



Welsh Liberal Democrats

Open, tolerant and united

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ELIZABETH EVANS

Dear Member,

I am standing for election as Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats because I am rooted in this party and care about its future direction. The tradition of liberalism in Wales matters a great deal to me and I believe that it is as relevant now as it has ever been. As first and foremost an activist and a volunteer, I passionately want to see the Welsh Liberal Democrats back on the political map of Wales as a force to be reckoned with.

This leaflet will I hope explain a little about who I am, why I am standing and how I believe I can best represent and serve you as Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

As the county councillor for my home town of Aberaeron in Ceredigion, I have wanted to do things differently. I have endeavoured to be an approachable and engaging councillor, working on the ground for local residents and putting Liberal values and beliefs into practice. I believe I have done that, and more. I have campaigned on local and national issues, from parking to the health service; I have chaired committees and meetings in council and in my community; and I continue to volunteer in my community. I have been Chair of my Local Party, I've stood for the Assembly – coming within 1800 votes of capturing Ceredigion - and I ran Mark Williams's constituency office for nine years. In all this I know that I am little different to thousands of Welsh Liberal Democrats volunteers working hard for communities across Wales. It is this Welsh Liberal Democrat passion for community politics, putting people first, that must be at the heart of our party's revival.

As Leader, I will work tirelessly to move our party forward. However, no one person can do this alone and I will need your help.

Volunteers are the heart of this party and a Leader must respect, motivate and listen to our grassroots members. I have a proven track record of working with party members, activists and volunteers who bring a huge amount of experience to what we do. The rich and diverse knowledge and skills of our volunteers need to be channelled to capitalise on their strengths. We are already starting to do this and I will further develop our volunteer base through four steps:

- A volunteer action plan for all Wales, to include a directory of our volunteers and coordinating local campaigns, action days and council by-elections. By breaking down the barriers between regions and constituencies we can strengthen our impact. We are one party and more powerful when we work together.
- Improved communication between our town, community and county councillors across Wales, to share best practice and develop a 'buddy' scheme to encourage new candidates.
- A comprehensive training programme which is delivered locally to our members.
- Encouragement and support for members to put themselves forward as approved candidates so that we are prepared for elections at every level of government whenever and wherever they happen.





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Who is Elizabeth Evans?

- Party Member for over 25 years
- Ceredigion County Councillor and Aberaeron Town Councillor
- Health Spokesperson for the Welsh Lib Dems since 2016
- Former Chair of Ceredigion local party
- Active in local organizations including as Chair of Mencap in Ceredigion
- Fluent Welsh Speaker
- Experience of representing the party on Welsh and English-language TV and Radio
- Welsh European of the Year 2003
- Lives in Aberaeron and married to Graeme.
- Campaigns across Wales all year round.

Who we are – Our Values

It's been a time for reflection for Liberal Democrats across the country and that's healthy for any party. We need now to move forward and to re-assert our identity as Welsh Liberal Democrats and what makes us different to other parties.

We are the party of home rule and radical liberalism; of fairness and social democracy. We believe in individual rights and freedoms in a strong and vibrant, economically successful Wales whilst being part of a British, European and international community.

We shouldn't be afraid of who we are but should be shouting out from the rooftops with our vision for a fairer, more inclusive, stronger Wales.

A Party of Fresh Ideas

We are unique as a party in that our members decide policy not the Leader. This bottom-up approach has given us fresh and bold ideas, from Kirsty's successful 'more nurses' campaign to

building 20,000 new homes, establishing a Wales Development Bank and putting a penny in the pound on income tax for the NHS. Through the Progressive Agreement we are starting to deliver on these policies in Wales, especially Kirsty's work improving schools and introducing a fair deal for students.

As Leader I will expand the crowd-sourcing of our policy ideas from members and supporters, so that we have policies that speak to and for all parts of Wales. I am passionate about creating a strong and accessible health and social care service which is more resilient to ever changing needs; improving mental health provision, helping small businesses and ensuring Wales has the necessary transport and broadband infrastructures which will allow our businesses to compete and connect our communities. I want to see our policy of 20,000 homes realised and community energy projects developed. We are already campaigning on these issues. Welsh Liberal Democrats have long since been champions of empowering our communities because people and the communities we live in matter to us.

Getting Our Message Across

We have the policies, but do the people of Wales really know what we stand for? Too often we concentrate on criticising other parties, but our own message is hidden or diluted. To capture people's imagination we need to be radical, bold and different. As your Leader I will focus on positive campaigning, getting out a clear, radical vision for Wales through the Welsh and English-language media and doorstep campaigning.

We have the vision, we are all part of this great movement so let's get radical, and mean it!

