

Manifesto of Kieran Wetherick

I am standing as a candidate for:

- 1) Youth Council / Freshwater and Totland area
- 2) Youth MP / Isle Of Wight



Introducing myself

An islander all my life, I have seen its fluctuations and, indeed, lows; this effect on mine and our generation underpinning my experiences. Thus, community is certainly a driving force for myself as it is something that has declined-and I believe as an Island, a cohesive sense of community needs to be resurrected. As such, young people on the island are void of hope; believing there to be little opportunity on the island. This misconception has to be removed, whilst increasing (rapidly) the educational and social opportunities for young people on this island, the latter of which there is an unfortunate deficit. I attend Cowes Enterprise College Sixth Form where I hold the position of head boy- the skills I have accumulated here, dedication, passion, organisation, are all transferable to this role.

A clear set of aspirations are in order, to summarise the topics which resonate particularly with young people.

What is important to young people on the Island?

What are the three main things you think are important to young people in your area.

1. Climate Change: evidenced predominantly by the national and local strikes in aid of Youth Strike 4 Climate Change, it is clear that the overarching issue surrounding our generation is the immediacy of climate change. A UN report states that we as a globe have until 2030 to make substantial changes to our systems of production etc. before this becomes irreversible. Governments nationally have been reluctant to enact change, or in some cases even acknowledge this impending issue; thus, our generation have begun to take action into our own hands. This is something which I would passionately advocate in this position, encouraging ultimately the island to become more eco and more aware of the crisis we are currently under.
2. Mental Health: on equal footing to the issue of climate, mental health awareness and treatment has been a rapid movement which has been led predominantly by young people. As an issue, it will affect all of us in some form during our lifetimes- the island is no exception. Thus, it is crucial that awareness is ever increasingly island-wide, and as young people become more educated on the issue, more action will take place to prevent and deal with the problem.
3. Opportunity: this extends, as aforementioned, to educational, social and employment opportunities for young people. There is a complete lack of hope amongst certain demographics of islanders, something which should be a birth right for young people in one of the wealthiest countries in the world. This has to be tackled, because the potential is there; the unique status of the island needs to be harnessed to provide better jobs, more social events and societies, and a higher educational standard for future generations of Islanders.

What would I want to achieve?

Conclusively, if one could summarize my aims in one specific achievement it would be for the council to join the increasing amount of local councils across the UK and declare a climate emergency. We must begin to take decisive action; its prevention needs to be the priority of our council, setting the precedent for future councils and their policies. This would feed into and enhance the latter two issues, proving the much needed hope for young people, bringing us together as a community of young people to take action.

We need decisive change. Not bureaucratic, minor or ineffectual changes which do nothing to reflect your views or needs, but clear, coherent achievements which improve your conditions and place the island amongst the nation in social movements.

Why vote for me?

I vouch to deliver this with passion for the island which I love, and for the benefit of its future inhabitants.

Optimism shall return to the youth of the Isle of Wight.