

Indy2024

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Mike Parr is a regular commentator on this blog. Over recent weeks, he has been writing about setting up a support network for independent candidates in the forthcoming general election that has now been called.

Mike is now launching this, with colleagues. He sent me this yesterday, and because I think a diversity of opinion is valuable in politics, I am publishing it today to encourage just that. I have no involvement in this project.

As the next election draws closer a number of sites have appeared aiming to support independent candidates. The most recent can be found here: www.indy2024.org.uk

The organisation, founded by readers of this blog says that it aims to do the following:

1. recruit people that want to stand as independent candidates or want to be supporters
2. provide a secure location for independent candidates and supporter to discuss ideas and formulate policy
3. offer a place where candidates and supporters can find policy information
4. develop collateral to be given to the general public on important topics such as “how are governments funded”, “what to nationalise and how”, “education, what needs to happen?”
5. help candidates and supporters develop localism, i.e. identifying areas where locals by working together can (own and) provide important services, locally.

Each independent candidate could, all on their own, do this. But in the view of indy2024 this smacks of wheel reinvention. By definition, independents are not a political party, but there is nothing to stop them talking to each other and exchanging ideas, for example: what works on the door step, what doesn't.

There is one word that the indy2024 organisers will avoid using, “left” (or “left-wing”). They note that there is nothing left wing about:

- * clean rivers and seas,
- * good education for all,
- * fairly priced energy,
- * an NHS that functions effectively and efficiently etc.

In their view, the use of the word is a tactical mistake and gives a lever for Labour to undermine independent campaigners.

Most English people are by inclination conservative with a small c. Given this, indy2024 is counselling candidates and supporters to pitch their message carefully. Collaboration with Greens is welcomed, and of course support to any and all independent candidates that have already declared they are standing.

Indy2024 has engaged a cartoonist and are seeking those with video skills. Their view is that the election will be won or lost on the Internet. Finally, Indy2024 welcomes all readers of the blog to join, there is no fee, apart from time and expertise.

Mike can now be contacted via this website.