

**BECAUSE THE WORKING PEOPLE
OF ATHERTON DESERVE SO
MUCH BETTER THAN
NEW LABOUR AND THEIR
WARMONGERING, PRIVATISATION,
INCOMPETENCE AND SLEAZE...**

**X on May 1st X
VOTE
RESPECT**

STEPHEN HALL

"Stephen is a long standing local labour movement activist. If elected I'm sure his voice will roar like that of a lion in the Council Chamber on behalf of the ordinary working people of Atherton. . . . I urge everyone to join his campaign for the May elections."

George Galloway MP, speaking in Atherton, 19th February 2008

Peace, Justice and Equality

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RESPECT
Vote STEPHEN
HALL



I am 50 years old, a lifelong socialist and Trades Unionist and have lived in Atherton most of my life.

Since the mid 70's when I was Secretary of the Leigh Labour Party Young Socialists, I have helped to organise and/or lead numerous campaigns, protest meetings, marches and rallies, etc, in support of working people both in this area and abroad, including the largest ever demonstration (of several thousand) in the town since the 1920's in support of the heroic National Union of Mineworkers in November

1984.

I also have campaigned against youth unemployment, in support of the striking firefighters, steel workers, printers, engineers, nurses, dockers and textile workers.

Indeed, during the epic Miners' Strike of 1984-85 along with others in this town, I was responsible for the setting up of one of the first (and certainly the most influential in terms of the North West) Miners Support Groups in the country, which later became something of a model for the network of

support Groups that sustained the two year plus battle to save Lancashire's last remaining coal mine at Parkside in Newton-le-Willows in the early 90s, a campaign I was also heavily involved in, and in which I played a prominent role.

I've also organised mass meetings of local tenants against council house rent rises and for a better repair service, and was involved in the organisation of

Continued inside

Web www.respectrenewal.org Email info@gmrespect.org.uk

Defend and Rebuild our Public Services

numerous mass meetings throughout this area against Margaret Thatcher's much hated "poll-tax".

A former Labour Party member of 25 years (which is considerably more years than the current Labour Candidate!) and local TUC President, I am bitterly opposed to the Labour Party's betrayal of working people locally and nationally, with its pay restraint, paltry minimum wage and state pensions, privatisations of public services including the NHS, its "Private Finance Initiative", its selling off of Council owned land, its council tax increases, run down of youth services, and the continuing scheme of student loans and tuition fees rather than what existed previously which saw students get grants,



and which is the state funded system in fact that was likely enjoyed by every single member of the current Labour Government as well as Wigan Council leader Lord Smith.

I am also opposed to Labour's warmongering in Iraq and Afghanistan and Britain's pandering to the interests of big American Oil and Business

corporations like Halliburton and Exxon. Also Labour's uncritical and slavish support for the state of Israel which appears hell bent on inflicting a holocaust of its own on the Palestinian people especially in Gaza.

Labour now cares more for the interests of big business here and in the USA then it ever did for working people. It only retains the support of the majority of the Trades Unions (the FBU and RMT have actually disaffiliated from it!) because the leaders of those Unions care more for the peerages and other patronage they might pick up by abandoning their own members to the interests of Capital.

Locally, the situation is worse, as few members of the Labour Party in this area these days appear to have any principles at all, and just look to getting their snouts stuck in Wigan's municipal trough. They are a shameful lot that need sweeping away.



*Yours in solidarity
Stephen Hall*

Our campaigning vision for Atherton

Regardless of how well or not we do in this election, and we are wanting to win it, RESPECT as a Party will be campaigning in this town year in and year out for the following:

○ **For better youth services and access for young people to local amenities.**

To further this will be setting up our own youth organisation RESPECT YOUTH (see details below) to spearhead our fight.

○ **Against the privatisation of Council (and NHS) services and the sell off of Council owned land.**

Rather than encourage private builders and property speculators we call for a programme of Council House building and the provision of hundreds of new cheap and affordable council houses and flats, etc for the young families, individuals and couples, currently overcrowded or who have been forced into the considerably more expensive 'private sector'.

We will also campaign for the break-up of Wigan and Leigh Housing Limited (WALH) and the handing over the management of local Council owned estates to committees of local tenants, as has been done elsewhere in Britain.

Rather than year on year rent increases we will campaign for the sacking of all the highly paid bureaucrats who currently run WALH the savings passed on to reduce Council house rents and/or improvements in

repair services.

○ **For a "Green" ecologically sustainable future for all over us.**

We are against the ecological destruction and pillage of resources that accompany modern day capitalist societies, and which are leading to global warming and a potential catastrophe for humanity, and especially the world's poor. We follow the maxim "think globally act locally". The fight against the ecological disaster facing us starts here and now in our own homes and in our own backyards, but it extends to the Council chamber too, and our local Council should be at the forefront of that fight.

Consequently will be seeking to work with the widest possible forces to develop a

Borough wide programme of action in defence of the environment. A programme which avoids "Green Taxation" such as congestion charging which hits the less well off and allows the rich to carry on their business as usual, but just a little more expensively than previously.

If you'd like to know about about us, or would like to join us, we meet at the Old Isaacs pub on Market Street in Atherton every Monday Evening at 7.30pm. We will also be organising a regular Party Campaign stall on Market Street (outside Widdow's Solicitors) on Saturday mornings circa 10-00 until 2.00pm.

JOIN RESPECT YOUTH

Launch Meeting:
RESPECT YOUTH - WHAT WE STAND FOR

Open to all young people 14 years and over. We are wanting to organise the currently ill-directed and undirected energy of our young people into a major political force

in this town and that will win both win respect for our young people and win young people to respect for what can be achieved by their own organisation and collective action.

FRIDAY 2nd MAY 2008

Old Isaacs Pub, Market Street, Atherton. 7.30pm start. To be followed by a RESPECT SOCIAL & DISCO to commemorate our first election campaign.