

Press Release from Royston Labour Party

THE Labour Party in Royston has selected its candidates for the North Herts District Council elections.

Former Royston town councillor and district councillor Les Baker will stand in the Palace ward; Ken Garland will be the candidate in the Royston Heath ward and Vaughan West in the Royston Meridian ward.

Speaking at a Royston Labour Party meeting, Les Baker said: "Obviously, this is a local election which should have an emphasis on local issues.

"But it is a test, too, for the coalition government and its record over the past 12 months and an opportunity for voters to have a say on the Liberal Democrats and its broken promises in pursuing its lust for power," he said. "All the Liberal Democrats do now is pay lip-service to the Tories."

He said the Labour Party recognised that cuts had to be made, but it wanted to see sensible savings rather than the reckless policies which are now becoming apparent.

"We will begin to see the devastating effect of the cuts over the next 12 months and the loss of local services," he said.

"It is obvious that the writing is on the wall and we need alternative voices at a local level to ensure that residents are not relentlessly punished."

He continued: "There are real issues at a local level and we have a situation where there are predictably more cuts to our services next year.

"We know that some cuts are difficult to avoid, but we want to see sensible savings which will not cause lasting damage to our community," he added.

THE LABOUR CANDIDATES FOR ROYSTON

Palace ward: Les Baker was a district councillor for Royston on North Herts District Council for six years and also on Royston Town Council for 12 years.

He has lived in Royston for almost 35 years and his wife was a teacher at a Royston junior school for 38 years.

He spent 45 years working as a journalist and ended his career as editor of the Royston Crow.

In the past he has been a governor at The Meridian School, Royston; chairman of the Royston Community Association and the Coombes Community Centre management committee.

For the past 20 years he has been a member of the town council's Royston Museum Advisory sub-committee and is a member of the Royston Arts Festival Committee, and the Royston 2012: A Year of Celebrations Co-ordinating committee.

Heath ward: Ken Garland has lived in Royston with his wife for the past 20 years.

Ken, who is chairman of the Royston Labour Party, was for eight years a governor at Greneway School, Royston. He works an inspection engineer.

Meridian ward: Vaughan West moved to Royston 15 years and has been active in the community as a school governor and church warden at the Royston Parish Church.

For the past 10 years he has work full-time for the GMB trade union as secretary of a large local government branch in north London.