



Wellington Conservatives

Press Release

20th November 2009

Newly elected Wellington Town Councillor James Hunt has offered his commiserations to his Labour opponent in yesterday's Rockwell Green ward by-election.

James, who was the Conservative candidate, won the seat after drawing lots to decide the outcome when the poll was tied at exactly 212 votes each.

Town council clerk Greg Dyke then drew out one of two ballot papers to literally decide the issue by luck – and it was James' ballot paper which came out first.

The Liberal Democrat candidate trailed badly in third place with fewer than half the Conservative and Labour total at only 104 votes.

James, who previously stood for the county council election in Wellington and Rockwell Green, said afterwards: "I do not think anybody at the count had ever experienced a tie before.

"It was quite a remarkable evening and I really felt for the Labour candidate who lost out with the luck of the draw.

"The result was slightly unexpected also because nobody predicted the Liberal Democrat vote would collapse so dramatically.

"But I think that was a reflection of the voters rejecting the very unpleasant and negative campaigning of the Lib Dems, who, for instance, declared themselves against the campaign to reopen a railway station for Wellington.

"The Trains for Wellington (T4W) campaign launched by our Conservative Parliamentary candidate Mark Formosa is incredibly popular and has huge public support, and I now look forward as a town councillor to meeting the Network Rail officials Mark is bringing to Wellington shortly.

"My message to the people of Rockwell Green and Westford was that I want to represent them first, and my party second, as party politics should not dictate what is best for the town.

"I will represent people no matter what their politics nor whether they actually voted for me and I will do my best to be a good councillor tackling the issues that matter to people in their local community."

- Our photograph shows Councillor James Hunt (centre) being congratulated on his election success by Wellington Conservative Association chairman Trevor Morgan (right) and Wellington Area and Blackdown divisional chairman Ken Winhall.

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Notes to Editor:

- Queries arising from this press release should be directed to Wellington Conservatives press officer John Thorne on 01823 663146/07811 675262 or email johnthorne@wellingtonconservatives.org.uk
- Wellington Conservatives chairman Trevor Morgan and/or secretary James Hunt are available for interviews
- More information about Wellington Conservatives can be found at www.wellingtonconservatives.org.uk