
TAYLOR WRIGHT – SELECTION STATEMENT

Who am I?

I am a 29-year-old father of two. I live in Calne North and work in Financial Services Conduct, specifically in the insurance industry. My job relies on the integrity of my character, and my desire to ensure that individuals are afforded good outcomes when engaging with the company I work for. My job literally is to make sure that people receive a fair deal. I am lucky enough to have found success in my career at a very young age, and to have the time to now dedicate to my community. But my life has not always been so successful.

I grew up on a council estate in Woking, Surrey, I am aware that being a council house kid is something of a luxury in today's world, but at the time we struggled greatly. My mother was reluctantly forced onto benefits, as someone that had always valued the empowerment that work gives, the realities of our lives weighed heavily on my family growing up. As the eldest of my mother's three children, I witnessed firsthand what it is like to struggle to provide for your children, or to be desperate to work, and be afforded no support to stand on your own feet. My childhood was a difficulty one, necessitating growing up much faster than my years might suggest.

In my early adult years, I discovered, again firsthand what struggle feels like, living in a wealthy community without the means to support myself, an excerpt from my diary at the time reads "despite my best efforts I am struggling to improve my life on any front... I will persevere". At this time of my life, I could scarcely afford food, once going three days without eating because I had no idea where to turn for support. But persevere I did, leading to where I am today, but also to empathy, and understand for those who are struggling. I know what it is like.

I have been fortunate enough to have an unwavering sense of optimism for the future, having that has carried me from the struggles I've faced to the success I now enjoy. But many people do not have this luxury, many people in this community and many like it across the country do not know where to turn, particularly as we face a national crisis of living standards, financially and mentally the country and our communities are suffering. This community is suffering. But we will persevere.

This is what has led me to put myself forward for this process, because I want to provide the community with what I desperately needed in my darkest hours. A knock on the door from a community leader who really cares. Beyond ambition or self-interest, someone who really wants to ask, "how are you coping?" and then listens to what you are facing. I want to knock on every door in my ward. Not stopping after the election but throughout my term because I want the people of this community to know that whatever happens to them, someone here cares about what they're going through.

I get it, and I want to help.

So why pick me?

I moved to Calne three years ago and one thing has stuck me. Community. I visit the Marden Community Hub once a week, to spend time with the patrons and get to know some of the most vibrant members of this town, and time and again it shocks me the care and support that they give to one another. It inspired me to want to spread that community spirit and my own optimism as best I can across Calne. To lean into what makes us so different. With me as Councillor I aim to connect people across Calne North and the wider area, to support each other and be supported. Because for me when we care about the needs of individuals, the collective prospers. This area has unbound potential, and I only seek to be a part of the realisation of that. I hope that on November 8th you will vote to allow me to share my optimism for our shared futures with my neighbours and friends. To help to facilitate in any way I can the success of this wonderful area.