories and made worse by Labour. Only the Liberal Democrats have an alternative - a Local Income Tax.

Vote Liberal Democrat to get rid of this unfair Council Tax.



Environment

Durlston Country Park

Locals know that the Country park and its staff are one of the jewels in Swanage's crown. Peter Clark will work to deny the cost cutters and see that the County's funding for staff is secure.

The Jurassic Coast and Tourism

Tourists will come in increasing numbers to view the Jurassic coastline from the sea. But will they come to Swanage when their boat trip could start at Poole, Lulworth or Weymouth?

Much more needs to be done if Swanage is not to miss out. Peter Clark will work to this end.

Climate change

County Liberal Democrats will promote sustainable policies at County level. Areas for improvement are the construction of new buildings, the operation of existing buildings including the use of solar power, and the encouragement of recycling, the use of home composting and 'on farm' composting.



The Post Office

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the current temporary closure, this could not have occurred without the part privatisation of our Crown Post Offices. Both Conservative and Labour are now proposing part privatisation of our hospitals and schools. Shall we eventually see NO ENTRY signs there too?

Public services are only safe in public hands.

Who cares about politics?

John Wootton, Chairman, South Dorset Liberal Democrats

"They are all the same."

That's what people often say about politicians & parties. No wonder, when some politicians get their facts wrong or print outrageous statements.

In this election for the Dorset County Council the Tories seek to blame others for their errors & ineffectiveness. This is an insult to your intelligence. Purbeck District & Dorset County Councils are both Tory controlled!

They engage in double talk. Blaming others for their own mistakes. Take "Affordable Housing". They said that much of the money from being able to charge 90% Council Tax on second & holiday homes would be used for new social housing. Nothing has happened. The County Council seems to have used the money for other things! What has the Purbeck District Council Housing & Social Matters portfolio holder, been doing for 3 years?

They claim as success stories things they haven't done or things that were happening anyway! They pretend that nobody else wants to save our schools. And so on.

Do they deserve your support?

"I believe that people want a credible, principled political party that offers a different vision of what Britain can be. They want a real alternative to Labour & the failed Conservatives."

Charles Kennedy M.P.

Can you help the Liberal Democrats in your area?

Could you deliver leaflets or help on Election Day?
Do you need a postal vote or a lift to the polling station?

Please contact Peter Clark on 01929 422118 or John Wootton on 01929 421433

Join us and help achieve a fairer Britain.

All the photographs used in this leaflet are original and undoctored



Dear Elector

We in Swanage know that we have much to be proud of in our Schools, Youth Club, Day Centre, Library and the careful watch by professionals and amateurs alike over our glorious Durlston Country Park. Along with the voluntary societies and clubs, which do so much to make our town special, these institutions help to provide the 'social glue' which keeps our community together. However, with money tight, these facilities are under constant threat of reorganisation, and sometimes even closure. When a consultation meeting occurs, it is rarely well advertised and usually held at Wareham.

This is not good enough. **Swanage people need to be properly consulted** about proposals for change so that they can react accordingly.

Those who attended the Community Plan meetings suggested ways forward for our town. It will take political goodwill, skill and no little determination to turn these ideas into reality.

If you choose to elect me to Dorset County Council, I shall stand up and speak up for the needs of Swanage even if this is not popular with other councillors.

I should be honoured to receive your vote on May 5th .

Yours sincerely,

Peter Clark

P.S. Your vote counts. We expect the result will be close.

11 Streche Road, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 1NF

Telephone: 01929 422118

In Swanage, only the Liberal Democrats can beat the Conservatives. Vote for Peter Clark and make your vote count

PETER CLARK Liberal Democrat	X
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