Southend Confelicity Manifesto Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 21st, 2023, 6.30pm 6.55pm

Present:

Members:

James Miller, Jon Humphrys, Simon Jones, Rob Cammidge, Lee Clark, Melissa Aylott, Mike Maynard, Roy McVoy, Connor Bines and Roma Patel

Apologies for absence:

Jolene Hills and Dean Harris

Contents

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed and signed by the Chairperson.

2. 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.

3. Local Elections 2024

3.1 Candidate selections

Members who wish to stand can contact James Miller. There are 3 wards available currently.

4. Debates

4.1 Do you support dog-only sections of the beach all year round?

Lee Clark presented his case for Southend becoming an even more dog-friendly place to live. He cited other places such as Great Yarmouth and Brighton that have policies that work well.

Comments

The main concern was safety and dog mess, however, given the restrictions below, the consensus was positive.

The motion put forward included:

- Ensuring dogs are kept on a lead

- Dogs are not left unattended

- Ensuring appropriate levels of bins for dog waste

- Dogs can only go on the beach from 7pm to 7am, as an example

- There will be restrictions on which beaches cannot be used.

The final motion that the vote was taken:

We support dogs to be allowed on designated sections of the beach at specified times, outside peak times of the day, all year round.

Voting:

1. Connor Bines - 90
2. Melissa Aylott – 100
3. Simon Jones – 100
4. Rob Cammidge – 100
5. Jon Humphrys – 85
6. Roma Patel – 100
7. Mike Maynard - 90
8. James Miller – 100
9. Lee Clark – 100
10. Rob –M – Abstained

Result

100% of members support this motioned and it will be added to the 2024 Manifesto.

The strength of the vote was 97% indicating it had extremely strong support.

James introduced this motion highlighting that the current system ensures councillors and administrations are kept sharp and are more sensitive towards resident's concerns when they know they could lose power each year. Leigh Town Council is a good example of what can go wrong locally, and they will have to wait 4 years before the next election. A better example, are the governments we have had to endure for 4 or 5 years when the public can do nothing about getting them out. The stability argument only holds up if a current administration is enacting policies that ensure stability. Lastly, if an administration is doing well, it should never really be voted out!

Voting

1. Rob – 80
2. Simon – 100
3. Melissa – 100
4. Conor – 80
5. Emma - 80
6. Lee – 100
7. James – 100
8. Mike - 90
9. Roma - 90
10. Jon – 30

Results

89% of members were in favour of keeping the election cycle every year as it is currently, but we are required to have unanimous support, so the motion did not pass on this occasion. The strength of voting was 85% in favour, though this was reduced via one vote of 30.

This will not make the manifesto in its present form.

James informed the group that Facial recognition technology has been trialled in Southend. The technology is supposedly used to catch 'high crime' suspects, but this has already been broken as cases involving shop lifting have been reported. Whilst it is accepted that criminality is wrong and the police should be supported in catching people who committed an offence, this type of technology is seen as going too far and without sufficient questions answered as to how it will be used and any legislation surrounding it. At the very least, Southend residents should be given the chance to understand it if it were to be considered for a full rollout.

Comments

The general consensus was that we need more information, however, the benefits could be seen.

Voting

1. James – 1
2. Lee – 1
3. Connor – 1
4. Melissa – 1
5. Simon – 49
6. Rob – 90
7. Jon – 50
8. Roma – 49
9. Mike – 1
10. Rob M - Abstained

Result

25% of members voted in support of facial recognition technology, which means it will not go into the manifesto.

The strength of the vote was 27% indicating an extremely low level of support for this to be introduced.