

THE BOSTONIAN

November 2022

Boston Conservatives Branch Newsletter

BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS By Niel McCafferty



I'd be the first to acknowledge that the last month has been a rollercoaster for supporters of the Conservative Party, with more to come over the next week or so. Where we thought we were getting cuts to Corporation Tax amongst others and a simplification of the IR35 rules on the self-employed, we now look the other way. That's before the changes in leaders and resignations of cabinet ministers.

Yes, I do wonder where all of this is heading and sometimes wonder why we support a political party which, nationally, seems to break promises and then end up governing in perpetual chaos? That's when it's time for local party members to hold 'feet to the fire' and tell our party what we think, and how what they're doing affects us. As members of the party, we have the channels to do it. The channels include the excellent Conservative Policy Forums, where members can air their views and help shape future policy. I would encourage you to get involved with these excellent events as what they report back is listened to.

We also have many changes in the way we select election candidates and run the party locally. Members in every council ward should be elected to the Boston and Skegness Association's Executive Council, where much of the selection work is done.

At the moment, there are still some wards with no representation and if you are interested in finding out what is involved, do get in touch. There is a lot individual members can do to influence the future direction of the party locally and nationally, and there's never been a better time to do it.

SOCIAL EVENTS & FUND RAISING

MATT WARMAN M.P.

INVITES YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN HIM

FOR

STILTON & MINCE PIES

And the 200 Club Draw

ONCE AGAIN RUTH & GRAHAM STREET

INVITE YOU TO THEIR HOME FOR AN

EVENING OF FOOD AND FUN

DECEMBER 2ND at 7 pm

at 42 Linen Way Boston

Tickets £12.50 contact Ruth on

01205 368344

BOOK EARLY

RAFFLE & BAR

Boston Conservatives Supper Club

Dates for the Diary

Friday 20th January 2023

guest Speaker

Ben Bradley M.P.

For Mansfield & leader of
Nottinghamshire County Council

**BOSTON CONSERVATIVES
LOTTERY**

**HAVE YOU
JOINED**

CONTACT THE LOTTERY
MANAGER AT

bostonconservatives@mail.com

200 CLUB JOIN NOW

Two Draws Every Year
Prizes £200:£100:£50:£25

Annual Subscription Only £10

Cheques payable to

Boston & Skenness Conservative Association 200 club

Contact

Ruth Street Hon Vice President

Boston & Skegness Conservative Association
on 01205 368344

Letters to the Editor



Na then han't it been a funny month. Here's what some of my friends have been saying about the last survey.

“With the latest outcome of our leadership and the unwillingness of our MPs to back the Prime Minister our Party is becoming unelectable. If you are a member of any organisation you should have the right to have a say in everything, that is not happening in our Party and the membership are being treated with contempt, with the above in mind and the way the Members have basically been disregarded my wife and I have decided not to renew our membership next year there is no point as the MP's just seem to want to represent themselves rather than the members and the electorate, we most certainly do not have the right PM to win us the next election. I guess that is because a lot of our MP's choose to behave like children”

“How this will be carried out remains questionable. While some Members of Parliament behaves so disgracefully and starts smear campaigns to discredit individuals nothing will change. Sadly our sitting MP's appear to have individuals amongst them that deliberately cause deliberate reputational damage by leaking information to the press. How can they be trusted to make important decisions and choose candidates of high office like the PM? The process fails as MP's are not put through a rigorous process before being allowed to stand in elections. To my knowledge there are no procedures in place to remove or suspend an MP who is openly undermining the PM or colleagues. While this is the status quo this questionnaire has no value and cannot be used to give a clear direction of travel. The trust is broken. The behaviour we witnessed during the past months is proof of this and I suggest the members will resign in droves and take their vote elsewhere. I run a Tory support group with one other. The members have indicated that they will no longer support a party that is so divided with so many backstabbers. They also feel very strongly that the Committee 1922 is acting in a Draconian way and as they were not selected by the members, they are not trusted. They feel that they did not intervene to stop the dreadful infighting and in fact by their lack of response, made it worse. The consensus is that they are elected by MP's and as we have seen the chaotic situation when MP's canvassed to be standing as

candidates to change the rules to get rid of an elected PM? This is a disgraceful undermining of democracy. I hesitantly say unless this mess is sorted and democracy returned to the voters the Conservative Party may face a wipe-out at the next general election. Leading political experts have warned that the party could be reduced to number three on the list and effectively have no power to stop harmful legislation passed. Sadly the party is in a very bad place.”

“After the Lis Truss fiasco, we ordinary Party members can't be allowed to make the same mistake EVER again!”

“if MPs want greater Parliamentary control, members should have greater party control”

well wasn't the leadership election a right stitch-up. Two choices, one back stabbing so an so the other the sacrificial lamb we weren't supposed to vote for. we voted for the wrong one so she was thrown to the wolves Then the members weren't given a choice. Now we have the man who caused the problem as our leader, a Brexit retainer as Chancellor taking advice from George Osborn who would like to see us back in the EU. I heard that to fill Richie's black hole the levelling up money is to be taken from strong Tory arias like Boston because they can't loose round here. John

Survey Results

David Skipworth
Branch Secretary

The results of last survey are now a little out of date but here they are:

50/50 on whether Liz Truss should have resigned.

44% to 38% that Jeremy Hunts budget would damage the prospects of the party.

53% would have liked to see Boris back, Rishi Sunak came bottom of the choices with only 9%, Ben Wallace was 2nd choice on 26%.

On support for the local party, only 20 members said they would support fundraising by attending events, and only 12 said they would be prepared to support the Branch Lottery. 11 would support leafletting and 6 telephone canvassing.

All in all a pretty depressing picture is now being painted by the members of the Boston Conservatives Branch, and I am sorry if you feel I am being unjust, but with the vast majority of you clearly happy to just pay your membership dues but take no further action in supporting the Branch locally, I am struggling to see it differently.

We clearly have an ageing membership, that I understand and they may struggle to commit to fully support Branch activities and that is also completely understood, and that we need to recruit a greater number of younger and more active members is self-evident, but in the interim we need to find the balance between keeping the Branch going and building up our active base.

This can be further reflected in the poor response for members who may wish to become Conservative Councillors for the Boston Borough.

To put it bluntly, without support from members or supporters, willing to either stand for office or support the fundraising efforts locally, the future for the Conservative Party in Boston is clearly limited and will in my opinion continue on a downward spiral.

This is not to take anything away from those that do engage and support it, like Audrey & Ena amongst others, it is they that are keeping the current Branch going and their support is vastly appreciated, and on a more positive note we have in the last month seen some new younger members joining the Branch, so there is some hope if we can only retain and increase their numbers.

If you disagree with me or feel that I am being a little harsh, please let me know, it would be encouraging to hear that I am wrong.

LOTTERY RESULTS



No winner this month
Prize fund to rollover

Out and About



Please find below news items and events from the Boston Borough Leader and Cabinet
The Latest reported activities the Borough Council are engaged in include the following:

- A Boston coffee shop based in Church Street has received a Capital Grant from a business support programme funded by Boston Town Deal.
- Transported Workshops ready for this year's Illuminate Parade. When walking around Boston Market last Saturday it was great to see the Transported team holding their lantern making workshop with many of our residents keen to get involved. This is a great arts project for all to get involved in.
- Voting for your favourite Market 2023. Please vote for Boston Market in the Great British Market Awards for the title of Britain's Favourite Market 2023!
You can vote at this website <https://nabma.com/vote-for-britains-favourite-market/> We want to make sure our local market is recognised for its importance to the local community. You can vote once daily, so please support our local market today.
- Expressions of Interest open for the Government's Community Ownership Fund. The Government has opened Expressions of Interest for the Community Ownership Fund Round Two which helps community groups buy or renovate assets that would otherwise be lost to the community.
- Boston members and residents invited to get involved in tree planting at Garfits Park. Cllr Tracey Abbott, Portfolio Holder Parks and Open Spaces is inviting communities to get involved in tree planting at Garfits Park in Boston on Saturday 19th November 2022.

The 2023 Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is redrawing constituency boundaries in order to rebalance the number of electors represented by each MP, and a final consultation on proposed new constituencies is now open. A new revised map of constituency proposals, which takes into account feedback sent in by the public on the initial proposals, has been published on the consultation website bcereviews.org.uk. Send in your views before the closing date of 5 December to have your say on new parliamentary constituency boundaries.

