

THE BOSTONIAN

July 2022

BOSTON CONSERVATIVES BRANCH news letter

Branch Chairman's address

By Neil McCafferty



The reset button has been pressed. Now we enter a period of uncertainty.

I have had several conversations with Boston Branch members who feel that the Conservative brand has been trashed, and questioning whether they should continue to support the Party. Others are disappointed that a Prime Minister they supported and saw as a vote winning machine has been ousted and are very angry.

Whatever your view on the departure of Boris Johnson and the direction of the Westminster party, we have local elections to work on in Boston next year. It is vital we work to get Conservatives elected to Boston Borough Council. That needs the candidates and the volunteers to knock on doors, distribute leaflets and help to raise funds. We need your support now, more than ever.

By the time the local elections come the party will have a new leader and Prime Minister complete with the platform and policies we will take forward. It just might be a bit chaotic over the summer to get there.

My personal view is that we now have an opportunity to get back on track. I will stick with glass half-full.

Much as though we look at the achievements of the Prime Minister, we can also look at some of the questions about where the Party goes next.

My personal view is that we should look to the traditional Conservative values of small government, both local and national, providing efficient and relevant public services with the lowest possible tax take.

We could make much more of Brexit by ditching legacy EU rules faster and urgently look again at the rises in National Insurance and Corporation Tax.

How much of 'Net Zero' is actually achievable without bankrupting the country for very little environmental gain? The green agenda looks great on paper, but the renewable technology that underpins it doesn't work properly (yet) and needs a reliable backbone to keep the lights on. Each time we fill our cars, how much goes to the Treasury in fuel duty and VAT?

You will, of course, have your own questions and priorities, however your support of the Party locally over the tricky time really matters. The local work goes on.

**Boston Conservatives
supper club
by
Dudley Bryant**



Established in 2009 by Dudley Bryant Supper Club celebrated its 60th event in May this year and has become a popular and regular fixture in the Boston Branch calendar.

Five times a year about 60 – 70 members, supporters and friends enjoy an excellent supper at the Boston & County Club with a variety of guest speakers who have included Members of Parliament Mark Simmonds, Karl McCartney, Edward Leigh, Patrick Mercer, Nick Boles, Sir John Hayes, Chris Heaton-Harris, Peter Bone, Lord Peter Lilley, David Davis, Matt Warman, Andrea Jenkyns, Martin Vickers, Andrew Bridgen, John Whittingdale.

We have also welcomed Tony Worth and Toby Dennis (Lord Lieutenants of Lincolnshire), Emma McClarkin and Andrew Lewer (MEP's), John Turner (NHS Lincolnshire), Dave Peatling, Marc Jones (Police & Crime Commissioner), Roy Hackford (Boston Historian), Neil Kempster (Boston Town Deal Chairman), Jonathan Isaby (Taxpayers' Alliance), Andy Lawrence (Port of Boston), Lord Porter of Spalding (Local Government Association Chairman), Alison Fairman (Freeman of Borough of Boston), Emma Pidding

CBE (Conservative Party Chairman), Alan Stennett (Journalist), Liz Bates (Heritage Lincolnshire), Lord Taylor CBE (House of Lords Chief Whip), Richard Crampton (Chief Constable), Andy Mayfield (Magician), Clarry Atterby (Bevan Boy), Jeremy Middleton CBE (Conservative Party Chairman).

Supper Clubs are held on the 3rd Friday of January, March, May, September, and November.

Next Supper Club
7pm Friday 16th September 2022
At Boston & County Club,
Parkgate, Boston. PE21 6RL

Full Details from
Dudley Bryant MBE
dudleybryant14@gmail.com

**THE CONSERVATIVE POLICY
FORUM (CPF)
By
John Maltby**



**REF CPF Paper - Jobs and
Pensions**

A special welcome to those members who have shown an interest joining our Local CPF group. If there are any questions, feel free to make contact – My details below
johnsmaltby@hotmail.co.uk

The intent is to generate a meeting culture where everyone can express and develop their views without being talked over. Every developed thought being valuable.

The July Conservative Policy Forum (CPF) paper, just issued by CCHQ, is about Jobs and Pensions. (briefing and questions can be found on page 3) (With many thanks to BTS for the outline of this note and guidance)

The proposed meeting date for the diary would be by zoom at 19:00 on Tuesday the 26th of July. Duration no longer than 2 hrs. I will confirm dates and link information later by separate email.

If you cannot attend and want to submit an email response to the questions (by the meeting date) that's OK. Email responses will be consolidated with the group discussion summary as appropriate. Some members email their response in advance so they don't forget a point but come to the meeting anyway. It would be useful to use the "catch all" question 7 to expand on any issues you may like to develop.

For the newer members please note that we never expect or seek a detailed knowledge of the subject. For some meetings we can invite an expert. As coordinator the intent is to capture succinctly, personal experiences / views/ ideas and future direction of travel that you wish government to take. Wishing you all well
John S Maltby
CPF Co-Ordinator Boston Branch



Jobs: The Government continues to help more people to start, stay and succeed in work. Through its Way to Work campaign, it met its target to get 500,000 people on Universal Credit into work in the first six months of this year. There are a record number of employees on payrolls, youth unemployment level at a near record low and unemployment at 3.8%. Government has also made work pay by introducing the National Living Wage, increasing the Universal Credit work allowance and cutting the taper rate.

In 2021, there were 5.6 million UK private sector businesses, an increase of over a million since 2010. Government help for small businesses includes funding, guidance and advice. Yet, more needs to be done to help the economy to grow, businesses to fill their vacancies and people across the United Kingdom to cope with the rising costs of living. Most occupation groups in the public sector on average earn more than similarly skilled occupations in the private sector across most firm sizes (see Chart 1).

Pensions: Income from occupational and personal pensions is a relatively important source of pensioner income in the UK, in contrast to most other advanced economies, where state provision (financed either through social insurance contributions or general taxation) is dominant.

The two main types of occupational schemes are Defined Contribution (DC), in which contributions are made to a fund that is invested and used to provide an income in retirement, and Defined Benefit

(DB), in which pension benefits are based on salary and length of service. The rollout of automatic enrolment (AE) from 2012 onwards led to a tenfold increase in total membership of DC schemes, from 2.1 million in 2011 to 21 million in 2019. Employers contribute a minimum 3% and employees 5%, part of which includes tax relief.

As a result of auto-enrolment, 79% of all employees participated in a pension in 2021, compared to 47% in 2012 (see Chart 2). Among private sector eligible employees (i.e. those who meet the auto-enrolment age and earnings criteria), participation rose to 86% (14.4 million) in 2021; among public sector eligible employees, participation remained stable at 93% (5.6 million). There is a persistent gap, however, in participation rates among micro (1 to 4 employees) and small (5 to 49 employees) employers in the private sector (57% and 80%, respectively) compared with other sized employers (see Chart 3). As of 2019, public sector employees accounted for 6.3 million out of 7.6 million (87%) of all those actively contributing to a DB pension scheme (see Chart 4).

For employees with a workplace pension, the average value was £10,300 in the private sector compared with £65,400 in the public sector. Employer contributions across the four main public service pension schemes increased to 24.3% in 2019-20.10 The annual cost to the taxpayer of public-sector pensionable payroll totals is about £95 billion.

According to the Association of British insurers, there could be as many as 1.6 million lost pension

pots, with a potential aggregate value of around £19.4 billion. In addition, the Government estimates that 850,000 eligible households are not claiming Pension Credit worth £1.7 billion

Questions for discussion

1. In what ways do you think the Government should increase support for microbusinesses?
2. How could the Government and employers make it easier for people to progress in work?
3. What steps should the Government take to help those who may need more support to work, e.g. people with disabilities or health conditions?
4. In what ways could the Government help businesses to improve the recruitment and retention of older workers?
5. How can the Government build on and engage with the increasing numbers of people saving into workplace pensions?
6. How can the Government raise awareness about pension entitlements?
7. Is there any other observation you would like to make?

Association Officers 2022/23

Boston and Skegness Association recently held their AGM

The following officers were elected:

- Cllr Steve Kirk (Chairman)
- Dudley Bryant MBE (President)
- Ruth Street (Hon. President)
- Cllr Dick Edginton (Hon. Vice President)
- Thomas Tuplin (Deputy Chairman)
- Cllr Tom Ashton (Deputy Chairman)
- Zoe Lane (Secretary of the Association)

Membership Cancelled?

Can we ask all members to review their membership payment methods. It has been noticed recently that some members who have paid via VISA have had their membership cancelled without their being aware, as a result of payment failure.

Central Office have been trying to get everyone to move over to Direct Debit Mandates as a means of avoiding this scenario.

The Association Office in Boston is now NOT being manned regularly as Margaret has resigned, so anyone sending in cheques to renew their membership locally may find that there is a delay with processing them. Again regular payments from the Bank would get around this, either via the Direct Debit process or by Paypal.

If you are unsure or need more information please contact us on bostonconservatives@mail.com

Want to be a councillor?

Could you be an influencer? Do you want to be heard? Do you think you have something to offer your community? Would you like to become a local Councillor, or the representative for your local ward on the Boston and Skegness Conservatives Executive Committee, (only 4 meetings a year)?

Then please let us know, we want to hear from you. Even if you don't personally think you would like it, then do you know someone who might, and who shares the Values and Priorities of the Conservative Party, and would like take the opportunity to play a part in local affairs. If they are not a

member then they would have to become to represent the Conservative Party in any election.

Although we are not electing Boston Borough Councillors in 2022, we will be in 2023 and so we are actively looking for people who would like to put their names forward, no previous experience required, just a willingness to play an active part in helping decide what the future of Boston could look like, shares the aims and aspirations of the Conservative Party and feels that they can represent the views of their constituents.

If this is you or someone you know, or you would like to know more about how we go about it, then please contact me for more details

by email: bostonconservatives@mail.com or

by post: Neil McCafferty, Branch Chairman, Boston Conservatives Branch, 16c Main Ridge West, Boston, PE21 6QQ.

FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS WHO HAVE FELT THE NEED RECENTLY TO LEAVE THE PARTY.

(Names have been removed for anonymity)

Some members may feel a great deal of sympathy with the views below as indeed a great many MP's also appear to have, but I hope that they don't feel sufficiently aggrieved to take the drastic steps of resigning their membership.

The party is about to embark upon a Leadership election which has the potential to be both damaging and divisive, but hopefully will be conducted in a spirit of co-operation that recognises that despite our differences we have a great deal that we share in com-

mon, the principle things being our shared belief in Conservative Values and Principles with the freedom of the individual, and whoever emerges successfully will need all the support that they can muster to prepare us for the next General Election, especially given the very poor current poll ratings against labour. As I write it is being reported as a 12 point gap and a rolling Poll of Polls average of a 9 points gap. This would be sufficient to put a Labour Prime Minister in Downing Street.

I realise that some will say that Polls should always be taken with a pinch of salt, but given the continued poor performance of the Party over a sustained period of time, they cannot be entirely dismissed.

This makes it all the more paramount that our members views are heard and shared to be able to grasp the feelings and emotions that they are undergoing.

We cannot all agree all the time, indeed it would be very strange if we did, less troublesome maybe but still very strange, but we do need to be a party that gives free rein to differences and allows constructive and not destructive dissent and we encourage every single member to give us their feedback and views, no matter how strong or divisive.

The current feedback being received is, naturally given the National Focus on events primarily concerned with the National Party, but Local feedback on local issues is equally as important, so please let us know if you have anything you particularly want to have aired, discretion and anonymity is assured.
atthebastonian@mail.com

FEEDBACK RECEIVED:

1. 'Let me firstly start by saying I have been a Conservative voter all my life(I am now 56) and in my early years, when I lived in Central Newcastle,- supporting the Conservatives was a fairly thankless task.

In truth I have never been so disillusioned about the current outlook of the Conservative Party/ UK government and if asked to vote tomorrow, would for the first time not vote Conservative, although again in truth, would struggle to find any mainstream party to support and would probably vote for the Reform Party.

Partygate is a frustration, but not at the core as to why me and I suspect numerous other Tory voters have lost faith in the UK government, although it's fair to say the PM's credibility has been massively impacted by the ongoing partygate. The main reasons for my frustrations are as follows; 1) Net zero fixation- whilst I acknowledge climate change may be part of parcel of the current/ future thinking, the government's policies(uncosted through to 2050) are hamstringing UK plc at a time when the UK population can ill afford such "green" policies, especially when huge chunks of the Rest of World are pumping Co2 into the atmosphere, more than negating our "virtue signalling" efforts.

2) Tax- at the highest level since WW2 and increasing at a time of recession where every pundit on earth knows you can tax your way out of a recession. Increasing tax allowances in line with inflation, removing the recent

NI surcharge plus not increasing corporation tax to 25% this Autumn from 19%, must be implemented immediately to give confidence to businesses to invest and consumers to spend.

3) Government expenditure- despite the highest tax receipts on record we still run a significant deficit and the NHS remains an unreformed, cash devouring institution, with below OECD outputs in key health measures and now funded at above OECD average levels.

4) Energy policy- successive UK governments over the last 30 years or so have failed to look at a robust energy security policy and we are now unfortunately reaping the results. We have natural resources that fracking, North Sea development etc, could help provide self sufficiency and buy time before renewables can increase in volume, although fundamentally given the seasonal variability with wind and sun put, only when battery/storage technology is a much better level, could these sources provide a reliable 365 day of the year supply.

5) Food policy- is there one that actually makes sense i.e. is joined up, where similar to the current energy challenges we are experiencing, only producing circa 60% of our consumption leaves us dangerously exposed to availability/cost concerns.

6) Brexit- there has been a failure to grasp the benefits that Brexit can bring in terms of deregulation in the City etc with the "Civil Service blob" squeezing the life of the possibilities leaving the EU can offer and should by now have been implemented. Token gestures such as restor-

ing pounds and ounces is quite frankly insulting with the bigger opportunities that leaving the EU can offer still to be tackled.

The Conservatives have been in power for 12 years now and over the last 3 years have had challenges, but at the minute the Tories are more socialist/big state/ high tax than the Blair government was and lack a vision that voters/supporters can relate to.

Sorry to say this but quite frankly I have little faith in the current administration. '

2. 'I wish to withdraw my membership from the Conservative party with immediate effect owing to the disgraceful behaviour of Conservative MP's in their concerted efforts in ousting Boris Johnson.

It appears to me that people have short memories in what our Prime Minister has had to deal with whilst in post and that this was the Prime Minister that secured Brexit and an 80 seat majority which after the last few days developments the Conservative Party will not see again in many years.

Once again the Conservative party has destroyed itself by not looking ahead at the damage it has now done.

I have been a life long Conservative Voter and will now use my vote elsewhere.'



June Survey Results

The 2nd Branch Survey was answered by 33 members and the results tend to show that on National issues local members, (albeit this may not be a sufficiently representative sample) do generally support the policies and aims of the Government.

25 said we should withdraw from the ECHR, which although not a government policy was mooted in the National Press as something the Government was considering, and which would receive substantial support from Boston Branch members,

30 supported the Rwanda Migration policy of transferring illegal immigrant to Rwanda with one person commenting 'Yes, more need doing including cutting benefits'.

On local affairs opinion was more divided and there may have been some confusion and blurring of lines of responsibility between the local Borough Council and the County Council. We may return to this topic in future Newsletters to provide some more information regarding the differing roles and responsibilities of the Councils.

The results show that 16 felt that Boston Borough Council gave a good service for the revenues they received and 13 feeling that the council did not provide a good service. When asked what services members felt Boston Borough Council were responsible for the results were as follows;

31 (94%) said the council was responsible for Refuse Collection, 11 said for highways and potholes, 16 for Social Care, 26 for Waste Disposal, 23 said for crematoriums and cemeteries, 27 for parks and Leisure, 20 for Social Housing, 30 for licensing, 25 for Markets, 20 for Libraries and 15 for Trading Standards.

Light heartedly we then asked which newspapers were read by our members. Unsurprisingly the Tabloids were low on the reading list, The Sun, The Mirror and The Guardian failed to have anyone admitting to reading them. Of the rest the results showed that:

5 read the Daily Mail, 2 the Daily Express, 2 read The Independent, 7 The Times, with 9 reading The Telegraph 9, and 10 members declaring that they didn't read newspapers at all.

One person said they got their news on line. Comments were 'I do not read the biased media or receive main stream TV'

Again we remind you that this was not a serious quantitative or qualitative survey, but a humorous attempt to understand the politics, (with a small p) and motivations of our local membership.



**Have you any comments or feedback
Please send to**

**The Editor
The Bostonian**

thebostonian@mail.com

BOSTON CONSERVATIVES BRANCH LOTTERY

by David Skipworth

It does seem sometimes that trying to raise funds on behalf the local Party is a bit of an uphill struggle, and banging your head against a brick wall does spring to mind quite often. Equally I am sure that you must be just as sick to keep receiving requests for more of your money to support the party.

Unfortunately the reality is that I will have to keep banging my head and yours to try to raise the funds for the local party to not only support its activities but to contribute to future local, National and Regional election campaigns which we know are taking place both next year and possibly the following year if a General Election is called.

So I make no apology for pushing and promoting the local Branch Lottery as a means of raising those needed funds.

I know the National Party runs its own Lottery and many of our local members already contribute to it, and that is laudable, but it brings nothing in to the local party and it is here where we need to raise funds.

You, our members are our lifeline and it is only by your contributions that we are able to continue. Imagine if we could not raise the required funding to fight elections, would we even have a local Conservative party?

You may be asked to donations to the party, but consider, if subscribed to the Lottery as an alternative, you would not only be supporting the Party locally, but you would also be contributing to its existence and giving yourself a chance of a return. Not a life changing return, but perhaps one that may pay your initial outlay.

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

If you do feel that you could join the lottery please contact me on bostonconservatives@mail.com your participation would be greatly appreciated.

To those that have already subscribed I would like to express my deep thanks for your continued faith in the party and the local organisation in what are turning out to be very trying times politically.

LOTTERY RESULTS



No winner this month
Prize fund to rollover