

Report Back - Brexit Meeting - Penzance 2 September 2016

The St. Ives & Isles of Scilly Branch Committee hosted a well-attended UKIP meeting at The Lugger Hotel on 2nd September. The chairman welcomed members and supporters from all over Cornwall to what turned out to be a very informative exchange of information.

Nigel Challis (Cornwall chairman) spoke of the success of The Referendum and how the party is more advanced than ever. But the need to keep leafleting regularly with the new Cornwall and National leaflets is essential. This can overcome stigma towards UKIP, and the view that we are finished post Brexit.

Sebastian Fairweather (County Co-ordinator) also urged leafleting & canvassing citing North Oxford's experience when Conservatives overturned Lib Dems by canvassing for 3 years - door knocking. This should be followed. Our new leader needs the ability to handle the media and public inquisition and we need more representation on the NEC. County organisers should be paid as it is a 20+ hour job and we must have shop fronts where possible. Sebastian proposed a number of fund raising ideas.

Deborah Cowley (Chairman - UKIP St Austell) specialises on fisheries and has a project running for 18 months about fisheries & related issues. Fishermen feel left out of the discussions. Fishing limits should go from 12 miles to 200 miles under Brexit, assuming proper negotiations.

The industry is depleted under EU policy with EU super trawlers, France/Spain, taking large a percentage of fish stock. Dodgy data, bass ban, discard ban, license caps under 10 metres etc. Brexit must reverse these policies, setting rules to suit the UK, including improving pensions for fishermen. The industry needs the 200 mile limit, regional quotas, global trade, public funding, harbour improvements, increased safety/ training, apprenticeships, all focusing on local specialities.

Quote " Fishermen are the endangered species, not the fish "

Dr Robert (Bob) Smith went through plans for the May 2017 Cornwall Elections. He described how Brexit causes political upset in the Conservatives and Labour and how this gives us the advantage.

Chairman Stuart Guppy thanked everyone for valuable contributions to a very successful meeting and urged everyone to keep engaging with the public whenever opportunities arose. Keep referring to the Lisbon Treaty, the source of EU power, which advocates many anti – democratic issues including the abolition of national parliaments. All the daft rules originate in Brussels as it intends ultimate overall complete control. We see it happening as more rules are imposed, damping down elected councilors responsibilities, with decisions on local matters coming from far–off unelected faceless bureaucrats.

The treaty is hardly ever mentioned in the media – only when UKIP gets the word in. Now, Brexit must be seen to be putting the UK out of EU constraints and into the world – where we belong.

Opinions from the members covered many issues and when asked if the meeting had proved useful, the response was overwhelmingly Yes!

A collection covered the room hire plus associated costs. Thanks to Chris & Janice for taking minutes.

Stuart Guppy Chairman