By-election candidates have their say

Douglas Carswell – UKIP
I didn’t have to resign from Parliament to face this by-election. I believe it was the only honourable thing to do. Why? Because I answer to local people. I need your permission.

The three established Westminster parties are not on our side. They are run by people who are in politics for themselves. David Cameron, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg will say things just to gain office. They won’t make the changes that we need.

Clacton, Frinton and Walton do not have enough GPs. Our hospital faces constant cut backs. Officials demand Tendring take an extra 12,000 houses. Successive governments have failed to control our borders.

Each of these failures tell us a story about a remote and arrogant political system. I am asking for your help tomorrow to try to change it.

When I was your MP, I successfully persuaded ministers to find the money for a new sea front for Holland-on-Sea. I got local NHS bosses to consider new ways to hire more GPs.

However flat-footed ministers might be in responding, I will keep pressing them to improve local train services with grit and determination.

Above all, I will continue to be available to you.

Andy Graham – Liberal Democrat
Years ago I brought a production of Sense and Sensibility to Clacton’s West Cliff Theatre. Now I’m trying to bring sense and sensibility to the by-election. People deserve better than a slanging match between Conservatives and UKIP.

I’ve been meeting people across the constituency from Point Clear through Jaywick, Clacton, Holland-on-Sea, Frinton, St Osyth and Walton. People have raised many issues with me that often get forgotten in the heat of a by-election circus.

Issues like wanting the streetlights turned back on at night. Fly tipping, which has increased due to the Conservatives shutting Martin’s Farm tip.

Our area has many low-paid workers who have benefited from the Lib Dem policy of taking them out of income tax by raising the personal allowance to £10,000.

The NHS is a major issue with the maternity services and the crying need to attract GPs to Clacton.

I’ve campaigned hard about the need to reduce knife crime and returning PCSOs to the streets to reduce anti-social behaviour.

My biggest passion is improving education. I’ve spent a large part of my life in schools through my theatre company. Inspiring pupils to develop their true potential is one of the most rewarding things in life.

Alan ‘Howling Laud’ Hope – Monster Raving Loony Party
My key policy is Clacton itself. When I was a young MP Clacton was the playground of Britain, but over the years the council have let it go to sea.

If I was to win I would turn the whole area into the first British Disneyland – the world goes there.

Everyone would be working, the hotels would be full, everyone would be happy, singing and laughing on the streets instead of moping around.

Perhaps it just needs someone to do it themselves and call it Loonyland.

Clacton should be doing better than it is, it should be the centre of the Looniverse. If Clacton was thriving more GPs would come and work here, and if everyone was working there would be no homeless people.

It is down to the local authorities to get this right. They need a sharp awakening. I am here to do it. We are on the side of the people, we are not rabble-rousers or anarchists.

Charlotte Rose – Independent (Sexual Freedom Party)
I should be MP for Clacton because I love working with people, and people like and trust me.

I bring a humanity to politics. Most politicians promote family values, failing to include the second biggest human drive after survival: sex.

Clacton will be proud to have an MP who cares about their sex and relationship wellbeing.

Having listened to local people, I am focusing on:

Compulsory sex and disability education in schools, so that all people can enjoy healthy and happy sex lives.

Pubs in Clacton no longer have striptease, so are losing money as they will not even allow strippergrams for big hen and stag nights.

People with sexual diversities who may still live restricted lives, fearing stigma and bullying.

Bruce Sizer – Independent
When all the talk is over and the count is in, I won’t have the highest number of votes. I will undoubtedly lose this battle, but together we won’t lose the war – the war on cancer.

Already, over the last few weeks, we have witnessed a remarkable change. They said the main issue was immigration, I said it was healthcare.

Now, all the main political parties have realised that easily accessible, high-quality local health services is the single most important issue here in Clacton.

My campaign slogan is Better Cancer Care for Clacton, and by that I mean everything from early presentation and screening to chemotherapy and palliative care.

I was the first to point out that it’s all very well telling people to take responsibility for their own health, yet when they report their symptoms to the GP, they never see the same one twice. You can’t run a service on temporary staff or locums.

Even UKIP have now recognised this and put it at the top of their advertising.

Job done then? No, not yet. Let’s...
By-election candidates have their final say before the polls open

Chris Southall – Green

Britain badly needs more Greens in Parliament, not only to protect the environment with science-based decisions on climate change, flooding and killing badgers but also to defend young people and those on benefits from unjust cuts while wealthy 'fat cats' get richer.

Cutting benefits for young people puts more stress on struggling family incomes. Greens care for people, animals and the environment.

We oppose government negotiations with the USA to give more power to large amoral international companies, the same companies that sell us agricultural chemicals that kill our bees and food full of sugar and salt adulterated with horse meat.

These companies would love to own part of our NHS - we need to be on our guard.

In Tendring, our surgeries need more funds to encourage more GPs and health services like our threatened maternity unit need protecting.

More reliable train and bus services would encourage businesses and holidaymakers to come here and create jobs.

Greens would scrap HS2 and Trident nuclear weapons and use the money to boost local transport, fund the NHS and reverse benefit cuts making the minimum wage high enough to live on.

Councils need more government money to provide better social care.

Giles Watling – Conservative

I love the area of Clacton, Frinton and Walton dearly and I want to be its champion.

I am a local man and live in the heart of this constituency. I don't commute from a home in London, and have raised my two daughters here.

I am the only candidate who has a clear plan that will make sure we get more doctors into our surgeries; that will tackle crime and anti-social behaviour by getting more police out on the street; that will ensure we have round-the-clock maternity services at Clacton Hospital; that will get the investment and better train services so we create more jobs for local people; and that will make sure people in this area get first priority when it comes to housing and benefits so that we stop benefit tourism.

I will be the person who fights to deliver this. But to do it I need your help. So vote for me tomorrow and let us secure a better future together.

Tim Young – Labour

I care more about the issues that affect the people of Clacton than my opponents because I was born here, I went to St Clare's Primary School and Clacton County High School, and my family and friends live here. So I know the issues people really care about here.

That's why I fought to keep the streetlights on when the Tory candidate voted to switch them off.

The top issue people have raised with me is the NHS. Thanks to David Cameron's top-down reorganisation of the NHS, people can't even get on a GP's list, let alone get an appointment.

By contrast Labour will end the privatisation and will ensure 8,000 more GPs which would go a long way to solving the crisis here in Clacton.

Clacton has been left behind by the Tories. Wages are much lower than average and unemployment is high. I would raise the national minimum wage to £8 by 2020 and introduce a compulsory jobs guarantee so every young person can find a job or get the proper training they need.

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