

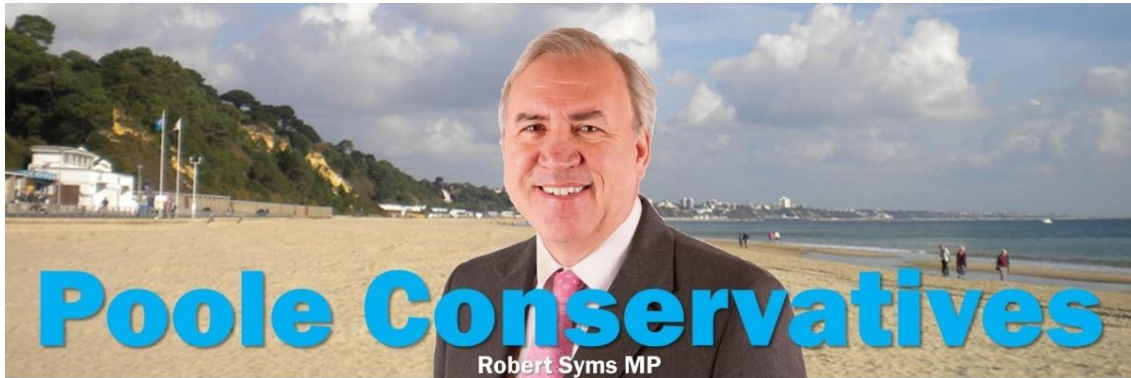
[Join the club!](#)

Becoming a member of Poole Conservatives means joining the most open and democratic political party in Britain. As well as providing a great platform to discuss politics, Poole Conservatives have a strong social calendar of enjoyable activities ...

(scroll down)

Poole talks with Bournemouth

(scroll down)



Dear local resident

The last three months have been busy ones for me. As well as chairing the HS2 committee I have worked hard for the people of Poole with a packed programme of regular visits and constituency surgeries. This newsletter presents a few highlights, as well as other local news.

First I would like to say a few words about the national scene. Following our victory in the general election, we will carry on governing the country in accordance with a coherent and proven plan and do our best to support hard working families. Sadly, the Labour party has gone from bad to much, much worse. No responsible voter would wish to elect them into office now they have elected a leader who is well to the left of most of his party colleagues, let alone most people in Poole.

The next big event on the political horizon is the British referendum on whether or not to leave the European Union. Recent events in Europe, in particular the chaotic responses to the Syrian refugee crisis, present a dismaying spectacle. I for one am glad that as a last resort we still have the English Channel. But I will study the detailed outcome of the negotiations before deciding how to vote.

I have considered how Britain should respond to the threat posed by ISIL in Iraq and Syria. The November attacks in Paris show clearly that none of us are safe from these murderous thugs and that the sooner we get rid of them the better. For that reason I voted for an extension of RAF air strikes from Iraq into Syria too. We must act in concert with our friends and allies to defeat ISIL.

On a cheerier note, I am delighted that our economy is continuing to outperform all the other major economies in the developed world. We can look forward to being strong again as a nation. All of us will benefit from the increased economic security as well as military security that look likely as long as Conservatives are in power.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours!

Robert Syms

Member of Parliament for Poole

Photos from my album, news from my diary



With staff and residents at the Quay Foyer project run by the Stonewater group in Poole. The foyer provides accommodation, personal development, support, and access to activities, training, and employment opportunities for young people aged 16-25, to help them live independently, build emotional strength, and develop their skills.

At Siemens in Poole with general manager Tom MacMorran. Siemens develop mobility and traffic solutions for the global market. Their traffic light controls help ensure that drivers on busy roads enjoy “green waves” of lights to speed their journeys. Poole leads worldwide in this field.





At Sea View Coaches in Poole with managing director David Tarr. The coach hire business in the region is seasonal and depends on tourist volumes, but Sea View is flourishing thanks to its good local reputation.

With my assistant Emily Rigler Gillingham and Joe Logan, the chief executive of Poole Housing Partnership, at the Sterte Court public housing development. Residents are delighted at the results of a recent major refurbishment at the site.



At Salterns Marina with Jeremy Waters (left) to celebrate the publication of his book “Parkstone-on-Sea: Salterns, Sandbanks and Seaplanes” recalling the history of the quay as a base for Imperial Airways flying boats travelling to destinations in the British Empire.

[Survey: Should we make more of our local history?](#)

Speaking at the Poole Conservative Association's Christmas dinner at the Royal Motor Yacht Club in Sandbanks on Friday 20 December. I stressed that the Conservative party must remain united during the debate on our membership of the European Union.



[Survey: Do you have an opinion on British membership of the EU?](#)

Poole Local News

Poole talks with Bournemouth



Possible Creation of Combined Unitary Authority

Public interest has combined with media coverage to raise some controversy on plans to consider the creation of a unified authority for the metropolitan area including Poole and Bournemouth.

Poole Council discussed in full council a motion to clarify the current position and direction of travel relating to this matter. Both the Conservative party and PPP voted in favour.

Poole Council has not agreed to go ahead with the creation of a combined unitary authority. It has simply confirmed a wish to explore the possible business case. Before any decision is taken there will be appropriate consultation.

Former Mayor Peter Adams put the following motion to council:

- Council notes that the Leaders of Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch and East Dorset Councils have jointly agreed to explore the creation of a unitary authority covering the present boundaries of the four authorities from April 2019.
- Council notes that up to 1 April 1997 Poole had a District Council with limited powers and was part of Dorset CC.
- Council resolves that before a decision is taken a detailed business case must be made and unless it is advantageous to the Borough of Poole it will not be proceeded with.
- Council resolves that prior to a Council decision and following a satisfactory business case full scrutiny and a suitable consultation is carried out.
- Council is resolved to preserve Poole's heritage and customs and to honour its unique history.

The motion was passed.

As soon as we have more information on all this, we will inform you and offer you a survey to let you have your say.

Helpers and friends at the Salvation Army hall in Old Poole. The Poole Conservatives held their first soup and rolls evening in support of the disadvantaged and homeless people of the borough. The event is only the first of a series of planned fund raisers there.



[Survey: Should the Conservatives do more charity work?](#)



Cllr Mike White: "Anti-Bullying Week helps to highlight the impact of bullying on children and young people in schools, communities and online. We take bullying extremely seriously."

Poole is building new extra care apartments in Rossmore Road. Cllr Graham Wilson: "The development will not only provide housing for some of our vulnerable residents, but also facilities that everyone in the local community can enjoy."





Cllr John Rampton, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Consumer Protection: "Fly-tipping damages the environment and costs Poole council taxpayers to clear up. It is also unnecessary as our Household Waste Recycling Centre is available for all Poole residents to use."

[Survey: How bothered are you by litter and waste disposal?](#)

Poole has won a Coastal Revival Fund award granting £42,000 for improving the public realm on Poole Quay. Cllr Andy Garner-Watts: "These much needed improvements will benefit the residents, local businesses, and tourists who use Poole's bustling historic quayside."



Conservative Future at the Bournemouth University Freshers Fair. CF Pint and Policy meetings give students a chance to discuss policy issues as well as to make new friends and have some fun. CF plans to hold more P&P meets over the coming months.

[Survey: How can the Conservative party attract more young members?](#)

Join the club!



Poole Conservative Clubs

Becoming a member of Poole Conservatives means joining the most open and democratic political party in Britain. As well as providing a great platform to discuss politics, Poole Conservatives have a strong social calendar of enjoyable activities offering opportunities to meet and greet friends old and new. We have a broad membership from all walks of life who meet regularly in our clubs. We run fur ward clubs where you can drop in for a drink and a chat, or stay for a meal and a social event such as a quiz night, in Branksome, Newtown, Oakdale, and Parkstone.

How to join

Survey results from our October newsletter

British Economy

How well off are you now compared to five or six years ago?

- Better off 12%
- Mixed, not sure 51%
- Worse off 37%

Are you optimistic that things will get better in the next five years?

- Yes 12%
- Not sure 51%
- No 37%

Do you think the government is on the right course to boost our prosperity in Britain?

- Yes 63%
- Don't know 13%
- No 24%

Countering Extremism

Do you feel threatened or concerned by extremism?

- Yes 82%
- Sometimes 18%
- No 0%

Do you think the strategy of community engagement is the right response?

- Yes 38%
- Not sure 46%
- No 16%

Do you see a role for military action overseas to fight extremists?

- Yes, we should bomb the terrorists 58%
- Yes, but keep Britain out of the fighting 25%
- No 17%

Unitary Council

Assuming the practical benefits have been laid out clearly, are you in favour of creating a new authority for Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch and East Dorset?

- Yes 27%
- Not sure 17%
- No 56%

Can Poole preserve its historic identity in South East Dorset?

- Yes 55%
- Not sure 23%
- No 22%

Holding a referendum on the question would cost £200,000. Do you think we should hold one?

- Yes 63%
- Maybe 22%

- No 15%

Poole Schools

Do you have children or grandchildren attending one or more schools in Poole?

- Yes 50%
- Not now, but did have 12%
- No 38%

If you do, are you broadly satisfied with how the school system in Poole is educating them?

- Yes 0%
- Not entirely 83%
- No 17%

Do you have an idea for improving the schools in Poole?

- No 28%
- Yes 72%

- Ideas:
 - Copy independents
 - Improve discipline
 - More funding

Salterns Marina

Are you happy that we encourage more yachts and water sports in Poole?

- Yes 55%
- Don't mind either way 37%
- No 8%

If you are, do you think we need more and better tourist facilities in Lilliput?

- Yes 20%
- Yes, but not on such a big scale 38%
- No 42%

Do you like the specific proposal for Salterns Marina?

- Yes, it's great 5%

- Yes, in part 36%
- Not at all 59%

(All results are rounded)



Promoted and published by Andy Ross on behalf of Poole Conservatives,
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