



Revised August 2017

Mid Sussex Labour Party

Member's Guide



Welcome to Mid Sussex Labour Party

As Secretary, it is my pleasure to thank you for your support of the Labour Party and to welcome you to your local Labour Party if you have recently joined us.

Made up of over 800 members from all across our community and all walks of life, we are a strong and diverse team, committed to improving Mid Sussex.



From attending regular social events and meetings. To joining in with our campaigns on local issues, and perhaps even standing for office yourself, there are so many ways you can get involved. This booklet gives you an idea of what we do, and how to get involved.

I know from when I joined that being a new member can sometimes be an intimidating experience, or that you might not know where to begin, so do give us a call or send us an email and we'll let you know about upcoming events and how to get involved.

Thank you for joining the Labour Party, and I look forward to getting to know you and working with you for Mid Sussex and our country.

Dave Chalkley
Secretary

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Your local representatives

Pam Haigh - Mid Sussex Labour Party Chair

It is my responsibility to provide a lead on all aspects of organisation and activity within the CLP working closely with other key role holders. I work with the CLP Secretary to organise member meetings and events and I will introduce each meeting and work with colleagues to co-ordinate our campaigning and communications with members and elected representatives, and ensure that the local party is outward looking and at the heart of the local community.

Email: chair@midsussexlabour.org.uk



Dave Chalkley - Mid Sussex Labour Party Secretary

It is my responsibility to work closely with the Chair to organise meetings and events and co-ordinate communications with members across a whole range of issues, and work with others to ensure that action points are undertaken. My aim is to work with other officers to ensure that Mid Sussex Labour Party is a strong, vibrant, welcoming and effective unit.

Email: @midsussexlabour.org.uk



Hilary Schan-Martyn - Mid Sussex Labour Party CLP Vice Chair Membership

It is my job to ensure that the Party continues to grow in the local area. I use Labour's online database MemberCentre to keep up to date records of membership within the constituency and make sure that everyone is getting the most out of their membership. I focus on retaining existing members, recruiting new members by encouraging non-members to come along to event and campaigns, and providing a welcoming and supportive environment. I try to ensure that membership is at the heart of all activity we do in Mid Sussex.

Email:
membership@midsussexlabour.org.uk



Simon Hayward - Mid Sussex Labour Party Vice Chair

I assist the Chair with her duties and deputise for Pam Haigh when she is unable to attend meetings.

Email:
vicechair@midsussexlabour.org.uk



Details of how to contact your Branch are on Page 8

If you do not have access to emails, you can leave a message for anybody named in this leaflet on our answerphone on 01444 245600.

More local representatives

Greg Mountain is the Treasurer and ensures the local party complies with the Party funding laws as well as helping the CLP to build the financial resources it needs to run effective campaigns by setting budgets and fundraising targets.



Linda Greaterex is the Assistant Treasurer

Email: treasurer@midsussexlabour.org.uk

Gemma Bolton is the Youth Officer and takes the lead on recruiting and engaging young people, ensuring that young members get as much as they can out of their membership and have their say.



Email: youth@midsussexlabour.org.uk

Elaine Bolton is the Women's Officer and ensures that women members are included in all of the Party's activities and the local party reaches out to women in the wider community through local campaigns.



Email: women@midsussexlabour.org.uk

Lara Khoury is the Equalities Officer and works to ensure that BAME members are included in all of the Party's activities. The BAME Officer also ensures meetings are relevant and accessible to all, and that the local party reaches out to BAME community through its activities.



Email: bame@midsussexlabour.org.uk

Richard Neville is the Trade Union Liaison Officer and helps to provide an effective voice within the local Party for Trade Union members, and ensures the unions are in a position to provide campaign support for the Party during elections.



Email: tradeunion@midsussexlabour.org.uk

Martin Goodson is the Campaigns Co-ordinator and helps to work closely with branches, candidates, elected representatives, fellow officers and neighbouring CLPs to ensure that an effective, co-ordinated campaign is delivered in Mid Sussex. Across the country the aim for every Labour CLP is campaigning for change in our local communities and campaigning to get our candidates elected.



Email: campaigns@midsussexlabour.org.uk

Getting involved in campaigns

Looking ahead

The Labour Party is a grassroots campaigning organisation and we rely on our members volunteering their time to campaign and get our key campaign message out to voters across the country. A key part of building a campaign team is to find out what you care about and what difference you would like to see locally. Our strength is our membership and we can work together to campaign and affect change, here in Mid Sussex.

In 2015 Mid Sussex Labour achieved its best ever result in a General Election, coming second to the Conservatives, and in 2016 Labour came second in the Police and Crime Commissioner Election in Mid Sussex.

Our aim is to campaign throughout the year in Mid Sussex. This can involve campaigning for upcoming elections, or on national issues such as the NHS or on very localised targeted issues such as street lighting in a particular ward or the provision of dropped kerbs in a particular street. In 2017 we have elections for West Sussex

County Council. Unlike the Tories, we don't rely on a small number of super-wealthy donors, we rely on our dedicated members to support our campaigning efforts. With your activity and support, we can build a Labour Party that will win/continue to win in Mid Sussex.

Depending on people's preferences, members have taken part in door-knocking, telephoning, delivering leaflets, stuffing envelopes and staffing street stalls. We believe that door knocking and canvassing voters is still the best way of getting a feel for what people are thinking and finding out what is important in the local area. We can support you through training and mentoring to give you the skills to be able to do all of these confidently and competently.

It is vital that we work together to bring about change in Mid Sussex and ensure that we elect Labour representatives at a local and national level.

Please complete the survey at the end of this booklet, let us know how you want to get involved and we will be in touch.



Help to shape our policy

Policy-making in the Labour Party is open, inclusive and democratic. Members, affiliates and the wider public play a direct role in developing policy from beginning to end. We want to hear your ideas on how the next Labour government can build a more equal and prosperous Britain, and how we should tackle the big challenges our country faces.

Labour policy is made through a rolling, four year process of consultation, deliberation and discussion, called Agenda 2020. It means everyone in the Labour Party can have a voice in developing our policy. You don't need to be an expert; you just need a desire to change our country for the better, and ideas about how a Labour government can do it.

The National Policy Forum

Labour Party policy is developed by the National Policy Forum (NPF). The NPF is made up of 200 Representatives from all parts of the Labour Party, with the largest number elected by ordinary members in each region. There are also representatives from Labour's affiliated trade unions and socialist societies, from Labour councillors, the Parliamentary Labour Party and the National Executive Committee.

The NPF is divided into a number of Policy Commissions, each one responsible for Labour's policy development in a specialist area of policy. These Policy Commissions lead consultations with members and the public, consider evidence and ideas sent to them as submissions, and together develop the detail of Labour's official Policy Programme – which is the foundation for our Manifesto.

YourBritain.org.uk

You can play a part in this process, and directly help shape Labour policy, through yourbritain.org.uk, Labour's online home of policy development and ideas. On Your Britain, you can read policy consultation documents, share your own policy ideas and get feedback from your NPF Representatives, and join the discussion by commenting on other people's contributions.

Any ideas you share on Your Britain are considered by the relevant Policy Commission as they develop Labour policy to put to Annual Conference. You can also contact the Southern Representatives on the NPF at yourbritain.org.uk/npf

In your local Labour Party

You can also take part in shaping Labour policy in your local Constituency Labour Party (CLP) or Branch Labour Party (BLP). Among other things, our CLP meetings discuss policy and make submissions to the policy process; submit motions for debate at Annual Conference; nominate members for election to the National Policy Forum; and take part in shaping our local manifesto for council elections. If you have ideas for policy events or discussions you'd like to see organised in the CLP, please get in touch with Dave Chalkey.

Regional events in the South East

Policy events often take place for members across the whole region, in particular Regional Conference. At these events, you can debate important issues, speak to Labour Shadow Ministers, and share your views with your Representatives on the National Policy Forum. Please get in touch with your Branch Secretary to find out about opportunities to get involved.

Annual Conference

Labour's Annual Conference is the sovereign policy-making body in the Labour Party. Any party member can be elected by their CLP as a delegate to represent their local party, or can go along informally as a visitor. Conference debates and approves the work of the NPF and Policy Commissions, and debates and votes on issues that arise outside of the NPF's work.

There are also a number of Policy Seminars that take place at Conference, where ordinary members can discuss important issues directly with members of the Shadow Cabinet, and feed their ideas into the policy process.

Meetings and Socials

Members are at the heart of the Labour Party and here in Mid Sussex we are only as strong as our membership. It's great that you have joined us and the next step is to get involved.

We have a number of branch meetings, usually held monthly, and all member meetings, usually quarterly, where you can meet fellow members, discuss policy, organise campaigning and fundraise for the party. We also arrange social events and gatherings.

Branches will advise you of their upcoming meetings and social events happening in your area and we hope you will be able to get along and get involved. To keep up to date with all of our key dates please visit our website at www.midsussexlabour.org.uk, your Branch Facebook page or check with your Branch Secretary.

Branch Contacts

Burgess Hill Branch

Secretary – Dave Chalkley

Chair – Dave Andrews

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BurgessHillLabourParty

Email: burgesshill@midsussexlabour.org.uk

East Grinstead Branch

Secretary -Tess Fensterheim

Chair - Brian Sturtevant

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/EastGrinsteadLabourParty

Email: eastgrinstead@midsussexlabour.org.uk

Haywards Heath Branch

Secretary - **Ian Winterflood**

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com.HaywardsHeathLabourParty

Email: haywardsheath@midsussexlabour.org.uk

If you do not have access to emails, you can leave a message for anybody named in this leaflet on our answerphone on 01444 245600.

Become an elected representative

We have in recent years had elected representatives on West Sussex District Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Burgess Hill Town Council, Haywards Heath Town Council and Lindfield Parish Council.

Mid Sussex Labour Party regularly contests local elections and in 2017 we contested every Division in the Wewst Sussex County Council Elections, coming second in Haywards Heath East. We came second to the Conservatives in the 2017 General Election and the 2016 Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

The party will keep campaigning to improve the number of Labour Party members elected to local authorities throughout Mid Sussex. If you are interested in becoming a candidate in the 2019 Mid Sussex District Council and Town and Parish Council elections please contact your Branch Secretary – details are on page 8.



Local Party jargon buster

From CLPs to NPF, you might have come across a lot of confusing acronyms and terms since you joined the Labour Party. In our jargon buster, we've explained some of the terms you're likely to hear.

AGM -

Annual General Meeting:

Yearly meetings of all members of Mid Sussex Labour Party and its three Branches where the executive committee reports on activity and elections are held to fill roles for the next year.

BLP – Wards & Branches – Branch Labour Parties

Branch Labour Parties operate over electoral wards. Branch is the collective term for all party members within those wards. Branch meetings are usually held on a monthly basis. Our Branches are based in Burgess Hill, East Grinstead and Haywards Heath and all rural areas are allocated to one of these branches.

CLP – Constituency Labour Parties

This is the local Labour Party within your parliamentary constituency. There is a Constituency Labour Party in every Parliamentary Constituency of England and Wales, for every Holyrood Parliamentary Constituency in Scotland and for members overseas.

EC or Exec – Executive Committee

The Executive deals with business matters (organisational, money etc.) so that All-members meetings can concentrate on political and campaigning issues.

All-members meetings

In Mid Sussex all members can attend General Meetings, which are held quarterly. Local trade union groups and affiliates are also entitled to attend these meetings.

CLP Officers/ Co-ordinators

Role holders handle the day to day running of the local party. They can be part of the Executive Committee but they mainly co-ordinate campaigns, fundraising or socials. The positions are voted on each year at the AGM.

National Executive Committee (NEC)/ Regional Board

The NEC is the committee responsible for the day to day running of the Labour Party. They keep a check on the finances, organisation, and politics of the party. Southern region has a 'Regional Board'. Representatives on these committees come from all sections of the Labour Party including constituency, Trade Union and affiliates representatives, and a youth member. They also decide on candidates in by-elections and which seats will select candidates from All Women Shortlists (AWS).

Panel

When people have applied to be a local government candidate they go through the application and interview process and if successful they are placed onto 'the panel'. A candidate is then selected from 'the panel'.

Affiliates

These are the wider part of the Labour Movement, for example trade unions and other groups pay a fee to 'affiliate' to the Labour Party. They have a say in internal elections.

Parliamentary Labour Party

All Labour Members of Parliament become members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, which organises the party's activity in Parliament.

National Policy Forum

The National Policy Forum discusses and determines Labour's policy, which becomes the manifesto for General Elections. Representatives on the forum are elected by Labour Regions, or appointed by the Parliamentary Labour Party and the affiliates.

BAME members

Black, Asian, and minority ethnic members, i.e. members of non-white communities in the UK. .

Tell us about you

Can you spare a minute to answer five short questions?

We want to find out more about our members - take the time to listen to them, find out what they care about and what they believe in. This way we can help you make the most of your membership.

Name: _____

Membership No: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

1. What prompted you to join the Labour Party?

- Received an email, call or letter from the Labour Party
- Spontaneous decision
- Had been thinking about it for a while
- A particular news story
- Asked to join by someone you know

Please specify _____

3. What do you think are the most important issues affecting you both locally and nationally?

2. Tell us how you want to get involved: (tick as many as you like)

- Generally support the party
- Shape our local and national policies
- Get involved in local campaigns and elections
- Train to become a candidate to be an elected representative (councillor, MP etc.)
- Meet like-minded people
- Discuss party policy and current events

4. Would you consider getting involved with any of the following? (tick as many as you like)

- Speak to people over the phone
- Speak to people face to face
- Attend a Labour Party social event
- Share a campaign online
- Deliver leaflets
- Make a donation

5. How would you prefer to be contacted?

- Email
- Post
- Phone

Please specify _____

Please return this survey to:

Mid Sussex Labour
15 Junction Road, Burgess Hill,
RH15 0RW
OR answer on-line at
www.midsussexlabour.org.uk/aboutyou
OR email clp@midsussexlabour.org.uk



