

Press Release

Friday, 20th May 2008

For immediate use

Labour Backs Lib Dem in Chard By-Election

In the upcoming by-election in the Chard Crimchard ward, the Yeovil Constituency Labour Party has urged all Labour voters and supporters to vote for the Liberal Democrat candidate, Jenny Kenton. The local party cited fears of having an elected BNP candidate on Chard Town Council.

The BNP have long been campaigning in Chard due to growing racial tension over EU migrants. The BNP recently caused controversy in Chard after handing out leaflets calling for an end to company Oscar Mayer making use of Portuguese workers at the expense of the British people.

The Yeovil Labour Party has not fielded a candidate in the Chard by-election, but instead has thrown its full support behind the Liberal Democrat candidate in the hope of keeping out the British National Party.

Although the Labour Party does not typically encourage tactical voting, it does not believe in providing the BNP with a platform from which to promote racism. The Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Yeovil, Paul Smith, has commented:

"This is something more important than the petty squabbles that often dog the main political parties and gives us all something to fight together against. It's important for us to unite against the nationalists, we want to see the percentage of people voting for the BNP to be as low as possible to send a clear message that we don't want a return to the sort of politics that plagued Europe in the 1930s, the last thing we'd want is for the BNP to take a significant share of the vote due to low turn out."

Ends

Notes to Editors: edit as required.

For more information, please contact the Yeovil Labour Party CLP Secretary at secretary@labour4yeovil.org.uk