

HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
BY-ELECTION
TUESDAY 21ST JULY 2009

VOTE

JAMES MORRIS

Independent Candidate for Hertford Castle



James Morris is a 36 year old married IT Engineer who has lived in Hertford for over three years. He is currently a voluntary director on a committee that assists with the running of the Waterfront Development in Mill Road. He would like to represent the people of Castle Ward on the Hertford Town Council because he thinks it is time for a change.

Hertford is a great place to live but it could be better. James has strong views about the proposed Tesco's expansion and new Sainsbury's development as he believes Hertford has so much to offer with its local shops and businesses. Although not directly a Town Council decision, James believes that an Independent viewpoint in local government is really needed.

If elected James would question where your money is being spent, ensure that as a taxpayer you were getting the best value for your money and he would do his best to make you, the people of Hertford, proud to live in your county town.

As an **Independent**, James answers only to the people of Castle Ward, not to a political party. He is willing and able to listen to your thoughts and although he is not able to satisfy everyone he will have the ability to present the majority view without having to toe the party line. This is an invaluable tool of democracy.

WHAT DO TOWN COUNCILLORS ACTUALLY DO AND WHY SHOULD YOU BOTHER VOTING?

Did you know that the Town Council is responsible for several important aspects of town life such as: cemeteries, allotments, events at the Castle, community grants, town clocks, CCTV, Tourist Information and Hertford in Bloom? Your elected representatives use tax payer's money to pay for these things and it is important that the best people possible are elected to make decisions on your behalf.

TRANSPARENCY AND A BETTER HERTFORD COMMUNITY

These are James's top priorities:

Balanced Viewpoint - HTC consists of 16 elected representatives of which 13 are from one party. James feels that such an imbalance hinders the decision making process and cannot best serve the needs of the Hertford people. The requirement for a totally independent voice is clear.

Financial Accountability – In these difficult economic times it is increasingly important to know where your money is being spent. There is a lack of transparency in the Town Council's accounts highlighted by a case recently reported in the Mercury where £36,000 was paid out in legal fees to an ex-employee, the details of which the council will not disclose. With such a large amount of the Council budget going on this one payment the electorate have a right to know.

The accounts need to be open to public scrutiny and the budget and existing contracts need to be overhauled to ensure that the available funds are being spent on the right areas and that value for money is being achieved.

Security - As a Hertford resident, James feels that there should be more focus on security along the river, in parks and other non town centre areas such as stations, where there is a lack of CCTV and he believes this is a problem that has to be addressed.

Communication - Hertford has a lot to offer to local people and with more openness and communication with the electorate the community can flourish. James proposes to be contactable by email during and outside of office hours and will do his best to listen to the views of you, the voter and represent these in Town Council decisions.

VOTE INDEPENDENT

VOTE

JAMES MORRIS

for a better Hertford

Follow my blog at
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Contact me at
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East Herts People promotes Independent Councillors. We do not have a manifesto or agenda, except that party politics has no place in local government. We support candidates that have an ear to local people, not Westminster party politics.
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