

## WELCOME



**WELCOME** to the first Newsletter from the recently formed Seagulls Party.

**Thank you for joining the fastest growing political party in Sussex!**

As you are aware, the party is registered with the Electoral Commission and intends to field candidates in the main round of Council elections next May.

***We stand for openness, honesty, accountability and engagement.***

The Party has been born out of frustration and anger, over the political process, that has thwarted the delivery of a Community Stadium for Sussex. A Stadium that will be a conduit for positive social change – whether it be learning through football, tackling health issues such as childhood obesity or addressing social issues such as adult literacy or social exclusion.

The Stadium will enable so much more positive community work to be delivered – and enhance what is already an award winning Community Scheme.

It's not just about football, it's much more important than that.

- It's been seven years since 45,000 people of Brighton & Hove voted in the City's Referendum in support of Falmer as the proposed site;
- It's been five years since the Planning Application was lodged;
- It's been four years since Brighton & Hove Council approved it by 11-1.

*And then the fun started...*

- 62 days of Public Inquiry, spread over 2½ years;
- Over a £¼ million spent by Lewes District Council opposing the Stadium;
- And at no point has the Council ever asked its residents for their views – certainly not by way of a Referendum;
- Not only have the Council failed to consult their Electorate properly, but they have attempted to mislead residents with doctored photographs in the Council publication, *District Link*.



The pro-stadium campaign has remained open and honest – and The Seagulls Party will carry those values forward.

It is difficult to see how Lewes District Council's actions relate to that part of the Council's constitution which states "the Council's principal aim is to serve the public, who expect a high standard of integrity and service from the Council". Serving the public with integrity. That will be at the heart of this Party.

Let's just go over the irrefutable facts – something of an anathema to Norman Baker - the LibDem MP for Lewes - and Ann De Vecchi - the Lewes District Council leader.

As we know all too well, they only deal in innuendo and sensational falsehoods.

However, these are the facts:

- There is no other site - which requires only 150 new car parking spaces.
- There is no other site - that uses some 2,200 pre-existing car parking spaces - offered by the neighbouring University of Sussex and Falmer High School.
- There is no other site - that has agreement from its closest neighbour - the University of Brighton with its students lodging closer to the Stadium site than the Falmer villagers;
- There is no other site - that is available AND is next to a railway station;

- There is no other site - that is next to a main arterial dual carriageway AND comprises partly developed land.

### **Quite simply, there is no other site!**

The people of Sussex value honesty and openness - concepts and values that sadly seem to have long since passed by the Lewes Liberal Democrats.

Cabinet meetings are held behind closed doors, because of 'legal advice' or 'fairness' to the Council's partners. Councillors are 'gagged' in the wake of the decision to challenge.

Thirteen months ago, an independent Councillor even had to resort to submitting his own petition on the matter, just so that he could raise the issue in the Council Chamber.

### ***Liberal, Democratic - you're having a laugh!***

We haven't spent the last 10 years fighting for a home - to see it being delayed by some arrogant conceited politicians - who are out of touch with their electorate and well past their sell-by date.

My message to them is simple - we'll still be around long after you've left town - and you know what?

**...TOGETHER WE WILL WIN!**

*Paul Samrah*

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

Tim Carder



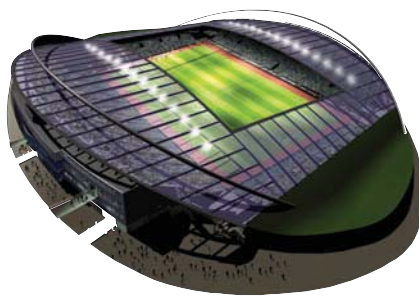
**THE SEAGULLS PARTY** was formed in May 2006 by the Falmer For All campaign team

**in order to take the battle for the new stadium into the political arena. It was launched in June with a solid, democratic constitution behind it.**

My job as secretary, one of the five officers responsible for the day-to-day running of the party, is to ensure that the constitution is observed and that the administrative side works well. I also look after minutes and maintain the membership records.

So far, my main task has been to register new members. As you can imagine, this was a particularly onerous job with hundreds of applications flooding in, and I am grateful to Ed Bassford and Roz South for processing a good many of them. I'd also like to thank members for their patience; I'm afraid it took much longer than hoped before we got to the bottom of the pile.

All members should now be in possession of a rather neat membership card designed by Bill Swallow. Please look after it – you will need it to vote at our annual conference. The cards have been manufactured to a high specification so that they last. They will not be issued every year; instead, we intend issuing a sticky label that you can put over the 'Member 06/07' panel to show that your



membership is up to date. Our constitution is available on our website, [www.seagullsparty.org](http://www.seagullsparty.org). However, if you would like a printed version please contact me, preferably with an SAE.

As far as members are concerned, the main obligation is not to act against the interests of the party. The two main objectives are:

- to campaign politically in the cause of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club or its supporters;
- to campaign politically for a permanent community stadium for Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club at Village Way, Falmer. I am sure you all agree with those!

Committee meetings are held around once a month, usually in conjunction with meetings of the Falmer For All campaign team for convenience. All party members are

entitled to attend committee meetings, so please contact me if you wish to do so.

There is, of course, one other very important way to get involved, and that is to offer yourself as a candidate for council elections. If you live in Lewes District - that's where we would anticipate most of the "action" taking place - please do consider whether you might be able to contribute in this way and help defeat those within Lewes District Council that would destroy the stadium dream and perhaps even the Albion itself.

Party policy is set day-to-day by the committee of five officers, but the supreme decision-making body of the party is the annual conference.

Conference will decide on any matter it sees fit, including whether to field candidates at the imminent May elections. It will vote on any resolution before it, effect rule changes, and elect five officers to run the party.

There is one other role which I fulfil, that of 'nominating officer'. This is a position required by legislation and the Electoral Commission (who regulate all political parties in the UK). Only the nominating officer is allowed to sign papers endorsing candidates as official nominations of The Seagulls Party. As you know, we have already contested one



*The stadium site near Falmer*



*The Seagulls Party's officers (l-r): leader Paul Samrah, secretary Tim Carder, communications officer Roz South, deputy leader, Adrian Newnham.*

by-election. On that occasion I was on holiday, so I had to issue a signed certificate to allow Roz South to act as nominating officer in my absence in order to endorse Ed Bassford as The Seagulls Party candidate.

As far as membership is concerned, as of 25th January we had 377 paid-up members, a very promising beginning. We have deliberately set the subscription as a nominal one pound, but we are most grateful to the very many members who have given donations above that. (Please note that we are required to publish the names of any donors who give £200 or more.)

You might like to know something of our membership profile. Thus far, we have the following age groups:

16-19.....	3%
20-29.....	8%
30-39.....	21%
40-49.....	28%
50-59.....	22%
60-69.....	9%
70-79.....	4%
80-89.....	2%
Did not say.....	5%

The gender ratio is 80% male, 20% female.

In terms of geographic location, we have:

Brighton & Hove.....	30%
West Sussex.....	24%
Lewes District.....	14%
Rest of East Sussex.....	6%
London.....	6%
Surrey.....	3%
Kent.....	2%
Hampshire.....	1%
Rest of England.....	12%
Wales.....	1%
Scotland.....	1%
Rest of Europe.....	1%

I hope that gives you some idea of the Seagulls Party, how it's run and how you can get involved. As it goes from strength to strength, I hope more of you will do so.

*Tim Carder*

# Why is it illegal to knock a policeman's helmet off?



**YOU MAY BE wondering about the title - don't worry, I will come back**

**to it later.**

Let me start by saying the major plus of the August By-Election was the opportunity to test the Seagulls Party in the live environment. We had carried out much planning and research as to how the other parties would deal with us and it is fair to say that the Lib Dems didn't let us down with their tactics. It would be wrong for me to go into detail here, but safe to say we have had a close look at what they have said and how they said it and it has certainly given us a real insight into what we will face at the full local elections in May.

For those of you who may not be aware, the Ouse Valley and Ringmer ward is made up of predominantly rural and semi rural areas. Our opponents privately felt that this kind of ward was not an area that we would do well in. However, on election night it was clear that the size of our vote - less than 3 months after being launched - took them by surprise. Having met and spoken to voters it was clear that there are a great many who live in areas of real Outstanding Natural Beauty who feel aggrieved at the 'waste of expenditure' to prop up areas that don't deserve the title. This is a feeling we must draw on later this year.

Having said all this, it will be a very different fight in the more populous areas such as Newhaven, Peacehaven,

Seaford and Lewes. In these seats particularly we must ensure we reflect the will of the voters, not just in relation to the stadium issue, but also in other key local matters. It is for this reason that we will be selecting strong individuals with local knowledge to fight these key areas.

As with any campaign, the aim will be to maximise our strengths, ensure our message gets across and to highlight the weaknesses of our opponents. Bless them - they really are not making a good fist of handling themselves at the moment and with the pressure continuing to mount they will make mistakes. That is why it is key that our prospective candidates are in place to ensure that the public can see for themselves, the poor record of their current elected representatives.

Now back to the title of this piece. Everybody knows, instinctively, that it is illegal to knock a policeman's helmet off. But not many people can articulately explain it. That is very similar to the challenge we will face in May - many people know that they want to see the stadium progress, whilst there are others who are ambivalent to it. There will also be those who may not want it, but certainly don't agree with the way in which the current District Council are handling themselves. Our main challenge is to ensure that we can turn these instinctive feelings into an articulate case why a vote for the

Seagulls party is the only logical step.

Previous campaigns have shown that there are numerous individuals who have been involved with the stadium who have the skills and attitude required to be effective candidates, and it will be an absolute pleasure to work alongside you to ensure that we give the best possible account of ourselves in May and take another step towards delivering for Lewes the benefits of a community stadium for Sussex at Falmer.

*Adrian Newnham*



# NOTICES

## PARTY CAN 'OUSE' CONFIDENCE FROM BY-ELECTION



(l-r) The Seagulls Party's secretary Tim Carder, Seagulls Party candidate for Ouse Valley & Ringmer Ed Bassford and party leader Paul Samrah.



**THE SEAGULLS PARTY announced its arrival on the political map in**

**August 2006 when it fielded its first candidate in a by-election held within Lewes District.**

Ed Bassford stood for the Seagulls Party in the Ouse Valley & Ringmer ward, just three months after the party had been founded.

Derided as an irrelevance by some

opposition parties before campaigning began, the party, supported by a number of dedicated canvassers, put up a great showing, polling a highly respectable 22% of the vote.

Mr Bassford was delighted with the count, stating that for all its negative campaigning by the Liberal Democrats locally, the result was similar to what they (the LibDems) achieve on a national level.

## SEAGULLS PARTY CONFERENCE 2007



**THE 2007 ANNUAL** Conference of The Seagulls Party will be held on Thursday, 22nd

February, commencing at 7.30pm in the Directors' Suite, Withdean Stadium, Brighton. (The Directors' Suite is the single-storey building adjacent to the Sportsman pub, directly in front of you when you go down the ramp into the car-park.)

The Annual Conference is the supreme decision-making authority within the party. It will decide on policy and elect officers. It will also make decisions on the fielding of candidates at forthcoming elections.

A formal notice and full agenda will be sent separately to this Newsletter.

Please do try to make it to this important event if you can. Remember, unlike an Albion match, there will be no restriction on car-parking.

*You can of course also travel to the stadium by train to Preston Park Station, or by bus routes 5/5A and 27. Note that the 5/5A route has buses back into the city centre from the London Road at 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30 and 11.00, while the no.27 leaves at 8.24, 9.24 and 10.24.*



## SEAGULLS PARTY MERCHANDISE

The Seagulls Party T-shirts and badges will be available to party members and non-members from the second week of February. To purchase these T-shirts or badges, simply fill in the form below, deatch it, and send it with a cheque, made payable to 'The Seagulls Party' and send it to: Sporting Colours, 94a Gloucester Road, Brighton BN1 4AP. Alternatively, you can buy these items in person from the shop at the above address. All proceeds from the sale of the items goes straight to The Seagulls Party.

Please send me...

Chest sizes: S 36" M 38" L 40" XL 44" XXL 48" XXXL 52"	T-SHIRTS			
	Qty.	Size	Cost	Total
			£8.00 ea	
			£8.00 ea	
		£8.00 ea		
BADGES				
	25mm	50p		
		P&P	£1.50	
		<b>TOTAL</b> <small>Min order £1.00</small>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Tel No.: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU**