



Manifesto 2023 Meeting

Wednesday, March 8th 2023

The Bellhouse: 7pm to 9.15pm

Present:

Members

James Miller, Melissa Aylott, Connor Bines, Bianca Isherwood, Simon Jones, Sim Spooner, Jane Wilkes, Jon Humphrys, Rob Cammidge, Lee Clark and Ingram Monk

Guests

Debbie Pang, Carla Petrini, Chris Dickens, Lara Lawson, Max, Trevor Campbell, Sarah, Lorraine Wilder, Gary Bush, Robert, Sid (Lee), Jason, Helen Miller, and Adam

Apologies for absence:

Sian Evans-Jack, Michael Arkas-Binder, Linzi Arkas-Binder, Tommy Taylor, Scott Rose, Deano Harris-Eckett, Lee Clarke, Dee Curtis, Kevin, Brian Ayling, Kayleigh Burgess

Introduction

James welcomed all to the meeting and briefly mentioned about the standing orders and that the meeting would be filmed live for social media.

James also thank Sim (The Bellhouse Manager and Head Chef and Eastwood candidate) for arranging the venue.

Contents

Introduction	1
Manifesto 2023 Debate	3
1. Are you against new parking charges in Chalkwell Park, Priory Park, Southchurch Park, Jones Memorial, Big Gunners and Belfairs Park?	3
2. Are you against charging for toilets?	4
3. Are you against the council's 10% increase in fees and charges?	5
4. Are you against the council's increase in rents?	6
5. Do you support putting the street lights back up to 100%?	7
6. Are you against tree-felling when the tree is healthy and the primary reason is development? 8	
7. Are you against the vehicle fines within 15-minute city concept?	10
8. Do you support the council's PSPO order on the seafront that gives powers to stop cruisers and others who participate in anti-social behaviour?	11
9. Do you support the majority of grammar school places going to local people, with <i>local</i> defined by a set criteria?	12
10. What should go at the end of the Pier?	14
11. Do you support the introduction of a local resident's discount card for parking, shops and leisure activities?	15
12. Do you support investment in libraries as an urgent priority?	16
13. Q&A about Confelicity	16
14. Addendum.....	17
14.1 Local Elections 2023	17
Candidate selections	17

Manifesto 2023 Debate

1. Are you against new parking charges in Chalkwell Park, Priory Park, Southchurch Park, Jones Memorial, Big Gunners and Belfairs Park?

Voting

Members

Melissa 100

Simon: 100

Lee: 100

Connor: 100

Jane: 100

Rob: 100

Bianca: 100

Sim: 100

James: 100

Guests

Debbie: 100

Max: 100

Gary: 100

Carla: 100

Trev: 100

Robert: 100

Chris Dickens: 100

Sarah: 100

Sid: 100

Lara: 100

Lorraine: 100

Helen: 100

Result

100% of members voted to oppose this policy

The strength of the vote was 100% (mean average)

Guests were also 100% and the strength of the vote was 100%

Conclusion

The council's policy to charge for parking in parks was unanimously voted against by members, therefore, this will go into the manifesto.

2. Are you against charging for toilets?

The Council are looking into an outsourcing for a toilet company who would then charge for the toilets.

Comments

Sim: where are they? Will the charges help look after them? Possibly provide job?

Simon: This would possibly bring money in from tourism.

Max: if you start charging, then those that cannot pay will go in inappropriate areas. We pay council taxes so this should be looked after.

Voting

Members

Melissa 90	Jane: 90	James: 100
Connor: 95	Sim: 45	Jon: 100
Bianca: 100	Lee: 100	
Simon: 85	Rob: 70	

Guests

Debbie:	Max: 100	Gary: 100
Carla: 100	Trev: 100	Robert:
Krissy: 100	Sarah: 100	Sid: 100
Lara: 100	Lorraine: 100	Helen: 100

Result

90% of members voted to oppose this policy

The strength of the vote was 84% (mean average)

Guests were also 100% and the strength of the vote was 100%

Conclusion

The council's future policy to charge for toilets was not unanimously voted against by members, therefore, this will not go into the manifesto.

3. Are you against the council's 10% increase in fees and charges?

The Council's agreed budget will put all fees and charges up 10% 'in line with inflation'. This directly contradicts the Council's self-declared 'Cost of Living Emergency'.

Comments

Sim: Wants to know more, and would be against until we can see where our money is going.

Voting

Members

Melissa: 100	Jane: 90	James: 100
Connor: 100	Sim: 90	Jon: 100
Bianca: 100	Lee: 100	
Simon: 95	Rob: 90	

Guests

Debbie: 60	Max: 100	Gary: 90
Carla: 90	Trev: 100	Robert: 100
Chris Dickens: 100	Sarah: 100	Sid: 100
Lara: 100	Lorraine: 100	Helen: 10

Results

100% of members voted to oppose this policy

The strength of the vote was 96% (mean average)

Guests were also 100% and the strength of the vote was 94%

Conclusion

The council's policy to increase rents was unanimously voted against by members, therefore, this will go into the manifesto.

4. Are you against the council's increase in rents?

Voting

Members

Melissa: 100

Jane: 100

James: 100

Connor: 100

Sim: 100

Jon: 100

Bianca: 100

Lee: 100

Simon: 100

Rob: 90

Guests

Debbie: 100

Max: 100

Gary: 100

Carla: 100

Trev: 100

Robert: 100

Krissy: 100

Sarah: 100

Sid: 100

Lara: 100

Lorraine: 100

Helen: 100

Results

100% of members voted to oppose this policy

The strength of the vote was 98% (mean average)

Guests were also 100% and the strength of the vote was 94%

Conclusion

The council's policy to increase rents was unanimously voted against by members, therefore, this will go into the manifesto.

5. Do you support putting the street lights back up to 100%?

Comments

The council were looking to save £25K to dim the street lights. What was unknown until recently is that the street lights had already been dimmed since around 2014 and no one at the council knew how this came to be.

The council have reversed their decision to reduce them further with some members of the council citing that no one has noticed so what difference does it make.

James said there has been no review into the correlation between accidents on the road or criminal activity so currently no one actually knows the affect. What we do know is that the likelihood of both will increase.

One member said that it is the thin end of the wedge where in other authorities they are turned off the lights altogether.

Gary mentioned that one serious accident would be more costly than the saving made on any dimming of the lights.

Simon mentioned about the need to save energy.

Voting

Members

Melissa: 40

Simon: 49

Lee: 100

Connor: 75

Jane: 40

Rob: 40

Bianca: 50

Sim: 49

James: 100

Guests:

Debbie: 60

Max: 50

Gary: 100

Carla: 90

Trev: 70

Robert: 49

Krissy: 60

Sarah: 70

Sid: 90

Lara: 90

Lorraine: 50

Helen: 49

Results

50% of members voted to support this policy

The strength of the vote was 64% (mean average)

83% of guests supported the policy and the strength of the vote was 69%

Conclusion

The council's policy to keep the street lights on to 100% was not unanimously voted for by members, therefore, this will not go into the manifesto.

6. Are you against tree-felling when the tree is healthy and the primary reason is development?

Comments

The motion is to prevent situations like the 300 year Oaktree cut down in Rochford to make way for flats.

When they are healthy we should not remove them.

It depends on the development and how important it is for Southend

Voting

Members

Melissa: 50	Jane: 79	James: 100
Connor: 90	Sim: 50	Jon: 50
Bianca: 90	Lee: 100	
Simon: 50	Rob: 20	

Guests

Debbie: 100	Max: 60	Gary: 95
Carla: 100	Trev: 80	Robert: 100
Krissy: 100	Sarah: 100	Sid: 90
Lara: 50	Lorraine: 100	Helen: 100

Results

90% of members voted to support this policy

The strength of the vote was 67% (mean average)

100% of guests supported the policy and the strength of the vote was 90%

Conclusion

The proposal to prevent tree-felling when the tree is healthy and the primary reason is development was not unanimously voted for by members, therefore, this will not go into the manifesto.

7. Are you against the vehicle fines within 15-minute city concept?

Comment

According to reports, Southend are signed up as part of the 100 cities that are looking into 15-cities. Despite councillors denying this to be true, 'Quiet Streets' have been mentioned by Portfolio Holders at council meetings and they are linked to LTNs (Low Traffic Neighbourhoods), which are directly linked with the 15-minute concept.

James explained that this vote was specific to the vehicle fines within the 15-minute concept and not the 15-minute city concept itself. He said that ideally, we would like clean air, lower traffic and better public facilities to be nearer. It was that setting up dividing up Southend into eight districts, setting up multi-million pound automatic camera systems across the city .and fining drivers every time they move from one district to another is wrong. Furthermore, households would only be allowed to use their car 100 times within their own district.

Voting

Melissa: 100

Jane: 100

James: 100

Connor: 100

Sim: 80

Lee: 100

Bianca: 100

Jon: 40

Simon: 100

Rob:100

Guests

Debbie: 80

Max: 100

Gary: 100

Carla: 100

Trev: 100

Robert: 100

Krissy: 100

Sarah: 100

Sid: 100

Lara: 100

Lorraine: 100

Helen: 100

Results

90% of members voted to support this policy

The strength of the vote was 92% (mean average)

100% of guests supported the policy and the strength of the vote was 98%

Conclusion

The proposal to prevent fining drivers to drive through eight districts within Southend was not unanimously voted for by members, therefore, this will not go into the manifesto.

Jon, as the member who did not support this motion, was open to discussing with James how this might be approached as he said was too was against fining drivers within this motion, but was not against fining motorists in general where necessary.

8. Do you support the council's PSPO order on the seafront that gives powers to stop cruisers and others who participate in anti-social behaviour?

Voting

Members

Melissa: 1	Jane: 1	James: 2
Connor: 1	Sim: 1	Lee:
Bianca: 1	Jon: 3	
Simon: 1	Rob: 1	

Guests

Debbie: 5	Max: 1	Gary: 1
Carla: 1	Trev: 8	Robert: 1
Krissy: 3	Sarah: 1	Sid: 1
Lara: 1	Lorraine: 1	Helen: 1

Results

100% of members voted against this policy

The strength of the vote against this policy was 98.70% (mean average). 1.30% was the actual mean average of the vote.

100% of guests were against this policy and the strength of the vote was 98%

Conclusion

The council's proposal to bring in a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on the seafront was unanimously opposed, therefore, this will go into the manifesto.

9. Do you support the majority of grammar school places going to local people, with *local* defined by a set criteria?

Comments

James said that this proposal was to recognise that local schools should be used by local people and not those who live in London. Currently, many grammar school places are reserved for those outside the city. He recognises that all schools should be given equal resources and so grammar schools should not be needed. However, he does not want to change the current grammar schools in Southend as they are successful.

Simon said that the majority of places was already given to Southend pupils. James said that he wanted to 99% of places to go to Southend and its border such as Great Wakering, Rochford, Canvey, Benfleet, etc.

Jane: against Grammar Schools completely.

Simon: seems that you need to be tutored in order to pass the 11+ and get in.

Max: if they meet the marks.

Connor: makes those that do not get in feel 'unworthy' of a good education. Not fair. Those local should get priority.

Voting

Members

Melissa: 100

Jane: 50

James: 100

Connor: 80

Sim: 55

Lee: 100

Bianca: 70

Jon: 25

Simon: 90

Rob: 100

Guests

Debbie: 90

Trev: 70

Ingram: 90

Carla: 80

Sarah: 60

Sid:

Krissy: 85

Lorraine: 60

Helen: 80

Lara: 85

Gary: 100

Max: 80

Robert: 70

Results

90% of members voted against this policy

The strength of the vote was 72% (mean average).

100% of guests were against this policy and the strength of the vote was 98%

Conclusion

The proposal to reserve grammar school places for local children was not unanimously voted by members, therefore, this will not go into the manifesto.

10. What should go at the end of the Pier?

Comments

- Deck Chairs / Sun Decks
- Mirror Brighton
- Bars
- Golf (with biodegradable balls)
- Clay shooting
- Sealife
- Ice Cream
- Music events
- Get Schools involved
- Childrens area
- Something educations
- Gramma School
- Reduce the cost
- Youth club
- Shows
- Use the room that is there
- Diversity group
- Pub
- Bowling
- Arcades
- Putty
- Ticketed events
- Outdoor movies
- Rides
- Hot Dog Van
- Swimming Pool
- Free Toilets

A motion was raised to have a public consultation as to what Southend residents would like to see at the end of The Pier. This was agreed unanimously and will go into the manifesto.

11. Do you support the introduction of a local resident's discount card for parking, shops and leisure activities?

Voting

Melissa: 100	Jane: 100	James: 100
Connor: 100	Sim: 100	Lee: 100
Bianca: 100	Jon: 93	
Simon: 100	Rob: 90	

Guests

Debbie: 90	Trev: 100	___: 90
Carla: 100	Sarah: 90	Sid: 75
Krissy: 40 (if digital)	Lorraine: 100	Jason: 75
Lara: 90	Gary: 100	Helen: 100
Max: 70	Robert: 80	Adam: 75

Results

100% of members voted against this policy

The strength of the vote was 93% (mean average).

93% of guests were for this policy and the strength of the vote was 85%

Conclusion

The proposal to introduce a discount card specifically for Southend residents was unanimously voted by members, therefore, this will go into the manifesto.

12. Do you support investment in libraries as an urgent priority?

Simon will send over specific policies in which the investment would be used for.

13. Q&A about Confelicity

The Name?

It means 'happiness in others happiness'.

The Emblem?

Made by a local artist. Wanted to give them an opportunity.

Plan in the upcoming elections?

17 candidates across the 17 wards.

James and Jon standing in the General Election.

Is the Manifesto done?

Not complete, what has been voted today will get added. Simons addition and then will go out.

Suggestion to cut it down. Trevor suggested, bullet points.

Everyone welcome to join the campaign meetings at 1800 Mondays for 30 minutes on zoom

14. Addendum

14.1 Local Elections 2023

Confelicity will be standing 17 candidates in all 17 wards.

Candidate selections

1. James Miller: Leigh
2. Jon Humphrys: Victoria
3. Nicky Gilbert: St Lawrence
4. Brian Ayling: St Luke's
5. Jane Wilkes: West Leigh
6. Melissa Aylott: Thorpe
7. Michael Arkas-Binder: West Shoebury
8. Linzi Arkas-Binder: Chalkwell
9. Lizzie Smith: Belfairs
10. Sian Evans-Jack: Blenheim Park
11. Dean Eckett-Harris: Southchurch
12. Lee Clark: Kursaal
13. Connor Bines: Westborough
14. Simon Jones: Prittlewell
15. Simon Spooner: Eastwood
16. Dee Curtis: Milton
17. Kayleigh Burgess: Shoeburyness

Parliamentary Candidates for the General Election

Southend West: James Miller

Rochford and Southend East: Jon Humphrys