



Confelicity Meeting

Date: Thursday 15th September

Present: James Miller, Scott Rose, Emma Dodson, Nicky Gilbert, Dee Curtis, Kevin, Jess, Connor Bines, Melissa Aylott, Kayleigh Burgess, Jon Humphrys, Simon Jones, Yasmin Bey, Brian Ayling, Ivan.

Apologies for Absence: Lee Clarke, Linzi Arkas-Binder, Michael Arkas-Binder, Lizzie Smith and Dean Harris-Eckett

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Welcome

Acknowledged the Queens Passing and all that she gave to the country through her duty and devotion to the UK.

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairmen.

1. [Minutes from Previous Meeting:](#)

Treasury

- Bank: Metro Bank will be the bank of choice for Confelicity. The key officials are: Connor Bines (Treasurer); Jon Humphrys (Nomination Officer) and James Miller (Chairperson and Leader of the party). The signatories of the account will be Connor Bines and James Miller. Either one may sign for the account. Executive Board Members are: James Miller, Jonathon Humphrys, Connor Bines, Melissa Aylott, Kayleigh Burgess, Lee Clark and Dee Curtis.
- £57 spent so far on Rosettes.

All meetings to be filmed and published.

All agreed candidates have their own Confelicity Ward Facebook Pages (all candidates responsible for their pages).

Three teachers attended this meeting and will look to invite more in future meetings.

11 Candidates confirmed. Changes to ward since the previous meeting:

- Bryan Ayling: Victoria
- Nicky: St Lukes
- Lee Clarke: Kursaal
- James Miller: Leigh
- John: Chalkwell

Josephine's event, Caribbean Festival was a great success, praise from Nicky and Kayleigh who attended the day!

2. [Leader Update](#)

- Candidates presented with their new business cards
- Candidates are happy to have their emails on the card
- Candidates are happy to have their numbers on their cards except Kayleigh, Melissa and Dee
- Confirmed that Confelicity were legally approved in March and had 17 candidates run in the 2022 local elections.
- All candidates needed 10 signatures from each ward to confirm residents were happy for them to stand. We got 170 signatures last year and were welcomed with a warm response when informing the residents that we are a Southend Party, for Southend People.
- James explained the rules of the 'Undivided Democracy' Confelicity voting system.
 - 90+ is a YES and becomes an approved policy
 - 60 to 89 is a YES, but more information is required to approve
 - 50+ is a yes (indifferent, not for but not against)
 - 49 and below is a no for now. This will stop the agreement and the topic will need a further discussed on the next meeting

- Confirmed there is no expectation of what we need to do but the aim is to work together and the more doors we knock on the more we will achieve.

3. Motions for the Manifesto 2023

3.1. Motion 1: Should Southend Retain Grammar Schools?

Discussion

Jess: would not want to remove the choice (Pro to keep, 50+) Respect everyone's point, the children have the choice so leave it there. Them having the choice is key so should not take it away. Kayleigh argued this and said that the parents put the pressure on the children so isn't really their choice.

Dee: Agrees with Jess, people have a different way of learning so Grammar Schools assists this. (90+) Second say, went to Grammar school and did not feel they were better than others, mentioned how schools are being taken over by academies. Grammar school was not about money but was about the education being put forward.

Simon: You can get great GCSEs at any school, not just Grammar Schools. I would get rid of them. Feels that the only people that can access Grammar Schools is those that tutor. The ideas is great to allow those to succeed, however has been changed into a class system. Second say: mentioned that students that must have tutoring to achieve is unobtainable for others.

Brian: Does not wish to remove, those from a Grammar schools are better educated. 85

Nicky: Mix of the previous two points. Just want it to be more accessible to those in Southend, some children may achieve more than others, should not be based on just the one test. In favour but need changing.

Jon: Agree with Simon, but feels that comprehensive system gives of the feelings of students not feeling good enough due to their results in the 11+. Those that go to Gramma schools could assist those in the comprehensive schools.

Kayleigh: Friends went to grammar schools and they found a deep pressure attending a 'higher school' being put on them by the teachers.

Scott: I was as dim as a candle without a wick! Thank you to YouTube.

Connor: many of the others points have raised the same as others, creates a classism. Question where that culture comes from. Teachers from grammar schools have said no to recruitment opportunities as feel their students are better that places that offer.

Melissa: Agree with Connors point of making all schools at a high level. I have never met anyone from a grammar school that has not been a high achiever so there is proof that the system works.

Result:

1. Nicky: 100 YES
2. Yasmeen: 95 YES

3. Jess: 85 YES
4. Brian: 85 YES
5. Melissa: 85 YES
6. James: 85 YES
7. Dee: 80 YES
8. Ivan: 50 YES
9. Scott: 50 YES
10. Kayleigh: 35 NO
11. Simon: 30 NO
12. Jon: 15 NO
13. Connor: 1 NO

- 69% in favour
- Mean average vote: 54%

Conclusion

Based on the Undivided Democratic voting system, there was not a unanimous vote that grammar schools in Southend should be retained, and therefore, as it stands, will not feature in the Local Manifesto 2023.

If a member wishes for this to be voted on in the future they are welcome to raise it, where it will go onto a future meeting. Members will be required to present new evidence, information and facts.

3.2 Motion 2: Would you be in favour of all places in Southend's Grammar Schools going to Southend Citizens.

Discussion

James: very strong on Southend Schools being offered to Southend People. For the next meeting need to discuss how to assist parents.

Simon: Children should not have to travel far to go to school, or move away to go to a grammar School. Mentioned the lack of assistance in teaching and educating the parents.

Kayleigh: Small margin based on one test, not fair. Grammar school is like a uni, need to search and go elsewhere if needed.

Yasmeen: went to 2 grammar Schools, no extra studying, went to Greenways. Out of 150 only 6 passed the test to get in. Not lower the mark of the test just to allow southendians in.

Jon: Danger of this over localism. Mentioned about Rochford being closer to Westcliff high than those in Shoebury. James confirmed that it includes those on the outside border.

Dee: Pressure is on the teachers to help student meet the minimum scores, more help should be given to the parents.

Result:

1. Nicky: 100 YES
2. Simon: 100 YES

3. Melissa: 100 YES
4. James: 99 YES
5. Scott: 90 YES
6. Brian: 90 YES
7. Dee: 70 YES
8. Ivan: 60 YES
9. Connor: 60 YES
10. Kayleigh: 50 YES
11. Jon: 45 NO
12. Yasmeen: 40 NO

- 83% in favour
- Mean average 75%

Conclusion

Based on the Undivided Democratic voting system, there was not a unanimous vote that all grammar school places should be reserved for Southend and neighbours. Therefore, as it stands, will not feature in the Local Manifesto 2023.

If a member wishes for this to be voted on in the future they are welcome to raise it, where it will go onto a future meeting. Members will be required to present new evidence, information and facts.

3.3 Motion 3: Each one Teach one – Vote on whether a formal policy and infrastructure should be developed to enable top students across the city to tutor those in need of one-to-one tuition.

Discussion:

Nicky: Adults to teach children, not children teaching children.

Brian: not think its achievable.

Yasmeen: would need more specifics.

Simon: Feel it's impossible, leave it to the teachers. Feels this will happen naturally as all schools are aiming for peer support. But making it formal would 'choke'. Feel it would work as a volunteering section in the town.

Jon: do not feel it goes far enough. Jon loved helping others when at school. Was a mentor and feel it helped. This can continue forever e.g. uni. Ensure it doesn't become a replacement from professionals, Could be a very powerful support.

Dee: agrees with Jon. To add, as part of teacher training there is a lot of safeguarding so not just anyone can help. Good idea but about the management.

James: best learning was from a friend teaching or tutoring (that one to one), leading to being very pro to peer to peer teaching.

Nicky: The person teaching may not be correct, slight distrust to what they can teach.

Results:

No vote was taken as there were many obstacles that were identified.

Conclusion

As it stands, formally connecting Southend's brightest to tutor those students in need, will not feature in the Local Manifesto 2023.

If a member wishes for this to be voted on in the future they are welcome to raise it, where it will go onto a future meeting. Members will be required to present new evidence, information and facts.

3.4. Motion 4: Should the road in Southend High Street be reinstated?

Discussion

James: Loved visiting other areas e.g. Brighton, was lovely to drive through the town to see what there is and then decide to stop. Portsmouth had no road so harder work, wasted time, parking and checking to discover not worth the pit. We can put cycle lanes and zebra crossings. London Road, Southchurch Village and Thorpe Bay Broadway, and Leigh being a perfect examples of working places of roads. More traffic and more people = safer.

Brian: Agreed.

Simon: Would also help connect the hidden areas.

Nicky: can't get any worse down there. People don't want to go. Parking is so expensive. Could close the road to still allow for the market. People can see what we have meaning people might invest in the area, knowing that it can be seen by all.

Kevin: loves walking and checking out places. Worried about the safety with a busy town, shops, and distractions.

Dee: Concern of double Yellow Lines.

Jon: very against.

Kayleigh: Doesn't like the road. You say the High street is dying I say it's dead! There is no life in the town. Worries about the drunk drivers and boy racers.

Result:

1. Brian: 100 YES
2. James: 100 YES
3. Melissa: 100 YES
4. Nicky: 100 YES
5. Simon: 85 YES
6. Yasmeen: 50 YES
7. Connor: 49 NO
8. Kevin: NO
9. Jon: 10 NO
10. Dee: NO
11. Kayleigh: 1 NO

- 54% in favour

- Mean average 66% in favour

Conclusion

Based on the Undivided Democratic voting system, there was not a unanimous vote to reinstate the road in Southend High Street. Therefore, as it stands, will not feature in the Local Manifesto 2023.

If a member wishes for this to be voted on in the future they are welcome to raise it, where it will go onto a future meeting. Members will be required to present new evidence, information and facts.

4. Any other Business

Dee informed the group that Urban Cure CIC has successfully earned the 'Right to Bid' on the Southend Marine Activity Centre.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday November 3rd 2022 at 7pm

Location to be confirmed.