

# POLITICAL LIFE **ISSUE 47**

Our Magazine is published every other month and is freely available to our members

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Stay 'In Touch' with the

Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

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## OUR GREAT TEAM SETS OFF ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL



Photo: Julia Pursglove

**Saturday 12th May saw lots of volunteers turning out in Corby for a special Task Force Action Day. The Team completed a morning and an afternoon session knocking on doors and delivering leaflets. We have lots more leaflets which need delivering so if you can help please call the office on **01536 200255****

## TOM COMPLETES THE 2018 LONDON MARATHON



Tom has let us know that his sponsors donated over £3,000 for Crazy Hats and Corby Nightlight - two brilliant Corby & East Northamptonshire charities that do so much to help support his constituents. You can read Tom's full report inside.

# Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Helen Harrison (Association Chairman)

Mar 2018

I thought that I would use this month's report to reflect upon the recent local elections that took place across the country. Although we didn't have any elections here in Corby and East Northants, it's worth looking at what happened and what it might tell us about our own patch.

Labour were expected to take hundreds of seat and councils off the Conservatives, especially in London. They did, indeed, gain more seats, and control of some councils. However, our vote held up better than expected and we gained control of some councils too.

The results were varied, with different issues playing out in different areas. The antisemitism row, for example, is thought to have prevented Labour from taking Barnet.

Without wishing to bang on about Brexit; Professor John Curtis, the renowned pollster, believes that Brexit was an important factor in the Council election results.

He says, "It is immediately apparent that whereas on average the Conservative vote flatlined in areas that voted most heavily to Remain, it increased by almost ten points where Leave had performed strongly.

There seems to be little doubt that the increased concentration of Conservative support amongst Leave voters that was in evidence in last year's general election has been replicated in the local elections.

One reason why this was the case is quite clear. Back in 2014 UKIP were riding high. That support disappeared in these local elections, just as the party's vote collapsed in



the 2017 general election, not least because in many wards the party failed to nominate a candidate.

That meant there was greater scope for all of the parties to register an increase in their support in Leave voting areas. But, on average, only the Conservative party seems to have been able to take advantage of the fall in UKIP support. Neither Labour nor the Liberal Democrats advanced more strongly in the local elections in places that voted heavily for Leave."

Professor Curtis' analysis of what happened a few weeks ago, in strong Leave-backing areas, is obviously of interest to us here in Corby and East Northants, as it suggests that the Conservative vote should be holding up well since the General Election.

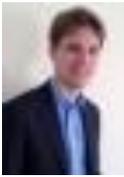
Our own canvassing in Corby recently bears that out. In fact, we saw a modest swing our way.

Of course, all of this can be blown off course at any moment by events beyond our control locally. These elections show how much voters focus on the national picture even in local elections. So, we are very much at the mercy of our leaders in Westminster.

I would suggest that the greatest risk to Tom's electoral chances at the next General Election, whenever that might be, is if our government does not deliver on Brexit.

Sincerely

*Helen*



## THE GDPR CHAOS IS A REMINDER OF HOW TAKING BACK CONTROL WILL ALLOW US TO MAKE BETTER LAWS

By Daniel Stafford  
3 May 2018

**Daniel Stafford is Deputy Chairman of Oxford Conservative Association, and works as GDPR Compliance Officer for an Oxford-based national Christian charity.**

Since January, you may have received an email or a letter from a charity or business, with the cheerful message “URGENT! RESPOND NOW!” emblazoned on the envelope or subject bar. This rush of correspondence is due to a piece of EU legislation called the General Data Protection Regulation (commonly shortened to GDPR) which came into force on 25th May 2018. The GDPR replaces the 1998 Data Protection Act, and places much stronger restrictions on how personal data is used.

On the face of it, the GDPR is a great idea. If you've ever lamented buying a gift online because of the subsequent tide of spam emails or hung up in frustration after an unsolicited caller has asked you about a car accident you've had in the past, you will welcome anything that reduces nuisance correspondence. More topically, the scandal surrounding Cambridge Analytica and Facebook has highlighted the issue of how transparent big-data companies are when capturing and using our data.

While the GDPR sounds great in theory, the experience for those implementing it has not been as positive. Over the last 12 months, I have been involved in understanding the implications of GDPR for two different charities. Charities, even more so than businesses, rely upon relationship building, personal promotion of the cause they advocate, and keeping sound donor records in order to ensure a donor's experience of supporting the charity is a positive one. While Elizabeth Denham, the Information Commissioner, has correctly taken pains to emphasise that the GDPR is only meant to codify what was already expected as best practice under the Data Protection Act, many charities and businesses are panicking given the uncertainty about what it looks like to be compliant with the GDPR.

The source of this confusion is best explained in this way: under the GDPR, any use of personal data is strictly prohibited, unless you have what is termed a ‘legal basis’. On paper, this sounds straightforward enough – you don't use personal information without either permission or a just cause. In practice, there are two deep flaws with the legislation.

The first stems from the European mindset behind the legislation. In contrast to the British common law tradition where everything is permitted unless it is prohibited, the GDPR is very much in the tradition that everything is prohibited, unless it is permitted. That has a stifling impact on any business, organisation, or

charity that uses personal data. Rather than proceeding on a good faith basis, organisations are having to document and codify just about every procedure to demonstrate compliance. A number of organisations are hurriedly discarding data or will refuse to hold on to potentially legitimate business data, for no other reason than the fear that they might break the law.

This would not be so serious but for the second flaw – GDPR prescribes an extremely broad definition of personal data, which encompasses anything relating to a living person. That breadth includes quite serious information, such as your health, sex life, and religious or political views, but theoretically can expand to where you do your shopping, personal opinions, or your favourite sporting teams. Case law may eventually provide a more practical application of the GDPR definition, but in the meantime organisations are left to tread cautiously and fearfully. Among those organisations may well be political parties – under right of access, “personal data” includes anything written about a person in an email context. Until a judge rules otherwise, every party might live in fear that a member who left under a cloud might put in a subject access request, and ask to see any email in which they are named. The absurd idea that emails can no longer be private stems solely from GDPR being so all-encompassing.

Brexit does not provide an immediate solution to the flaws of GDPR, as the Government is adopting its own version of GDPR into UK law through the 2018 Data Protection Bill. Nor can we entirely ignore it when we do leave the EU; as the Facebook story has demonstrated, even non-EU organisations need to comply with the GDPR when they handle the data of EU citizens.

A central argument for Brexit, however, was that Parliament would take back control of our laws, and be able to improve EU laws we were dissatisfied with. I suggest that amending GDPR as a matter of urgent priority would have a massively positive impact on many UK charities and businesses; especially small organisations who risk being throttled by the burden of documenting their use of data. A new data protection law should focus on proscribing specific offences; principally relating to the abuse of personal data, or the failure to protect data from outside intervention. By focusing on the punishment of specific unacceptable practices, rather than seeking to burden organisations with a mass of bureaucracy, we can have a data protection regime that works for charities and businesses, and also protects individuals.

Conservative Home

*But there has now been more guidance how this affects us from our Conservative Central Office. You can read more about this elsewhere in this Magazine*

# TOM PURSGLOVE

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

PPS to the Secretary of State for International Trade and  
President of the Board of Trade



May 2018

A couple of weeks ago, I was one of the 40,000 people who took part in the London Marathon, running 26.2 miles in 23 degree heat! I was very nervous when I lined up at the start with 14 of my parliamentary colleagues, as well as all of the other thousands of runners, including many from our area - this was a huge challenge for me, having never run anywhere near that distance before, and I was pleased to complete the race in a time of 4:11.23.

The whole of the route was lined with kind and enthusiastic supporters, with 800,000 spectators coming to watch, and I was very grateful for all the encouragement which helped me to get through it - particularly

when I got to about mile 15 and realised I still had a very long way to go! However, the event was fantastically well organised and it was great to see so many people coming out and supporting members of their family, friends, and indeed



complete strangers, as well as the remarkable volunteers who made the entire day possible. Having watched it on the television in past years, I can safely say that

the London Marathon is even more impressive in real life - a really incredible sporting occasion and a very British celebration, unique to any Marathon anywhere else in the world.

Personally, I was running in aid of two brilliant local charities - Corby Nightlight and Crazy Hats Breast Cancer Appeal and I am delighted that, with the extremely generous help and support of so many, particularly from within the Association, we have raised over £3,000 to split between them.

I have seen the brilliant work that Corby Nightlight does first hand, and I am currently actively supporting their bid to secure new, fit-for-purpose premises in which to operate, and I hope that the money I have raised will help with this important work.

Crazy Hats Breast Cancer Appeal is also a charity that I have long supported, and which supports all aspects of breast cancer care, here in Northamptonshire. Crazy Hats was founded in 2001 by the remarkable Glennis Hooper, and has since raised over £2 million for breast cancer care, and given £900,000 to Kettering General Hospital, and I was so pleased to be able to play my part in supporting their work once again.

Continued>>>

Tom Pursglove, MP—continued>>>

I am so grateful to everyone who so generously donated to my fundraising effort, to those who expressed their support, to the incredible crowds along the route, the remarkable volunteers who made the day possible, as well as my fellow runners for their camaraderie - each and every one made it such a memorable day and spurred me on, and I want to say a HUGE 'thank you' to them all. As I crossed the line, I was asked if I would run it again - my answer was definitively "no - never again!" - the day after I started wavering...! Watch this space...

PS: Since writing, I have received a very kind note from the Prime Minister, congratulating me on my effort - it really is incredibly kind of her to have taken the time and I thought it would be nice to share it with you.

Tom

**Tom Pursglove, MP for Corby & East Northamptonshire**



**ASSOCIATION DINNER**

**Friday 19th October**

Guest Speaker:  
**Rt Hon Esther McVey**  
Member of Parliament for Tatton,  
Secretary of State for Work and  
Pensions

Further details to follow

**Cabinet ministers switch to reusable cups**



This is in keeping with a new drive to reduce plastic, with Theresa May pledging to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste within 25 years as part of the Government's long-term plan for the environment.

**Just a thought:** "Things don't necessarily have to be true, as long as they are believed." - Alexander Nix (Cambridge Analytica)



# CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM

[www.conservativepolicyforum.com](http://www.conservativepolicyforum.com)

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

We need to look at nuclear power and consider the disposal of the subsequent waste. We need to take responsibility, the building industry needs to have greater regulations and guidance into using energy saving methods, this needs to be part of planning policy. There should be a ban on anything other than smokeless coal but the industry should be regulated so they cannot hold customers to ransom with heavy costs.

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

. We should ensure solar, off shore wind and tidal resources are developed. All large buildings such as schools, factories and warehouses should have solar panels as standard. The motor industry needs to take more responsibility and develop lower emission cars, and especially trucks and lorries. There should be more stringent testing of vehicles, not just on a rolling road, but actually on our roads. We need to take control of manufacturers and big industry by making rules and more importantly enforcing them. We also need to look at emissions and pollution from other transport sectors, such as air and marine. There should be more encouragement to walk and cycle. Bring back the incentives to move to Electric vehicles, these have all but been removed now. Have more electric vehicle charging points to encourage energy efficient, low polluting electric car – and include a requirement for these in planning policy. Incentives to buy electric vehicles are needed as they are too expensive and the range needs to improve.

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

The manufacturing industry needs to take responsibility and move to recyclable packaging or loose purchases. A culture of bring your own packaging should be encouraged by shops and, as we have seen by some organisations, a reduction in cost for bringing your own introduced. Bring back returnable bottles with a refundable deposit, which would have the added bonus of reducing littering too. Water authorities also need to take responsibility and clean up their waterways. Supermarkets and retailers should have a social responsibility to recycle with incentives to do so. The Government needs to do more long term, it is all about education.

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

Encourage more tree planting with incentives for those who take part, like farmers. Planning policy needs to encourage planting of trees, but there should be a guided scheme, we cannot have the wrong tree in the wrong place that grows and causes lifting of pavements and hazards in the future. Tree planting should be carefully considered in developments, the right tree in the right place - areas of woodland should be encouraged in development, not just open space. Tree preservation orders need to be more readily available and enforced. There are free tree schemes available through the forestry commission, and local authorities should be encouraged to find a piece of land to plant and create woodland walks. We must protect what is left of the rain forests, we should encourage all countries to get together to do this. We should discourage the use of

Councillor Helen Howell is Chairman of this group and a meeting was held on 17th April 2018 at which 8 people attended. The analysis, which has been sent to CCHQ, is reproduced below.

Meetings alternate between Corby and Raunds Conservative Club.

**Topic: Conservative Conservation**

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

We must lead by example - Education is key; it needs to start at an early age by targeting younger people. There should be government initiatives to encourage energy saving initiatives such as lighting in homes. The EU and UK encourage energy saving but the rest of the world need to get on board and we need to work with these countries to bring everyone together to plan and prepare for climate change. There are many proven and effective recycling schemes throughout the world and we should be sharing and learning from those schemes. All new industrial units should have solar / energy generating roofing. Alternative energy should be invested in. Re-introduce solar panel subsidies. Encourage design and innovation so that solar panel technology fits in with their surroundings. Local governments should have a responsibility to provide energy efficient housing, this will also be beneficial to low income families. Planning policy needs to change to ensure house builders are building energy efficient houses and there could be incentives to home owners who use energy saving schemes when extending or improving. Bring back free energy saving bulbs from energy providers.

Continued>>>>

CPF— continued>>>

palm oil and encourage the use of rape seed oil. After all the rain forests are what keep us alive!

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

There should be more marine conservation orders. Fishing rights need to be returned to Britain. The electrification of fish in the fishing industry needs to be banned. We need to engage with the farmers / fisherman's guilds and work with them to introduce our policies. The use of sprays need to be looked at, there now needs to be 3 sprays on crops where there was previously only a need for one. All countries should be the same; there should be no disadvantage to British farmers.

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

We need to engage with the experts and develop our policies with their

assistance. We need to be ready with our own policies to start the day we leave the EU. We should be able to have litter wardens like we have dog wardens, who can give on the spot fines for littering, these fines need to be reduced so that they can be paid on the spot.

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

We need to lead by example. We should invest in manufacturers who comply with our environmental policies. Again we need to engage with experts and inventors with incentives and competitions for the best ideas. It is all about education.

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

We felt this was a dreadful question! Smaller farmers need more help and larger farms need less, but the subsidies are available to both which seems unfair. Subsidies

should be based on the market price for crops, not the farm size. There needs to be a greater balance between producer and retailer, the retailer holds all the cards and is able to manipulate the producer. There needs to be fairer tariffs with a level playing field. Manufacturers need to be controlled, where does the environmental impact assessment come in when looking at product development and who monitors this?

**Climate change: How might we better cultivate the resources, policies and people that will allow us to mitigate and adapt to change?**

The savings we have from coming out of the EU will help towards the costs. Manufacturers need to invest in best practice. Manufacturers should get involved in education and invest in the future. The plastic bag tax should be used for the clean up.



*If you would like to take part in CPF discussions contact the office.*

**Corby Council has more than £123m worth of debt and some multi-million-pound loans will not be paid off until 2067.**



Photo: David Sims

Conservative councillor David Sims, who represents the Oakley Vale ward, sent the following report to the Corby Evening Telegraph and to our magazine.

He said he has been warning the council against such high levels of borrowing for a long time and is concerned that the debts will cause financial problems down the line.

The authority has borrowed from councils as far away as Sheffield and Chelmsford and has 14 separate loans with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), a central government lender which loans to authorities for capital works projects.

The authority borrowed an additional £41m in the 2017/18 financial year, which it used to invest in two warehouses on industrial estates in the town. The costs of the loan repayments are more than £2m per year.

However, Council Leader Tom Beattie said he is confident the debts can be managed.

He said: "This is not a high risk strategy. We have been encouraged by the Government to be more entrepreneurial and we have borrowed prudently. The warehouse investment will see a return of £1m per year."

Almost all of the debt has been incurred in the past six years. The authority paid central government £71m in 2012 to take full financial control of its housing stock and £12m of the debt relates to the overspend on the building of Corby Cube.

*(Source: David Sims and Corby Evening Telegraph)*

# Theresa, where are the council houses you promised us?

In November 2017 Theresa May announced an extra £2 billion for council house building. It's estimated this could build an extra 25,000 council homes and if it unlocks further investment it could rise to 50,000.

As Conservatives why should we build council houses? Quite simply because we care. At a basic level housing should not be an opportunity to exploit other people's financial situation but a basic human requirement; a decent roof over your head for you and your family. Private rents for social housing, where one individual benefits from another, cannot replace the role of the state.

All colours of Governments through the decades have not built enough housing. The chickens are coming home to roost and it just happens to be under our watch.



Private house builders have no incentive to accelerate their rate of house building to fill the housing gap, why would they, a restriction on new house supply maintains prices? Added to that their requirement to replenish their land bank. I grant present planning laws are a hindrance to faster housing developments.

So let's build not 50,000 council house but a hundred thousand, two hundred thousand, nay make it three hundred thousand. After all, that will only be a quarter of the estimated 1.2 million

council homes the UK needs.

Borrow from Thatcher, who incidentally was the last great Council house builder,

let's win twice - first when we build and give families a council house then win again when we let them buy it.

Theresa, Corby is ready and waiting to build those Council homes.

## ***Cllr Kevin Watt***

Leader of the  
Conservative Group

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10<sup>th</sup> July please.

Contributions and letters from members are welcome but some editing may be necessary by the editor.

You can email the editor, Ray Boyd at [ray.boyd@talktalk.net](mailto:ray.boyd@talktalk.net)  
All emails will be acknowledged.

Corby and East Northants Conservative Association  
Invite you to  
**an Evening with Rt. Hon Dr Liam Fox MP**  
Secretary of State for International Trade & President of  
the Board of Trade  
**on Saturday 24th November 2018**  
**at The Holiday Inn Corby**  
Geddington Road, Corby, NN18 8ET,  
7pm for 7.30pm dinner  
£40 per person  
Dress Code: Lounge Suit/Evening wear  
Raffle/Auction Tickets available from CENCA,  
[office@cenca.co.uk](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk) or call: 01536 200255  
Menu selection available (2 courses with tea/coffee &  
mints) please ask for menu details when calling

# Emma McClarkin MEP for the East Midlands

## Global Britain can refresh the Commonwealth for people worldwide

*Emma McClarkin, East Midlands MEP &  
Chair of the Commonwealth Forum in  
Brussels.  
May 2018*

As the dust settles after the most ambitious, and well attended, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings to date, we have an excellent opportunity to define 'Global Britain' in the eyes of 2.4 billion Commonwealth Citizens. Partway through our negotiations to leave the European Union, it is crucial that the world understands what to expect from Global Britain.

Over the last 40 years, the UK has significantly underleveraged its place as a leader in the Commonwealth and has not shown the leadership the organisation deserves. Indeed, in terms of financial investment in the organisation, the UK invests significantly less in the Commonwealth than the French spend on the Francophonie. Moreover, despite the Commonwealth Advantage, meaning that intra-Commonwealth trade is in fact 18-20% cheaper than trading outside, we have failed to implement the appropriate measures and initiatives to capitalise on the opportunities presented by shared legal systems, language and structures.



The momentum gained at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is an opportunity to provide fresh impetus to revive our Commonwealth commitment under the banner of Global Britain. Global Britain must celebrate the valuable contributions that have shaped our country today, including those made by the Windrush generation and many other Commonwealth citizens. Global Britain must be a champion of free trade, taking the international lead and lifting barriers that too often hamper development. The sad fact is that millions of people worldwide, especially women and girls, find themselves held back by the society they live in. Global Britain must also champion equality and fairness, empowering the victims of discrimination as well as those forgotten by society.

On trade, the UK funded *Commonwealth Standards Network* and *Commonwealth Trade Facilitation Programme* will support developing countries across the Commonwealth in implementing internationally accepted standards and practises for doing business, thereby tearing down barriers to cost-effective trade. In particular, the UK will provide technical assistance to smaller, island states who often struggle to implement World Trade Organisation agreements. Doing so will reduce trading costs with

Emma McClarkin – continued>>>

developing Commonwealth countries by up to 16%, while also reducing the time taken to import and export by up to 47% and 92% respectively.

By pledging £212 million to primary education projects across the Commonwealth, the Government will ensure that 1 million girls will receive 12 years of quality education, offering a route out of poverty and the opportunity to better fulfil their potential. In this vein, the Government's *SheTrades Commonwealth* initiative will provide £7 million in funding to increase gender-inclusivity, particularly aiming to promote women's involvement in business. After all, it is estimated that greater gender equality in labour markets would increase global GDP by \$28trillion by 2025. Going further still, the Government has announced a new project to work with small, Pacific Commonwealth states who too often fail to uphold human and minority rights. £2.9million will support member-

states and regional organisations to focus on equality and their adherence to international human rights obligations.

It is through initiatives, such as those proposed by the Government and in the Commonwealth Forums held during the Heads of Government Meeting, that we might all benefit as a Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Summit was the launch of Global Britain, with a renewed commitment to leading in the Commonwealth. Through clear and tangible initiatives, the UK will drive change, champion equality and work with Commonwealth partners to ensure that no one is left behind. As the UK leaves the EU, Global Britain will refresh the Commonwealth's significance, and its benefit, to people worldwide.

## Emma McClarkin, MEP



**Neil O'Brien is MP for Market Harborough and is a board member of Onward.**

Apr 2018

Just days before last year's general election, Jeremy Corbyn appeared on the front page of the NME. "I offer hope" ran the front page headline. With just seven days to go before polling day, he made a dramatic promise to write off student debts of those who had already left university: "I don't see why those that had the historical misfortune to be at university during the £9,000 period should be burdened excessively compared to those that went before or those that come after," he said. "I will deal with it," he promised.

It was a very expensive promise. The value of the outstanding student loan book is around £100 billion, and writing off older debts would come on top of the cost of Labour's promise to "abolish" fees – a stonking £100 billion between now and 2025. Yet, just weeks after the election, the promise was dropped.

In an extraordinary interview, Corbyn admitted that he'd had no idea how much his promise would cost: "We never said we would completely abolish it because we were unaware of the size at that time."

The episode tells you everything you need to know about his junk politics. It doesn't matter if there's no way to pay for a policy. It doesn't matter if an eye-catching giveaway will be dropped straight after the election. As long as it will go viral on social media, it gets announced.

As well as being dishonest, Corbyn's politics are profoundly backward-looking. There are no new ideas at all in today's Labour party. Their solution to any problem is just to return Britain to how it was in the late 1970s. Swathes of the economy will be renationalised. Taxes rates for small businesses and income taxes will go shooting up. Disruptive new technologies will be regulated out of existence. There's no sense that there might have been good reasons why we've moved away from these tried-and-failed ideas over the last 40 years. Labour promise to takes us forward to a brighter version of yesterday.

(Conservative Home)



# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD



May 2018

As Police and Crime Commissioner, one of the most important responsibilities I have is the hiring and firing of the county's Chief Constable. Since taking office, I have worked closely with our current Chief Constable Simon Edens and we have established a constructive and positive working relationship.

It did come as a surprise when on the 12th April 2018 I received the news that the Chief Constable announced he was to retire in October 2018. Simon has achieved a great deal during his time as Chief Constable; from implementing a whole new way of delivering policing to establishing the foundations of excellence on which the force can build upon.

Simon's departure leaves a big pair of shoes to fill and the responsibility to hire his replacement falls to me and my team. As you can imagine, hiring a Chief Constable is a complex undertaking with far reaching implications for our county. With this in mind, it is essential that I select a leader who will innovate to improve the performance of the Force and also ensure that the culture supports frontline police officers to develop their skills to the full.



I want to recruit an inspirational leader who will set Northamptonshire Police on a path of genuine

improvement as well as creating an environment where every member of this Force is able to use their skills and potential to play their part. The Force is made up of talented people who have so much to contribute to the job of building an excellent police service. I am looking for a leader who can nurture that talent, so that the improvements we make in performance can be sustained over the years.

The new Chief Constable must be able to empower and lead officers and staff at all levels and create the next generation of leaders from within Northamptonshire Police. Those who apply will face a rigorous interview process, which will include being questioned by groups made up of police officers and staff and of representatives from partner organisations from across the county. Following that, they will then face two formal panel interviews before I select my preferred candidate.

Policing is more challenging and complex than ever and we need empowered frontline staff who use their training and judgement to the full. The new Chief Constable must be up for that challenge and share a passion for improvement that shows a clear commitment to the future of Northamptonshire Police and the safety of residents.

We have cast our net wide and I would hope the opportunity to lead Northamptonshire Police will ensure we have a strong field of candidates to take on this exciting and challenging role.

Continued>>>>

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

Hiring a new Chief Constable brings into focus the journey of improvement I have been on as Police and Crime Commissioner. Our Officers and Police Staff undertake a difficult role with strong commitment and compassion. We have spent a great deal of time looking how digital technology can support the front line.

My office has worked closely with Northamptonshire Police to access a central Government fund to support innovation in policing, which will be cover around a third of the £1million cost of 1,700 new Samsung Galaxy smart phones. These new devices marks a really significant investment in frontline policing and will help enable officers deal with complex issues and do more while on the beat. They will also allow them to work quickly and efficiently, accessing systems and providing reports while out and about instead of having to come in to a police station.

This will mean they will get to spend more time in communities and give them fast access to live information and intelligence which should mean access to swifter justice for people in Northamptonshire.

When our new Chief Constable takes up their post, I want them to work with me to build upon the improvements and developments we have already delivered. I have protected police numbers and invested nearly £4m of additional funding in my latest budget, but there is more work to be done. The next few years will be challenging however the new Chief Constable will have a force ready and able to deliver excellence across out county.

As ever, I am always happy to provide any help or assistance and can be contacted at: [Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk)

**Stephen Mold**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire**

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## AN UPDATE ON THE NEW GDPR RULES ON EMAILS, ETC.

One topic that has been a source of worry regarding the new EU GDPR regulations is the issue of contacting members of the party by email.

Initially it seemed that we would have to delete all records and start again but this time getting everyone to tick the box to say they were happy to receive communications. A horrific position made almost impossible as only about 35% of people actually open their emails.

Yet another reason why we

need to get out of the European mindset of controlling every tiny detail of people's lives.

However, the Party now takes the view that consent to email our members is not required. Instead, we use 'legitimate interest' as the legal basis for such communications (to 'fulfil a contract' in the language of GDPR).

Therefore it is not necessary for Associations to delete email addresses for current and recently lapsed members, or to obtain fresh permissions.

However, for non-members' emails collected by Associations we will need to be able to answer the question "what is your evidence that this person consented to receive your messages?"

If we can't answer this then, new permissions will be needed, but there may be further information on this over the coming weeks.

It has been a worrying time but thankfully common sense has prevailed.

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If you are in Corby shopping and looking for somewhere to eat why not try the Corby Conservative Club. Lunchtime snacks available from Wednesday to Sunday for under £7. Non-members welcome. Phone 01536 203711 for details.

# RAY JACKSON - AN IDEA

11 May 2018

'As a campaigner of past years it is very assuring to read about all the canvassing and leaflet distribution that is going on. Memories of early morning starts with Bernard Howard on Dumble Close in Oakley Vale when we used to worry that the four wheels we had on the car would still be there when we returned. For a while Bernard thought I used my 'crumby' car especially for Oakley Vale. Happy days and lots of fun! I hope the present generation are enjoying it as much as we did.

I am still concerned that we are not using social media as much as we should. I admit I am not on Facebook or LinkedIn or anything other than email so you could argue that I should start worrying when I am prepared to do something about it. The team that concerns me is 'Team Corbyn' backed up by John McDonald and the Momentum Movement. They are reputed to lead a team of 500,000 new young members who have joined the Labour Party for a remarkably low fee of £3. Just imagine what we could do with 200 youngsters in our constituency, working together, keen and fit and up for a challenge. Of course, young Conservatives would not fall for false promises of free university education, readily available homes for all at an early age and all the other blandishments offered. But I bet they are mostly on social media – probably hardly ever off it! Then we would have a very effective force.



*Ray Jackson*

I put the idea to Robert Courts MP from the Foreign Office when Tom brought him to dine with us a couple of weeks ago. My wish was to find a cadre of the up and coming generation on social media and make available to them news and events from Central Office which is of especial interest to 25 –40 year olds. I imagined a couple of editors relaying current news to social hubs to spread the messages to their friends. My plan was to have two local editors, but Robert pointed out we would have to do it nationally to prevent the facts being distorted. As I write, how many young people know about the idea of giving £10,000 to 25 year olds to help them get started. Admittedly I think this is probably only an idea to stimulate discussion about how we can best help get a small heap of capital into purses and pockets. but as an idea it ranks with making income tax free for the first £10,000; a brilliant idea, now implemented and exceeded and running smoothly. Would not it be good to have a mechanism by which we could focus on the needs and aspirations of the next generation?

We need to think about our constituency. Half industrialised, half agricultural and more to separate us than join us. We need to support each other much more. Tom's Curry Suppers were good fun. It was good to see a significant number

*Continued>>>>*

Ray Jackson continued>>>

of Corby people at the recent dinner with Robert Courts. To address the problem in his time William Powell MP suggested we should call ourselves the 'Welland Valley Constituency'.

Going back to Momentum. John McDonald in the BBC studio on Election Night frequently paid tribute to the size of the Labour Party and how the new members with their energy and enthusiasm were going to do what we call 'Get out the Vote'. I was worried but as the night went on it did

not seem to be happening and at the end probably did not. We scraped through by the skin of our teeth and a recognition there is more to Conservatives than Brexit. But it would be good to work much more closely with the next generation of Conservatives!

### *Ray Jackson*

If you would like to comment on Ray's thoughts you can email the magazine editor and your email will be forwarded on to him

#### **Association Annual Christmas Lunch**

Friday 14th December  
Churchill Suite, Corby  
Conservative Club, 12 for  
12.30 pm Speaker and ticket  
price to follow

#### **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

With the likelihood of the new Unitary Council being introduced we shall need many more volunteers to stand for the new body. It is likely that Town Councils will take on a greater role in the future with much more responsibility and it will vital for us to have good people to stand for election to these. Please contact the office if you would like to be considered.

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## **TOM PURSGLOVE, MP's WEEKLY ADVICE SURGERIES**

As your local MP, Tom believes it is extremely important to be as accessible as possible, in order to be able to best help with any problems or concerns that constituents have. As such, unlike most MPs, he holds weekly advice surgeries, both in Corby and in East Northamptonshire. The venues for his surgeries are:

**Corby:** Corby VCS, The TA Building, Elizabeth Street, Corby, NN17 1PN

**Irthlingborough:** Irthlingborough Children's Centre, Scarborough St., Irthlingborough, NN9 5TT

**Raunds:** The Hall, Thorpe St, Raunds, NN9 6LT.

**Oundle:** Oundle Baptist Church, 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle, PE8 4BG

**Thrapston:** Thrapston Library, High Street, Thrapston, NN14 4JJ

To book an appointment, please telephone 020 7219 8043, as Tom has decided to operate his surgeries on an appointments basis, in order to ensure that constituents do not have to rush through their concerns. This approach also allows Tom to provide immediate help - he often makes a start on casework matters prior to an appointment, to try and resolve concerns more quickly, whilst it also allows him to seek any appropriate advice, or obtain clarification on technical points, in advance of the meeting.

# TOM PURSGLOVE MP

*Member of Parliament  
for Corby & East  
Northamptonshire*



## CONTACT TOM

### Write to me:

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London, SW1A 0AA

t: 020 7219 8043

e: [pursglovet@parliament.uk](mailto:pursglovet@parliament.uk)

f: [fb.com/TomPursgloveMP](https://www.facebook.com/TomPursgloveMP)

I also produce a fortnightly electronic Westminster Report, outlining my work both locally and in Parliament – please email me if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

*I hold weekly advice surgeries  
in both Corby, and in  
East Northamptonshire in  
Irthlingborough, Raunds,  
Thrapston and Oundle, offering  
help and support to local people.*

*To arrange an appointment,  
please email me, or call:*

**020 7219 8043**

# Multi-member council wards should be abolished

By Harry Phibbs

8 May 2018

Those campaigning in the local elections last week will have been well aware of the political significance of the alphabet. "Remember you have three votes," is the mantra. Yet still they forget. They gaze down the ballot paper and vote for the first Conservative (or Labour or Lib Dem) candidate they see. They put a cross in the box next to that name and, feeling they have completed their civic duty, depart the polling station. Thus Cllr Aardvark has an inherent advantage over Cllr Zebedee.

But this alphabetic discrimination is one of the more trivial reasons that multi-member wards should be replaced by smaller single member wards. Indeed, the electoral confusion is often resolved in councils outside London by having a third of seats contested each year. That has the even worse consequence of weak Government and short termist thinking.

The current multi-member ward arrangements allows idle councillors to coast along allowing their more industrious colleagues to do all the work. I have written previously about how abolition of councillor allowances would probably mean, overall, an enhanced standard of representation as deadbeats would not have the inclination to cling on for the money. But the multi member ward arrangements also makes it much easier for people to continue as passengers making no tangible contribution. If an issue is raised by email to all three ward councillor then it is easy enough for one councillor to leave it for another to pursue.

Indeed, if you have three energetic councillors there is the opposite difficulty of duplication – with perhaps contradictory demands being made to the hapless council official responsible for the matter.

I would favour a reform that reduced the total number of councillors but also reduced the area that each remaining councillor had to cover. So ward boundaries could be redrawn

so that: a broad guide, instead of 8,000 people being represented by three councillors, there would be 4,000 represented by one councillor.

There would be more individual accountability. It would not make the arrangement perfect. If you have a concern at present it is rather bad luck if all three are councillors ignore you. If you only have one councillor and he or she can't be bothered to reply to your email, which might be over a serious difficulty, then that is a remedy that is denied to you. On the other hand, the prospect of councillors who regularly adopt that pattern of behaviour being ejected by the electorate is much higher. There would be a higher premium on local candidates – with smaller wards you would be more likely to know if a candidate lived in the area or not.

I can understand how political parties might find it less convenient. There is already difficulty trying to arrange selection by membership in a ward – due to the shortage of members. A smaller ward would have fewer members. Also where an ineffective councillor was left in place it would be much easier in a smaller ward for an independent to defeat them. Yet those are healthy pressures for the political parties to face. Where they can manage a strong and representative membership and find capable and hard working council candidates they will be able to overcome such challenges. Where they can't they don't deserve to.

A final point is that single member wards would make it much harder for single party states to remain. At the very least the monolithic one Party states would be a bit less secure.

A requirement for single member wards would be a bold reform that would reinvigorate our local democracy, make elections fairer, and provide for more effective accountability. Despite the vested interests and inertia that would mean resistance to such a reform, the case for it is compelling.



# REPORT FROM NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

May 2018

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced his decision to appoint two commissioners to oversee finance and governance at Northamptonshire County Council. The commissioners are Tony McArdle, former Chief Executive of Lincolnshire County Council and Brian Roberts who will be supporting him. Brian is a former Deputy Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council and an expert in financial management.

Councillor Heather Smith has resigned as the Leader of Northamptonshire County Council and Councillor Matt Golby the previous Deputy Leader has taken on the role of Leader. Heather took over the Leadership from Jim Harker and was Leader for just under two years. She was first appointed to Cabinet in 2009 where she held a number of roles; her latest portfolio was for Children's Services where she was instrumental together with the new Director of Children's Services in bringing the service out of "Inadequate". Councillor Matt Golby has appointed a new Cabinet comprising both new and previous members of Cabinet; it will be working closely with the appointed commissioners.

The recent inspection of NCC had a key recommendation to reorganise local government in the County. Leaders of the County, District and Borough Councils have been working together to submit a proposal to the Secretary of State, this is likely to see all 8 councils in the County being dissolved and replaced with two new unitary councils which would provide all services currently split across county council and district and borough councils.

The vital role of parish councils will continue, but you would only be dealing with one tier council above rather than two. Councillor Andy Mercer is the cabinet member for local government reform, performance and transformation.

After hosting the Grand Depart of the 2017 Women's Tour, the race returns to the county for the fifth time. This year Rushden makes its debut on the route of the UCI Women's World Tour event with Daventry hosting the finish of this stage. The world's top female cyclists, potentially including Northamptonshire sisters Hannah and Alice Barnes of the Canyon//SRAM team will be there. The new route will take in the south of the county, passing through Wollaston, Salcey Forest, Silverstone and Weedon Bec. We see attendance growing every year and it is always a huge boost for the local economy and people taking to their bikes.

We saw significant snow fall this winter across Northamptonshire. The gritting teams, totalling 125 staff from Northamptonshire Highways and Kier WSP, worked around the clock to keep key routes open. The council will be working hard to repair road surfaces damaged by this particularly hard and wet winter. Nationally, local government estimates it would cost £9BN to bring all carriageways up to standard. We will need to continue to prioritise ad hoc repairs to the criteria we specify, but anyone who needs to report a pothole should continue to do so via the Council's Street Doctor website.

*Councillor Wendy Brackenbury*

# THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'SO MUCH TO MOAN ABOUT.....'

Hello all fellow Conservatives.

As I write my bi-monthly page for this admirable and well put together magazine I reflect on my weekend. After having no intention of watching the Royal wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan I found myself engrossed in what we in Great Britain do best, and that's to show the world how to stage an event.

This was without doubt an exceptional wedding for the couple who by all accounts (and i can easily believe this) were hands on in every detail. What a delightful day it was and its now clearer than ever that our greatest ever Monarch - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has helped to secure the Monarchy for a very long time to come. Republicans - be aware and keep your mouths tightly shut!

But this great event has taken away our thirst for knowing how Brexit is going. I would assume that there is next to no progress and we are about where we were in June 2016.....Surely we should now be at the stage where we know when the end date will be. As far as i am concerned this should have been at least a year ago. And we should also know costs, which again as far as I am concerned should be as near to zero as possible. Our 'great negotiators' should remember that the Germans will still need to sell us cars, the French will still need to sell us their cars, wine and food and the Italians (who it appears are feeling as we did) still need to sell wine food and holidays to us. We are in the driving seat for heavens sake - or should be.....

You've heard me talk about the Westminster bubble before. Well it now appears that some there are above the law. Take our illustrious Speaker of the House of Commons; you would

have thought that he would have learnt his lesson (or at least his wife's) following the McAlpine scandal some years back. This man has now allegedly admitted he did call Andrea Leadsom a stupid woman but of course because of his position believes he can do no wrong. Well I think he has overstepped the mark, has done wrong and should go. He has not been honest over this problem and should pay for this lack of honesty. We expect our leaders to be beyond reproach.



I also heard last week that Mrs May has it in mind to use algorithm ways to detect illness in the NHS though computers. Great.....but I believe that the NHS doesn't need more computers it needs more Doctors and Nurses.

This brings me to my final point. When will this Government listen to the people in the shires and in the streets. We need more NHS staff and are willing to pay for them, we need more Police on the streets - it's what we hear on doorsteps all the time and we need less target-driven standards in education. Education is a subject dear to me and may be a subject next time - (Note to editor: I may need two pages for the August issue).

Enjoy the summer

Cheerio for now

**MOG**

MOG is not a member of our Association and his comments are obviously his own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of our members, Association or its management.

## Your Association contact details:

Tickets for all events can be ordered through the Conservative Association Office (Ann)

Phone: 01536 200255

Email: [office@cenca.co.uk](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk)

Mail: CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ

Web: [www.cenca.co.uk](http://www.cenca.co.uk)



**Esther McVey**  
 @EstherMcVey1 (Twitter)

Whilst on Question Time I said youth unemployment had fallen by over 40% since 2010 - a lady in the audience questioned my statement -

Here's the BBC's independent fact check clarifying Youth unemployment has fallen by that amount under this government

[www.fullfact.org](http://www.fullfact.org)

*Correct. The number of unemployed 16-24 year olds has fallen by 43% between 2010 and 2018.*



## The Association of Conservative Clubs



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A copy of the last few magazines is also available on our website at [www.cenca.co.uk](http://www.cenca.co.uk)

Printed circulation is restricted to Conservative Party members.

Non-members who would like to receive our magazine regularly will need to join the Association. Please contact Ann at our office by email at [office@cenca.co.uk](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk) or telephone 01536 200255.

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