



Catherine Donovan

A Grassroots Voice on Conference Arrangements Committee



Gary Heather

Catherine Donovan writes:

I have been a party member for 35 years and a lifelong trade unionist. I worked in the NHS as a qualified nurse for 27 years, initially as a member of NUPE. I am now a member of UNITE and have served on both regional and national political committees since 2005. I am totally committed to public services which are publicly owned and democratically accountable.

I have been a local councillor on Gateshead Council since 2002 and have been a Cabinet member since 2004.

As a party and a country we face difficult times and now more than ever, constituency delegates need to be fully involved in the development of policy at conference.

If the party is to recruit and retain members, they need to have confidence that the resolutions that are put forward at ward level can progress to the CLP and onto conference with a realistic chance of becoming party policy. If I am elected to the CAC, it would be a privilege to represent CLPs and give them the opportunity to participate fully and effectively at conference.

New delegates need support, encouragement and impartial advice. I would argue strongly for that support and aim to make the conference fully accessible, and also a satisfying experience so that delegates will want to return as visitors every year.

Catherine Donovan

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Gary Heather writes:

As a longstanding member I have always taken a very keen interest in our party's democracy and rulebook. I am chairperson of my CLP, and have experience as a council and parliamentary candidate. I am also a committed trade unionist and on the CWU NEC, and a member of the Cooperative Party and the Fabians.

I joined the party to campaign for a fairer society, social justice and equality. I want public services that deliver first class: housing, education, health care and transport for all our citizens, under public ownership and democratic control.

On the CAC, I would seek to make annual conference more democratic and inclusive with more participation by delegates.

Our conference should be a place where delegates debate and vote on policies - not dominated by privileged platform speakers while delegates are left seated to cheer them on.

Conference should take the opportunity this year to build on the reinstatement of resolutions and, longer term, decide to vote on and refer back policy documents section by section.

Party leaders and committees should be accountable at conference to the members that elect them. If elected I would uphold the rules of the party, and seek to ensure conference is an accessible forum for CLP delegates in terms of access, childcare, speaking and support for new delegates.

Gary Heather

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Both Catherine and Gary are asking you to consider giving them your nomination and support for the two CLP places on the Conference Arrangements Committee. They have the support of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy.

Nominations close on the 24 June and CLP secretaries have been sent notification of how to nominate.