

**A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL GILMOUR  
(LIBERAL DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE IN TIVERTON AND MINEHEAD)**

**TEA AND CAKES WITH RACHEL GILMOUR IN WOOTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL  
3.00PM SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2024**



For more than half my life, I've been lucky enough to call this new constituency my home. I spent my childhood in Somerset and since 2006 my family and I have lived in Bampton, which I am proud to represent as Lib Dem councillor. I've visited every corner of the constituency, our towns and villages, our coast, countryside and moorland, and have a thorough understanding of our many strengths - and the challenges we face.

In September, I set up a team of canvassers across Tiverton & Minehead. To date, we have knocked on over 9,000 doors, spoken to nearly 4,000 people, and by the end of the month we will have written to every voter. We're out there almost every day talking to people, come rain or shine.

When it comes to my professional experience, my time as both a director of the NFU and head of strategy at the Environment Agency will lend me crucial credibility in our rural constituency, and my volunteer experience with the Exmoor Foundation for Integrated Health Care has given me invaluable insight into this vital area.

Having already spoken to so many voters, my campaign priorities will be:

- A strong local economy with decent jobs
- Reliable transport links. We cannot afford to lose our rural buses.
- Supporting the farmers + agricultural businesses and food supply who are the reason we have a countryside worth protecting. We must help them adapt for the future.
- Protecting our environment. Climate change is the biggest threat to our future, and the cost of inaction will fall heaviest on our rural communities.
- Affordable childcare, first-class schools and more local opportunities for our youngsters. We want our kids to have healthy, happy childhoods, and to be able to work and raise their own families wherever they want to.
- A fair deal for pensioners and better care for the elderly and less able. Rural isolation can affect any age group, and mental health services are often underfunded and hard to access.
- The cost-of-living crisis & local services. Energy and food cost more in rural areas, and rural services are the first to be squeezed.
- Ensuring our local health services are properly resourced and efficiently run. We must keep the district hospitals in both Tiverton and Minehead.

**Rachel can be contacted at [rachel@rachelgilmour.org.uk](mailto:rachel@rachelgilmour.org.uk)**