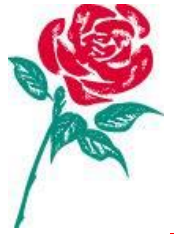


The Rose

St Giles Edition – Spring 2018



DESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL BY-ELECTIONS (Thursday 3rd May 2018)

Due to the resignation of Conservative councillors by-elections will be held on Thursday 3rd May 2018 to fill ten vacancies on Desborough Town Council.

This gives local residents the opportunity to elect representatives who will speak up for the town and work hard on their behalf and put a stop to the huge tax increases imposed by the Conservatives in recent years (a further £282,000 burden was imposed on local tax payers as they walked out of the door). **Labour councillors will ensure that -**

1. All non-committed expenditure is frozen with immediate effect.
2. The Town Council conducts a full review of all committed expenditure to establish exactly how much has been spent, how much is in balances and what contracts have been entered into.
3. Take steps as soon as possible to bring the 'Parish Precept' into line with that of other, similar, local Town Councils and reduce the tax burden on local residents.
4. There is full disclosure, openness and transparency in all council matters.
5. They are available and accountable to local people through regular newsletters and advice surgeries.

Good reasons to vote Labour

1. **A proud history:** The Town Council was Labour controlled from 1978 to 2003 and the party has a proud history of working hard on behalf of the community.
2. **A clear vision for the future:** At each election Desborough Labour Party has published a clear statement of its priorities and plans for the town.
3. **A record of achievement:** Desborough Labour Party has always spoken out on behalf of the local community and has delivered for Desborough.
4. **Contact and influence:** Labour representatives have contacts and influence at other levels of local and national government to ensure that the voice of Desborough is heard.

(For more information go to - www.ketteringlabourparty.org/desborough)

YOUR FUTURE YOU DECIDE

With the possible demise of the County Council (due to the financial crisis under the Conservative Party's leadership), we face the very real prospect of a completely new structure of local government in the county and a 'Unitary' authority serving our area.

The by-elections in Desborough on the 3rd May 2018 are now of greater importance than we had probably expected.

The major political parties are already gathering to discuss the future structures for our area to provide the whole range of local government services for local people. As the negotiations begin and the boundaries / wards are determined it has never been more vital to ensure that Desborough has a strong voice and influence at the table.

Labour representatives in Desborough will use their contacts and influence to fight for the best deal for our community and our future.

Local democracy has been badly served by the Conservatives in recent years and it is time to restore a sense of duty and purpose in local council matters.

**A vote for Labour is a
vote for Desborough**

**Labour – Standing up for Desborough
Speaking up for you**



Paul Coles

Paul is 48 years of age and has lived in Desborough for the past twenty years with his wife Sheena. They have two children, Declan and Isaac, both of whom attend Montsaye School. Paul, an Electrical Engineer, has worked in both the public and private sectors up and down the country working on a number of pioneering projects. Paul currently works as an Electrical Apprentice Assessor and Trainer for Tresham College in Corby. Paul is a former shop steward and a health and safety representative. Through his work Paul helps people to acquire skills and knowledge that will benefit the individual and the wider economy.

Paul says – ***'With development in the area moving at a pace, Desborough faces some difficult challenges together with some great opportunities. I believe the Town Council has a vital role in shaping a better future for Desborough. We need better leisure facilities, improved green spaces, properly maintained roads and pavements, more local employment opportunities, higher profile policing and affordable homes. I will work hard to ensure that Desborough gets its fair share of resources without having to pay unacceptable levels of local tax. Desborough is a town with a rich history and heritage and deserves a bright future.'***

Ben King

Ben has lived in Desborough most of his life and served on the Town Council from 2012 to 2015. He passionately spoke out at council meetings about the proposed incinerator, Ise Valley development and speeding motorists.

Ben went to the University of Leeds to study Geography and understands, from first-hand experience, the financial struggles of young people. He has since worked mainly in the public sector as an administrator dealing with finances. Ben is also a trade union representative and works very hard to support employees who are subject to constant change and heavy workload pressures. Ben is worried about the future of our public services due to year-on-year budgets cuts, and with your help, will challenge this injustice.

Ben has committed much time and energy to ensure that the voice of local residents is heard and would like the opportunity to do so again. Ben says – ***'Over recent years I have felt very frustrated with the lack of democracy and openness in Town Council affairs. I would like to use my knowledge and experience to turn the council around and restore the confidence of local people in their elected representatives.'***



Phil Sawford

Phil has lived in Desborough for 47 years with his wife Rosemary. Both of their sons attended Havelock and Montsaye Schools and still live in the area. He served as a Town Councillor for the Loatland Ward of Desborough for 20 years (1977 to 1997) He also served as a Borough Councillor for 17 years and was Leader of the Borough Council from 1991 to 1997. With a solid background of speaking up for local people and working for the local community Phil went on to serve as the Member of Parliament for the Kettering Constituency from 1997 to 2005.

Phil says – ***'I thought I had retired from front line politics but, 40 years after I was first elected to the Town Council, I am so concerned about recent events that I cannot stand by whilst Desborough has been so badly served by its elected representatives. I appreciate the support that the people of Desborough have given to me in the past and once again ask for your support in this important by-election.'***

'I have never been afraid to stand up and speak out for our town and would welcome the opportunity to do so again.'

for the St Giles Ward



Jo Taylor

Jo has lived in Desborough for over 30 years with her husband Brian and has two daughters, who went to Havelock and Montsaye Community College. Jo worked locally in the NHS for 32 years as an Occupational Therapist. Jo, since retirement continues to be involved with Unison as the Retired Members Officer at local and regional level supporting retired members including fighting for better state pensions and support in the community for older people. Jo is active in the Desborough community, in organisations such as the Twinning Association, Women's Institute and Save Desborough Library.

Jo was active in setting up the paper petition to save our library and spoke at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) when handing in the petition signed by over 2,250 residents. She says ***'My particular interests for Desborough are to make it a vibrant community, and to continue fighting for our local services including the library and community services, with improved shopping and transport facilities. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a Town Councillor for the St Giles Ward to help make Desborough a place we can be proud of.'***

Richard Tod

Richard, known locally as Rikki, is 68 years old and has been a resident of Desborough for 44 years. Richard has previously served the community on the Town and Borough Councils (he was the leader of the Borough Council from 1998 to 2003) and served as a School Governor at two local schools. Richard has two daughters who have lived in Desborough all their lives.

After leaving the political scene in 2003 Richard continued for two years to act as a trouble shooter and adviser to councils of all political parties, nationally, helping to improve their performance. Unfortunately, in 2016 his wife Nancy died. Since then, Richard has been travelling abroad and touring in his caravan around the UK, doing all the things they had planned to do together. Now however, Richard plans to come out of retirement.

He says – ***'I have been shocked at the collapse of democracy in Northamptonshire. Desborough tax payers do not deserve this. I am determined to use my experience to work with my colleagues locally and nationally to stabilise our local democracy and pursue Desborough's interests in the future.'***



Helen Wood

Married with two small children Helen has lived in the area for a number of years. Her children attend the local school, and pre-school, of which she chairs the committee. Helen has managed in public services, and also has experience in the voluntary sector.

She held public office as a City Councillor prior to moving to the area, including sitting on the planning and scrutiny committees.

Helen affirms - ***'My focus has always been on working with and for residents with differing concerns and backgrounds. As my children are here, I am concerned we have a safe, clean, well-ordered environment in Desborough. Care of the elderly is also close to my heart having an older family member living locally. I am passionate that we face the challenges and opportunities afforded to Desborough positively and with local people's interests as the focus.'***

I will also press for tighter planning controls to avoid any repetition of the problems in Rushton Road that have blighted our community with heavy traffic for many years.'

Speaking up for Desborough



What next?

The financial crisis at County Hall is already having a serious impact on local communities across Northamptonshire and it looks as though Desborough Library faces closure as a result of the incompetence of the Conservative administration.

Desborough Labour Party will work with other parties and / or community groups to consider all viable and sustainable options to maintain a library facility in the town. However we will not support any options that would require considerable cost for local residents without undertaking a very thorough consultation process first.

If local people pick up the costs of running the Library, could they then be expected to provide road maintenance, children's services, social care for the elderly and other local services?

We do not believe that it is fair or reasonable for Desborough residents to pay their local taxes to provide services in other areas and then pay **again** for services in our own community.

Labour's team for Desborough

Labour's team for the local elections on Thursday May 3rd 2018 includes five candidates who have previously served as local Councillors two former leaders of Kettering Borough Council and a former MP.

Between them they have years of experience in serving local communities and provide a good balance of people from across the town. Along with this experience there are new candidates who bring fresh ideas and a variety of special interests. All are eager to work as part of a team to serve our town.

All our candidates have a personal stake in the future of Desborough. They all live in the town, so what happens here matters to them as much as it does to you.

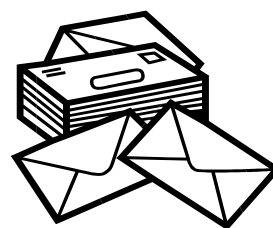
The Labour team promises to work on behalf of the people of Desborough to meet the needs of today and the challenges of tomorrow.

For more information about Desborough Labour Party go to - www.ketteringlabourparty.org/desborough

POSTAL VOTES

In Desborough there are over 1,500 people registered to vote by post. But a lot of people miss out on their democratic rights due to work commitments, holidays, bad weather or illness.

If you want to vote by post it is easy to register, it doesn't cost anything and you will be sure of your democratic right.



To get a Postal Vote application form simply ring Kettering Borough Council on 01536 410333 or contact Desborough Labour Party. (See below)

PLEASE NOTE –

Applications for Postal Votes for this election must be received by Kettering Borough Council by 5.00pm on Wednesday 18th April 2018.

Web: www.ketteringlabourparty.org/desborough

E-Mail: joanne@ketteringlabourparty.org

Tel: 01536 506580

Promoted by: Phil Sawford C/o Kettering Constituency Labour Party, 12b Market Street, Kettering, Northants, NN16 0AH.

On behalf of: The Labour Party Candidates for the Desborough St Giles Ward, (Paul Coles, Ben King, Phil Sawford, Jo Taylor, Richard Tod, Helen Wood) C/o Kettering Constituency Labour Party, 12b Market Street, Kettering, Northants, NN16 0AH.

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