

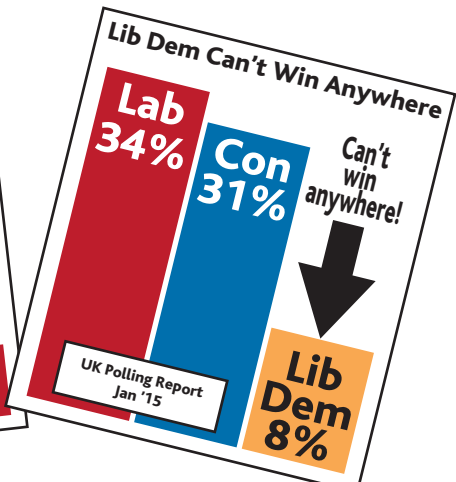
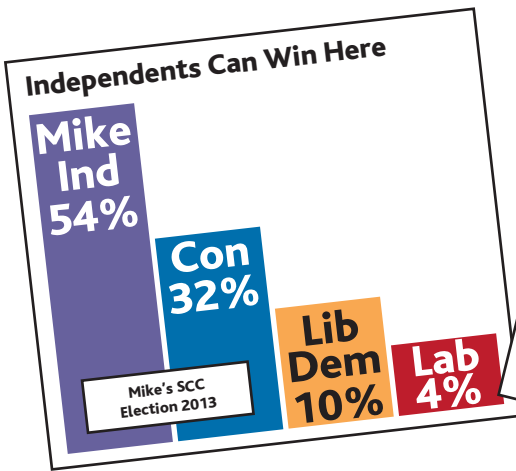
INTRODUCING

MIKE



RIGBY

YOUR PROSPECTIVE INDEPENDENT MP FOR TAUNTON DEANE



Why am I standing?

To give local people a real choice.

I've lived in Taunton Deane for over 20 years and feel a strong affinity with the Taunton area and have been dismayed at the relative decline in Taunton's commercial fortunes. Taunton is the County town of Somerset and needs fresh leadership for a vibrant 21st century future that ensures prosperity, jobs and trade. That is why I became a founder member of Taunton Forward, a collection of businesspeople looking to put Taunton at the heart of our region for business, shopping, tourism, the arts and entertainment.

Almost half of all voters opted for Liberal Democrat Jeremy Browne last time around and many have been disappointed that he voted for such unfair policies as the trebling of tuition fees and handing the power to close hospitals to the Health Secretary, with scant regard to local opinion.

And for evidence of the chaos caused by Somerset Conservatives, just look at the County Council where hardworking staff are forced to implement an increasingly extreme agenda of cuts and privatisation with the inevitable damage to areas such as Children's Services and Adult Social Care.

None of this does anything for us, the people who live in Taunton Deane.

What we need is someone free to speak up for our area without party interference.

That's why I'm standing as an Independent.

I intend to put Taunton Deane first, free from party orders. Did you know that along with Jeremy Browne, **not one Somerset MP, Conservative or Liberal Democrat, voted to bring Government funding for Somerset up to the same level as that given to urban areas? Again, party orders prevented them.** That's no good. We need a fresh approach, a Member of Parliament elected solely to put the interests of the people of Taunton Deane first rather than someone who will be whipped into voting along party lines.



Mike welcoming a new business to Taunton

Winning in Taunton Deane will not be easy but with the help of my team and local people, it is possible. The Conservatives are polling at their lowest numbers in decades, the Liberal Democrat vote has collapsed and neither the Greens, UKIP or Labour are going to win here. I believe that this is a reflection of the deep distrust in party politics that has grown up over the last 10 years.



Mike checking out the new patient menu at Musgrove Park Hospital

Martin Bell and Dr Richard Taylor are both shining examples of what motivated, Independent MPs can achieve for their constituencies, their counties and for this Country. They were free from the corrupting influence of lobbyists and the sleaze that has dogged party politics for too many years.

Taunton Deane needs a champion.

What I've Done

- Promoted the importance of commerce and employment in Taunton Deane
- Successfully stopped the sale of important public assets
- Achieved the reversal of the Councils' tip closures, which had led to massive flytipping
- Defended our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty from funding cuts
- Helped expose the local dangers of privatisation in the NHS

Key Aims as MP

- Work towards the reinvigoration of Taunton Deane's commercial fortunes
- Fight to halt the galloping privatisation spreading through the NHS
- Sort out Taunton's traffic problems
- Reform our dysfunctional housing market/planning system
- Environmental protection and energy market reform
- Address the cost-of-living issues faced by many

Who am I?



- **Local businessman**
 - **Somerset County Councillor**
 - **Chairman of On Your Bike, a charity that recycles bikes and provides work to vulnerable individuals.**
 - **Chairman of local Neighbourhood Planning Committee**
 - **Member of Friends of Quantock**
 - **Founder member of Taunton Forward**
 - **Member of the Taunton Chamber of Commerce**
-

Help me break up the political 'pass the parcel' between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

**Please call or email if you can help:-
Deliver leaflets, put up a poster, make a donation.**

www.mikerigby.org

 @CouncillorRigby

 @MikeSRigby

Tel: 01823 430852

Email: mike@mikerigby.org