<u>Press Release</u>

7th May 2015

For immediate release

Erith & Thamesmead Hustings Cancelled

Apologies to all residents but the the hustings scheduled for this Sunday have been cancelled. I have had nothing to do with this decision and I was looking forward to attending the event along with other candidates. I will be outside the Link on Sunday evening at 6 pm in case any residents would still like to meet me.

I do not know the precise circumstances as to why the event was cancelled but according to the e-mail I received today at 6 pm:

"The Labour candidate has made this very difficult and both myself and Erith.link [Organiser/sponsor] have been the subject of rude messages and personal attacks on social media and email from labour councillors and supporters".

"After a number of emails and comments posted on various social media platforms, it became necessary to take advice as to Silon7 sponsorship of the Erith & Thamesmead Hustings. Silon7 has been advised that an official notification it received with regards to the process that was used to arrange this meeting could be viewed as a possible foundation for legal action against Silon7 if it continued with its sponsorship of this event.

It is with regret that Silon7 Limited will no longer be in a position to sponsor this meeting and hope that Erith & Thamesmead voters understand that Silon7 only intention through Erith.Link was to provide an opportunity for them to question candidates not become involved in possible legal proceedings from a political party.

I would like to thank Eliot Smith for his hard work and commend his restraint in the face of some very personal attacks in his role of trying to make this event happen. I can assure everyone Eliot's only motive has been only to see voters have the opportunity to question candidates not to influence this event in anyway.

Media enquiries:
All media enquiries can be directed to Anna directly at <u>anna@annafirth.org.uk</u> or 078 078 57230