



Independent Health Concern



The Editor
The Shuttle
Kidderminster

2 September 2007

Dear Sir

Peter Neilson (letter 30 August) correctly notes the background to the reasons for the success of Independent Health Concern since 2001 when Dr Richard Taylor first gained the local Parliamentary seat. However, in suggesting a future “deal” between Independent Health Concern and Labour he completely misses the point about our “reason for being” and why we contest elections.

The clue is in our name – “Independent” means not that we are independent of each other but that our activists are collectively independent from the constraints of national party politics. Health Concern acts in the interests of Wyre Forest residents first and foremost - NOT in putting the interests of the national policies of the Labour, Tory or Lib Dem parties before all else, which ultimately drive the actions of candidates of those parties.

Since many of our current concerns are driven by the Labour governments ongoing systematic deconstruction of the NHS it is foolish in the extreme to ever presume that we would waste everything we have achieved and in which we believe, in favour of endorsing a Labour Party parliamentary candidate – or any other party candidate for that matter, since the rot was actually started by the previous Tory government and, over the years, the Lib Dems have been too inept to do anything about it.

The endorsement of another political party would go against everything we want to do in maintaining and building on the high profile of political independence we have generated over the last few years. We now provide a genuine, alternative option to traditional party choice and our support comes from all sectors of political belief and voters who are disillusioned with the main parties and who would be let down by us if we now advised them to vote for someone else. We will not do that.

We will continue, as Independent Health Concern, to contest Parliamentary, County and Local elections in Wyre Forest and we will continue to provide that genuine alternative to the traditional political parties which we know has become so attractive to our supporters.

Maybe, as an alternative to Mr Neilsen’s proposal, I might suggest that the Labour Party prospective parliamentary candidate withdraws and asks his supporters to vote Independent Health Concern since this would certainly enhance our already significant chances of retaining control of Wyre Forest at the next parliamentary election and avoid the only realistic but appalling alternative of this constituency slipping into Tory control.

Yours sincerely

Howard Martin
Independent Health Concern