

# GREEN VIEW

## EAST CLIFF & SPRINGBOURNE



Councillor Sara Armstrong

### BCP COUNCIL BY-ELECTION 2023: OUR RESULT

# THANK YOU! YOU BACKED GREEN!

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023, following a by-election, you backed **Sara Armstrong** to be a strong voice for our community.

Here's a **message of thanks** from your new Green councillor:





"My **heartfelt thanks** to go out to the voters in East Cliff & Springbourne for putting your faith in me to represent you on BCP Council. Last summer's elections **inspired people** across our neighbourhood to dare to hope that **we can make a difference**.

We have made, and continue to make, **important connections** across our communities. The numbers only tell one side of the story of this journey.

I'm the second Councillor Armstrong in my family. It's the **honour of my life** to be able to **serve my community** of East Cliff & Springbourne and to be your voice on the council."

#### BCP COUNCIL BY-ELECTION RESULT East Cliff & Springbourne ward

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

			Party change % from May 2023
	<b>Sara Armstrong</b> Green	<b>817</b> <b>38.4%</b>	<b>↑ 9.5%</b>
	<b>David Kelsey</b> Conservative	<b>614</b> <b>28.8%</b>	<b>↓ 0.5%</b>
	<b>Declan Stones</b> Labour	<b>590</b> <b>27.7%</b>	<b>↓ 5.9%</b>
	<b>Paul Radcliffe</b> Liberal Democrat	<b>108</b> <b>5.1%</b>	<b>↓ 3.2%</b>

#### Green GAIN from Labour

Swing from Labour to Green: 7.7%      Turnout: 18.68%

## LOOKING AFTER KNYVETON GARDENS



Green Councillor for East Cliff & Springbourne  
Sara Armstrong in Knyveton Gardens

Since the election, Councillor Sara Armstrong has been **working tirelessly** to establish whether money from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) can be used to **improve the environment of Knyveton Gardens**. In December she was delighted to hear that **her application for £50,000 has been successful**.

Sara said: "This is **brilliant news** for Knyveton Gardens and the communities who use it. The enhancements that this funding will be used for include **play equipment** for younger ages, **accessibility** improvements, vegetation management, a **water fountain**, better **signage** including a noticeboard and **toilet provision**."

Residents have raised concerns about **anti-social behaviour** in the park. There are **opportunities for local community members** to come together to maintain the changes and improvements. Please **get in touch with Sara** (contact details overleaf) if you would like to find out more about becoming a **Friend of Knyveton Gardens**.

### SARA ARMSTRONG: WORKING HARD AND SPEAKING UP FOR EAST CLIFF & SPRINGBOURNE

# NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM FOR EAST CLIFF & SPRINGBOURNE



Volunteers outside East Cliff URC after a community litter pick (Sara Armstrong fourth from right)

One of Sara's **campaign priorities** for East Cliff & Springbourne is the formation of a **Neighbourhood Forum**, which is the necessary first step towards creating a **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**. The Forum will be made up of **community members**, who together will work to ensure that residents have a **clear voice on local planning matters**.

A Neighbourhood Plan will give our community the ability to **protect government grants** for the local area and make more **applications for funding** to improve the local built environment. We need at least **21 members of the community** to form a Neighbourhood Forum. If you would like to **become involved**, please contact Sara, details below.

## SUPPORTING RESIDENTS

In November the corner of Grants Avenue and Harrison Avenue **flooded** again, as it has **every time there is heavy rainfall** for the past decade. Despite multiple reports to the council by local residents, the situation was not rectified until **hard working local councillor Sara Armstrong** took matters into her own hands. Sara, along with fellow Green Councillor Alasdair Keddie and volunteer John-Paul Hay, managed to **manually clear the drain**.

Working with the council's Highways Maintenance department, Sara and her team found that **part of the drain had been broken** during some previous roadworks carried out by a utility company, **allowing tree roots to ingress** and cause a blockage. The Highways Maintenance team will



follow up with the responsible party to make good on the damage that was caused.

L-r: Green councillors Alasdair Keddie (Queens Park) and Sara Armstrong with local campaigner John-Paul Hay clearing the blocked drain on Grants Avenue

## GREEN GROUP TACKLES KNIFE CRIME

In September **BCP Council passed a motion proposed by Sara Armstrong** and



seconded by fellow Green Councillor Joe Salmon addressing the pressing issue of **knife crime** in our communities.

The motion reflects local Green councillors' **unwavering commitment** to push for more action to ensure the **safety and well-being of young people** in our communities. It highlights the importance of **preventing the loss of lives** due to knife crime and emphasises the role of the community in creating **safe environments** and offering **positive role models** for children and young people.

**Sara said:** "We need to get to the **root causes** of knife crime and gang culture amongst our young people and work together to **find solutions**. **More police on the street** is one thing, and we need **more effective support services for young people** - we need to **reverse the decline** in public services. In passing this motion we're **sending a powerful message** that **we are here** for young people, **we are listening** to our communities, and **we are taking action** to fight the scourge of knife crime. **Knives have no place here.**"

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**FLY TIPPING** Sara has been walking the ward, making numerous reports of fly tipping in known hot spots. You can report this yourself to BCP Council at <https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk>, then alert Sara so that she can follow up. Alternatively, contact Sara direct and she can make the report.

**DOG POO BINS** Thanks to constructive conversations with the BCP parks department the bins in Spencer Park have been replaced.

**COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS** Saturday 30 March, 10-11am, meet outside East Cliff URC. Sunday 28 April, 10-11am, meet Knyveton Gardens. Sunday 26 May, 10-11am, Cherries Café. All welcome! RSVP: details on the right.

## CAN I HELP?



**Councillor Sara Armstrong**

Tel: 01202 794326

[Sara.armstrong@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Sara.armstrong@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

BCP Cllr Sara Armstrong for East Cliff and Springbourne

@SaraArmstr64445

**Surgeries: Last Tuesday** of the month (not Aug, Dec), 5:30-7pm, Springbourne Library.

**SARA ARMSTRONG: WORKING HARD AND SPEAKING UP FOR EAST CLIFF & SPRINGBOURNE**