Southend Confelicity Manifesto Meeting - Wednesday 26th March 2025 - 7pm – 9pm at Seafood Shack

Present: Mike, Mellisa, Diane, James, Catherine, Simon, Sandi, Lee, Connor.

Minutes

1. Declaration of interest
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Leader Update
4. Deputy Leader election
   * Simon: Nominated by Lee Seconded James
   * Clare 100, Diane Abstain, Melissa 100, James 100, Mike 100, Lee 100, Sandy 100
   * Simon accepts
5. Candidacy for Mayor of Essex
   * James Miller to stand for the position when details transpire
6. 2026 Southend Election
   * E-petition
     + Leader encourage all to sign petition to keep elections and to advertise it’s existence.
   * Candidate selection
     + Nicky Gilbert is candidate for Belfairs.
     + Simon to change constituency to Shoebury.
     + Melissa to stand in Southchurch
   * Campaigns/Fundraising
     + Moved to campaign meeting

Debates:

1. Do you support publishing a full and detailed account of all council expenditure?
   * Currently items under £500 are not published and details are vague and indeterminable.
   * Mike 75, Mel 100, Di 100, James 100, Catherine 100, Simon 100, Sandi 100, Lee 100.
   * Approved for manifesto
2. Whilst the detail of drive away fines remains unclear and insufficiently communicated the policy should be put on hold.
   * Discussion on the dangers of picking up vs over policing and if it is lawful to issue. The rules are not clearly communicated.
   * Mike 100, Mel 100, Di 100, James 100, Catherine 100, Simon 100, Sandi 100, Lee 100.
   * Approved for manifesto
3. We will support the continuation of car cruises on Southend seafront by taking a light-touch approach that balances enjoyment with responsibility. By working closely with cruise organisers and community leaders, we will ensure these events remain low-impact, safe, and a positive part of Southend’s identity.
   * Mike 100, Mel 100, Di 100, James 100, Catherine 100, Simon 100, Sandi 100, Lee 100, Connor 100
   * Approved for manifesto
4. How would you address the growing issues surrounding adult and child social care?
   * Vast sums are spent in this area we need to improve efficiency; the first stage is to find out where the moneys going and seek ways to cut costs. Who holds the portfolio for this in the council? Is this Irene Ferguson? This demands a full investigation.
   * Proposal: We will investigate where adult and child social care funds are going, cut waste, and push for improved services.
   * Mike 100, Mel 100, Di 100, James 100, Catherine 100, Simon 90, Sandi 100, Lee 91, Connor 100
   * Approved for manifesto
5. Do you support the use of facial recognition technology to be used by the police in Southend?
   * Pragmatic uses vs Personal liberty.
   * Mike 51, Mel 1, Di 1, James 1, Catherine 1, Simon 1, Sandi 51, Lee 1, Connor 40
   * This is therefore not on the manifesto and members are free to support or refute this.
6. Do you support increasing the percentage of children from the local area to be accepted into our grammar schools?
   * Mike 61, Mel 70, Di 49, James 100, Catherine 100, Simon 100, Sandi 90, Lee 49, Connor 100
   * This is therefore not on the manifesto and members are free to support or refute this.
7. Do you support a youth councillor being elected from every senior school in Southend?
   * Mike 100, Mel 100, Di 100, James 100, Catherine 100, Simon 100, Sandi 100, Lee 100, Connor 100
   * Approved for manifesto
8. We support opening up fair competition in Southend’s taxi market.
   * Mike 100, Mel 100, Di 60, James 90, Catherine 90, Simon 100, Sandi 100, Lee 100, Connor 100
   * Approved for manifesto

Dates of future meetings

* Thursday 24th April – Campaign Meeting
* Monday 19th May – Manifesto Meeting
* Tuesday 24th June– Campaign Meeting
* Wed 16th July– Manifesto Meeting
* Monday 22nd September– Campaign Meeting