

Independent Save Withybush Save Lives Manifesto 2015

The following document is the manifesto of the Independent Save Withybush Save Lives party. This party was created as a direct result of the failings of the Labour, Conservative and Coalition administrations on their management of the NHS in general and the NHS in Pembrokeshire in particular.

Re-Nationalise the NHS and integrate Social care

Over the last 25 years the NHS has been destroyed and made ripe for privatisation by successive Conservative, Labour and Coalition policies. From the development of the Internal Market in the early 1990s through the increased use of Private Finance Initiatives and Foundation Trusts in the Blair Government and the austerity and increased use of private firms to provide healthcare for NHS patients in the Coalition years we have reached a point where the NHS is critical. This needs addressing and reversing immediately. I will press for the Re-Nationalisation of the Health service and the winding up of all private contracts in order to return the NHS back to a wholly public organisation free at the point of need for all just as it was always meant to be when it was introduced in 1948. In 1948 family were extremely important and provided the majority of the social care that is now unfortunately the remit of the state. It is important to reintegrate social care into the NHS family and at the same time reinvigorate the role of the family in social care.

Education

The system of education has seen some deleterious changes over the last 40 years. Our children have been failed. We need to look and learn from the countries that are towards the top of the international tables for achievement in reading, writing, mathematics and science to make the necessary changes to improve the opportunities for our young people. Teachers need to be allowed to teach and students to learn without the imposition of unnecessary league tables.

Self sufficiency in our energy needs.

There has to be the development of the political will to put renewable energy and the use of energy conservation methods to the forefront of energy policy. Incentives should be used to improve home energy saving with insulation, draught proofing, double glazing, low energy lighting and building design. All landlords and homeowners should be taken to task where these simple methods are not employed. Homeowners who cannot afford the cost of such measures should be helped to achieve them. Likewise Solar heating, solar energy, mini windmills, ground and air source heating should be encouraged and incentivised.

On a bigger scale companies who are investing in large wind, tidal and hydroelectric power production should be incentivised and supported in preference to nuclear and coal related energy production.

Rainwater harvesting, Biomass, Bio Oils, Bioethanol and Biogas should all be part of the armamentarium of the future.

The most important aspect of this policy is that it should be rapid and not delayed as has been the case for the last 30 years. Technology has constantly improved and the time is right to focus on these energy sources and energy conservation.

Rebalancing our Defence

Trident is not a deterrent but a method of retaliation. The United Kingdom is a member of NATO and this is who we should look to along with the UN for our security. The billions which are planned to be wasted would be better spent on more conventional defence such as reversing the declining number of the members of the armed forces. Young people can learn valuable life skills and trades in the forces which would reduce unemployment and make them feel valued. Our forces are regularly employed in areas of the world where nuclear weapons are useless and ensuring that our forces also have excellent equipment would make their efforts abroad more effective.

The Economy

The austerity of the last five years has been cruel to all but the most wealthy people in the UK. Future Conservative and Labour policies dictate more austerity but at slightly different speeds. To stimulate the economy and maintain growth a different approach is now essential. The poorest in society also need to feel valued by the government and steps should be taken to increase public spending. Those members of society who need assistance should be treated much better and the introduction of private firms to make assessments for benefit claimants should be reversed and brought back into public hands.

I would push for a change in VAT levels. There is no reason why most goods need to be taxed at 20%. I would suggest that goods under £10 be charged at 1%, to £20 2%, to £30 3%, and so on up to £200 where the 20% rate would then start. This would need to be offset once individual items reach £2000 when again there would be a stepwise increase in VAT perhaps 1% increase for every £2000 increase until a rate of 30% is reached. At £100,000 40% VAT should be applied and at £500,000 50%. This would rebalance VAT returns and reduce VAT for the poorest whilst increasing it for the wealthiest.

The increase in disposable income from the tax changes both on VAT and Income Tax (see below) would increase consumer spending and stimulate the economy.

Tax

Income Tax and National Insurance contributions should be increased for those members of society who are earning more than £100,000 and again at £200,000. Workers who are at the bottom of the salary scales should experience less taxation by varying the tax rate above a tax free level of £10,000. This would start at 10% at £10,000 increasing by 1% per £1000 until a 20% tax rate at £20,000 and 40% at £40,000 as now. At £50,000 there should be a reduction in the tax free allowance at a £5 to £1 multiple. At £150,000 the tax level would rise to 50%. This would rebalance income tax returns and reduce income tax for the poorest whilst increasing it for the wealthiest.

E.g. someone earning £20,000 with a tax free allowance of £10,000 would currently pay £2000 in income tax. Under my plan this tax burden would reduce to £1450. Someone earning £30,000 would previously pay £4000 but this would reduce to £3450. Someone earning £40,000 would previously pay £6000 but this would reduce to £5450. The amount of tax saved would start to gradually reduce after £50,000 and the amount of tax paid would start to increase after £100,000. This would increase again after £150,000.

Tax evasion loopholes must be closed as a matter of urgency. The promises of successive governments about this should be made a reality and not something that is mentioned at Elections.

Small business taxes should be targeted to obtain a fair return for the government but not so punitive as to cause small businesses to fail.

Infrastructure

To facilitate a better recovery for the economy there needs to be investment in affordable housing, better transport networks, better and cheaper railways and more emphasis on expanding the business and employment opportunities in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and all the regions of England.

People should be encouraged to use the railways but to do this they have to be affordable and accessible. Links to stations from smaller towns and villages by bus need to be encouraged and need to be subsidised by local councils and government grants.

The European Union

Britain is better off staying in the European Union however it does not seem unreasonable to offer the younger people in society a say by offering them a referendum on this issue. I would campaign to stay in the EU but would not wish any further political union. I also believe that there is a lot of waste in the various bodies that run the union and this needs to be addressed.

Immigration

Britain has thrived on immigration for centuries if not millennia. The rich diversity of our cultures is testimony to the many peoples who have been attracted to our Islands. The tolerance and ability to assimilate others into our society is renowned. The NHS would not have survived had it not been for doctors initially from the former colonies and more recently from Europe. These highly qualified people are still needed. People who migrate to our Islands need to have a shared responsibility to our way of life and there should be full integration and not isolationism.