



## Manifesto 2023 Meeting

Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023  
Castle Hotel: 6.45pm to 8.30pm

### Present:

James Miller, Melissa Aylott, Simon Jones, Connor Bines, Helen Miller, Gail Robertson, Terry Fane, Dee Curtis, Brian Ayling, Kevin Waller, Colleen, Bianca Eleanor, Lara Lawson and Sandra

### Apologies for absence

Deano Harris-Eckett, Kayleigh Burgess, Lee Clark, Jon Humphrys, Lizzie Smith, Sian Evans-Jack, Jane Wilkes and Sim Spooner

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## Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed and signed by the Chairperson.

### Leader welcome

Welcome from James to explain the process of the meeting, getting everyone's views on all points, and we are open to all to say their thoughts and feelings. We are an open forum.

All are welcome to contact James Miller after the meeting if they wish for more information, and a cup of tea to discuss in more detail.

He explained the party voting system and undivided democracy.

### Leader update

The Southend Confelicity party gained 380 votes from the previous election leaving a total of 1159. Last year our share of the vote was 1.8% and it has now moved to 2.9%.

It was clear that most of Southend was still unaware of the party and an awareness campaign will be developed. James thanked everyone that stood as a candidate and everyone that contributed towards the journey so far.

Lee Clark is officially the parties Head of Fundraising.

## Local Elections 2024

### Candidate selections

James confirmed there will be a separate Election 2024 Campaign Meeting that will run throughout the year. All are welcome. The first meeting is due to take place in the Old Walnut Tree on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

The aim is to slingshot past this year's performance with candidate enthused.

Those that have confirmed their candidacy are:

- James Miller (Leigh)
- Jon Humphrys (Victoria)
- Melissa Aylott (Thorpe)
- Jolene Hills (St Luke's)
- Lee Clark (Kursaal)
- Simon Jones (Prittlewell)
- Sim Spooner (Eastwood Park)
- Dean Eckett-Harris (Southchurch)
- Dee Curtis (Milton)
- Jane Wilkes (West Leigh)

## Manifesto 2024 Debate

Do you support 5G masts in residential areas?

*What are 5G masts?*

Lara and Bianca explained the background about 5G masts and the interactions they have had with the council regarding safety. Lara said the council had said the masts were unlikely to cause health issues.

### **Comments:**

The general feeling was that whilst the masts are unlikely to cause health issues, that was not acceptable. Until more information is available to conclusively state, based on recognised and substantiated scientific reports, members would be against it.

It was noted that no one wished to have one outside their property.

They may devalue properties.

They have a negative effect on the surroundings of the area given their prominent appearance.

There has been very little engagement from the council to residents about the installations.

Dee queried who owns the land the masts are being built on. If the land is a public asset then the council should have spoken to the entire community before selling off any land to private enterprise like this.

Questions on the accountability from individuals within the council.

Important to steer away from conspiracy theories.

More research is required from what central government instructions are to local government.

Questions were asked over how much, if any, local councils are being paid to permit these masts.

### **Voting:**

James M - 1

Lara - 1

Sandra - 1

Helen - 1

Brian - 30

Simon - 1

Terry - 1

Colleen - 1

Kevin - 1

Dee - 1

Jolene - 1

James Hills - 1

Connor - 30

Gail - 1

Bianca - 1

### **Result**

0% of members voted to support this policy

4.9% was the mean average for support for this policy

### **Conclusion**

100% of members were against 5G masts in residential areas, therefore it will be adopted in our Manifesto 2024.

4.9% means the strength of feeling against 5G masts in residential areas is very strong.

It should be noted that this policy does not suggest that 5G masts should be abandoned.

## Do you support the eviction of Jazz Centre UK from the Beecroft Gallery?

### Comments

The general consensus was that it was wrong. Community assets such as this should be given support.

### Voting

James M - 1

Lara - 1

Sandra - 1

Helen - 1

Brian - 1

Simon - 5

Terry - 1

Colleen - 49

Kevin - 1

Dee - 1

Jolene - 1

James - 49

Connor - 1

Gail - 1

Bianca – 1

### **Conclusion**

100% of members were against evicting Jazz UK from the Beecroft, therefore it will be adopted in our Manifesto 2024.

5% means the strength of feeling against the eviction is very strong.

### AOB

Nothing to report.

### Addendum

Post the meeting, James Hills and Colleen have become members. Congratulations and welcome to the team!

### Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in The Cellar in Leigh on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 7 pm to 8.45 pm.