



independent  
network



# Newsletter

January 2019



The Independent Network Leader,  
Councillor Marianne Overton, MBE  
(Vice Chairman of the Local  
Government Association and Leader  
of Lincolnshire Independents.)

Dear Supporters and Members,

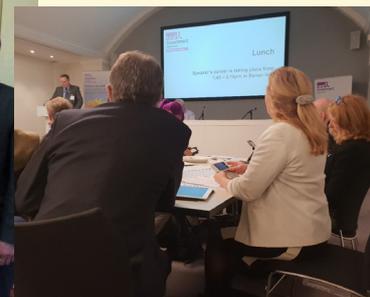
**Welcome** to our monthly updates, keeping you in touch with other Independents.

There are 20,830 Councillors in the UK, and nearly 2,000 of these are Independents or small local parties. The aim of the Independent Network is to increase this percentage, and to help anybody standing for any election on the basis of the person they are.

At the Local Government Association (LGA), the Independent Group is now the third largest of the four Groups, the others being Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrats.

## National voice, local benefit

Colleagues and I have worked hard nationally for better funding. "Vote Conservative, get potholes", I told the Minister.



As a result £420m was put aside for potholes, and Lincolnshire has one of the largest shares, £13.7m. We need to do our utmost to grow in numbers, Independents can really make a difference at national and local level. My role for the LGA allows me to speak regularly and directly to Government Ministers and influential Lords, a third of whom are also Independent. Speaking on behalf of 130,000 Independent Councillors for Europe has been a honour and inspires me to strive to increase our numbers and promote more awareness of the Independent Network. I consider us as a forum to collaborate and support our goals, representing our local areas, giving our residents the voice they deserve.

## Elections 2019 - The time of the Independents has come!

So the Brexit debate continues. For the first time, parties are finding they cannot hold the party whip. The deal received by the Conservatives is so bad that even they struggle to bring themselves to vote for it. The Conservative party has tried to pin it all on one person. By contrast, in Local Government, we immediately set up a cross-party task force focusing on getting the best outcomes for our councils and our residents. We deserve no less.

That is what Independents are good at. We listen to residents, look at the facts and work for the best solutions. All over the Country, our members are respected and well connected with our communities.

That is how we get elected. And we do, in droves. We need many more good, local people, ready to stand up for the people we serve, without fear or favour. Can one of them be you? Now is the time, with fire in our bellies, to either stand yourself, or help another to stand. Let's work together to get one good, local candidate in each winnable seat. Please contact us, right now. It's part time. It's paid. Please join us to use your skills and talents to improve your home area. What could be better than that?

Wishing you health and every happiness for the New Year. Let me know if I can help further.  
Kind Regards,

*Marianne*

Email: [info@independentnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@independentnetwork.org.uk)

## VIEWPOINT

Each month a Councillor has the chance to view their experiences and opinions on the challenges of local Government: If you would like to contribute please contact:

nikki@independentnetwork.org.uk



### The shackles of a political party

Having been on both sides of the fence which some of us Independents know about only too well, there is the immense feeling of not having to 'tow the party line' or doing/saying/voting what you are told from your whip or party colleagues.

I remember when I first stood for selection at my local Conservative party branch office, one of the questions that I was told was this = which comes first your constituents or the party? You are forewarned that giving the wrong answer (i.e. constituents) then you will not be selected. Having only been in my 20s I hadn't given much thought till I cut my political teeth and became more maverick.

However, being a maverick only gets you so far, and after a couple of visits to the whip's office, it was becoming clear that perhaps I wasn't cut out for party politics, especially when I didn't agree with important group decisions which affected my ward.

The very essence of having a political party is control, loyalty and numbers. Its nothing more than a street or prison gang. With the similar principles and rules, to do as you are told or face the consequences. Whereby the needs of the very people who elected you, are put second behind your parties' own needs. It's bonkers!

I had not got involved in politics to serve a party, I got involved to make a difference and to put something back into my local area, to offer servitude to the people.

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You have maybe gone through this baptism of fire already or were one of the lucky ones who started as Independent and who continues to do so, unshackled! Whichever way into your current role as a politician or wanting to become a politician, always act on what you think is right and get guidance from your constituents to help steer you and make your mind up.

Finally, you are not alone. There are hundreds of fellow Independent Cllrs, MPs and Cross Bench Peers in the UK who can give you help and guidance.

Reach out, join the Independent Network. My door is always open!

Darren Hayday

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Councillor Darren Hayday  
working on  
Community projects



### *Join us, Stand with us*

What can joining the Network do for you?

**We** will support you in your campaign

**We** offer template leaflets, manifesto's, press releases, and letters

**We** offer advice

**We** will introduce you to other Independents

**We** offer training

**We** offer a Network, so you are not alone

Have some questions? Email us , we are happy to help.

See our Website for details or get in touch

Email: [info@independentnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@independentnetwork.org.uk)