

Questions for County Councils.

(Outside London and the County Boroughs.)

SIR,—In connection with your Candidature for the Office of County Councillor I should be obliged if you would be good enough to answer the following questions.

I am, yours faithfully,

Name of Elector

Address of Elector

QUESTIONS.

ANSWERS.

I.—ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

(a) Healthy Homes.

1. Will you vote for the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health for the whole county, who shall be independent of local influence; and do all in your power to ensure that the Public Health Act is properly put in force in every district in the county?

2. Will you try to secure the full exercise by the Council of all its powers for the improvement of the dwellings of the people, especially

(a) By obtaining and publishing reports upon the subject from all Sanitary Authorities within the county?

(b) By taking action, wherever possible, in all cases in which these authorities neglect to secure an adequate supply of healthy homes, and a proper water supply?

3. Although the Council has not the power to compel, will you support a strong suggestion to every rural sanitary authority in the county that before any dwelling is closed as being unfit for habitation, it shall be ascertained whether there is sufficient accommodation, within a reasonable distance, for the inhabitants who are turned out; and that, if there is not, application shall be made to the Council for a certificate that accommodation is necessary, so that it may be provided?

QUESTIONS.

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4. Will you take care that every person appointed by the Council to enquire whether such accommodation is necessary shall be the Council's Medical Officer, or other properly qualified person, independent of local influence?

(b) Allotments.

5. Will you support petitions for allotments, suitable in rental, quality and position, where the Rural Sanitary Authority fails to provide them; and, will you, in such cases, press for the exercise, by the Council itself, of its powers for this purpose?

(c) Enforcement of the Law.

6. Will you take care that the provisions of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, and all other Acts administered by the Council, are rigidly enforced without respect of person?

(d) Other Duties.

7. Will you press for the publication of a list of all charitable funds belonging to the parish or other public authorities within the county?

8. Will you take care that the polling districts are so arranged that there shall be a station within easy walking distance of every voter?

9. Will you vote for the application of the funds derived by the Council from the licenses and liquor duties to the purposes of technical education?

10. Will you urge the publication of an annual report and balance-sheet by the County Council, similar to that published by School Boards?

11. Will you press for the exercise by the Council of its power of freeing from toll all bridges and ferries within the county, and for the provision of new ones where needed?

II.—PROPER TREATMENT OF WORKERS.

12. Will you insist that in all work carried out by the Council the trade union rate of wages shall be paid, and that the hours of work shall be limited to a maximum of eight per day, or forty-eight in each week?



Local government in U.K.

QUESTIONS.

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13. Will you in every possible case prefer the direct employment of labour by the Council to the intervention of a contractor?

14. Whenever it is found necessary to employ a contractor, will you insist upon the insertion, in all contracts for supplies, as well as for works, of clauses stipulating (1) against sub-contracting or sweating; (2) for the payment of the trade union rate of wages, if any is fixed for that trade; (3) that the working hours shall be those recognised as fair in that trade?

15. Will you insist upon the Council making an earnest endeavour, by co-operating with the Boards of Guardians, to find, in all periods of depression and distress, temporary useful and honourable employment for those out of work, by the arrangement of the public works which would normally be undertaken in such a way as to increase employment at these periods?

III.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM.

16. Are you in favour of the establishment of purely elective Parish Councils, with appropriate administrative and rating powers?

17. Will you support such an amendment of the law as would :—

- (a) Enable women, if elected, to serve upon County Councils (and upon District or Parish Councils)?
- (b) Abolish County Aldermen, so as to make the County Council entirely elective?

18. Are you in favour of the County Council having undivided control of the police, and unrestricted power to choose its own clerk?

19. Will you support such an extension of the powers of the County Council as would enable it to :—

- (a) Construct and maintain high roads, light railways and rural tramways where thought necessary?
- (b) Exercise control over canals and navigable rivers within the county?

QUESTIONS.

ANSWERS.

- (c) Construct and maintain works for water storage and distribution, and for the prevention of floods?
- (d) Pay the travelling expenses of its members, and a compensation to them for time spent on country business?
- 20. Are you in favour of the Parish Councils being granted power to:—
 - (a) Take land compulsorily, upon a fair rental, or at a fair price, for letting in allotments, or building cottages upon?
 - (b) Adopt the Free Libraries Acts, the Baths and Washhouses Act, and the Paving and Lighting Acts, it deemed desirable?
 - (c) Manage the village publichouse in the interests of the parish?
- 21. Will you support the equitable division of all rates between owner and occupier?
- 22. Are you in favour of allowing the free use, for political and other meetings, of all suitable schoolrooms or other buildings wholly or partially maintained out of public funds?

Signature of Candidate.....

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