

# Rother Green Party

## **Statement from Rother Green Party on the Proposed Housing of Asylum Seekers at Northeye**

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Rother Green Party opposes housing people seeking asylum at the former Northeye prison. Conditions there are unsanitary, inhumane and inappropriate.

We also have serious reservations about concentrating significant numbers of asylum seekers in small numbers of locations. It has the potential to cause anxiety amongst local people and can result in unwanted friction with people seeking asylum many of who are already traumatised.

Greens believe we should treat people fleeing war and persecution with compassion, and should allow them to live with dignity and to contribute towards our society.

We are appalled that some leading figures in the government are prepared to play politics with the issue of asylum seekers, apparently for electoral advantage.

Rother Greens therefore call for:

- 1) No asylum seeker centre at Northeye. Small scale, clean, basic accommodation to be made available around the country instead.
- 2) Safe, legal routes for asylum seekers rather than the chaos of the current situation.
- 3) A proper agreement with the EU so there is continent-wide cooperation.
- 4) An efficient asylum processing system. There are 160,000 asylum seekers awaiting decisions who need to be housed. This is bad for everyone. The system needs proper funding so asylum decisions can be made as quickly as possible.
- 5) Punishment of human traffickers rather than asylum seekers. So long as criminals can get rich from human misery the situation will not improve.
- 6) International action to reduce the factors that lead asylum seekers to flee.

The asylum issue is acting as a smokescreen that distracts attention from the chronic neglect of the NHS, schools and other public services, low pay, rampant inflation, a cost of living crisis and a country where rich friends of the government can line their pockets while everyone else struggles.

Greens also want to see an end to austerity so that millions of people around the UK trying to make ends meet know that their needs are important.

Please write to Bexhill and Battle MP, Huw Merriman, [huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk) to make your feelings known.