

Keele Matters



Keele

Winter

Owen Meredith Selected For Keele

Twenty year old Owen Meredith, Keele's Conservative Party Chairman, has been selected to fight the seat at the next local elections on May 3rd 2007.

Owen has lived locally in Silverdale since he moved to the area in 2004, when he bought his first home. He works in Keele Village and is a part-time student at Keele University. Owen was the agent to Joel Foley, the Conservative Candidate in 2006, when the Conservative vote quadrupled.

Mr Foley commented on Owen's selection saying "I am delighted that Owen has been selected to stand for Keele. I was unfortunately unable to put my own name forward again due to new work commitments, but can think of no one better to fight the seat. Owen has shown total commitment to Keele and raised Keele's profile within the Party. He is an excellent candidate to deliver on the council."

Mr Meredith welcomed his selection saying "I am extremely pleased to have been selected by the Conservatives for Keele. I believe, at the next election, Keele has a real chance of electing a Conservative and I am dedicated to making that happen."

He added, "As a Conservative team, over the few past years we have put a lot of energy into bringing politics back to life in Keele. We now want to take that energy to the council chamber, where we can begin to make the difference and deliver for Keele."

The local elections take place on Thursday May 3rd 2007. All students resident on campus are automatically registered to vote. People wishing to register should contact Newcastle Borough Council on 01782 717717.



Lib Dems Back Owen Meredith

Former Liberal Democrat voters have welcomed Owen's selection by the Conservatives in Keele and have pledged support for Owen's campaign.

Owen welcomed their support saying, "It's pleasing to know that the work we have been doing in recent years has been recognised and has paid off, attracting new members to the Party who haven't previously looked at the Conservatives as an obvious home."

He added, "The Lib Dems have always taken Keele for granted relying on an apparently 'natural' student vote and a reliable vote in the village. Through hard work and commitment we have challenged this on all fronts, winning large votes in the village and on campus at the last election. The Conservative team and I are committed to Keele, and take nothing for granted. Keele would be well represented by a Conservative Borough Councillor."

Support Owen's campaign:
www.owenmeredith.co.uk

Building An Excellent Council

Since taking control of Newcastle Borough Council, your Conservatives working with their partners have started to improve the way your Council delivers its services. Council Leader Cllr Simon Tagg said, "Under the previous Labour administration, the Council was criticised by the Audit Commission. Labour received the lowest possible rating in every category for use of resources and were slammed for lacking leadership."

After only 6 months, we have taken steps to improve service delivery to you:

- **Carried out a major restructuring of the Council to cut waste and duplication while moving resources to frontline services.**
- **Set up a special team of Council Officers to drive the improvement in services.**
- **Introduced more efficient management in the Council's finances to help keep council tax down**

We have also taken steps to improve the quality of life for residents of Keele:

- **Embarked on a groundbreaking recycling policy to help protect our environment.**
- **Initiated a 20-year action plan to regenerate parts of our town centre.**
- **Started the process of gaining civil on-street parking enforcement (called DPE) to unclog our roads where it is needed.**

Owen Meredith said, "We are already showing real results. The Inspectors have been back and praised the new administration for the progress made in the first 6 months. They said visible leadership is being demonstrated and really good improvements have been made."



Meredith: Clean Transport Is The Answer

Owen Meredith is encouraging Keele residents and students to visit www.howgreenisyourcar.co.uk.

It's time for a new direction on transport thinking. Tackling the environmental impact of road transport doesn't mean trying to drive cars off our roads: it's the technology that needs to change. Cars have to become greener and greener.

The Conservatives' intention is to develop a programme that is cost-neutral – that will alter the balance between the cost of owning a traditionally powered, less environmentally friendly vehicle and the equivalent cost of a new-generation vehicle.

We are encouraging people to use the new website to help them choose a greener car that will suit their lifestyle.

Did You Know?

It can cost as little as £20 to neutralise the carbon emissions produced by one year's car travel? Visit www.targetneural.com

Owen Meredith commented, "This whole issue ties in with the battle around M6 expansion, the issue of new road building and expansion is a difficult one. There is clear economic need for more transport links within the UK, but we need to balance the environmental impact of any new road building against the economic advantages. There is no easy answer. We must accept the environmental damage and economic impact of the congestion on our roads and act to resolve it.

"I fully support the decision to abandon the proposed M6 Expressway, and would welcome better management of the existing highway, including sensible use of the hard shoulder in order to cut congestion and improve efficiency of the M6.

"We need to look at both short and long-term solutions. There is no quick fix, but we cannot rely on a sudden shift in public behaviour away from the car, and therefore must provide for continued road transportation in the most environmentally beneficial way."



Recycling Improvements Are Being Delivered

Since the Conservative-led council took control in May 2006, waste and recycling plans have been overhauled. Labour's fortnightly bin collections have been scrapped to allow expansion of recycling projects. 3,000 extra homes are due to be included in garden waste collection.

We have also established recycling centres in the Borough for plastics, including a new site on Keele University Campus for Plastic recycling.



Keele, Tell Us What You Are Thinking

Representatives from Keele Conservatives attended the meeting "Living in Harmony" held in Keele Village Hall in November, where a number of key issues were raised that were causing concerns to residents.

Information from this meeting has helped Keele Conservatives compile a survey which asks questions about what changes people living in Keele would like to see.

Surveys have been posted out and you should receive one shortly. We would be grateful if you could complete and return the survey in the pre-paid envelope, if you don't receive one please fill it out online at: www.owenmeredith.co.uk/survey.htm



County Cllr Glennis Deakin (Keele, Westlands & Thistleberry)

E: glennis.deakin@staffordshire.gov.uk T: 01782 611559

Keele Conservative Council Spokesman, Owen Meredith:

E: owen@newcastlecf.co.uk M: 07816156925 T: 01782 633590

www.owenmeredith.co.uk

Join The Team, Working For A Better Keele

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code _____ Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____@_____

- I wish to receive information about joining the Conservatives.
- I wish to register only as a supporter, not a member.
- I wish to help with Owen's campaign, please contact me!
- Please send me details of how to vote by post.

Please Return this form to Owen Meredith:
Newcastle Conservative Association, Hawthorne House, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 2AW.