

# THE BOSTONIAN

JUNE 2022

## BOSTON CONSERVATIVES BRANCH NEWSLETTER

### BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

By Neil Mcafferty



Watching the recent troubles of the Conservative Party at Westminster can leave us wondering why we support it, pay our subscriptions and contribute our time and money to something which appears, sometimes, to be in disarray?

Leadership issues aside, one very important fact is that as the Boston Branch and the wider Boston and Skegness Conservative Association we support the Party locally. We raise funds for local election campaigns, volunteer to

help get our candidates elected and we are part of the selection process for candidates to stand as Conservatives in local elections.

Earlier in my career, I worked as a reporter and covered many local election counts. One thing which appalled me was the incredibly low turnouts when compared to general elections. The disconnect between the voters and local politics is puzzling. While Westminster shapes overall policies, Boston Borough, East Lindsey and Lincolnshire County Councils have an immediate and direct impact on our lives and businesses.

Just look at your Council Tax bill. The rate for a 'Band D' property in Boston is £1973.29 (the journalist in me would write that as "almost £2000"). If you want to get granular, look at the breakdown of where it goes. The lion's share ends up with Lincolnshire County Council, then there's the police and parish councils followed by drainage boards.

This is why it's vital we maintain a strong local party and a strong interest in local politics. We need to have people with solid Conservative values, who believe in small government and value for money to keep our councils under control.

People love to moan about local issues, starting with the phrase "why don't they..." then insert the complaint of the day (bins, housing, potholes, street lighting, crime). My response to that is "why don't you..."

Those monthly council tax payments heading out of our bank accounts go somewhere. We can influence where they go and try to keep them as small as possible. If you think you can help, local elections are coming and if you've ever found yourself saying 'why don't they', then get in touch. Consider changing 'they' to 'you' and putting yourself forward for selection as a Conservative candidate.

# BOSTON CONSERVATIVES SUPPER CLUB

## BY DUDLEY BRYANT

Boston Supper Club celebrated its 60th Supper on 20th May enjoyed by 60 members and supporters. Karl McCartney, Member of Parliament for Lincoln, our guest speaker, gave his thoughts on current affairs and answered numerous questions on a range of subjects including the media, the future of engineering in UK and local infrastructure. us in the celebration



Supper Clubs are held on the third Friday in January, March, November at the Boston & County Club. Come and join us on Friday 16th September 2022 at 7pm. Details from Dudley Bryant Email: [dudleybryant@conservative.org](mailto:dudleybryant@conservative.org)

held on the third Friday in May, September, and November at the Boston & County Club. Friday 16th September

Bryant MBE  
[dudleybryant@conservative.org](mailto:dudleybryant@conservative.org)

Dudley Bryant MBE, Karl McCartney



Kath Bryant, Dudley Bryant MBE, Karl McCartney MP, Doreen Barrett, Stephen Barrett, Jade Corssen, Steve Barker, Matt Warman MP

## UP COMING EVENTS

by Michael Cheyne



Summer is just around the corner and we would like you to join us on the 17th of July for an afternoon of good food and good company.

Tickets are in demand so please book early to avoid disappointment, closing date 10th July.

Cheques made payable to Boston Conservatives and please send to Michael Cheyne at 18 South Parade, Boston PE21 7PN.

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Boston Conservatives Presents*  
**SUMMER TIME**  
17th of July 2022 12 noon onwards  
A PERFECT TIME FOR A **BBQ!**  
Join us!  
Morgan House  
13 Somersby Green  
Boston, PE21 9PH  
Tickets £15 per head  
Contact Michael Cheyne at  
m.s.cheyne@icloud.com  
Payment to be received no later than July 10th  
By kind permission of Kath and Dudley Bryant

## CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM

by John Maltby



The second CPF discussion for 2022 took place on the 25th of May 2022 via Zoom.

The discussion document was entitled “Strengthening the United Kingdom”

The preamble referenced that the United Kingdom has talent across the whole country but that opportunity may not be the same. It also contained examples of how the Armed Forces recruit from the whole of the country whilst still having Regional identities in their make up, and how recent studies have shown that Brits are more likely to have visited Paris than Edinburgh, (unless you are Scottish)

This consultation was about what more can be done to strengthen social bonds across the UK.

Our questions for discussion arranged around

1. What do you consider to be the values and symbols of the UK?
2. What do you consider to be the advantages of the UK to its component nations?
3. How might we encourage schemes that facilitate younger people mixing more across the UK?
4. How might we build on the NCS and educational schemes such as the Turing Scheme, including at primary school level?
5. How might transport, business, the arts and media be used to

strengthen ties across the UK?

6. How might our common defence and global influence be used to strengthen ties across the UK?

A lively debate ensued with an agreed summary, including identifying Trust, Honest and Fair Play being among the values with Free Speech, Justice, a common language and the Union Jack Flag being the symbol.

Amongst the advantages, as well as the shared values were a common island boundary, our shared currency, the Monarchy and the provision of mutual support both financial and physical and it was felt that we should be building on existing educational and supportive structures such as the Duke of Edinburgh’s award scheme and actively promoting in schools other schemes such as the Turing initiative.

On infrastructure the group felt the positive use of (inter rail) rail cards to promote the use of the railways, an enhanced regional transport plan looking east to west as well as North to south and major improvement to connectivity would be essential.

On the Arts it was considered that the Arts should mirror the Heritage funding, that Channel 4 should be privatised and that the use of areas outside of London could be promoted for production sites.

Our next paper will be “Jobs, Pensions and Micro Business” which will be in July. Arrangements will be made to accommodate this, either in person meeting or via Zoom. We would love to have your points of view on this or any other subject matter.

If you feel you would like to contribute, please don’t hesitate to contact me at [johnsmaltby@hotmail.com](mailto:johnsmaltby@hotmail.com)

## Boston Branch Survey

And the results of the Boston Conservatives Branch are in!

The survey was never intended to be a definitive poll or even a popularity contest but a snapshot of the views and opinions of the members of the Boston Conservatives Branch and as such the response ratio was a little disappointing, only 33 replied which was a 24% return, but the results from those that did complete it were pretty decisive.

On Q1. Should Boris Johnson resign, 22 (67%) said No he shouldn't, 10 (30%) said Yes should and 1 couldn't decide.

On Q2 and as if to substantiate Q1 (63%) 20 members felt that Boris Johnson was best Placed to lead the party to a majority at the next General Election with Jeremy Hunt and Penny Mordaunt a distant 2nd best on 4 each (13%) and Rishi Sunak and Elizabeth Truss on 2 each and Sir John Hayes on 1.

Q3 on the NI protocol showed that 18 (55%) of members felt it should be triggered, 12

(36%) didn't know and 3 said that it shouldn't.

Q4 saw 19 (58%) supporting the Governments Budgetary package, 8 opposing and 6 unsure.

When it came to communications with the membership from the Branch, 19 (58%) felt that the branch communicated enough and 14 (42%) said not enough, with 26 preferring newsletters, 18 surveys and only 14 favouring a return to General Branch Meetings.

Comments made included general observations about the lack of public transportation in and around Boston and the perennial issue of the Bypass.

On national Politics it was Boris that dominated the conversation with a typical comment being

'We need to unite as a party behind Boris at the current time & not give in to the relentless media hostility. Government communications needs to be hugely improved

## 2022/23 BRANCH OFFICERS

At the AGM held on 9th June 2022 the following were elected as Branch Officers for the next year,

Branch Chair.. Mr Neil McCafferty

Branch Treasurer... Mr Eddie Speke

Deputy Chair Political... Mr Jonathan Noble

Deputy Chair Membership and Fundraising.. Mr Michael Cheyne

Branch Secretary Vacant (to be filled at a later date)

Votes of thanks were recorded for the work of the outgoing officers, Mr Dudley Bryant, Branch Treasurer and Mr Tony Raven, Branch Secretary.

# Frequently Asked Questions About Boston Borough Council: The Answers

By Cllr Jonathan.H.Noble

## 1. What is the role of a Councillor?

A Councillor is elected to serve the interests of the constituents within his or her ward and to help them find information and solutions to particular problems, for example broken streetlights or bins.

## 2. What is a ward?

A ward is an electoral division of the Boston Borough area and there are fifteen.

## 3. How many councillors are elected in each ward?

Some wards elect three councillors, some two. Station Ward elects only one councillor.

## 4. Who controls the Council?

The political party or group which has the highest number of councillors forms the ruling group but it may have to make a deal with another smaller group or groups to have a working majority.

## 5. Who makes the important policy decisions?

These are made by the Cabinet or Executive but must be ratified by Full Council to take effect.

## 6. What is the Cabinet?

It is a policy making group made up of the senior members of the ruling party or group.

## 7. What is a Portfolio Holder?

He or she is a member of the Cabinet who has responsibility for specific Council functions, for example environmental operations such refuse collection.

## 8. What is Full Council?

It is the elected assembly of all Boston Borough Council councillors.

## 9. Where does Full Council meet?

It meets in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Buildings.

## 10. How often does Full Council meet?

It meets several times a year but not always every month.

## 11. Who is the Leader of the Council?

The Leader of the Council is usually the leader of the political party that has the highest number of elected councillors.

## 12. When is the Leader appointed as such?

He or she is chosen or elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Council which takes place in May.

## 13. Who chooses the Deputy Leader and Cabinet members?

These positions are in the gift of the Council Leader.

## 14. What are the Councils committees?

The most important ones are Audit and Governance which deals with financial and governmental matters, two Scrutiny Committees:( Corporate and Community; Environment and Performance), Planning, Licensing and BTAC.

## 15. What do these committees do?

The two Scrutiny Committees examine proposed policies and Council performance, making recommendations to Cabinet. BTAC is effectively the parish council for the inner town wards and sets its own budget.

## 16. How often are councillors elected?

They are elected every four years, in May.

## 17. What do officers do?

They are responsible for operational matters.

## 18. What is the Senior Management Team?

This is a small group of senior officers which often drafts policies and suggestions on strategies for Cabinet to consider.

## 19. What are the restrictions on becoming a Boston Borough Councillor?

One has to live in the ward one represents or work within the geographical confines of the Borough.

## BOSTON CONSERVATIVES BRANCH LOTTERY

by David Skipworth

It has recently been put to me that some people may be reluctant to join the lottery Scheme as a result of recent events in Downing Street, the police and Sue Gray reports and the almost universal adverse main stream media coverage.

Choosing to join the Lottery is up to each individual member and whatever the reason for not joining, their decision is perfectly valid and is to be respected, and I would certainly not criticise any member who takes that decision, but, as a counter view I would ask them to consider the following.

The Conservative Party is run by Volunteers and is mainly reliant, especially at a local level of the goodwill and generosity of its members and supporters, to be able to fund and maintain its activities.

I know that our elected local Councillors do make contributions to their own campaign fund, and the Boston and Skegness Association Branch receives a proportion of the memberships fees from those within the constituency, but these in themselves, although extremely valuable and important are in themselves insufficient to meet the charges being made on the party, a quick glance at the latest Accounts will show that the party made a deficit of £7.5k last year.

Local Fundraising has been all but non existent as a result of Covid, and with the exception of the Super Club organised by Dudley Bryant and attended by a large number of friends and supporters, it has been difficult to encourage attendance at other

events, indeed the Curry and Quiz night was cancelled due to a lack of participants. Hopefully the next event the summer BBQ will attract more people.

So in order to try to provide some ongoing financial stability a local Branch Fundraising Lottery was designed. I know there is a National Party Lottery, but its funds stay with the National Party.

The Boston Branch Lottery funds provide 50% as the prize and 50% to the local Branch.

If the local Branch and the National Party are to survive it needs to raise funds to be able to fight campaigns, (2023 will see Boston Borough Elections) and provide a Conservative opposition to the Labour and Liberal parties, there are also other parties, and even though we may think that we are experiencing bad times and feel that our trust in the party is being severely tested, we need to consider the alternatives and plan for the worst. We may even lose some Council seats and the next General Election as a result of peoples having lost faith in the Conservative Party, and in that event funds to be able to mount an effective comeback would be required even more desperately.

So although you may still feel that you cannot at this time support the party, and that is your right and you are fully entitled to hold it, I would ask that you consider how the party would survive if all members decided to withdraw their support and as a result left it bereft of strong candidates or the means to support their being elected.

If you do feel that you could reconsider and join the lottery please contact me on [bostonconserveatives@mail.com](mailto:bostonconserveatives@mail.com) your participation would be greatly appreciated.

## LOTTERY RESULTS



**No winner this month  
Prize fund to rollover**