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Conservatives
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InTouch

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with Great Yarmouth



We're backing Brandon
From Fritton to Winterton more and more people are backing hard-working local campaigner Brandon Lewis. Find out why on Page 2.



Keep the music playing
Secret Labour plans will stop charities, churches and youth groups from playing recorded music. Brandon explains what effect this will have locally. See Page 2.

ACTION STATIONS!

Brandon Lewis leads the new campaign to revamp Yarmouth's end of the line

HELP GIVE GREAT YARMOUTH STATION A BRIGHTER FUTURE

If you are ashamed of our run down and ugly station then join our campaign for urgent improvement:

1. Sign the petition on the back page and return it to the address given. You can also sign the petition online at www.fixourstation.com.
2. Join our Facebook group by searching for "Fix Great Yarmouth Station".
3. Ask you friends and family to join the campaign by visiting www.fixourstation.com.
4. Write to National Express East Anglia demanding urgent action: Customer Relations, National Express East Anglia, Norwich Railway Station, Station Approach, Norwich, NR1 1EF. Or email nxea.customerrelations@nationalexpress.com

Grotty toilets, dirty floors, broken windows, dying plants and minimal facilities – welcome to Great Yarmouth Train Station. Many people who live in Great Yarmouth or who regularly visit the area find this to be the most dingy, disgusting and unwelcoming train station they have ever visited.

That is why local Conservatives have launched a campaign to "Fix Our Station" demanding urgent improvements to the gateway to our town.

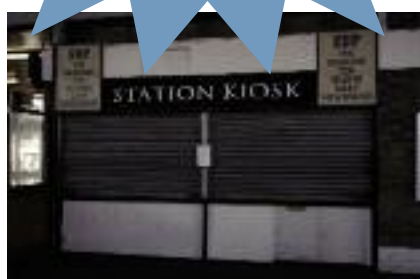
Brandon Lewis is leading the campaign to give Great Yarmouth better station facilities, "My heart sinks every time the train pulls into the station. It gives such a poor image of what is a great town. If I was a tourist I would want to get on the next train back to Norwich."

Local councillor, Tom Garrod agrees, "I use the station a couple of times a week and I am always embarrassed by how run down it is." Tom and Brandon have joined forces to demand that National Express East Anglia make immediate changes to the station and give the people of Great Yarmouth a station of which they can be proud.

"My heart sinks every time the train pulls into the station. It gives such a poor image of what is a great town."
Brandon Lewis



Great Yarmouth station's gallery of shame.



Join the campaign: Fill in the form on Page 4



Why we're backing Brandon

More and more people across the Great Yarmouth constituency are giving Brandon their support. Three more people tell us why:

Ian Holman, Gorleston resident and former Green Party candidate



"I am happy to put aside party politics and back Brandon at the forthcoming General Election. In my view he has the drive, enthusiasm and commitment to be a great MP for Great Yarmouth."

Ben Mackett, first time voter and university student.



"Many people are put off by politics and politicians. They seem only to care about chasing our votes. Not all politicians are the same; Brandon is interested in the issues that affect our local community."

Carl Harding, Newtown, youth worker.



"I have always voted Labour but next time I'm voting for Brandon. He's a top bloke, working hard for local people, standing up for their interests and good at getting things done."

Fire cover faces new cuts

Households and companies covered by fire stations in the Gorleston and Martham areas face a new wave of cuts to fire services it has been revealed.

New laws being introduced by the Labour Government may force fire chiefs to downgrade fire stations and engines in middle income areas.

They will be told to shift

GORLESTON/MARTHAM STATIONS RISK CLOSURE

resources to areas where there are social and economic problems.

Labour ministers have already rigged the rules to make it easier to close fire stations in rural and

suburban areas, even where there is local opposition. Local campaigner, Brandon Lewis is angered by the news, "We pay for our fire service through the council tax, yet Labour want to

cut cover putting our houses and businesses at risk. Yet again, hard-pressed families and pensioners are paying for the cost of Labour mistakes. We can't allow this to happen."

"I will fight any plans to downgrade Gorleston and Martham fire stations. We can't play silly games when people's lives and properties are put at risk."

Traffic on the move at Gapton Hall roundabout?

A three-year campaign has paid off with work starting to ease congestion and improve safety at the notorious Gapton Hall roundabout.

The campaign that saw over 1,000 local residents sign a petition calling for improvements to the roundabout was organised by Brandon Lewis, the prospective MP for Great Yarmouth.

The £850,000 scheme including new high-tech lights triggered by detection loops should improve traffic flow round this usually snarled up traffic blackspot.

Motorists will have to remain patient for a few weeks longer, as roadworks will be in place until the end of March before work is completed.



Brandon (right) collected over 1000 signatures for the petition.

Don't stop the music

Local charities and youth groups face new tax

Don't stop the music is the plea made by Brandon Lewis after exposing obscure new regulations produced by the Labour Government.

Churches, village halls, charity shops and sports clubs across Great Yarmouth will face a new £20 million tax Brandon warned this week.

A shake up of music licensing laws, by Peter Mandelson, will hit charities and voluntary groups with unexpected bills from April, for holding events with recorded music or for playing a radio.

Brandon said, "This is another attack on British community life.

"Having shut down post offices and local pubs across



Great Yarmouth, Labour now have our village halls, scout huts, charity shops and churches in their sights.

"It's a heartless tax that will

harm local communities. Faced with the burden of applying for a license and the cost of at least £81 a year many are just going to switch the music off."

Conservatives plan new care insurance scheme

Many look forward to retirement as a time to enjoy life after years of hard work and bringing up families.

For others it can be a time of worry as health deteriorates and they face the burden of paying for residential care.

Around 45,000 elderly people are forced to sell their home every year to meet these costs.

Conservatives are set to change this by offering a government backed "insurance scheme" at retirement.

The scheme would guarantee the payment of residential care costs for a one-off premium, protecting people from the spiralling price of care.

KeepInTouch

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH YARMOUTH'S CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE

Brandon: Why I'm fighting for our NHS

With so many problems facing the country, why have the Conservatives made the NHS its number one priority?

Our NHS is a fantastic institution – there for all of us in times of need, regardless of background or ability to pay. We all need the security of good quality healthcare it provides. That is why it is the Conservatives number one priority; we back it and want to improve it for everyone.

You launched a "Health Matters" survey last autumn, what were the main results?

Reassuringly, the majority of respondents indicate that their experience of the NHS is positive with particular praise for staff at the James Paget Hospital.

Not everyone thought the NHS was perfect. There was concern about out-of-hours GP services and a lot of criticism of NHS Direct.

You mention the James Paget hospital. It has had a bad press in the past; do you think it is improving?

I know that the health care professionals at the James Paget do a great job but have been let down by political meddling.

With a team focussed on patient care, things are always improving. The new infection control ward at the hospital is an example of how they are putting patients first.

Will you let doctors and other health professionals run or have a real say in the running of our NHS?

Yes we will. Doctors and nurses are the experts when it comes to patient care. We spend too much on wasteful bureaucracy and the need to tick boxes. We should trust doctors and nurses to do what they do best.

Given the sorry state of the nation's dental health, are there any plans to invest in more free dental care for all?

We are fortunate locally to have good NHS dental provision.

With government giving better support and freedom to health care experts it can be even better. We will give one million more people access to an NHS dentist and tie newly qualified dentist into the NHS for a minimum of five years.

There's a high profile campaign for a stand alone hospice for Great Yarmouth. Do you support it?

Yes I do, East Coast Hospice Group are working hard to raise the money for a local hospice.

They are expensive facilities to build and run, that is why I want to see a new funding package for all our hospices so that the fantastic work they undertake is properly supported.

This would work superbly alongside the excellent East Coast palliative Care centre.



“We need to abolish many of the targets. We should focus on results that matter like improving cancer and stroke survival rates or reducing infections.”

BRANDON LEWIS

What's going to be done to end mixed-sex accommodation in hospitals?

The use of mixed-sex wards is a scandal that needs to end.

As resources allow, we will increase the number of single rooms in our hospitals. They have an important role in controlling infection and providing safety and privacy for patients and their families.

What have been your own experiences of the NHS?

Fortunately, I haven't needed to go to A & E at hospital for many years – not since I broke my wrist when I was thirteen!

Both my children were born in a maternity unit that Labour has since closed. The dedication and hard work of the midwives and nurses was fantastic.

Down by the sea

New research has found that Government over the last ten years has sidelined Britain's coastal towns.

Most coastal towns have fewer people in jobs, higher levels of benefit claimants, more people in poor health and worse transport links than their inland counterparts.

The "No longer at the end of the line" report also provided a blueprint for how Conservatives will give extra support to our coastal communities.

Woods still at risk

Campaigners working to save the beautiful Fritton Woods from destruction breathed a sigh of relief last autumn when Norfolk County Council declared the area unsuitable for gravel extraction.

That hope turned to dust when developers submitted a new application. Readers are urged to support the campaign by joining the Fritton Woods Facebook group or writing to the County Council expressing their opposition to the damaging plans.

Education divide widens

Shocking new figures have revealed how our children have been let down over the last ten years by this Labour Government.

Eleven-year olds in Great Yarmouth are at the bottom of the country in reading, writing and maths skills. Conservatives plan to tackle this education crisis by cutting red tape, allowing teachers to teach, instead of spending time form filling.

Paradise found?

Paradise could be closer to home if bold new plans for the derelict Pontins site in Hemsby bear fruit. A local businessman has revealed plans for a giant indoor sub-tropical centre described as the "Eden of the East."

Brandon welcomed the plan, "This could be an exciting boost to the tourist industry."

DNA home kits

Brandon has called for a police scheme to mark property using new DNA kits to be offered to more households in the Great Yarmouth area. So far residents in only a handful of villages have been given the chance to protect belongings.

Drink crackdown

Brandon has welcomed plans to crackdown on shops that persistently break rules by selling alcohol to under-age drinkers.

WIND FARM COULD BRING JOBS BOOST

We need to be at the forefront of a new green technology boom otherwise Great Yarmouth will not benefit from a massive new windfarm off the Norfolk Coast.

That's the stark message from prospective MP, Brandon Lewis, following the go-ahead for the second biggest offshore wind farm in the world.

"I am appalled that the main wind turbine manufacturers will not open a factory in Britain. Instead they will ship in thousands of turbines from overseas.

"That is why I have already invited the consortium behind this windfarm to come to Great Yarmouth to discuss how the area can get a boost from the new jobs that will be created. We need to cash in quickly on this green future.

"For decades, the Great Yarmouth area has played an important role in the North Sea gas and oil industries. It is important that we play a big role in the new green energy revolution as well."



Brandon supports offshore wind farms like that at Scroby Sands.

Sure Start centres set to expand

David Cameron has confirmed his commitment to Sure Start Centres by announcing a major expansion to the scheme that will see an extra 4,200 health visitors working from the centres.

They will have a vital role in providing extra support to young families when they need it most and will be a more effective way of reaching out to the most vulnerable families.

Brandon Lewis, the prospective Conservative MP for Great Yarmouth, welcomed the announcement, "The Sure Start centres make a big difference to our local communities. I recently visited centres in Gorleston, Great Yarmouth and Martham and was impressed by the excellent advice and support provided by staff."

"This good work is being undermined by Labour scare-mongering. I can reassure worried parents and staff that the Conservatives will keep the Sure Start scheme. We will also expand it by encouraging expert organisations like Lifeline and 4Children to provide new services through the scheme."

Brandon praises gritty road crews

The recent cold weather caused major disruption to our daily lives. Brandon Lewis praised the road crews that worked round-the-clock to keep our roads open and pavements clear under trying conditions.

He said: "They were determined to keep Great Yarmouth and Norfolk moving. Their efforts were undermined by this Government, who forced them to make bigger and bigger cuts in the amount of salt and grit being used to keep our roads and pavements clear."

Last February's cold snap clearly showed the country was reliant on just two salt suppliers in this country. When cold weather hits supplies from overseas, they can't provide enough salt to meet demand. "Despite advice, Labour ministers failed to find new suppliers allowing salt reserves to dwindle when the cold weather lasted longer than usual. It's shocking that lessons were not learnt from last year.

Fix Our Station Petition

"We the undersigned demand that National Express East Anglia make urgent improvements to Great Yarmouth Train Station. We are angered that it has been neglected leaving it in a poor condition with sub-standard facilities. We want a bright, welcoming station instead of the eyesore that we currently experience."

Name Name

Address Address

Email Email

Signature Signature

Date..... Date.....

Please return this petition form to Fix Our Station Campaign, Suite 20, Great Yarmouth Business Park, Great Yarmouth, NR31 0ER

Tell Brandon your views at www.brandonlewis.org

