

# THANKS AGAIN!

**A FANTASTIC 1,397 PEOPLE VOTED FOR A NEW KIND OF POLITICS HERE IN CITY + HUNSLET THIS YEAR\*. NOW BACK TO THE REAL WORK IN HAND...**

(\*Local elections, May 2016 – for the city council ward made up of Beeston Hill, Hunslet and the City Centre.)



**HI, SORRY**, it's been a while since the May local elections, but I wanted to get back in touch – to thank people for their support then, and to look forward to what next...

**I love Leeds and the communities** here in City and Hunslet, so stood in the local council elections last year and this. Huge **love and thanks** again to all the different people who helped out. Thanks for all the encouragement and enthusiasm from friends and strangers alike. And it was great to meet so many new people, discuss big issues, help sort out a few problems – and we even had a bit of a laugh! I hope we offered the great people of this area a **positive alternative** on election day...

But it wasn't to be. Like last year, **we came a strong 2nd** – this time with 1,397 votes (27% of the vote, up from 23% last year). So we're gaining ground – but change takes time.

As Monty Python said, **always look on the bright side of life!** We got more votes and a bigger vote share than almost any other 'challenger' in Leeds.

Also, City and Hunslet has often traditionally had the lowest voter turnout in the city – but again this year, we beat several other 'wards' on that front. (With any luck, people felt they had something worth voting for.)

There's no local election now until 2018, so I'm getting my teeth back into ongoing community work... **Advice and support** work, on issues including: housing, waste and bins, green spaces, highways, schools, welfare, and anti-social behavior... **Campaigns**, linked with our giant community manifesto... And **projects** such as: Holbeck viaduct, community hiking trips, South Leeds Community Camp (20-21 Aug), Leeds Den Festival (3-4 Sept), Leeds Repair Cafe (relaunch due in Sept), English Conversation Clubs for refugees, and more. For full info or to get involved, please **get in touch** (see overleaf). **THANKS** again.

**ED CARLISLE** (Leeds Green Party)

**Living here in the community.  
Working with you for change.**

# WHAT NOW?

These are fascinating, eventful times: post-**Brexit**, so many things seem up in the air.

So, **what are we going to do?** If nothing else, Brexit surely signaled a deep unhappiness about an out-of-touch political system that no longer seems to be serving regular people and communities. Funnily enough, that's why I entered politics 18 months ago: to have a go at helping to generate a more positive politics.

And whatever we think of the EU referendum (I remain convinced there were sound reasons to vote either way), **we undoubtedly face new opportunities and challenges.** We hear that no-one's got a post-Brexit plan – so let's create one ourselves...

What kind of society, economy, city do we want? **Could we start to form a better society**, from the bottom up? One based on cooperation, creativity, equal opportunities for all (you name it)..? It sounds daft, but the power really is in our hands.

Talk with people you know (and maybe those you don't!), share ideas, get involved in local action and/or politics if you can, and – when it comes to it – please vote.

Indeed, **politics is definitely not the only way to create social change.** But it is a very useful tool – can we reclaim it, and make it work for everyone again? And if so, where better to start than right here, on our doorsteps..?



*Many thanks to all those who've helped out with the various local environmental projects this summer; and also the growing number of local people getting into gardening. Crack on, it makes such a difference! Thanks also to all those who've*

*been involved with things like Beeston Festival, the EU debates, Holbeck viaduct, and the Junk Boat Challenge at the Waterfront Festival (pictured). Great work!*

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