



Manifesto 2024 Meeting

Saturday, September 16th 2023

The Cobham Hotel: 11am to 1pm

Present:

James Miller, Melissa Aylott, Jolene Hills, Lee Houghton, Tris Bembridge, John Robinson and Roma Patel

Contents

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	2
2. LEADER UPDATE.....	2
3. LOCAL ELECTIONS 2024	2
4.1 CANDIDATE SELECTIONS	2
4. MANIFESTO 2024 DEBATE	3
4.1 ARE YOU AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF MANNED TICKET STATIONS T TRAIN STATIONS?	3
5. AOB	10
6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.....	10

1. Minutes of previous meeting

These were agreed and signed by the Chairperson.

2. Leader update

The first campaign meeting has taken place, the minutes of which will be sent out to the group. The next one will be arranged next month.

Full page ads have been booked in the Echo for 12 months; ads and articles are booked in the Leigh on Sea News and the Oracle.

Candidates are welcome to start campaigning now and are free to use their social platforms to promote themselves, the party and the manifesto.

3. Local Elections 2024

4.1 Candidate selections

It was confirmed that Helen Miller will be standing provisionally in Milton in place of Dee Curtis, who will not be running this year. Roma and John are both considering standing.

Provisional Candidates

- 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)
- Helen Miller (Milton)
- Jane Wilkes (West Leigh)
- Tris Bembridge (Chalkwell)
- Sian Evans-Jack (Blenheim Park)
- Connor Bines (Westborough)
- Kayleigh Burgess (Shoeburness)

4. Manifesto 2024 Debate

4.1 Are you against the removal of manned ticket stations t train stations?

Comments:

The closure of ticket offices at rail stations has been announced. Despite a consultation going out, both c2c and Network Rail confirmed it will be going ahead.

What that means is unclear as c2c have stated that the equivalent number of staff will be on the platform, however, that is not consistent with what Network Rail have said.

Voting:

- James: 100
- Roma: 100
- John Robinson: 100
- Jolene: 100
- Melissa: 50
- Lee: 100
- Tris: 100

Result

100% of members voted against the closure of ticket offices at train stations

94% was the mean average for this policy indicating strong support for this policy

Conclusion

100% of members supported this motion and will therefore be adopted in our Manifesto 2024.

4.2 Are you against tree-felling where it is possible to avoid?

Comments

A recent planned development in Shoebury has seen 65 trees earmarked to be felled despite a tree protection order in place. It was acknowledged that there may be rare occasions where there is no choice but to remove a tree, but not only should we stop felling the trees, we need to plant far more across the city.

Voting

- James: 100
- Roma: 100
- John Robinson: 100
- Jolene: 100
- Melissa: 50
- Lee: 100
- Tris: 100

Result

100% of members supported the policy, which means it will make the Manifesto 2024.

The strength of the vote was 100% mean average indicating that members were in total favour of the policy.

4.3 Do you support moving trees rather than removing them, where it is possible to do so?

Comments

There are techniques to lift the tree from its position and move it. It happens in many places and Melissa proposed to bring this in.

Voting

- James: 50
- Roma: 100
- John Robinson: 60
- Jolene: 100
- Melissa: 50

- Lee: 1
- Tris: 100

Results

- 86% of members supported the policy, which means it as this time it will not make the Manifesto 2024.
- 73% was the mean average of the vote, so there was quite strong support.

4.4 Do you oppose fining drivers who leave their cars on idle outside schools?

Comment

This was a Labour proposal, which would have parking wardens or council officials standing outside schools awaiting any parents that kept their cars on idle.

The consensus was that there needed to be research into exactly how many parents were keeping their cars on idle. Without this information it is impossible to be in favour. It was recognised that leaving cars on idle outside schools should be discouraged and perhaps the schools could do more if this indeed a problem. The question is how long is too long until the fine is given? Moreover, how much will this cost to staff this policy?

Voting

- James: 100
- Roma: 100
- John Robinson: 100
- Jolene: 100
- Melissa: 100
- Lee: 100
- Tris: 100

Result

100% of members were supported this motion.

100% was the mean average of the vote indicating strong support for the motion.

Addendum

Jon Humphrys, who was unable to make the meeting, would not have supported this motion. He agreed that there should be research first before enacting any such policy, but before then he would be against. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

[4.5 Tris Bembridge proposals regarding SEND needs](#)

Comment

Tris has been speaking with a resident who was suffering serious issues with Southend Council in regard to the implementation of SEND policies.

She had sent a full list of issues, which can be found in the appendix

It was a complicated motion and James originally suggested voting on each part of the policies put forward. Lee and Tris were more in favour of presenting a broad theme to cover it all. This was agreed. Therefore, the following was proposed:

[As a party we will uphold the legal obligations and human rights for residents who are classified with special education needs and disabilities.](#)

Voting

- James: 100
- Roma: 100
- John Robinson: 100
- Jolene: 100
- Melissa: 100
- Lee: 100
- Tris: 100

Result

100% of members were supported this motion and it will go into the manifesto 2024

100% was the mean average of the vote indicating total support for the motion.

[4.6 Are you against cycle lanes through the middle of boulevards throughout Southend?](#)

Comment

There were council proposals to build cycle lanes in the middle of boulevards.

It was said that this would contradict any proposals that would involve wild flower 're-wilding'. Furthermore, it is not environmentally friendly to concrete our diminishing green spaces. Whilst it is recognised that cycling is a good hobby and, where possible, a clean alternative mode of transport, the reality is that when it is cold, windy and raining, it is not a realistic mode of transport to get to work, school or anywhere else. Yes, continue to provide the option of a safe cycling network in Southend, but not at the detriment of the environment.

Voting

- James: 100
- Roma: 100
- John Robinson: 100
- Jolene: 100
- Melissa: 100
- Lee: 100
- Tris: 100

Result

100% of members were against cycle lanes in the middle of boulevards.

100% was the mean average of the vote indicating total support for the motion.

Addendum

Jon Humphrys post the meeting did not agree to this policy and intends to raise a motion against this on the next meeting.

4.7 Do you support charging for the tennis courts in our parks that were previously free?

Comment

Several parks across Southend have refurbished the tennis courts and they are now being charged where previously they were not. For example, Southchurch Park.

Lee and John both said that most parks charge for tennis and did not see it as a problem.

Roma mentioned that for those on lower incomes this was not a positive move. Melissa also voiced her concerns and said it is in the public parks that we already pay for, so why shouldn't all the park be available?

Voting

- James: 10
- Roma: 20
- John Robinson: 100
- Jolene: 15
- Melissa: 1
- Lee: 100
- Tris: 100

Result

43% of members supported this motion, which means it is did not pass.

49% was the mean average of the vote indicating weak support for the motion.

4.8 Do you support 'quiet streets'?

Comment

The previous administration proposed closing selected roads throughout Southend and direct traffic elsewhere. The purpose is leave the roads free for cyclists and walkers and help with the environment. This is related to 'Low Traffic Neighbourhoods'.

It was observed that this will create heavy traffic in other areas of Southend and become detrimental to the environment as a result.

Voting

- James: 1
- Roma: 1
- John Robinson: 1
- Jolene: 1
- Melissa: 1
- Lee: 1
- Tris: 1

Result

100% of members were against this motion.

1% was the mean average of the vote indicating exceptionally low support for the quiet streets.

Addendum

Jon Humphrys would not have voted against this policy and would like to bring it up at the next meeting.

4.9 Do you support female only toilets alongside gender neutral toilets?

Comment

Everyone was unanimously supportive of women having their own spaces.

Some members felt the second half of the proposal to have gender neutral toilets as opposed to just having male toilets was not quite right. Tris said our policy so be consistent with whatever national policy is.

If the vote was just on female safe spaces it would have passed, and though there were attempts at some amendments, nothing could be agreed.

Therefore, it is vital to note that Confelicity are 100% protective of spaces specifically for women, and a future proposal will no doubt be taken to clarify our position.

Voting

- James: 90
- Roma: 100
- John Robinson: 100
- Jolene: 100
- Melissa: 50
- Lee: 49
- Tris: 50

Result

86% of members supported this motion, which means it is did not pass.

77% was the mean average of the vote indicating weak support for the motion.

4.10 Do you support proportional representation?

Comment

This was a Labour motion that was recently proposed in the Full Council Meeting.

The method of voting will allow smaller parties seats, as the division of seats is based on how much percentage of the vote each party received. It can cause a constant coalitions, but it means that the population is represented. It is possible that parties who hold what are widely considered extreme views are able to win seats. However, the Electoral Commission is strict in allowing any parties who do not follow the Equalities Act.

Voting

- James: 50
- Roma: 20
- John Robinson: 100
- Jolene: 49
- Melissa: 49
- Lee: 1
- Tris: 1

Result

29% of members supported this motion, which means it is did not pass.

38% was the mean average of the vote indicating weak support for the motion.

5. AOB

Nothing to report.

6. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.