

## A Wasted Vote

OK so hustings are done and I've made clear what I would like to see. I fully support grammar schools but the 11+ system isn't too fair. Bedroom tax and tuition fees need to be scrapped and the Amazon/Starbucks/Google tax avoidance needs to be addressed. Earn money in Britain – pay tax in Britain. Privatisation of the NHS doesn't work – making a profit is at odds with providing a service. Immigration has brought us £5bn net in the 10 years since 2001 and foreign aid and support for genuine asylum seekers is critical. The EU, despite its flaws, is a good thing but I'd support us withdrawing if there isn't equality in benefits provision throughout the member states. And we need constitutional reform – 110k voters in the Isle of Wight get the one MP that the 21k voters in Na h-Eileanan Siar (Outer Hebrides apparently) get. And South Eastern, and I quote from Sir Peter Hendy, commissioner of Transport for London, are "sh\*t, awful". Nationalise them or very strongly regulate them. And let's get proper cycle lanes especially going to schools. We're playing at recycling and we need fairness in flight paths. Housing – how will my kids ever get a place?. Either they will be homeless or we will, helping them pay. Let's build affordable housing. We need Trident, maybe we can reduce it down to two subs and save a good few billion, but we need it until the day everyone puts their sticks down at the same time.

And mark my words, there will be a price to pay for the police cuts.

But what's the point in all this? I'm not going to win. And neither are any of the other non-Tory candidates. There's no point in voting as it won't make a difference. Greg Clark is 1/250 on to win with the bookies and they don't get it wrong too often.

Except it does. The Conservatives are many things but I don't think they're completely stupid. The reason we will be having a referendum next year is because of UKIP and them alone. The reason we have the environmental policies we do is because of the growth of the greens. The main parties vote grab and that's fine. They will always be in power but within them they change and adapt. Labour used to be socialists remember! And that's why you should vote for what you believe in. Greg Clark has "Make our area more cycle-friendly" on his 8 point plan. OK it's very vague and that could mean just one more bike rack. But it's there because of the Greens, cycle groups and maybe even me. So the votes that us others gets make him change. Whether he should've done it in the last 10 years of power is another question. But now we have something to hold him to account on.

So vote for someone. It doesn't have to be me but vote for someone that has something you believe in. Not voting isn't a protest vote. If you think we're all rubbish then at least spoil the paper. But turn up and vote. Millions have died for the right to vote.

And if you're Conservative but think Greg could be better or needs a wake-up call or you like just one thing one of the others say, then vote for them. He's safe – don't worry! But it will make a difference as he'll want that vote next time.

And I don't do door knocking. I think it's a bit rude! But I'd love to hear from you and about what you want - drop me a line and I'll email or call you back.



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Full manifesto at [www.grahamnaismithmp.co.uk](http://www.grahamnaismithmp.co.uk)

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