www.NO2ID.net

Stop ID cards and the database state

Swindon Local Elections 2007 — Candidate questionnaire

Dear Candidate, we understand that you are seeking election to Swindon Borough Council.

The Swindon NO2ID group works to inform constituents about local government matters relating to the Government's National Identity Register and Identity Cards scheme. [1]

On January the 26th 2006 Swindon Borough Council adopted a motion to reject the use of identity cards for access to local services. The full text of the motion is reproduced overleaf.

Swindon NO2ID routinely solicits the opinions of local election candidates relating to the above council motion and the Government National Identity Register/Identity Cards scheme.

Please take a few moments to complete our short survey and return it in the supplied envelope.

Thank you.

It is important to note that all comments received will be made public.

Candidate: Neil Gutteridge

Standing in Gorsehill & Pinehurst

Party: Green Party

Q1. How do you feel about the National Identity Register/Identity Cards?

Opposed ☑ **Undecided** ☐ **No opinion** ☐ **In favour** ☐

Q2. Please review the text of the 26th January 2006 council motion and tell us how you would have voted, had you been present and eligible to vote? (Please tick one)

For the motion ☑ **Against the motion** ☐ **I would have abstained** ☐

Q3. The Labour party's 2005 general election manifesto stated that the National Identity Register and Identity Card scheme would be:

' ...rolling out initially on a voluntary basis as people renew their passports'. [2]

'Enrolment' onto the National Identity Register will be automatic upon application for, and renewal of passports. Do you believe this represents a truly 'voluntary' Identity Card and National Identity Register scheme?.

No ☑ **Yes** ☐

Q4. The Labour government has indicated that, if they win the next election, they intend to make Identity Cards compulsory for all. Do you support the government's position on this issue?

No ☑ **Yes** ☐

Signed: Neil Gutteridge

If you wish to add further comments please do so on the reverse of this survey.

[1] Locally via various campaign activities and the 'Talkswindon' web forum www.talkswindon.org

[2] http://www.labour.org.uk/fileadmin/manifesto_13042005_a3/flash/manifesto_2005.swf

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Motion passed by Swindon Borough Council, 26th January 2006

This Council notes that the Home Secretary is currently attempting to push an Identity (ID) card bill through Parliament. This Bill will have an effect upon all the people of Swindon. This Council believes:

1. That the proposed scheme will impose costs on the Council itself in terms of ensuring compatibility of operations.
2. That the Home Secretary when asked whether ID cards would have prevented the most recent terrorist atrocities said, "I doubt it would have made a difference"
3. That the government has reported that the scheme will cost £93 per person.
4. That the London School of Economics estimated the cost of cards could be as high as £20 billion - three times government estimates. The LSE put the lowest cost to each individual at £170.
5. That the government's own Information Commissioner stated that, "The measures in the Bill go well beyond establishing a secure, reliable and trustworthy ID card. The measures in relation to the National Identity Register and data trail of identity checks on individuals risk an unnecessary and disproportionate intrusion into an individual's privacy."
6. That the ID card and database proposals will fundamentally alter the relationship between the state and the individual.

This Council resolves to:

1. Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards, based upon current Government proposals for such a scheme, or unless specifically required to by law.
2. Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that national identity cards will not be required to access Council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by law.
3. Oppose the introduction of national identity cards and will write to the Home secretary to inform him of Council policy.

Additional comments

It appears to me that this is a gargantuan waste of money. As a teacher I find it offensive that money is being spent on this when the schools I have taught in are ill-equipped and falling apart.

NO2ID is a non-partisan single-issue campaigning organisation opposed to the Government's planned National Identity Register and Identity Card scheme. We bring together individuals and organisations from all sections of the community and seek to ensure that the case against the National Identity Register is forcefully put forward in the media, at grassroots level and in the corridors of power. Swindon No2ID is one of over a hundred local groups in the country at large.

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