



**Green Councillor Sara Armstrong** 

# **£103,400 EXTRA FOR OUR AREA SECURED BY SARA ARMSTRONG**

"Team effort" brings safer, nicer parks, new facilities and bins, and more

Since being elected two years ago, hard-working local Green Councillor Sara Armstrong has brought £103,400 of extra investment into our area. Sara has personally written and worked with local groups to make applications, resulting in securing grants, and Community Infrastructure funding levied from developers. This is supporting projects that matter to local people — from safer parks and better bins, to improved green spaces and community facilities:

- **£**50,000 for **Knyveton Gardens improvements** to **combat anti-social behaviour**
- **£**20,000 for **new play equipment** in **Springbourne Gardens**
- **€** £10,000 from the Prosperity Fund for **district enhancements**
- £12,000 helping deliver new outdoor equipment for Vale Lodge residents, play equipment and children's area at the library
- £7,000 for extra security lighting, CCTV, electrics and sensory garden upgrades at Knyveton Gardens in partnership with the Friends and Bowls Club
- **€3,000 for new bins along the East Cliff**
- £1,000 for pond improvements in the sensory gardens at Knyveton Gardens
- \$\oldsymbol{\psi} \pmu 400 for volunteers and events at Knyveton and Spencer Gardens
- £1,000 to help establish the Friends of East Cliff & Springbourne group to support local volunteering, future fundraising, and write grant applications.

Sara said: "I'm proud to have secured this funding for our community. It's a team effort and shows what we can achieve when we listen to local people and work together. This is just the beginning."



The Asda Foundation presenting a cheque to Friends of Knyveton & Spencer Gardens



The new Friends of East Cliff & Springbourne group – planning green space improvements, arts and heritage projects, community events and info

## LOCAL RESIDENTS AUDIT EAST CLIFF, AND ACTION FOLLOWS



Local residents audit the East Cliff with Councillor Sara Armstrong [second from right]

East Cliff conservation area walks led by Councillor Sara Armstrong continue to draw residents eager to make a difference. These on-the-ground audits have spotlighted long-standing issues, and Sara's persistent lobbying of Council staff is paying off. June's walk saw real progress: graffiti reduced, fences fixed, accessible beach toilets reopened, lighting fixed, and new bins on the way.

Sara commented: "There's **still much to do,** but we're **moving forward** despite financial pressures at the Council."

A cleaner, safer East Cliff is taking shape. Now the newly established East Cliff Action Group is stepping up, and inviting volunteers to drive local improvements and community pride. • Contact Sara to get involved [details overleaf]

#### FRIENDS OF KNYVETON & SPENCER **GARDENS MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE**

All Knyveton Gardens entrances have new signage, a damaged bin has been replaced, and the sensory gardens have had a 'haircut' with flowering plants returning. A Nature Walk, a table tennis table and children's activity items are on the way. There's more voluntary work going on in the park. Renovations to the community shed continue, alongside general upkeep. Meanwhile Spencer Gardens had a Spring trim.

**Clir Sara Armstrong has worked** with neighbourhood police on tackling crime and anti-social **behaviour.** Police have adopted a "Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment plan", tasked a new neighbourhood officer, and changed CCTV.



Friends of Knyveton & Spencer Gardens: Follow them on Facebook

### KING'S PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT WILL BE REPLACED IN \$200,000 INVESTMENT

The wooden play equipment and zip wire at King's Park have sadly been removed due to safety concerns.

Councillor Sara Armstrong said: "King's Park was part of my childhood. For many families, especially those living in flats or without gardens, spaces like King's Park are not luxuries. They are essential for a healthy, happy childhood."



Happily, BCP Council has a plan for change. Sara has received confirmation from staff of a £200,000 investment to completely redesign and rebuild King's Park play park. A full Council consultation of the local community is in progress this summer.

Sara commented: "I'll keep pushing to make sure the process is inclusive, transparent, and delivers a space our community can be proud of."

#### **EAST CLIFF & SPRINGBOURNE** NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AND AREA **DESIGNATION APPROVED**



**BCP Council** consultations: Over 200 residents responded

**BCP Council** has approved the designation of a neighbourhood area. and the formation of a Neighbourhood Forum, for East Cliff and Springbourne. Neighbourhood planning empowers communities to influence land use, design and development.

Cllr Sara Armstrong had made securing this an election pledge. She said: "I pay

tribute to the many residents, staff and colleagues who contributed to this achievement." • More: tiny.cc/ecsna

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### **ROADS IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS GO FORWARD:**

Following regular work by Sara Armstrong with Parking and Enforcement staff, requests from our area's community for parking, access and road safety improvements at Shelbourne Close and Victoria Place are being taken forward for possible funding. However only 20-25 such requests are granted each year in BCP.

**SARA PRESSES BEACH CONCERNS:** Following discussions with residents, East Cliff hoteliers, and a recent beach litter-pick, Sara has written to Council bosses. She highlighted concerns over disposable BBQs. inadequate facilities, general neglect of public spaces, parking enforcement and management, accessible toilets and beachfront access - as well as inaction over restoring the long-disused East Cliff lift.

**GRAFFITI REMOVED** FROM SUBWAY: After work between Cllr Sara **Armstrong** and Clir Alasdair Keddie (Green, Queen's Park &





Charminster), graffiti was removed from the Wessex Way subway and nearby hotspots.

#### **CAN SARA HELP?**



**Drop-in surgeries:** Every last Tuesday of the month (excl public holidays), 10.30am-12 noon, Springbourne Library

- sara.armstrong@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
- **O** 01202 794326
- BCP Cllr Sara Armstrong for East Cliff and Springbourne
- @SaraArmstr64445

Newsletter archive: bcp.greenparty.org.uk/east-cliff-springbourne

Could you help Sara keep all local residents informed, by delivering copies of future issues of this newsletter to your own street? If you could help, please

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PAPER

SARA ARMSTRONG: WORKING HARD FOR EAST CLIFF & SPRINGBOURNE