



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

Telford and Wrekin Liberal Democrats

Thursday 19th November 2026 at 7.30pm at the Red Lion Hotel, Holyhead Rd, Telford TF1 2EW

AGENDA

Note: Proposed timings (in minutes) are in brackets. Please raise with the chair if you wish to amend these.

1. Apologies (1)
2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held Thursday 27th November 2025 (1)
3. Reports from:
 - 3.1 Chair (1)
 - 3.2 Treasurer (1)
 - 3.3 Membership Development Officer (1)
4. Motions to AGM (none) (0)
5. Election of Honorary President (1)
6. Election of Officers & Executive Committee Members

The nomination form can be completed online here: <https://twld.org.uk/nomination>
Job Descriptions available here: <http://twld.org.uk/exec-roles>

 - 6.1 Chair (1)
 - 6.2 Vice Chair (1)
 - 6.3 Treasurer (1)
 - 6.4 Secretary (1)
 - 6.5 Membership Development Officer (1)
 - 6.6 Elections Officer (1)
 - 6.7 Diversity Champion (1)
 - 6.8 Fundraising Officer (1)
 - 6.9 Six Executive Committee Members (1)
7. To note the Accounts for 2025 (2)
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2026 Local Party Accounts (1)
9. Reports from the Liberal Democrat Groups of:
 - 9.1 Telford & Wrekin Council (5)
 - 9.2 Shropshire Council (5)
 - 9.3 Cheswardine Parish Council (5)
 - 9.4 Newport Town Council (1)
 - 9.5 Wellington Town Council (1)
 - 9.6 Wrockwardine Parish Council (1)
10. Any other business (1)
11. Next meeting (1)
- 12. Guest speaker: Ian Sollom MP**

Telford and Wrekin Liberal Democrats AGM

Thursday 19th November 2026 at 7.30pm at the Red Lion Hotel, Holyhead Rd, Telford TF1 2EW

Reports pack

All of the meeting papers are also available at: <https://twld.org.uk/agm>

Note: Proposed timings are in brackets. Please raise with the chair if you wish to amend these.

1. Apologies (1)

Please submit apologies in advance to secretary@twld.org.uk or via our [RSVP form](#).

2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 27th November 2025 (1)

Separate document: <https://www.twld.org.uk/agm-2025-minutes>

3. Reports from:

3.1 Chair (1)

This year we have had our traditional purely social Liberteas at the Steaming Mug on Market Square in Wellington and a curry night at the Taj Mahal in Wellington also fund raising event at The Pheasant in Admaston with our (also traditional) quiz night. Largely thanks to the careful stewardship of our finances by our treasurer, Sally (who is so ably assisted by our secretary David Ellams), the tithes that we receive from our 6 Borough Councillors and the generosity of our benefactor we have been able to take on an employee, albeit only 1 day/week James Owen comes to us with an excellent pedigree of campaigning in North Shropshire.

Although this is an AGM looking back over the past 12 months I cannot pass up this opportunity to look to the future

Our absolute priority is of course to maintain our 3 defence wards where our long serving and very hard working councillors have built up considerable personal following quite apart from their Libdemer party allegiance which makes them a tough act to follow BUT I am optimistic that our new candidates who have come forward to stand for us in Shawbirch and Dothill and in Apley will win if we all play our part.

Will you please help your Executive by helping us both door knocking and get that crucial canvas data of voting intentions next May. We MUST gather data to know who will vote for us. Only by doing this will we defeat the Reform challenge who are the biggest threat.

We MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT TRUMP'S AMERICA DOES NOT BECOME FARAGE's Britain

We always need more deliverers too

We know that we MUST stress how we stand apart from Labour to counteract the "Burnham bounce". Us Liberal Democrats have always been THE pro- EU party. Labour are Johnny come lately to this. Ditto the care sector

The key word is LIBERAL Democrats who believe in personal liberty to make our own choices and be internationalist in outlook (not just EU) and we knew that Brexit would be an economic catastrophe and would only exacerbate immigration problems and we knew that VAT on private school fees would result in the closure of some schools and redundancies in

others and would raise insignificant revenue and put an extra burden onto state sector. It was a doctrinaire and mean-spirited Labour policy putting an extra burden on already stretched state schools

We also knew that as Daisy Cooper used to say that the NHS front and back doors are broken. Perhaps we are in the very earliest of stages to have a proper cross party consultation on the back door as our PM has indicated but only after the next election which could of course come earlier than 2030, seems odd that Labour have already part written their manifesto if they do not have plans to go to the country before they have to

Please encourage all your friends to join our party. Our membership is rather more static than I would like to see. Why don't we all play our part on growing our membership?

Thank you.

Anthony Lowe

3.2 Treasurer (1)

Please do look at the attached Xero report and ask questions if you wish to know more:

<https://www.twld.org.uk/finance-2026>

We plan to spend significant further campaign funds in the final quarter of the year.

Sally Wiggin

3.4 Membership Development Officer (1)

Membership numbers (as at 25 October):

Current members	109
Current registered supporters	47

Kerry Weston

4. Motions to AGM (none) (0)

5. Election of Honorary President (1)

Nominations will be taken from the floor.

6. Election of Officers & Executive Committee Members

The nomination form can be completed online here: <https://twld.org.uk/nomination>

Alternative nomination form for download and printing available here (paper copy by request from secretary): <https://twld.org.uk/nomination-word>

Job Descriptions available at the end of this document or online here:

<http://twld.org.uk/exec-roles>

If there is an uncontested election, the nominated member will be declared elected. For a contested election, an online poll of all members will be held following the meeting.

6.1 Chair (1)

6.2 Vice Chair (1)

6.3 Treasurer (1)

6.4 Secretary (1)

6.5 Membership Development Officer (1)

6.6 Elections Officer (1)

6.7 Diversity Champion (1)

6.8 Fundraising Officer (1)

6.9 Six Executive Committee Members (2)

7. To note the Accounts for 2025 (3)

Note: The 2025 Accounts for the Local Party were approved by the Executive Committee of the Local Party and sent to Party HQ before the end of March 2026. Therefore the accounts have been approved and only need to be noted.

Separate document:

<https://www.twld.org.uk/twld-accounts-2025>

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the 2026 Local Party Accounts (1)

9. Reports from the Liberal Democrat Groups of:

9.1 Telford & Wrekin Council (5)

Current make up of members

6 Lib Dems

8 Tories

3 Independents

37 Labour

Recently an Independent who defected from the Tories re-joined. Maybe thinking he stands a better chance of being re-elected.

Richard Overton from Labour became an Independent.

The Tories I think are preparing themselves to work with Reform. Labour are being nice to us as they may hope to have our help should they be short of a majority.

The Council was voted best in England. Children's services rated as excellent and adult services good. Not had to use any reserves yet and kept council tax increases at 5%. I believe the cost pressures from social services will put a strain on finances again this year.

Cllr Bill Tomlinson

9.2 Shropshire Council (5)

Finance continues to be a major focus at Shropshire Council. We are reorganising the authority from the senior leadership team down, which includes recruiting some new staff and investing in the Council. The Government recognised that this investment in people was necessary and approved it through our application for Exceptional Financial Support for 2025/26. It is about putting the right people in the right roles and properly focusing the organisation on delivering its priorities. The Lib Dem administration has also refreshed the scrutiny committees and introduced a 5th committee to ensure that every area of the council is given focused scrutiny. I now hold the position of vice-chair of the People Overview Scrutiny Committee.

The recent CIPFA report provides a clear account of how we reached this position. Years of unrealistic budgeting, undelivered savings and poor decisions under the previous Conservative administration left the Council dangerously exposed. A previous cost-cutting exercise saw 217 employees take redundancy across the organisation, without the strategic focus needed to reshape individual services. The result was fewer staff, but also gaps, duplication and a disjointed organisation which we are now having to rebuild.

There are, however, some encouraging signs: The Government agreed up to £121 million of EFS for the current financial year, 2026/27, but we are currently forecasting that only £90 million will be drawn down. General Fund reserves are forecast to reach £15 million by March 2027 which is an important step in rebuilding the Council's financial resilience. Finally, £5.238 million of savings are forecast to be delivered, nearly 105% of this financial year's £5 million target.

Unfortunately the Council has also been served with a Best Value Notice, meaning we are operating under the highest level of government scrutiny (one of only 3 councils in the country served the notice this year). This was triggered by the EFS arranged by the previous administration during 2024/25. Essentially, the council has failed to stick to the conditions made as part of this EFS agreement, however, this application was something which was not widely understood at the time by the wider council. The notice does recognise the significant changes at the authority since 2024/25.

We have also recently undergone a CQC assessment of adult social care provision across the county, which I was involved in from a scrutiny perspective. While we await the final report, it was clear throughout the process that there has been a positive cultural shift within the Council, recognised by officers and staff. We are hopeful that this will be reflected in the CQC's findings. Despite the difficult financial position, there is now a much more positive and proactive approach across the organisation since the Liberal Democrat administration took control in May 2025.

Cllr Neil Bentley

9.3 Cheswardine Parish Council (1)

The parish council continues to invest in the community and our assets whilst exploring options to take over some limited services from Shropshire Council as part of a programme of devolved powers.

I have recently submitted a National Lottery Community Fund bid to help towards our existing scheme of updating the children's playground. If successful, this money will be used to update the under-5 equipment. The council have also set aside £10,000 to create a new path from the parish hall and straight into the play ground, this is to enable the area to become truly accessible.

Over the summer I met with the Rural Crime Policing Team to help tackle some low-level hare coursing incidents. As a council we have also been looking at options to reduce the speed of vehicles through Soudley.

Cllr Neil Bentley

9.4 Newport Town Council (1)

We were pleased to win back, in a May by-election, the seat we lost to the Conservatives in the previous by-election. I was elected to the Town Council in a closely fought contest, which included a strong independent.

The make-up of the council is currently:

5 Lib Dems

3 Tories

2 Labour

2 Independents

This year, Newport Town Council has approved an ambitious strategic plan, following a public consultation. Some of the highlights of the plan include:

EVENTS: Launch a Literary Festival in partnership with local venues (Autumn 2027). Two community coach trips to the seaside (one for families and one for over 60s) (Summer 2027).

HERITAGE: Open new Heritage Centre & Museum inside the Guildhall, transforming it into a visitor attraction (Autumn 2028). And refurbish historic canal buildings, including the Black Shed and Ticket Office.

LIBRARY: Refurbish the library and build a seasonal events calendar to make it a vibrant community hub (Spring 2027).

INVESTMENT: Purchase an investment property to generate long-term income for the Town Council (outside of Council Tax) and strengthen financial security. Since the approval of the plan, the Town Council has acted on this and purchased a commercial property on the High Street.

BANKING: Explore establishing a Banking Hub to restore local access to banking services (Winter 2026).

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT: An active travel audit, new bike racks, and a town-wide barriers to walking survey.

ENVIRONMENT: Install 10 swift boxes on local businesses to boost biodiversity (Autumn 2026). Create a three-year Climate Action Plan for the whole town.

PLANNING: Lobby for planning reforms that prioritise green spaces, energy efficiency, and sustainable development.

Cllr David Ellams

9.5 Wellington Town Council (1)

We do not currently hold group meetings but part of the reason for this is the overwhelming majority of Labour on WTC with whom we almost never disagree

Wellington is lucky because Cllr Lee Carter leader of the Borough is devoted to Wellington and once he gets behind a grant application, it usually happens.

The big news is a new transport hub with railway to connect to bus station with lifts and a new footbridge (at last to Network Rail getting on board with this long awaited programme).

Other upgrades proceeding apace are the enormous Borough investment in refurbishment of Wellington market and The Orbit, our community cinema. This is the only one across the Borough, every bit as excellent as the Old Market Hall in Shrewsbury, and in some ways better, because we have a rehearsal dance studio, offices to rent, gallery space to show off work by local artists and now a 2nd cafe on the 1st floor to relieve the often crowded ground floor cafe.

Cllr Stephen Delaunay has played his full part in all these regeneration schemes and continues to sit on the Regeneration Board, which he previously chaired and on Policy & Resources also which he previously chaired

Cllr Jobe is on the new Community Library and Residents Hub Committee and Cllr Lowe is on the Events and Communications committee

Cllr Karen Tomlinson is our 4th LibDem team member on WTC

We look forward to welcoming new councillors from Admaston and Bratton, once elected, as this ward becomes part of WTC following the Community Governance Review. We are hopeful that at least two of the three councillors in that ward will be Lib Dems from May 2027.

Unfortunately Wellington STILL doesn't have a post office but Labour are working on this. The former Halifax building, which belongs to WTC and is being refurbished by Paveways. Paveways are the contractors who are refurbishing our market and they have also converted the former YMCA building into town centre residential flats under the Borough umbrella known as New Place.

Paveways are also completely rebuilding from scratch the former Planet of Beauty building having demolished it. It will be retail on ground floor and residential above. The former Oxfam shop and the new post office will also have nuplace flats above, available to rent.

Cllr Anthony Lowe

9.6 Wrockwardine Parish Council (1)

No written report received.

Cllr Kim Tonks

10. Any other business (1)

11. Next meeting (1)

Proposed date for 2027 AGM: Thursday 19th November 2026

12. Guest Speaker: Ian Sollom MP

Immediately following the business of the meeting, we will be joined by our guest speaker: Ian Sollom MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Universities and Skills.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ROLES

The role of the **Chair** is to:

- a. Chair Local Party, general and executive meetings
- b. Act as the point of communication with HQ and the region
- c. Ensure compliance (along with the Treasurer) with Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (PPERA)
- d. If another member is not so appointed, ensure compliance with data protection law
- e. Ensure compliance to party constitution
- f. Manage the local development plan and ensure it is fulfilled
- g. Oversee Parliamentary candidate selection with the support of the Elections Officer
- h. Ensure that the Local Party maintains the standards and practice expected

ii. The role of the **Vice-Chair** is to:

- a. Deputise for the Chair if they are ever unavailable or at the request of the Chair,
- b. Chair Local Party, general and Executive Committee meetings if and when the Chair is absent or otherwise unable to chair such meetings, or at the request of the Chair
- c. Proactively assist the Chair in the fulfilment of their responsibilities to and on behalf of the Local Party,
- d. Proactively work with the other officers to assist them in their duties as necessary,
- e. Be responsible for the fulfilment of responsibilities associated with any vacant officer position until it is filled, reporting to the Executive Committee on such responsibilities whilst it remains vacant.

iii. The role of the **Secretary** is to:

- a. Produce agendas and minutes for meetings
- b. Manage the diary of events to avoid clashes
- c. Inform the Chief Executive of the Federal Party and the secretary of the Regional Party of executive officer appointments and other matters required by this constitution apart from finance
- d. Consult the Local Party constitution
- e. Other administrative tasks

iv. The role of the **Treasurer** is to:

- a. Prepare and monitor the yearly budget
- b. Submit PPERA reports
- c. Oversee fundraising targets in conjunction with the Fundraising Officer
- d. Liaise with election agents
- e. Keep accounts ready for audit

v. The role of the **Membership Development Officer** is to:

- a. Organise and run recruitment campaigns
- b. Follow up 'At Risk' members
- c. Ensure there is a range of events, social and political (in co-operation with the Secretary)
- d. Encourage members to move on to Direct Debit payments
- e. Secure accurate records of local party membership in the Federal Party's central membership system
- f. Check regularly for new members, welcome them and organize new member interviews

- g. Inform the Executive Committee of new members, in accordance with Section 4.4 of this Constitution
 - h. Produce a regular members' newsletter (work with others)
- vi. The role of the **Elections Officer** is to:
- a. Ensure the Local Party has top-line electoral objectives agreed for at least five years ahead to guide campaigning activity
 - b. Ensure the Local Party has an agreed annual campaign plan, and supporting budget in consultation with the Treasurer
 - c. Form and oversee the smooth running of a constituency campaign team charged with delivering the agreed campaign plan within the agreed budget
 - d. Ensure the Local Party obtains the marked registers after every election and that the data is entered into the party's system for recording electoral data
 - e. Provide support to the Chair in the selection of Parliamentary candidates
- vii. The role of the **Diversity Champion** is to:
- a. Develop an understanding of the diverse communities in the area of the Local Party
 - b. Identify under-representation of those communities within the Local Party and the executive/officer roles
 - c. Work with the Local Party executive to devise and promote a strategy to engage members of under-represented groups, to encourage them to join the party and to support them to become active in the management and decision-making processes of the Local and wider Party
 - d. Develop links with community groups
- iv. The role of the **Fundraising Officer** is to:
- a. Prepare a fundraising strategy
 - b. Oversee fundraising targets in conjunction with the Treasurer
 - c. Oversee the organisation of fundraising activities
 - d. Organise fundraising appeals
- iv. The role of the **Executive Committee members** is to:
- a. Attend and participate in regular meetings, evaluating agenda items and voting on them.
 - b. Scrutinise suggestions and decisions made by others.
 - c. Offer time to assist with tasks the Executive Committee wishes to complete.
 - d. Be an approachable face in the local party, for other members who want to be more involved.