

# Community

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What is interesting about this is that if they are able to do this, in a first Queen's Speech, the other parties will be challenged to back it; they will be unable to get out of backing it.

This would presumably be the same Queen's speech in which a Conservative administration would announce legislation, without any hint of a referendum, on the transfer of powers away from our 'sovereign parliament' and onto bodies which, unlike the European Union, do not even have their own constitutional basis.

I refer of course to the proposed Power of General Competence (PCG) legislation, under which (Section 3, paragraph 1 of the draft bill):

Primary (parliamentary) legislation and subordinate legislation must be read and given effect in a way which is compatible with the power of general competence.

This is the legislation modelled closely, in an extra little dose of hypocrisy, on the Human Rights Act which Cameron himself has said he would abolish.

This (PCG) legislation is designed to allow Conservative local authorities to avoid meeting current statutory commitments set down by the parliament whose powers he professes now to treasure.

Cameron and his Tories are hypocrites, constitutionally speaking.

*Sheila Mazeyer  
Crofton Road, Attenborough*

## More than enough

DEAR EDITOR: Dr Palmer's assertion at the recent *Beeston Express* election hustings event that "no party has ever won a majority of the votes in Broxtowe" is simply wrong.

The record shows that his predecessor, Conservative Jim Lester, polled 53.5 percent in 1983, 53.6 percent in 1987 and 50.9 percent in 1992.

Perhaps Dr Palmer, with his PHD in mathematics, could explain how more than 50 percent is not a majority? He should also remove similar statements from his election website.

*Cllr Eileen Atherton  
Penrhyn Crescent, Chilwell*

## Support

DEAR EDITOR: I am not a Labour party member and there are many things that the current government has done over the past 13 years which I disapprove of. This is particularly the case in terms of what I see as the misdirection of a lot of resources in public services. However, I was one of those with no party affiliation unable to squeeze into the meeting which launched Nick Palmer's election campaign. I'd like to give one anecdote as to why I believe that, in Nick, we have as hard working, approachable and effective a politician representing us as we could hope for.

A few years back, the government proposed some changes to the probation service which did not make sense to a number of us working for that organisation. Through our union, we lobbied Nick and explained our concerns. He listened and, although not sympathetic to all of our arguments, then took the trouble to come to one of our branch meetings to hear more of our concerns and to generally take an interest in what we had to say about our work. He then contacted me to suggest that he arrange for some of us to come and meet the minister responsible for the legislation we were opposed to. The result of this was an opportunity for us to talk at some length with the minister directly, from the perspective of staff working in the service.

Everyone seems to be aware of Nick's effectiveness as a community leader dealing with local issues but I feel this is an example of how effective a politician he is. He is clearly someone who is in public service to see what he can put in and not what he can take out. That is just one of the reasons why I will be supporting him come May 6.

*Ian Macarthur  
Collington Street, Beeston*

## Open Letter to Anna Soubry

DEAR EDITOR: Dear Miss Soubry, I wrote to you last week to establish your opinion on if you also thought the Broxtowe Conservative election campaign breached Cabinet Office guidelines.

As you haven't bothered to reply to my original written request, should the electorate believe you'll eventually

write back if you're elected come May 6?

You launched the Broxtowe Conservative election campaign from Dr Doddy's surgery in Stapleford. I hope you now accept the launch was in breach of Cabinet Office guidelines as the rules on holding election events on NHS premises are as follows:

"1. Neither Ministers, nor any other Parliamentary candidates, should involve Government establishments or offices (such as Jobcentres) in the General Election campaign by visiting them for electioneering purposes.

2. In the case of NHS property, decisions are for the relevant NHS Trust but should visits be permitted to, for example, hospitals, the Department of Health and the Scottish Executive advise that there should be no disruption to services and the same facilities should be available to other candidates. In any case, it is advised that Election meetings should not be permitted on NHS premises."

*Ashley Walsh  
Holyrood Court, Bramcote*

## Yours hopefully

DEAR EDITOR: Several weeks ago I wrote to each of the prospective parliamentary candidates for this constituency to canvas their views on a particular issue.

The issue was relatively minor in general election terms and certainly not one which would be likely to influence anyone's voting intentions. I received a fairly detailed and swift reply from both Nick Palmer and David Watts. Clearly, both candidates were prepared to behave like responsible politicians and to show a local resident that they were prepared to take his interests seriously.

Four weeks on, however, I am still awaiting a response from Miss Soubry. I shall continue waiting for her reply more in hope than expectation and, for fairly obvious health and safety reasons, not with bated breath.

Wouldn't we all prefer an MP in Broxtowe who has, at least, some sense of responsibility towards voters and who treats constituents with courtesy and respect?

*R Jefferies  
Sandy Lane, Bramcote*

# Notes from the Margin

## Two more candidates

THE general election is just under two weeks away (May 6, in case you've been living in a cave) and Broxtowe now has six candidates fighting to represent our views in Parliament.

We provided potted biographies of the candidates from the three main parties in our February 26 issue. Michael Shore will stand for the BNP. Below are the biographies of the candidates who will stand for the Green Party and UKIP:

## David Mitchell

BROXTOWE Green Party has selected David Mitchell, a self-employed carpenter and garden designer.

Mr Mitchell is a father of three who lives in Beeston, and has recently been elected to serve on the Governing Body of Round Hill Primary School as a parent governor. His selection as candidate for the Green Party followed a ballot of local members in the Broxtowe constituency.

He will join with several hundred other Green Party candidates across the country putting forward imaginative policies for a greener, fairer Britain. They will campaign under the slogan 'Fair is worth fighting for' with policies on fairer taxation, pensions, better public transport, action on climate change, economic renewal and saving the NHS from privatisation.

Mr Mitchell said: "I am honoured to be standing for the Green Party in Broxtowe. We hope that our campaigning will bring more people to realise that a Green vote will always count in the long run.

He continued: "The 'single issue' criticism of the Green Party has been argued away by common sense and practical policy making, and together we can show how we can make a difference. I will press hard on all matters concerning the quality of life for us all."

Mr Mitchell is determined that Green voters will have their voice heard, despite the focus of the campaign being Labour versus Tory with some strong tactical voting.

He said: "We have something different to offer, and it is important in our democracy that the opportunity for everyone's views to be expressed at election time is not lost.

## Chris Cobb

CHRIS Cobb has lived in Bramcote Hills for more than 25 years. An accountant with his own practice based in Wollaton, he is married and has two adult children. Born in Norwich, he attended Birmingham University and studied Commerce.

Chris has been a member of UKIP for three years. He said: "I joined UKIP when I found myself increasingly disillusioned with the three main national parties, finding their attitude tired, arrogant and patronising." He believes that UKIP is the only party to offer a realistic prospect of returning power to Westminster and addressing the fact that 75 percent of our laws are determined by the European Union (EU).

He commented: "Brussels issues 120,000 new directives every year and we pay the EU £45 million every day for the privilege. They give us some of this back – and then tell us what to do with it.

"I'm sure we could find better things to do with it anyway. What I'd like to see is some of the power moved away from the EU and returned to Westminster.

"We have no control over our borders, and I think it's been proved beyond all doubt that the infrastructure for coping with people moving from country to country unchecked can't cope."

"I also believe we should bring some honesty, transparency and integrity back into British politics."

Chris stood in the local elections in June 2009 and polled just over 1000 votes. He said: "Obviously I'm hoping to increase on that!"

*Onwards with the merry dance! More letters on page 10...*