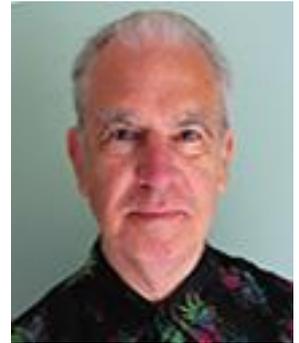


NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fellow Party members,

I am putting my name forward for election to one of six places allotted to CLPs. Nominations for the NEC are now open, and the deadline for these closes on Friday 24 June 2016. I am asking for your nomination and support.

John Gallagher Secretary West Worcestershire CLP
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Who I am

I am a scientist and have spent my working life in research and development in a wide range of advanced technologies. I was a delegate for my trades union and represented members in many negotiations on pay, conditions, and redundancies. I have carried out many leading roles at Branch and CLP levels, and as election agent at last year's general election we managed to double our vote, against the national trend. My background and experience are distinctive and will bring to the NEC a different and new voice that beneficially broadens and deepens the dialogue that we will undertake when formulating a coherent strategy and policy to bring Labour back to power in 2020.

My Values

I believe that we are a stronger, healthier, happier and ultimately more prosperous nation if we hold to values of decency, justice, fairness and equality of opportunity. We all have a responsibility for welfare and social provision for those disadvantaged by circumstances of joblessness, health, or bereavement.

There is a crisis in the housing market, and it is clear that the free market has failed to supply the quantity of goods and services that society requires. This is a classic example of market failure. We must have a sustained house building programme. This is a government responsibility. We must build more affordable and socially rented homes, provide greater security for tenants, stop exploitation and cap annual rent increases.

The last Labour government had a good record on the economy. By not defending that record we surrendered our credibility on running the economy. I passionately believe in attacking the Tory's persistent failure to deliver what they say they will and expose the failure of their laissez faire free market approach where the profit motive is the only thing that counts.

We need a stronger voice for the trades unions in representing their members and defending workers' rights.

We know what we need to prepare for in 2020. Healthcare, education, transport infrastructure will need mending after the ravages of an unconstrained free market. Another five years of Tory divisiveness will have significantly weakened job security, increased social inequality, and brought about a low-wage low-productivity labour market. We will still have millions relying on foodbanks, more children will be living in poverty, and many of these from working families.

The rich will be richer at the expense of the poor and disadvantaged, and the poor will be poorer.

The Way Forward

Last September we voted Jeremy Corbyn as our leader and for a new political direction, a new politics. The Party has been rejuvenated, membership has soared, large numbers of young people have joined. All voices must be heard and respected. How we are perceived in the country is vital in winning the confidence of the electorate. We need to be seen as united, tolerant and inclusive, able to engage and debate a wide spectrum of views across the Party. We must be intolerant of intolerance. Personal abusiveness is unacceptable, it undermines our effectiveness and detracts from our message to the voters that there is a better way.

The challenges ahead are many. Soon we will have an EU referendum, which is more about internal Tory divisions than the national interest. Whatever the outcome of this, there will be consequences to deal with. If we remain in we will have to build a consensus with our EU partners of how best we work together. If we vote to leave we will have to negotiate a new relationship with EU countries, and other emerging economies throughout the rest of the world. There will be many risks and few certainties.

I am concerned about the demise of Labour in Scotland. There is a serious risk that Scotland will cede from the union. There will be no winners on any side if the UK breaks up. We have a major task ahead to win back the confidence and trust of the people of Scotland.

I think it was right to oppose bombing in Syria. Where we have intervened militarily (Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya) we have destabilised those countries and left a lot of suffering behind. Indeed the contagion has spread to the wider region and, in Syria, we have a country born in the cradle of civilization that now presents the world with the largest humanitarian disaster since the second World War. We have a responsibility to help alleviate this unfolding disaster and we should extend the hand of humanity to these refugees.

Our security and safety have been compromised by the deep cuts to our police and armed forces. Massive cuts have been made to the police service, and continue to be made. We have an aircraft carrier with no aircraft, no maritime patrol capability. It means we are ill-prepared when asking our armed forces to undertake military missions on our behalf.

A New Politics

I offer myself as a new and different voice to represent you on the NEC. I want to give everyone a say in the formulation and policy building process, and articulate your views on matters you care about. As a scientist, I have undertaken many senior roles both nationally and internationally, and as a consequence I have a different perspective to offer, a different bag of skills, an analytical mind, which will contribute to and enhance the range of expertise available to the NEC. I offer a new and fresh voice.

If you would like me to speak to your CLP, if you have any questions or matters to raise about the NEC, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,
John Gallagher