

WIN A  
BOTTLE  
OF  
BUBBLY  
- BACK PAGE

March 22 2007

# InTouch

with Great Yarmouth



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE

## BRANDON LEWIS: MY ROLE IN GREAT YARMOUTH



Brandon Lewis talks to Chris Murray about himself, his policies, and the potential for Great Yarmouth.

Brandon in Yarmouth:  
From left to right: With local businessman John Fuller, a Great Yarmouth resident when canvassing, and Ted Howlett, chairman of Bradwell Parish Council.

**CM: What is your main aim as candidate for Great Yarmouth?**

**BL:** I will represent all residents of Great Yarmouth and will stand up for Great Yarmouth.

I believe that as an advocate for the area my role will be to ensure that the concerns and aspirations of Great Yarmouth and its residents are heard loud and clear in Westminster. I will be here to ensure that residents get the answers they want and the needs of Great Yarmouth are promoted as clearly as possible.

**CM: Why did you choose Great Yarmouth?**

**BL:** The Conservative Party in Great Yarmouth chose me and I feel privileged and honoured to have been given the opportunity to represent such a wonderful area.

I have fond memories of Great

Yarmouth from many visits in my youth. My father ran a business with a factory in Great Yarmouth in the 1980s and we used to visit regularly.

I have been hugely impressed with the regeneration work that has been done over the last few years in order to return Great Yarmouth to the forefront of our Coastal Towns in the UK in terms of tourism and economic benefits.

I look forward to playing a leading role in working to promote Great Yarmouth in the future.

**CM: What are Great Yarmouth's strengths and weaknesses?**

**BL:** It is a wonderful place with a great mixture of opportunities. We have the world renowned seafront with plenty for families to do and for the children and tourists to enjoy and that gives a great economic benefit.

With the casino opportunity now ahead of us we also have the chance to develop a year round season for all our businesses. We must also remember that a substantial geographic part of Great Yarmouth is the Norfolk Broads.

**CM: Why will you be a better MP than our current one?**

**BL:** As MP for Great Yarmouth I believe one of the most important parts of the job is to remember to work for Great Yarmouth, first and foremost.

This means that there will be times where what is best for Great Yarmouth may conflict with a 'party line'.

When that happens I will always remember my loyalty and duty to the local people.

I will make sure that the concerns and issues for Great Yarmouth are heard clearly in Westminster and will work hard to ensure we actually get

progress on such issues as the A47 and faster regeneration of our economic base and the transport infrastructure, as well as continuing to ensure we get a growing and thriving health service.

**CM: What do you believe in?**

**BL:** I believe in ensuring I am a strong voice for everyone who lives here. In being honest, even when that means giving the hard news that we cannot always keep everyone happy all of the time.

It is about being true to yourself and your principles and being strong enough to be honest about what they are and when you have to say no.

**Continued on Page 2, column 1**

Tell Brandon your views at [www.brandonlewis.org](http://www.brandonlewis.org)



## FROM PAGE ONE

### Brandon Lewis: My role in Great Yarmouth

Good news is easy to give and gain credit for; we must also remember that bad news is sometimes inevitable.

**CM:** What policies will affect Great Yarmouth the most?

**BL:** The work that is going on to assess how we can continue the inward investment for Great Yarmouth.

We must ensure that the Outer Harbour progresses and is a success with all of the benefits to the area that can bring.

We must also do all we can to ensure that the transport infrastructure is improved in order to reap the full benefits that this opportunity can provide.

We must keep the pressure on Government to improve our coastal defences. We felt the effects in parts of Great Yarmouth only last year of surprise flooding and how devastating and violent it can be.

We should ensure our water ways are funded sufficiently to maintain high standards and that long term planning takes place now to ensure we protect our beautiful coastline.

**CM:** What is your occupation?

**BL:** I am the director of a company that runs two primary schools.

**CM:** How will you communicate with the people of Great Yarmouth?

**BL:** We deliver constituency-wide newsletters on a regular basis to ensure everyone knows what is going on and what the Conservatives in Great Yarmouth are doing for the area. Most importantly, I try and meet as many residents as possible on the doorstep and in the streets of the constituency.

Local people can visit my website: [www.brandonlewis.org](http://www.brandonlewis.org) which is updated almost daily. Here people can find news stories and an interactive blog giving my views on current issues. There is also an online poll allowing people to vote on topical issues. We also send out regular email newsletters to everyone who signs up.

**CM:** How do people get in touch if they want to talk to you?

**BL:** They can email me via my website and I will reply within 24 hours and they can call my office, all details are on this newsletter.

I look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to make contact and raise any questions, issues or thoughts.



Team  
takes  
to the  
Streets

Brandon Lewis, the  
Conservative Party  
candidate, is  
pictured with his  
campaign team in  
Great Yarmouth.

# Campaign for coastal towns is launched

A campaign aimed at highlighting and addressing the issues which face coastal towns, such as Great Yarmouth, has been launched by Brandon Lewis, the town's Parliamentary Candidate for the Conservative Party.

Brandon is a founding member of the team that has come together to work for the future prosperity of our Coastal Communities: the Regeneration of Coastal Communities (ROCC).

Brandon said: "While coastal towns have many benefits for their residents they can also suffer from similar problems which are caused simply because of their location.

- "These can include:
- Poor transport links
  - Higher crime rates than their neighbouring constituencies
  - Lower education attainment
  - Low paid jobs with significantly less quality private sector investment
  - High number of residents

## Brandon leads team helping to regenerate communities

- over the age of 60 with an even higher number of over 80s than the national norm
- High levels of teenage pregnancy
- A disproportionately high level of disability benefit recipients
- Lack of investment in



housing, the environment and infrastructure"

Brandon said: "From talking to people in other coastal areas, as well as Great Yarmouth, we discovered that some of the issues facing our constituencies were not unique to Great Yarmouth even though they

were different to the problems faced by areas away from the coast.

"Not all of the issues face Great Yarmouth but many do and it's amazing how similar the problems can be from coastal town to coastal town, even though they are many hundreds of miles apart.

"By forming this campaign group we plan to put pressure on the existing Labour Government to address these issues and the team will continue to work even when the Conservative Party is in power to keep the work going.

### Expand

"We hope to expand this scheme to other parliamentary candidates in coastal towns as, by working together, we can make a real difference.

"Coastal towns have specific needs which can be very different to the nearby towns and sometimes this can be forgotten about and the area loses out."

One key element in the campaign is improving transport links.

Brandon said that living in a coastal town can mean being at the very end of a bus route or train line "which sometimes means we don't get as good a service as might be possible elsewhere."

## DON'T GET IN A SPIN OVER PLANS FOR YARMOUTH CASINO, SAYS BRANDON

Residents have been encouraged to remain patient before passing judgement on plans to build a casino in Great Yarmouth.

The message comes from the Conservative Party's Parliamentary Candidate for Great Yarmouth Brandon Lewis who, while interested in hearing from residents about their opinions on where the proposed casino should go, believes it is too early to comment on plans which have not yet been made.

He said: "Already people are forming an opinion and I think we need to exercise patience on this matter.

"The arguments over where the proposed casino should go have started already but at this moment we do not know what the plans are so any arguments are fairly pointless at this very early stage.



"However, Great Yarmouth residents should take comfort that they have an excellent team of councillors who are looking into this and that the council has commissioned a report into the issue.

"This is a very important project and the council deserves praise for taking this step. I believe we should listen to the opinion of experts, otherwise what is the point of appointing them? These experts will look at every angle, every pro and every con before making the decision which they believe is the best for everyone concerned.

"Government is about patience and making tough decisions, for the right reasons and at the right time, with the right advice. I firmly believe that Great Yarmouth council has made the first step in doing this."

KeepInTouch

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# New centre can help boost region's health

Plans for a £1.2million medical centre in Great Yarmouth have been welcomed by Brandon Lewis.

The proposed centre, recently detailed at a public meeting, will be created at Cobholm and Lichfield Health and Resource Centre and have sufficient space for four GPs.

The scheme is a joint project between Yarmouth and Waveney Primary Care Trust

and Haven Health Properties and will relocate staff and patients from Nelson Medical Centre, which is currently being housed in a temporary building. The proposals have been welcomed by Mr Lewis who believes the centre will be a great asset to the local community.

He is also hopeful that this might pave the way for more improvements in health facilities across the region and nationally.

Brandon said: "Improving standards of health care is a big priority of mine and the rest of the Conservative Party so naturally I'm very pleased to see this centre being pushed forward.

"But we need to make sure this is just the start of more and better health facilities in Great Yarmouth. I am determined to push for better centres such as this because good health care is essential for everyone."



Local briefing: Brandon Lewis meets with Ted Howlett, chairman of Bradwell Parish Council.

## Praise for Gorleston parking battle

Brandon Lewis congratulated Great Yarmouth Borough Council recently for listening to the concerns of residents in Gorleston about parking.

His comments follow the decision by the council to scrap proposals to introduce pay and display car parking charges at a Gorleston beauty spot following a wave of public outcry against the idea.

The council put forward the idea to introduce the charges at the cliff-top car park on Marine Parade in a bid to stamp out anti-social behaviour at the site. Numerous complaints have been made about drivers using the site late at night as a "skidpan".

After listening to the concerns from residents who were opposed to the proposals the council came up with a new plan.

The car park is now closed every evening to keep any hooligans out.

Brandon said: "Credit is due to the Conservative-led Council which listened to what the people were saying, acted accordingly, and appear to have come up with a scheme where everyone will get what they want."

# Brandon joins forces with police

Brandon Lewis, the Conservative Party's parliamentary candidate for Great Yarmouth, has enjoyed a very successful face-to-face meeting with the Chief Inspector for the town.

Mr Lewis had the opportunity to meet with Chief Inspector Steve Grimmer where they discussed the issues the police force face in the area.

Mr Lewis hailed the meeting as very useful and said he was very pleased with the feedback he received from Chief Inspector Grimmer. Brandon said: "The entire team in Great Yarmouth is doing an exceptional job and should be very proud of their work in helping resolve many difficult issues."

"One of the biggest challenges they face is that Great Yarmouth has people from many countries and the police have to deal with as many as 50 different languages. The language and culture barrier can sometimes be tricky to overcome.

### Problem

"This is quite a problem to face but despite the difficulties the police are doing well.

"However, I am keen to see what can be done to make this job easier. I don't want to wait until I am an elected MP.

"I will be speaking with Chief Inspector Grimmer in the near

## Candidate pledges to help overcome culture barriers

future to see if there is anything I can do to assist with this."

Brandon heard that Great Yarmouth doesn't have a high level of anti-social behaviour problems despite difficulties with young people who live in the outer villages getting to the main body of the town.

Brandon said: "This issue was raised with me even though the police don't believe they have a big problem with anti-social behaviour which is very good news.

"While Great Yarmouth has a thriving main town centre there are some shortcomings for young people when it comes to facilities in their local area.

### Distance

"Even the train station in Great Yarmouth is some distance from a bus stop. In an age of integrated transport we need to do better than that.

"I'm very keen to see if there are ways to boost facilities."

## InBrief

### School report should be area yardstick

The hard work and efforts of a Great Yarmouth school have been praised by Brandon Lewis.

He was delighted by the news that Great Yarmouth High School had received an excellent report from Government school inspectors Ofsted which labelled the school's English department "outstanding" and placed it in the top 10 per cent of schools nationally.

Mr Lewis believes the Ofsted report will now act as a yardstick for the area and hopes it will inspire and encourage other schools in Great Yarmouth.

### Border controls edge it for Brandon

Plans by the Conservative Party to develop a dedicated border police force in Britain have been endorsed by the party's Parliamentary Candidate for Great Yarmouth Brandon Lewis.

David Cameron's Conservatives have announced plans to introduce the dedicated force in a bid to ensure society is properly defended against drug dealers, people smugglers, gun importers and terrorists who prey on the security measures currently in place in this country which the party considers flawed.

Brandon believes the current system is allowing international criminals to abuse Britain when they should be stopped before they even arrive.

The Conservative Party proposes a single team to take on the responsibility of the "vital" task instead of the existing system of six separate agencies which report through different organisations and are accountable to different Cabinet Ministers.

### Text plan is farcical, says Brandon

Plans by the Labour Government to combat the problem of illegal immigrants by sending text messages on mobile phones have been slammed by Brandon Lewis who has labelled the ideal as "farcical".

Mr Lewis said: "This is a serious issue in our country and especially in coastal areas such as Great Yarmouth. The Government seems totally unwilling to deal with it in a serious way."

KeepInTouch

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# TELL BRANDON YOUR VIEWS

## AND WIN A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE

Local Conservatives want to hear your views now – and all year round. Across the country, people are preparing to cast their vote in May's local elections and teach this government a lesson. But your Conservative council candidates and Brandon Lewis, your prospective Conservative MP, want to hear the views of the entire community...no matter how you vote. Every survey received will be entered into a prize draw to win a bottle of champagne.

### 1. LOCAL ISSUES: Which **three** local issues concern you the most? Please rank 1 to 3.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Council Tax <input type="checkbox"/>                     | Over-development of greenfields <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of affordable housing <input type="checkbox"/>      | Speeding traffic <input type="checkbox"/>                |
| State of local public transport <input type="checkbox"/> | State of the NHS <input type="checkbox"/>                |
| Lack of leisure facilities <input type="checkbox"/>      | Threats to livelihoods <input type="checkbox"/>          |
| Lack of town parking <input type="checkbox"/>            | Anti-social behaviour <input type="checkbox"/>           |

### 2. NATIONAL ISSUES: Which **three** national issues are of greatest concern to you? Please rank 1 to 3.

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>          | Health <input type="checkbox"/>       |
| Defence <input type="checkbox"/>              | Immigration <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Economy <input type="checkbox"/>              | Law & Order <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Education <input type="checkbox"/>            | Pensions <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Energy <input type="checkbox"/>               | Taxation <input type="checkbox"/>     |
| Environment <input type="checkbox"/>          | Terrorism <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| European integration <input type="checkbox"/> | Unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Foreign Affairs <input type="checkbox"/>      |                                       |

### 3. Please raise any other issue you feel is important which you would like to elaborate on (continue on a separate sheet if you wish)

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### 4. When should Tony Blair step down as Prime Minister?

- Now  Before Year end  Before May election  Never

### 5. Who would make the best Prime Minister?

- Gordon Brown  David Cameron  Ming Campbell

### 6. Who do you think should be the next Labour leader?

- Gordon Brown  Alan Johnson  John McDonnell   
 David Miliband  John Prescott  John Reid   
 Other (please name) .....

### 7. Which party did you vote for in 2005?

- Conservative  Labour  Liberal Democrat   
 Green  UKIP  Other/did not vote

### 8. At the local elections in May, how do you intend to vote?

- Conservative  Labour  Liberal Democrat   
 Green  UKIP  Independent  Other/will not vote

## ABOUT YOU

Name .....

Address .....

.....Post Code.....

Email .....

Home tel..... Mobile.....

## CAN YOU HELP US?

### Please tick where you can help your local Conservatives

- I would like to join the Conservatives
- I would like to make a donation
- I can display a poster during elections
- I can help deliver leaflets
- I can help contact voters

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**Great Yarmouth**  
**Conservatives,**  
**Suite 20,**  
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**NR31 0ER**

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	James Tate	01493 445328
Bradwell South & Hopton	Stephen Ames	01502 730939
	Colin Hodds	01493 844195
	Brian Howard	01493 443213
Caister North	Barry Cuncliffe	01493 732430
	Tony Smith	01493 728205
Caister South	Sue Lawley	01493 721173
East Flegg	George Jermay	01493 368188
	Shirley Weymouth	01493 731625
Fleggburgh	David Thompson MBE	01493 369250

Gorleston	Bert Collins	01493 857063
	John Burroughs	01493 444334
Lothingland	Barry Stone	01493 603900
	Mark Thompson	01493 781319
Ormesby	Charles Reynolds	01493 721728
	Jim Shrimplin	01493 730821
St. Andrews	Gerry Cook	01493 653584
	Bryan Watts	01493 668965
West Flegg	Barry Coleman	01493 740782
Yarmouth North	Paul Garrod	01493 844138
	Bob Peck	01493 722370

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS

West Flegg Division	Michael Carttiss	01493 368238
Gorleston St Andrews Division	Bert Collins	01493 857063
East Flegg Division	Jim Shrimplin	01493 730821

**Tell Brandon your views at [www.brandonlewis.org](http://www.brandonlewis.org)**

