

# MORECAMBE TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

THURS 4th JUNE 2009

## **GIVING DEMOCRACY A CHANCE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JUST SAY "NO"**

- As a customer of Lancaster City Council for 23 years I am fed up with the consistent practice of imposing inflation busting council tax rises (over 10% this year), cuts in services and a disregard for public accountability.
- Like the 10% who signed the petition for a new Town council (led by Evelyn Archer and the MBI party) I welcomed this as I understood there would be no additional cost to my City Council tax and that it was a total break away for Morecambe from the Lancaster City Council administration.
- I did not want another revenue collecting tier of local government.
- The Morecambe Town Council will have the power to demand whatever precept payment it deems necessary. There is no capping protection in place and its operations are not subject to regulation by the Local Government Ombudsman.
- Based on a consistent ignorant response from City Councillors standing (Archer, Kerr, Dennison, Plumb and Marsland), concerning issues of public accountability over the last twelve months I do not trust them to put ratepayers interests first.
- I support sustainable regeneration projects for Morecambe. Projects which will not be a future financial burden for Morecambe ratepayers.
- I support the regeneration of the Winter Gardens but there must be a viable business plan in place and the financial risk of failure must be taken by its owners and not local ratepayers.
- I support public/private sector partnerships of regeneration provided that public assets are not given away to the private sector without a fair return for local ratepayers.

## **WHAT I WILL DO IF ELECTED**

At the first meeting of the Morecambe Town/Parish Council I will propose and support:-

- that the Council is terminated on the grounds that those who signed the petition were misled.
- that any annual increase in the Morecambe Town Council precept (the amount collected from Morecambe ratepayers by Lancaster City Council which appears on your bill as Morecambe Town/Parish Council) is capped at the rate of inflation.
- that Morecambe Town Council issue a request to Lancaster City Council for a refund to Morecambe ratepayers for the services which are now the responsibility of Morecambe Town/Parish Council and have been charged for on this years council tax bill twice.

If more than one of the above fail I will resign.

## **VOTE STEVEN CARY WILLIAMS (INDEPENDENT) VOTE FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY - JUST SAY NO**

Promoted by: The Whole Truth Coalition, on behalf of Steven Williams, 61 Michaelson Ave, LA4 6SF  
Printed by Print Impressions, Morecambe LA4 4BJ

My letter submitted on 17th May to the local press:-

"Mr Butcher (Morecambe Visitor Viewpoint 13/5/09) advises: "spoil your ballot papers" concerning the forthcoming Morecambe Town Council elections.

The Returning Officer does not list the comments nor the quantity of ballot papers associated with each comment. The inevitable result if you do cast a "none of the above" vote, is that the candidates who maintain the status quo get elected.

The only rational democratic reason for not voting is if none of the candidates are standing for what you wish for or if there is evidence which shows their inability to put 'people before politics' as the MBIs, a registered political party, claim to do.

I would support a Morecambe Town Council which represents honesty, public accountability and its customers but not an additional tier of local government which provides another revenue collecting stream for the authorities and an opportunity for the City Council to be less productive yet maintain their present level of funding from Morecambe ratepayers.

Compare your Council Tax bill for 2008/09 and 2009/10. The City Council, non parished area special expenses/Morecambe Town council portions and their combined total have increased by 10.49%, 22.48% and 11.52% respectively. The Morecambe Town Council will be responsible for services which in 2008/09 were carried out by the City Council. So where is the reduction on your 2009/10 bill in the City Council portion?

My concerns are supported by nine City Councillors. At last Decembers Full Council meeting they supported an amendment to defer the setting up of Morecambe Town Council until 1st April 2011, to allow time for a working group to fully consider and establish how it would work (re: Minute 87) Of the fourteen City councillors standing for the Morecambe Town Council:- Archer, Ashworth, Barnes, Burns, Day, Dennison, Hanson, David Kerr, Geoff Knight, Langhorn, Marsland, Plumb and Wade voted against this.

If you were to vote 'NO' the most effective way is to ONLY vote for candidates, like me, who will provide a written pledge to support a NO vote if elected.

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