

ENGLISH DEMOCRATS

MANIFESTO

FOR

HASTINGS & RYE

ENGLISH DEMOCRATS 1066 WILL:

Reduce Council Tax by

- ✓ **Reducing the number of Councillors by 50%.** We do not believe it is necessary for each Ward in the Borough to have TWO Councillors to represent it at the Town Hall.
- ✓ **We will scrap the use of a Mayoral Limousine.** A chauffer driven limousine is an unnecessary luxury for this town and an unnecessary burden on the Council Tax Payer. We will do away with it.
- ✓ **We will scrap the Twin Town Freebie.** Yet another unnecessary opulence that provides a very nice distraction for the 'Elite' of our Borough but provides no real benefit to the town.
- ✓ **We will ditch the About Magazine.** Delivered to every home within the Borough. This publication is a totally unnecessary expense on the Tax Payer. In the 'White Heat' of today's modern technology it can only be considered an inefficient method of keeping the residents of the Borough up to date with Council happenings. The vast majority of which immediately find their way to the recycling bin.
- ✓ **We will cease expenditure on any free translation services.** Immigrants will be encouraged to learn the language of their adopted home. Any persons who are unable or unwilling to learn the language of their adopted home will be invited to provide a translator at their own expense. It is not reasonable for the Tax Payer to subsidise them.
- ✓ **We will carry out an immediate audit of all council jobs.** This will highlight unnecessary bureaucracy and other waste.
- ✓ **We will seek out and end malpractice and mismanagement in council.** This will also help identify unnecessary bureaucracy.
- ✓ **We will stop huge pay rises to every level of senior management.** We will also publicise senior management pay scales to ensure full openness of council to the public.
- ✓ **We will stop the practise of providing lease cars to managers.** Where contracts are in place the maximum engine size will be reduced to 1300cc for the duration of that contract.
- ✓ **We will ensure a zero tolerance of anti-social behaviour in the Borough.** It is recognised that residents feel that a clean and safe town is essential if we are to elevate Hastings & St Leonards to a vibrant and inviting town for visitors and for companies wishing to invest in the town as well as the residents themselves. We all have the right to be able to enjoy our town without being put in fear from persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs, without being assailed by the vista of dirty streets and without having to negotiate carefully due to dog faeces on our pavements.

- ✓ **We will work with Sussex Police in achieving the above.** We will put more resources into enforcing anti Dog Fouling, Littering legislation and other anti social low level crime including spitting and foul language.
- ✓ **Hastings is a Sea Side Town.** Our Council needs to recognise that the town depends very heavily on visitors, including Students. We need to encourage as many people as possible to visit and spend. Whilst it is obvious that we need to adapt and look to the future in the development of the town, contrary to the wishes of Hastings Council in trying to move us away from our heritage and history, we need to capitalise on our historical past. Our history is a gift to us and we must not turn our back on it.
- ✓ **Hastings is bigger than the Old Town.** As important to the town as the Old Town is, the sea front stretches from there to West St Leonards. Hastings Council appears to ignore this vital fact and seems intent on concentrating everything into the Old Town and the stretch of sea front from there to the Town Centre. Certainly there is nothing to attract visitors any further west than Robertson Street, except for the shamefully criminal derelict pier.
- ✓ **The Jerwood Gallery.** The Stade is the wrong place for the Jerwood Gallery. It is known that the fishing community support the location of the Stade for the Gallery as they believe they will benefit from improvements to their infrastructure if it is built there. However, the town is bigger than the fishing community. The most logical location for the Jerwood would be in an area which would compliment its being there and vice versa. The old college site, which is currently being considered for the location of high density social housing, is the ideal location for the gallery. The magnificent architecture of Burtons St Leonards and a world recognised Art Gallery cannot fail to enhance each other. Burtons St Leonards is also the hub of our burgeoning Artistic colony therefore it will almost be a case of the gallery coming home.
- ✓ **Hastings Ice Rink.** Another case of criminal neglect by Hastings Borough Council is the old Ice Rink at White Rock on the sea front. Neglected long before but eventually closed in the 1990's, the Ice Rink is a sad reminder (if any were needed) as to how a council can destroy its own town. The Ice Rink currently costs the towns people a small fortune every time there is a high sea or storm. An English Democrats Council will actively investigate and fully support the refurbishment and reopening of this missing jewel in the crown. The success of the Christmas temporary ice rink at the Priory Meadow Shopping Centre, serves to illustrate just how popular this pastime is. Here is an opportunity to grasp the future firmly.
- ✓ **Hastings Pier.** Hastings Pier is an embarrassment to Hastings Borough Council and the 'Experts' who prophesised it's demise. Over three and a half years ago it was cleared of visitors and business people as well as staff by a sweep of Council Wardens with the dire warning that it would collapse at any moment. People were actually directed around one part of flooring that was expected to collapse imminently. This Grand Old Lady did not submit. Ever since then she has withstood the onslaught of many storms despite constant warning from the council that she will 'Not Last Another Storm'. She refuses to do the right thing, as far as the Council are concerned, and collapse into the sea. It is a further case of criminal neglect that Hastings Borough Council just wash their hands of.

- ✓ **Old Bathing Pool Site.** Completing the sweep along our sad sea front, we come to the 'open sore' of the old Bathing Pool site. A derelict piece of neglected land in a prime location. We will actively support and encourage the development a new state-of-art Leisure/Spa/Health centre at this location. This will stretch the 'Activity' area of the sea front fully from the Old Town as far west as possible to West St Leonards. This in turn will encourage new commerce into the area providing jobs and income for a neglected part of the town.
- ✓ **We will work to ensure that new business is attracted to the town.** We need to encourage new enterprise to start up in the Borough and for existing companies to expand. This will encourage local employment but without putting extra strain onto the beleaguered Tax Payer. We will encourage new retail companies into the Borough with the use of financial benefits. These will naturally be dependant upon meeting certain criteria.
- ✓ **An English Democrat Council** will recognise that to flourish in the future, we need to invest. We need to encourage other people and companies to invest. We need to provide jobs and security for our young people. We need to provide our young people with a future. We need to provide our young people with hope!
- ✓ **This list is not exhaustive and will be amended and improved as necessary.**

English Democrats 1066

Putting Hastings & Rye First