

ARUNDEL, WALBERTON & BARNHAM LABOUR PARTY

BRANCH CIRCULAR MAY 24

CONGRATULATIONS to the successful Labour candidates in Worthing and Shoreham and those who campaigned for them. It is great that the candidates we supported all won. They give a



convincing and enhanced Labour mandate to Adur and Worthing district councils.

Under Jeremy Gardner's leadership in Adur the planned, targeted and coordinated canvassing has beaten the Tories. Where we campaigned in Widewater we are delighted that Adrienne Lowe and Pauline Higgins won by such clear margins.

The increased majority on Worthing council is also the result of careful planning. We were pleased by the welcome we received in Heene and by Tom Ellum's victory.

THANK YOU to the phone bankers of Barnham and Eastergate who contributed to Arun's best performance in the PCC contest amongst those districts in West Sussex which didn't have council or by elections. Although Paul Richards came second, we closed the gap to the Tories. Our turnout more or less equalled the sum of Liberal and Green voters and this demonstrated the importance of following the constituency plan.

FUTURE ELECTIONS There is still no news of our parliamentary candidate but we will discuss our election plans at the next meeting. We shall follow the party guidelines and support our twinned constituency of East Worthing and Shoreham. Hopefully we will also take forward recommendations for an attractive local campaign to our constituency.

The fall in some support on May the second caused by leadership dithering over calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and for a ban on arms sales to the region shows the importance of listening to members and supporters. The early resolution brought to the branch initially by Alwyn Dow and

subsequently supported by the constituency rang the alarm bells. We need a take care not to lose members and supporters who are looking for more urgency. They need to be encouraged to know that their voices will be louder and more persuasive inside the party.



Thanks to those who worked on the Worthing West shop renovation. The opening of the Beccy Cooper victory headquarters is this week.

The Arun Labour Local Government Committee plans a leaflet following the progress of the Labour group of councillors and publicising future plans. Additionally there will be an all member meeting later in the year. Help is needed with advertising and distribution.

After the general election we must turn to preparing for the County Council elections. Much work needs to be done to ensure that the red tide on the West Sussex coast lifts the boats of Arundel & Courtwick and Fontwell. The party needs to take note of the relatively poor performance in the rest of our constituency in the PCC election where Paul came third behind the Liberal candidate with the lowest turnout in Sussex.