

Shepway District Partnership Group

Notes of meeting held on 8th February 2010

General Election and Using your Vote

We talked about what it means to vote and why it is important.



Voting is choosing who you want to be in charge of running the country (The Government).



Everyone over the age of 18 has the right to vote.

A General Election is when people all over the country vote for who they want to be in the Government.



It is important to vote because almost everything around you is affected by decisions made by the Government.

This can be because of the laws they pass to say how things should be done, or by the way they choose to spend money and what they spend money on.



There will be a General Election in May or June this year.

How to Vote

Everyone must register to vote by filling in a form and sending it to Shepway District Council.



You are then sent a Polling Card which tells you where and when to vote.



You take your Polling Card to the polling station.



You hand your polling card to the people at the desk. They will give you a Ballot Paper.



A Ballot Paper is a list of all the people you could vote for. You must choose one person only.



Once you have put a cross next to the person you want to vote for you should fold the paper and put it in the special Ballot Box.



Different ways to vote

If you are unable to go to the polling station in person you can ask for a Postal Vote.



You must do this as soon as possible by phoning Shepway District Council.

You will be sent a Ballot Paper in the post to choose who you want to vote for. You must post this back to the Council on the day of the General Election.



How to Decide who to Vote for

In our groups we talked about things that affect our lives such as

- Housing
- Transport
- Benefits
- Healthcare
- Police
- Disability Issues
- Employment
- The Environment



We talked about which subjects we thought were most important.



We thought about what we would like changed about these most important subjects.

People thought that the most important things affecting their lives are:

Police

Transport

Environment

Race Relations

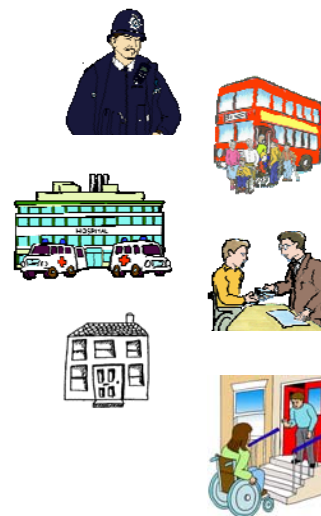
Healthcare

Benefits

Housing

Education

Disability Issues



Mini Election!

Each group decided on a candidate to tell everyone what they would like to see changed.



The Red Group

The Red group wanted to see changes in



Transport

- More regular buses
- Bus passes to be used at any time and on the trains
- CCTV on public transport
- Accessible transport for wheelchairs



Police

- Police stations to be open all the time.
- More police
- Police to talk to the public more
- More CCTV in the community eg alleyways and dark areas



Environment

- More litter bins
- Wheelchair friendly shops
- More road crossings and level pavements
- More street lighting
- Cheaper eco-friendly cars
- More road cameras
- More youth clubs so young people don't get into trouble.



The Green Group

The Green group wanted to see changes in



Transport

- Increase physical access (for wheelchairs)
- Free pass for different modes of transport
- Change to use of pass and times.



Healthcare

- Cut waiting times
- Continue with doctor training
- Hospital cleanliness
- Car Parking fees



Disability Issues

- More toilets and changing place facilities



The Yellow Group

The Yellow Group wanted to see changes in

Education

- Support workers in schools and colleges
- More special needs teachers in schools
- Wider range of courses in colleges.



Transport

- More police on buses and trains
- Free pass travel for carers supporting people
- More supervision of schools students on buses



Healthcare

- Doctors should talk to patient directly not carers
- Regular check ups for people
- Training for receptionists or person you first meet



The Blue Group

The Blue Group wanted to see changes in

Environment

- More recycling services



- More speed reductions for road traffic



Healthcare

- More access to GPs
- Surgeries to be open longer
- More training for surgery staff



Disability Issues

- Support for people to have paid employment
- More job trainers
- Opportunities for companies offering people jobs



Everyone voted for the group whose ideas they most agreed with.
The Red Group won the vote.

Quiz Time

At the end of the meeting we had a Quiz to see how much we had learnt about Voting and Elections.



Date of Next Meeting

The next Shepway District Partnership Group will be on **Tuesday 20th April 2010** at 10am at Salvation Army, Canterbury Road, Folkestone.



We will be inviting representatives from different political parties to tell us what their party will do if elected to run the Government.