

# AN EVENING WITH JOHN HAYES, MP

## CONSERVATIVE MP FOR SOUTH HOLLAND & THE DEEPINGS



Left to right: Geoff Wilson; John Hayes MP; Kevin Mothers (FSB Wash Branch Chairman); Keith Gott.

### TUESDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2009 – MOULTON MILL

Michael Self, FSB Lincolnshire Regional Organiser, thanked John Hayes for attending the evening and welcomed him and all FSB Members and Guests. Michael said that members had submitted a number of questions for John Hayes to respond to.

Michael also welcomed new people to the evening and hoped that they would attend future events.

The following questions were put to John Hayes MP by Wash Branch members and a resume of the items he covered are detailed below:

**Q1. Kevin Mothers:-** *“How important do you think the SME community is to helping to achieve a true low carbon economy?”*

John Hayes said:-

- SME Community - economic infrastructure of the country. Critical in terms of employment, demand, supplies. Conveyance and production need to be brought closer together.
- Supply train – national and international. Vary rare today that food bought in our local supermarkets is grown locally whereas 40/60 years ago it would have been.
- SME’s critical – revitalise smaller enterprises – satisfy local demand.
- Very important to deliver low carbon economy.
- Kevin Mothers commented on his transport business – delivering items to other parts of the area/country – going with full load – returning with empty vehicle.

## **Q2. Colin Parnell:- “What key reforms would a Conservative Government bring in to improve the regulatory environment for small businesses?”**

John Hayes said:-

- Party Policy on this.
- National Loan Guarantee Scheme
- 6 weeks for Government Scheme – £40m only lent to date.
- FSB say just 8% of firms offered money through the scheme.
- One of the current after effects of the bank crisis.
- Banks not being as helpful.
- Big business getting money granted for small businesses.
- Depth of the crisis.
- Michael Self commented on issues with Europe.
- Keith Gott outlined problems experienced with Construction Industry Scheme for tax.

## **Q3. Jenny Cox:- “What would a Conservative Government do with the £1billion Train to Gain Budget?”**

John Hayes spoke passionately about his support for the new Apprentice Scheme.

- Fierce critic of existing Train to Gain Budget.
- Big dead weight cost.
- Some evidence Train To Gain is more about Certificates than skills.
- Not sure that big Companies should get funding anyway.
- 100,000 new Apprentice places proposed by Conservatives
- Jenny Cox & John Hayes discussed at length whether certain age groups and one-man business would be eligible for the Apprentice places.
- Quantified on the job training.
- £2000 for every Apprentice taken on by small businesses. Money up front.
- £100m funding for Great Britain per year.
  
- Apprentice Schemes in other countries discussed.
- John Hayes agreed to visit Jenny Cox’s business. Jenny was to contact him to arrange a date.

## **Q4. Alan Markham:- “Is it worth 50% of young people going to University?”**

John Hayes said:-

- Government had set a target of 50% and this had not been met.
- It was felt that only the middle class people were able to send their children to University and this therefore segmented society.
- There was a need to broaden access to Universities – part time study – 40/50 year olds.

## **Q5. Keith Gott:- “Was the VAT 2.5% cut a good use of £12 billion?”**

John Hayes said:-

- He would not have used money in that way.
- Would have used money for business support scheme to help SME.

**Q6. Darren Ward:-** *“What specific areas of fiscal public tightening will a Conservative Government take to reduce the £175billion national debt?”*

John Hayes said:-

- Analysis of economy.
- Large massive levels of public spending.
- Shrinking pillars – Debt unsustainable.
- Public Spending – it can only be sustained on the back of growth.
- Massive level of borrowing.
- Very brave Government if they cut taxes.
- Heavy cuts in interest rates.
- Bank Lending at much higher rate.
- Tend to create a spike in the savings route.
- Saving instead of spending.
- Mountain of public debt.
- Labour – cut public spending very heavily – put up taxes from dramatically.
- Conservatives would do the first above and part of the second.
- Health, Defence, Social Security, Pensions – Old Age & Public Sector to be looked at
- State Benefits – Obligation for people to work.
- 700,000 able bodied young people able to work but do not.
- Foreign Quangos
- Learning Skills Council
- Foreign workforce
- Shrinking economy – rising unemployment.

**Q7. Chris Schofield:-** *“If a Conservative Government is returned at the next election, will they make good the promise to give electors a referendum on the EU Constitution?”*

John Hayes said:-

- Lisbon Treaty.
- Unacceptable – European Constitution by any name.
- Intergovernmental.
- Opposed tooth and nail.
- Already ratified by Government.
- JH could not express personal opinions on this subject.

**Q8. Cindy Hubbert:-** *“Do you think the Government’s commitment to providing universal broadband access of 2 megabytes per second across the UK will be sufficient to meet the needs of rural businesses?”*

John Hayes said:-

- Due to the growth in communication technology would probably not be enough.
- JH was to look into whether it was planned to increase this.

**Q9. Colin Parnell:-** *“What is your party doing to tackle crimes against business and ensure that that local targets and strategies for its reduction are introduced as a priority?”*

John Hayes said:-

- Need to completely revisit the way the Police are funded.
- At present Police are – Funded – Targeted – Rewarded.
- Not included in routine crimes.
- Need to look at the whole area of routine crime.
- Rural areas sparsely populated.
- Need to rethink what we want from the Police Force.
- Police Force needs to get to know local businesses.
- Very hard to maintain healthy relationships between Police and public.
- Need to get to know local community.

**Q10. Karen Frost:-** *“Would the Tories reverse the planned 0.5% national insurance increase?”*

John Hayes said:-

- This topic was covered in Question 6 – and the answer was yes.

**Q11. Geoff Wilson:-** *“What are the Conservatives going to do about the pension crisis?”*

John Hayes said:-

- Very serious problem due to changing demographics.
- People are living longer.
- Need to look at Public Sector Pensions.
- Unsustainable.
- Strategic issue over next couple of decades.
- Problem has been escalating but started early in Labour’s term of office.
- Number of people in late 70/80’s in poverty trap.
- Campaign to link OAP with average lending.
- Personal Pensions/Private Pensions to support OAP.
- People are leading more active lives – costs more.
- People are healthier.

