



Felix Johnson for Southend MYP

Hi, I'm Felix. I believe in a future for Southend where young people are a core part of the community, and I want to help make that happen. I'm running to be your next MYP because I believe together, we can achieve a better future for every one of us, and a better start for the next generation of Southend's young people. Our first open election for MYP is a milestone in Southend youth engagement, and it's time we stood together and stood up for young people. I want to be your Southend voice.

So, why Felix?

Youth participation in politics is at a low, despite the exceptional actions of Youth Assemblies up and down our country, young people still feel that their voices are ignored, and we are often right. We are right to feel disenfranchised. We deserve better. Better PSHEE. Being heard by our representatives. We deserve to be counted. I'm working to make these visions a reality through using the office of MYP to meet with those who can effect change - our MPs, our Councillors, our MEP with the aim to be the first point of call for young people in the area who care about an issue. There is no excuse for ignoring the opinions of young people in our modern interconnected world.

I am passionate about the current and the future state of our environment. We can and must do so much more to protect the state of the planet that our generation will inherit. The best way to do this is understanding that balance is needed in "reduce, reuse, recycle" - while our current society is really good at recycling, we must focus on reduction and reuse of waste. Indeed, 4 days after launching my campaign, the Prime Minister Theresa May has clearly been inspired by my words and has pledged to lead the way by removing all consumer single use plastic in central government offices. I will help tackle this issue, by working with organisations, retailers, and any other interested groups to reduce the amount of waste materials they dispense, and to reuse their waste materials creatively before throwing them in the bin, through a system of local certification. Using the youth council's ties with the Borough Council, we will start a pilot scheme, akin to the food hygiene rating system by the Food Standards Agency, working with local businesses to get accredited as avoiding unnecessary disposal and creation of waste - mainly focussing on food and plastic waste. This system will allow consumers to be conscious of the environmental impact of their purchase decisions. Should the pilot be successful I foresee the scheme continuing under Borough Council control. Nationally, I will fight for these issues to appear in the UKYP's 2018 manifesto, and to appear on 2018's Make Your Mark ballot.

Support me, and support my vision. A vision of a stronger voice for young people. A vision of a sustainable environment. A vision for a better future for each and every young person in Southend.

<http://felixforsouthend.co.uk/>

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