

Ipswich matters

March 2004

From **Paul WEST** your Conservative
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

Are Labour really cutting crime?

Fear of crime rises as police held back by sea of red tape

Despite government claims that crime is falling, the reality as we all know is exactly the opposite.

There are too few police. The police do a fine job in the circumstances but they have their hands tied behind their back by politicians and their bosses. They have far too much paperwork to complete and receive little or no support from the courts.

No wonder the Criminal Justice System is no longer trusted by the Great British public. The only people that gain from the system at the moment are the lawyers.

This country needs to show more resolve in catching and fighting the criminal. We need to relieve the police of much of the form filling and box ticking that is required of them.

We need to streamline the process to get criminals in front of court far more quickly than we currently do. And the public needs to be sure that criminals receive the correct punishment for the crime.



Time to get tough on asylum

Illegal immigration and asylum are out of control. The only people who don't see that are the Labour government. The public do not believe that the numbers are being reduced.

People want to know that illegal immigration is controlled. They want to know that the asylum system is being used only to protect those genuinely fleeing persecution, and not abused by those seeking a back door in to Britain to fleece the benefits system.

We need also to know that our country is going to be protected from large-scale immigration from the countries joining the European Union in two months time.

Our policy is to process asylum applications near the claimant's country of origin, to have better controls over work permits and to introduce transitional measures to protect our borders when the eastern European countries join the EU.

At the moment, asylum and illegal immigration are completely out of control under Labour. They haven't got a clue what to do.



Paul WEST says...

I care passionately about Ipswich; it is after all my home town. It is where I live and work.

I am not a career politician. My priority is to do what is best for the town.

I shall campaign tirelessly for Ipswich to bring about the improvements that we all seek.

Housing crisis for young

The prospects are bleak for many young people looking to buy their own house. There is a lack of low cost accommodation and young people are often consigned to living with family, or to renting for longer than they would like.

The situation is not set to get any better. This country is building fewer new homes than at any time since the Second World War. And what new building there is seems to be executive properties beyond the pocket of the ordinary family.

We need more low cost housing for ordinary young people who just want the realistic chance to become home owners.

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First Public Meeting a big success

Paul's campaign to hold public meetings on local issues got off to a flying start in Stoke Park in late January.

Over a hundred local residents packed in to the local church hall to hear the council's plans for the future of the near derelict Stoke Park Shopping Centre.

Paul said: "It is important that people have the chance to hear what is going on and for them to be able to express their views so that those views can be taken into account when the final decisions are made.

Public meetings in local areas are one of the best ways of achieving this. We will be holding many more right across the town in the months ahead."



About Paul West

Paul West has been chosen by local Tories as their Prospective Parliamentary Candidate.

Paul was born in Ipswich and lives and works here too. He runs his own business and is married to Dawn. He previously stood for parliament in the Ipswich by-election in November 2001 when he halved the Labour majority to just 4,000 votes. Paul believes that being local gives him a head start in the campaign to unseat Labour.

Paul says: "I am spending time visiting local schools, local groups and organisations finding out what people want to see from politicians."

I am well aware that people are generally sick and tired of hearing out-of-touch politicians preach to them and my approach will be very different from that.

I would be a representative of Ipswich, a real constituency MP, one that would put the interests of the people before that of the Party."

Paul would welcome your views on any issue. You can contact him on 01473 712181 or at paulwest@ipswichconservatives.com

Last Post

Tories oppose planned Post Office closures

Ipswich has recently been hit with the news that five Post Offices are set to close later this year. East Ipswich is particularly hard hit but all areas in the town will be affected.

Post Offices have been left to perish in the free market and most have found it difficult to compete as the government has robbed them of their core business of pensions and benefits payments.

In many areas the Post Office is the hub of the community, providing a meeting place for the young and old and basic services to local people.

Post Offices have more worth than a column of figures on an accountant's balance sheet.

We hope every measure will be taken to save our Post Offices, or at the very least give them

more assistance and the chance to operate as part of a larger store.



A taxing situation

What interesting times we live in. This year a 4% increase in the Council Tax is dressed up as a storming success. We should not forget that, in Ipswich, Council Tax has increased by over 50% since 1997 and is now over £1,000 for most people who pay it.

This is a staggering sum for which our local councils blame the government, and the government blames the councils! In either event both are controlled by Labour, so perhaps they are both to blame!

Paul needs your help...

If you would like to help Paul to become Ipswich's next MP then please contact him on the number or at the e-mail shown left. Alternatively you can write to Paul West PPC, Newton Road Conservative Club, Newton Road, Ipswich IP3 8HQ

Council Tax

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