

## **Mike Stonard - President**

It would be an honour to be re-elected as your Norwich Labour Party President. Serving our party has been a privilege and pleasure, and it is something I take very seriously.

It should not be forgotten that it is only a matter of a few years since we were a minority administration at City Hall. Electoral progress like that we have seen in Norwich does not happen by accident; it is the result of a clear focus and a lot of hard work by hundreds of Labour Party members across the City. It has meant that we have been able to build council houses for the first time in decades – with those at Goldsmith Street winning an international award – and to work hard to keep Labour values in the driving seat at City Hall, ameliorating the worst excesses of the Tories savage public sector cuts.

Locally, we need to continue to demonstrate, through our words, policies and our actions, that we are the party of the many, listening to the concerns of ordinary people and acting to improve their lives and their opportunities. This means continuing to offer a coherent, popular alternative to the Tories, remaining focussed, and working hard to retain and extend our power and influence locally.

I would like to thank all those comrades who, this year, have worked to ensure an active and efficient party machinery that is focussed, funded and able to deliver more incredible election victories, building on the other successes of recent years. It is vital that we are not distracted and maintain this capability.

### **My Priorities:**

My top priority would be to ensure the party remains united in the face of the Tory government's divisive policies and to secure a Labour Government.

This includes making a priority of maintaining our control of the City Council and committing to fully support our PPC Karen Davis and MP Clive Lewis going into the next General Election where we will take both Norwich seats.

### **My key priorities would be:**

Ensuring Norwich Labour Party is a visible, campaigning organisation on the key political issues of the day, in particular opposing the Tories' savage attacks on the welfare state and the most vulnerable in society; co-ordinating campaigns with our councillors on the City and County Councils and our Member of Parliament, and harnessing their power and influence to further our aims.

Ensuring Norwich Labour Party is welcoming of new members and supporters; that meetings are conducted in a comradely and inclusive manner; that our ways of working are accessible; and that we are an inclusive organisation which celebrates diversity, fights discrimination of all kinds and has zero tolerance of all prejudice and discrimination.

Making a priority of maintaining our control of the City Council. Recognising that control of the City Council enables us to translate our Labour values into practical measures locally in ways that are directly relevant to people's everyday lives and concerns. This also greatly helps us in our efforts to extend our influence at County Hall and to elect and re-elect Labour MPs in our two parliamentary constituencies.

Focus upon Norwich North in particular to ensure we not only win the parliamentary seat but continue to build our capacity, develop every ward to win Broadland District Council to continue our election success of 2019 and power forward to turn every part of city and suburbs deepest red. We can do it if we work together, focus, target and use the skills, resources, talents and energy of all.

Secure Norwich Labour Party's financial future and, in particular, ensure our precious financial resources are wisely invested and not eroded. We hold these resources in trust for our successors, and the revenue generated from them (together with fundraising and donations) ensures we have the resource to fight elections in years to come.

Ensure the internal workings of the Norwich Labour Party are both transparent and accountable to its members, democratic and conducted in a spirit of inclusion, respect and solidarity.

If re-elected I will work to build a Norwich Labour Party for the many not the few.

## **My background**

I have been a member of the Labour Party all my adult life and a member of a Trade Union all my working life. I joined Labour Students in 1979, aged 20, and joined the Labour Party in 1982, aged 23. I have a 38-year association with the party and have been a full member for 35 years. I grew up in a working class family in London, before joining the NHS and moving to Norfolk. Norwich is my home.

I am a Labour City Councillor and currently am Cabinet member for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth, having formerly held the portfolios for Resources and for Environment, Development and Transport. I also am currently President of Norwich Labour Party and a member of the Executive Committee.

I am an active community worker and campaigner and, at the moment, this includes being Chair of Future Projects, the social inclusion charity.