

# SOMERSET

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## TODAY

Defending  
public  
services

HELP WHERE  
IT'S NEEDED.

Supporting local  
businesses and  
communities

Protecting our  
environment

Securing the health  
of our countryside

INTERVIEW

ADAM

DANCE

The man tipped to be Yeovil's next MP



# Adam Dance

**TELLS US WHY HE'S STANDING TO BE THE NEXT MP FOR YEOVIL**

It's a sunny summer day and we are taking a walk along a wooded path in Nine Springs, Yeovil. As we walk, Adam tells me what inspired him to stand as Yeovil's MP.

"I have been active in this community from a young age. Having been born and brought up in South Petherton, I love living and working here. And I know the area like the back of my hand."

It's always better to have an MP who understands the local community and can respond quickly to calls for help. We've been fortunate in the past to have an MP like Paddy Ashdown who showed us the way to do it."

**"I have been active in this community from a young age."**

Adam's community involvement started when he was a teenager. The youth club in which he was involved was threatened with closure. Many disadvantaged youngsters would be left without their social hub. He led the opposition to the closure, arguing his case at a public meeting after which the decision was reversed. His community-based values have only grown stronger since those days.

When I ask about the skills and knowledge he brings to the job, Adam is quick to respond.

"People skills. I enjoy talking to people and helping to solve their problems. Having been a local councillor at every level, I have learnt how to use bodies like parish councils and the new Somerset Council to get things done."

As an MP I will have the weight of Parliament behind me to tackle the bigger issues that affect the economy and community of Yeovil."

Adam works extremely hard to win elections. He has leadership roles where he delivers for the community.

As well as being a councillor for South Petherton & Islemoor, he has the portfolio for Public Health at Somerset Council and is a Governor of Yeovil Hospital.

**"We are seeing our public services decline."**

Adam is clearly angry with the way the Conservative government has treated us.

"The cost of living is now hitting everyone in their pocket. and the effects are being felt in very practical ways such as the weekly shop and monthly mortgage payments. Many more children have fallen into poverty. We are seeing our public services in decline, with not enough doctors, dentists, nurses, or midwives. It's just not right for people to suffer in this way."

With support for Adam growing by the day, the odds are looking good for him to take the Yeovil

## Adam: a real champion for our environment

**"Even the environment is off the Conservative agenda now."**

As a landscape gardener Adam has learned to respect the natural environment and he is passionate about protecting it.

"Our five main rivers in Somerset are all severely polluted. For years, the government has turned a blind eye to sewage discharges by the private water companies, fouling our rivers and beaches."

Adam is also concerned about the damage done to the environment through the overuse of plastics, the burning of fossil fuels and the waste of our natural resources.

"We have the good fortune to live in a beautiful county. We need to protect the countryside and work to make renewable energy our main source of power. I will campaign for government funding to install solar panels and charging points, so that everyone has fair access to clean energy."

seat back at the next General Election. When he does, Yeovil will have won itself a first-class local MP.





## ‘I needed to see my GP urgently but couldn’t get an appointment’

There is no issue closer to Adam’s heart than our NHS. He has seen how years of Conservative underinvestment, record waiting lists, and GP and dentist shortages have left people in Somerset deeply concerned about the future of their health care system.

“Having waited over 50 minutes to speak to a receptionist.

“I have great sympathy for residents who cannot get appointments. In my role as a governor of Yeovil Hospital I am doing all I can to improve things. The NHS is my top priority.”

“This week I spoke to a sick resident who was urgently trying to book an appointment to see his GP. Having waited for over 50 minutes to speak

to a receptionist. When he eventually got through he was told that there were no appointments for the next 16 weeks. That is totally unacceptable.”

“This experience is being repeated every day across the country. For many who need an urgent diagnosis and treatment it can be too late. The backlog of operations and



Adam Dance’s top priority is standing up for our NHS. He will help local residents struggling to get the urgent help they need

appointments means that many people are suffering. Staff are stretched to the limit and more money is desperately needed in our surgeries and hospitals. The government has yet again failed to give our local hospital in Yeovil extra funding, even though our near neighbours have benefited from a share of £250m. Why doesn’t our current MP lobby hard for Yeovil residents?”

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“Things have to change. I will never stop fighting to fix our NHS. It literally is a matter of life and death.”

## WHY I LOVE SOMERSET



I have lived in Somerset all my life. I went to school and college in Yeovil and now enjoy running my gardening business here and interacting with the wider community, in the place I know and love.

We have a wonderful environment. Our villages and ancient market towns are surrounded by glorious countryside. But Somerset also has many thriving businesses, big and small, and a strong green economy.

There’s a rich heritage and culture here, at whatever level you fancy - visiting historic houses, taking a country walk, going to a music festival or just going to your local pub.





## COST OF LIVING

People across our area are struggling through the cost of living crisis



# “We are all paying the price of Conservative failure.”

**The Conservatives’ shambolic handling of the economy has left many facing real hardship, because the pound in our pocket is worth less and less.**

Those who have managed to scrape together a deposit on a mortgage have suddenly found they can’t meet the monthly payments.

People in rented accommodation have seen their rents soaring to levels they never planned for.

Putting food on the table for many families means cutting back on the weekly shop, and the cost of energy makes people wonder how they are going to face a hard winter.

“The Government is out of touch and has run out of ideas. We’re all paying the price now of Conservative failure: a low-growth economy with high inflation.

We need a Government that investigates profiteering by companies when they see it. We need a proper windfall tax to

provide support for energy bills and put guarantees in place to help people with their mortgages.

We need to put an end to tax evasion and loopholes that allow the super rich to squirrel their money away in tax havens. This deprives our public sector of the cash it badly needs to support families and their communities.

Only bold action, not faint-hearted measures, will turn things around.

**We need an MP who knows the constituency and understands the people who live in it. It is tough out there and Adam will fight to get a fair deal for our communities.**



## Supporting our businesses

**Adam Dance tells us how he is supporting businesses with the challenges they are facing, and promoting Somerset.**

There are hundreds of small businesses in our constituency, serving our residents and providing employment. As well as manufacturing, our constituency is home to agriculture, healthcare and creative industries.

An unfair, outdated business rates system, and lack of government support during the cost-of-living crisis make running a small business very challenging.

I am regularly meeting and listening to business owners and managers in our constituency.

**We’ve all been taken for granted by this Conservative Government and local businesses have been hit especially hard.**



**Business owners and managers want an MP who is there for them and responds to their calls for help.**

Businesses large and small tell me they have been badly let down by an invisible, indifferent MP hampering the prosperity of our area.

Businesses should feel they have easy access to their MP, and I will ensure they do.

I will work closely with local schools and Yeovil College to deliver skills

which are aligned to local employment needs.

We have so much to offer, but to thrive we need a local champion to win our fair share of government support. If you elect me as your MP for Yeovil, I will fight to make this happen and bring you a more prosperous future and a better way of life.

# The race to be our next MP is neck and neck.

Our next MP will be Lib Dem Adam Dance  
or a Conservative. No one else can win here.

It's a two horse race.



## This is our chance to get a local MP who will fight for Somerset