

PRESS RELEASE

The community trust aiming to rescue and redevelop Hastings Pier congratulates Simon Corello on his win in the St Helen's ward by-election and reminds him of his recent pledge to help them save the Pier.

At the public meeting organised by the Hastings Pier & White Rock Trust on Monday night Mr Corello, chairman of the local Conservative Association wondered out loud, "why are we standing in the way of these entrepreneurs?".

Asked why the council, led by his party, has been dragging its heels in starting the Compulsory Purchase process that would give the Trust a fair chance to raise the outside funds necessary to fix the pier, Mr Corello responded: "Would you like me to give them a kick up the rump?"

Given the fine balance between the three main parties in Hastings, this by-election offered a chance to change the balance of power in the town. Mr Corello's comments and his clear signature on the Pier Pledge, mean tonight's result may change the way things are done even while the seat remains Conservative.

NOTES

Electorate – 4,019

Turnout – 37.4%

Simon Corello (Con) **609** (40.7%)

Michael Ward (Lab) **550** (36.7%)

John Tunbridge (Lib Dem) **210** (14.0%)

Stephen Weir (BNP) **93** (6.2%)

Rob Bridger (Eng Dem) **36** (2.4%)

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