

Worcester CLP Executive Committee Annual Report 2016-17



Worcester CLP Executive Committee

Annual Report 2016-17

Chairperson's report – Ian Craigan

Our membership has grown massively over the past few months and we face a challenge of meeting, hearing from and engaging new members. If you are new, then welcome! If you've been around a while and stuck the course, doubly welcome! We've been through a tumultuous and game-changing few months and the rollercoaster hasn't finished yet!

In this report - covering in all but the financial section, only just over half a year - you will read about the work that the entirely volunteer Executive has been doing. The Executive runs to help members come together, debate current national and local issues, get timely and accurate information, sort out practical problems before they hamper our effectiveness, and plan strategies for the future. The report offers you a snapshot of what has been achieved in a very short time with many gaps and diversions along the way. My thanks to all the EC members for their hard work and good humour.

But the CLP is its members. I want to be part of a CLP that gives all members a voice and values their opinions; that lives within its means but pushes the boundaries of what is possible; that takes the national debate and applies it to the realities faced by Worcester people, that builds on the successes of the past without settling for the status quo.

This report can't hope to capture, or acknowledge, the efforts and energy of every person – particularly those Labour members from surrounding areas who came into Worcester night after night throughout the general election to help canvas for Joy. I'd like to pay tribute to a few people who have given great service to the party this year.

To Elaine Donnelly who took on the challenge of acting chair and led the way with enthusiasm. Her continued efforts with fundraising and development of the closed Facebook Group have been of great help.

To our energetic general election office and outreach teams – Chris Winwood, Rob Southern, Rowena Challoner and Marilyn Wrightson, ably backed up by Jane Leach, plus Kym Humphries knocking up garden boards and Duncan snapping up pictures.

And finally to Roger Jenkins, our election agent, a tireless servant whose erudite chuckle often softens the impact of rock hard nuggets of information.

CLP Secretary – Chris Cawthorne

CLP has met in General Meeting only six times this year with April's meeting cancelled to allow for campaigning in the County elections and all subsequent meetings suspended following the announcement of the General election.

In March we heard from Worcester Trades Council who set out their planned activities for the year and urged party members to join in. Two members of staff from CAB/WHABAC were invited to the May GC meeting to talk about the impact of benefit cuts. This had to be cancelled because of the election but I hope we can reinstate this as soon as possible.

We have seen record attendances at GM this year. This puts a strain on paper and printing costs so I hope we can all remember to bring copies of agendas to meetings if possible in the future.

Women's Officer– Bev Morris

I got off to a slow start in this role due to some technical issues, but finally got up and running as the general election was called! I organised a meet up for women members to come along and meet with Joy to discuss the issues faced by women affected by the pension changes. There is a national campaign on this, Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI). A number of women shared their stories and Joy signed the WASPI pledge as parliamentary candidate, to do all she can to raise the issues and try to get them addressed. It was a well-attended meeting and we plan to hold further meetings, including a larger event with speakers.

I've only been in this role for a brief time, but should I be fortunate enough to continue, I intend that we will have a full calendar of events over the coming year.

Membership coordinator – Andy Graham

Membership

857 members as at 4/7/17 (1163 including affiliates and supporters); 379 are women and 156 are youth members

245 new members in the 12 months since 4/7/16

87 joined since general election

Branch membership

103 east

273 north

305 south

176 west

Tasks undertaken since election to role

- Attended branch meetings for each branch (attendance at which has apparently stagnated in recent years with negative impacts on local campaigning) to discuss with members issues around branch meetings; fund-raising activities in branches, new member welcomes, political education, local campaigning. I gained agreement from each branch to restore the

system of ward organising to encourage a deeper involvement of local members based on appointment of member champions who will take responsibility for these activities. Unfortunately this work was interrupted by the general election campaign but I am committed to continuing with this now and intend to meet again with branches to discuss this further and hopefully inaugurate this new engagement and campaigning method soon.

- Welcoming new members was also undertaken by me although this has only been by email and on occasions by phone. How the CLP does this from now on will need to be quickly reviewed. It is my intention to organise a programme of social events (with speakers etc) for members, new and old.

During general election

- Co-ordinated membership and volunteer activity; recruited new volunteers, organised existing and new members/volunteers to undertake canvassing, signs (over 125 erected) and posters (with magnificent help from amongst others, Kym Humphries), instigated our social media campaign (led by Sophie, Kerry and Jack), worked with Martin Barratt to upgrade website, membership data lists (although much work remains to be done on this) and sent dozens of emails to members, supporters and others. On occasions, our emails were sent to almost 1000 people at a time
- As a result of this campaign, we have made contact with some members for the first time, many supporters some of whom have now joined the party as a result of their positive experience with us
- Selected thoughts; we need now to support new members, turn supporters into members, provide good engagement opportunities for all, revive our branches which are in need of a lot of support and lastly to act now to keep all those involved in the GE on board with a new campaign

IT and Social Media – Martin Barratt

Since the calling of the General Election we concentrated on the following areas:-

Web site

The website was redesigned to support Joy's campaign, using the home page to show statements and news from the campaign and having Joys Face-book embedded into the page to show the activity upon it. At the end of the campaign this was changed to show Joy's thank you message and a "To be continued banner"

The Donation page was updated and we have raised £715 since doing so

I created a volunteer page and attracted approximately 30 people through that

Future plans include updating and clarifying the contact information in the website and redesigning the website post-election. This will be done in liaison with the

Membership Co coordinator to ensure it fits the Worcester Labour Party's requirements

Nationbuilder, our communications tool

I updated the membership data from Membercentre and created new and accurate Lists for contacting Members and Supporters. This replaced the use of TAGs which were failing to maintain accuracy. The process is quite time consuming and throughout we had a few complaints by people not receiving emails. These have all been resolved.

Since the election I have continued to create accurate and up to date lists for each of the Branch's Membership.

Future plans include the creation of more Lists to enable us to email different groups among our members. Monthly updating and editing of the records to maintain accuracy

Members centre in Membersnet

I created membership reports and put them into a spreadsheet. This was used to update Nationbuilder and for use by the Membership coordinator. I took steps to ensure that transmission of this data was compliant with the Data Protection Act

Future plans include a review of the Data Protection Act's influence upon us when legislative changes come into force later this year. The Labour Party will be issuing guidance for us to follow.

Social Media

Face book and Twitter have very much come to the fore during the election, especially as a counter to the traditional press and news. We have been fortunate, during the election, to recruit some very talented people to help us with these. We can continue to grow and build our social media platforms into even stronger and more effective tools for the Worcester Labour Party

Trades Unions Liaison Officer – Nick Makin

This has been a short but busy period as I only took over this role a few months ago.

My aim was to renew old links with local affiliated unions and to forge new ones where possible. I had hoped to do this through the Worcester trades council, however this has been problematic in the short term due to a number of factors although I am hopeful things will change in the near future. In the meantime I have begun to make links outside the Trades council forum. GE17 provided some focus for our affiliated Unions and certainly the CWU and Unite community stepped up to the plate for us locally.

My focus for next year will be to continue to strengthen links but with a focus on financial support in the immediate term. I would like to see affiliated Unions invited to

CLP meetings for all to gain a better understanding and insight into Worcester CLP and for us to know who our supporters are.

Diversity Co-ordinator - Lynn Denham

Equality, social justice and celebration of diversity is core to Labour Party values. There are many opportunities to demonstrate these values in support of a better Worcester for the many, not the few. The 'year' for this report began in October 2016.

Labour Mayor, Paul Denham continued up to May 2017, with the theme of **no community left behind**. He organised the first ever family fun day in October 2016 at the Guildhall – for **children** to enjoy. Volunteers and staff provided a Christmas lunch for the **homeless** in the Guildhall – a moving and inspirational event for all participants. Other diversity achievements included a Guildhall tour with **deaf** direct and sign language translators, a group with **learning disabilities** and participation in **Chinese** New Year celebrations.

Labour Councillors have close working relationships with **Muslim** communities in Worcester. We continue to try to counteract anti-muslim prejudice and propaganda whenever it arises eg on doorstep campaigning. Old St Martin's Church held their December Peace and Friendship party again bringing Muslim and **Christian** communities together. I helped to make the initial contacts for this now annual event.

The Mayor and I participated in a large event re Pride and Prejudice Hate Crime. This was organised by Fortis Living social housing provider to help address **LGBT** hate crime. In February 2017, we also attended an interesting exhibition and event for LGBT history month.

As Cabinet Member for Sustainable Communities in 16/17, I got the City Council's first formal agreement to a **Health Improvement** Plan committing the Council to make positive impacts on health and wellbeing. I also initiated and continue to Chair the Worcester **Dementia** Action Alliance. This brings a wide variety of organisations and businesses together to make it easier for people living with dementia.

In January 2017, the County Council consulted on a new local transport plan which had minimal support for public transport. Labour Councillors fed back that people with **disabilities** and unable to drive should not be discriminated against and prevented from participating in city life due to lack of transport.

Worcester CLP Campaign Coordinator – Joy Squires

Because local elections in Worcester take place every year, most of our campaign activity has traditionally been geared towards promoting Labour candidates and councillors. For the 2017 County Council elections, this involved mounting full campaigns in the 3 divisions we were defending (Nunnery, Rainbow Hill, St John's), a full campaign to gain in our key target Division (Gorse Hill and Warndon) and

extensive campaigns where we felt we could, in a good year, make gains (Riverside and Bedwardine). These campaigns took place over many months and involved significant work and commitment from the candidates and their often very small teams of helpers.

The snap general election was called before the end of the local elections. Because the County Council elections are a city wide election, the results were anticipated eagerly as a possible indicator of how Labour would fare in the general election on 8th June. We achieved a vote share of 28.57%, similar to the results in 2013 (the last time the County Council elections were held). We gained Gorse Hill and Warndon, held the 3 Divisions we were defending but failed to make much headway in Bedwardine and Riverside.

County Council elections 2017	Labour	Tory	Lib Dem	Green	UKIP	Other
Bedwardine	808	1650	218	140	126	
Claines	446	1543	1096	197	99	
Gorse Hill & Warndon	923	587	0	105	276	39
Nunnery	1049	708	81	125	148	11
Rainbow Hill	1027	615	71	150	112	103
Riverside	994	1561	211	238	122	
St John	1003	481	71	91	102	
St Peter	347	2014	0	1363	107	
St Stephen	477	855	0	1554	133	
Warndon Parish	596	1564	215	136	154	
Total votes	7670	11578	1963	4099	1379	153
	28.57%	43.13%	7.31%	15.27%	5.13%	0.57%

We lost no time in mobilising for the snap general election, with a campaign team covering a wide range of roles put in place quickly and to great effect. Joy Squires was confirmed as our candidate and the campaign team quickly got to grips with all the tasks needed to make a success of the campaign. Despite the fact that the local election results and the national polls seemed to indicate that our chances in Worcester were slim, we fought the campaign to win.

Jeremy Corbyn's visit to Worcester at the start of the campaign was a triumph and a pre-cursor to a great general election campaign, with a manifesto that all of us could unite around, with policies that were easily understood and conveyed on the doorstep. As a candidate, I could not have asked for a better national campaign.

Members responded well to the challenge and we were able to deliver leaflets and letters right across the city and maintain a sometimes gruelling timetable of doorstep canvassing and campaign activity. Support from neighbouring CLPs was very welcome.

Worcester General Election Result 2017					
				Change from 2015	Tory Majority
Conservative		24731	48.10%	2.80%	2490
Labour		22223	43.20%	9.30%	
Lib Dem		1757	3.40%	0.00%	
UKIP		1354	2.60%	-10.20%	
Green		1211	2.40%	-1.70%	
Independent		109	0.20%	0.20%	
Compass		38	0.10%	0.10%	

Our challenge now is to maintain our campaign activity throughout the summer and beyond so that Labour remains visible and relevant to all communities across Worcester. We made a good start by supporting the National campaign day on 1st July, with a good presence at 4 shopping centres across Worcester. A constituency wide leaflet is in preparation and will be distributed over the coming weeks.

I am stepping down as Campaign Coordinator after many very enjoyable and (mostly) successful years in the role. I remain totally committed and enthusiastic about getting Labour's message out and I will continue to do all I can to support our campaign activities. I no longer have the time, however, for the detailed organisational work that is required to deliver successful campaigning. I believe my time is now better spent in a more outward facing role.

City Council report – Adrian Gregson

There are a few significant issues on the city council that are worth reporting. After agreeing a balanced budget and transformation plan for the next 5 years, Labour set a robust and ambitious vision for Worcester in February. However this was all just a scene setter for the decision of Green and Conservative councillors to change from a cabinet system to a committee system to govern the city. With no city elections this year it was soon clear that with me as leader and Marc Bayliss as deputy but Louis Stephen chairing policy and resources, the real decisions will not be made by all councillors participating in an open and transparent system of policy-making committees but by 3 white middle aged men in a darkened room. Hardly a recipe for open governance.

We now have an agreed development plan to set our planning policies across South Worcestershire but we need planning committee councillors to follow it if it is to have any weight. This means approving housing development with significant levels of affordable housing as well as employment opportunities. Evidence so far on prioritising housing over car parks or personal ward interests is not great.

The search for a home for Worcester City football club has continued to be a shadow over all of us and finally it came to planning committee only for all the Tories to vote against professional officers' opinion and the chair to assert his casting vote. The future is now very uncertain.

On a positive note we did manage to get some things into the programme before May when the system changed, and signs so far are that these will still reach fruition in the 'new world'.

Treasurer's report – Vanessa Mann

WORCESTER CLP

Income and Expenditure Account for year ending 31st December 2016.

INCOME	2016	2015	2014
Fundraising & Donations	7981.20	9805.41	9601.80
Member Donations	824.00	1805.00	2463.00
Membership Income	951.31	621.56	417.08
Union Donations	360.00	6000.00	0.00
Union Affiliation	48.12	80.00	122.24
100 Club Donations	1100.00	1000.00	1325.00
Branch Donations	0.00	150.00	0.00
Co-op Party Donations	100.00	0.00	150.00
Co-op Affiliation	6.00	6.00	6.00
City Group Donation	0.00	3850.00	300.00
Tribune	250.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	1.74	11.11	15.28
Election Refund	0.00	500.00	
Total Income	11622.37	23829.08	14400.40
EXPENDITURE			
Conference Costs	300.90	567.00	450.00
I.T.	459.64	328.00	1246.00
Postage Franking	100.00	1200.00	1239.79
Election	3462.43	1920.01	4926.30
General Election	0.00	7596.11	0.00
Royal Mail Prepayment	136.13	145.91	181.21
Marked Register	183.00	183.00	192.00
Labour Party Affiliation	60.00	60.00	60.00
Stationery and Office Supplies	5122.83	5544.32	3586.19
Guildhall Hire	543.00	424.00	561.00
Room Hire	312.65	809.90	281.00
Lottery Licence	20.00	20.00	40.00
Raffle Tickets	138.00	126.00	114.00
Fayre Items	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	62.00	22.99
Storage King Rental	2862.51	2968.10	3841.18
Fundraising Expenses	1496.00	1489.00	1710.85
Total Expenditure	15197.09	23443.35	18452.51
Net Income	-3574.72	385.73	-4052.11
	Minus figure		Minus figure

WORCESTER CLP

Balance Sheet
As at 31.12.2016

	2016	2015	2014
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ASSETS

Debtors and Prepayments	0.00	0.00	1662.12
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Bank

Current Account	5971.35	9952.81	5467.68
Deposit Account	2121.47	1759.73	6396.01

Liabilities and Accruals	490.29	535.29	2734.29
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Total	7602.53	11177.25	10791.52
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CAPITAL

Opening balance	11177.25	10791.52	14843.63
Expenditure over income	-3574.72	385.73	-4052.11

Total	7602.53	11177.25	10791.52
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AUDITOR'S REPORT

These accounts give a fair view of the state of affairs of Worcester CLP during the year to 31st December 2016 and the balance sheet as at that date.

.....  George Squires 23/3/17

.....  Richard Boorn 23/3/17

WORCESTER CLP

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2016

INCOME

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
MEMBER DONATIONS	67.00	67.00	67.00	67.00	67.00	67.00	67.00	67.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	824.00
100 CLUB	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	1100.00
UNION AFFILIATION	6.00	0.00	6.00	18.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.00	48.12
UNION DONATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	360.00
CITY GROUP DONATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO-OP AFFILIATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00
CO-OP DONATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS	35.00	94.30	360.00	1974.00	1811.00	308.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	219.70	189.20	2390.00	7981.20
MEMBERSHIP SUBS	78.72	5.00	147.48	5.00	167.86	0.00	174.36	0.00	231.58	0.00	141.31	0.00	951.31
TRIBUTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
INTEREST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.00	1.74
TOTAL	186.72	266.30	580.48	2064.95	2051.86	575.00	241.36	267.00	903.58	602.61	1402.51	2480.00	11622.37

EXPENDITURE

MARKED REGISTER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	183.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	183.00
I.T.	381.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.00	0.00	0.00	459.64
GUILDHALL HIRE	543.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	543.00
ROYAL MAIL	14.21	0.00	0.00	4.10	0.00	117.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	136.13
STATIONERY	1470.94	756.39	56.20	784.51	329.82	56.20	0.00	401.48	56.20	438.77	644.82	127.50	5122.83
RAFFLE TICKETS & LICENCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	138.00	0.00	158.00
ELECTION COSTS	0.00	0.00	623.70	2524.60	97.11	217.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3462.43
POSTAGE FRANKING	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
L P AFFILIATION	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
ROOM HIRE	20.00	10.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59.25	0.00	97.40	66.00	0.00	312.65
STORAGE KING	229.70	229.70	229.70	241.49	241.49	241.49	241.49	241.49	241.49	241.49	241.49	241.49	2862.51
CONFERENCE COSTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.00	196.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	56.90	0.00	0.00	300.90
SUNDRIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FUNDRAISING COSTS	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	1176.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	90.00	1496.00
TOTAL	2719.49	1026.09	969.60	3702.70	2040.42	717.53	241.49	885.22	317.69	877.56	1240.31	458.99	15197.09

NET INCOME

-3574.72