

Principal Points arising from the Director's Meeting
at Central Office on Tuesday 29th January 1980

Southend East By-Election

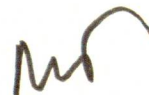
1. (a) The Liberal Candidate, David Evans, has been very active, distributing at least one newsletter a week in the constituency. Liberal MPs have already been to Southend, and David Steel is addressing a public meeting on 11th February.
- (b) The Labour Party have not chosen their candidate yet.
- (c) The Conservative Candidate will be in the field by the third week in February. About 20 would-be Candidates are being interviewed this weekend.
- (d) The local newspaper has come out against your approach to the Olympics and for that reason pre-campaign publicity based on the FCS Poster, which you liked, has been held up.
- (e) A range of questions have been posed by early Liberal activity. Here are two:-

In the event of the resignation or death of an MP, should the Party arrange for leaflet distribution and other robust forms of publicity before a new Candidate is selected?

Should there be a by-election team formed by Central Office who would cover every campaign rather than the reliance upon individual Area Offices in every case?

2. The Liberals continue to make ground in Local Government by-elections. Do we put up the right candidates? Are the candidates receiving proper advice? Does Sir Frank Marshall have any ideas on this subject?
3. There are three GLC by-elections pending. Two in Croydon, one in Vauxhall.
4. *M* Veiled criticism of Angus Maude continues. The critics deem his weekly liaison meetings inadequate and lingering reservations exist over the gas affair.


Richard



1.2.80.