

Contents

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	3
The Forty	3
Politics	4
Policies	6
CHAPTER 2: THE STATE WE ARE IN	9
Centralism has Failed	9
Fight! Fight! Fight!.....	11
New Labour and ‘Plan-Led’ Development.....	12
Why Demand has Outstripped Supply	14
CHAPTER 3: WHY LOCALISM IS THE SOLUTION	15
Sustainable Development	15
Local Decisions Made by Local People	16
Business Views	17
A Vision for Planning and Development	18
Supply Meets Demand	19
The Emotional Capital Kickback	21
Appendix 1	23
Who’s in the Forty.....	23
Appendix 2	25
The New Planning Regime	26
Appendix 3	27
Future Publications from Members of the Forty	27

Chapter 1: Introduction

The Forty

"Welcome to the club that nobody wants to be in," said David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, at the inaugural meeting of the Forty Group in the House of Commons.

We are the 40 most marginal Conservative MPs following the election of May 2010. We have majorities varying from 54 (Dan Byles, MP for North Warwickshire) to 2,420 (Richard Graham, MP for Gloucester).

We met for the first time on October 12th in Committee Room 12 in the House of Commons.

The core group who are driving and leading the Forty are:

Nicola Blackwood
Graham Evans
Ben Gummer
Richard Harrington
Nigel Mills
David Morris
James Morris
David Mowat
Eric Ollerenshaw
Amber Rudd
John Stevenson

The concept is that we have something in common. At that point, at our first meeting, it wasn't exactly clear what, except for the obvious slimness of our individual majorities.

Since then it has become clear that there are two clear areas where we can help each other, the Government, and we hope, the country.

The two areas are politics; by which we mean the politics of winning and holding a seat, and policies; that is influencing the Government itself.

Politics

This is the most obvious. Every MP thinks that they are a campaigning MP. But only someone who has fought and won their seat from the opposition has experienced the reality of a hard-fought campaign. 32 of us won our seats from Labour (see Appendix 1 for a full list of the Forty).

We won by swings from 1% to 13%. It is interesting how quickly the euphoria of winning passes and the reality of holding the seat takes over. We have a common interest in making sure that we are excellent constituency MPs. We are each committed to making sure that we are assiduous in our support for our residents. This is the inclination of most MPs, but it is an imperative for the members of the Forty. We know that in a major swing away from the Conservatives, it is likely that we would all lose our seats, but the personal vote has a significant role to play in numbers as small as the ones that we have in our majorities. It used to be said that a personal vote was worth 500 votes. Most of us believe it is much larger than that, although how large is impossible to quantify.

Some Conservative MPs nod sagely at our efforts to build our majorities by reassuring us that they too were once marginal and now have a substantial majority. But they were elected in 1997 at a nadir for the Conservative Party with only 165 MPs. There is no equivalence there with our 40 in a Government with 306 Conservative MPs. 147 of these MPs are new. This is the largest intake of new Conservative MPs since 1931. We hope this is not the highest point for the Conservative Party, because we all hope for a Conservative majority after 2015, but it bears no comparison to the low point of 1997.

MPs have two places of work; in their constituencies they campaign and in the House of Commons they have a range of tools to continue local campaigns and to contribute on national and international issues.

On campaigning the Forty is a self-help group. We exchange information, ideas and literature to share what works and "best-practice". We meet to discuss business clubs, fund-raising or social action projects. We can learn from each other about which forms of lobbying work best, and simply find out whether certain topics are as important in someone else's constituency as they are in our own.

If the next General Election takes place in May 2015, we know how much time we have to prove to our constituents that we are successfully working on their behalf. We are inevitably going to be more responsive and diligent than MPs of any party with larger majorities, because we must go into the next election convinced that we have done our best to win every vote, and keep our jobs.

The Forty can provide the means for its members to learn from and support each other.

But we also seek to have a voice on policy. If we want to serve our constituents, we need to do it not just through our local campaigns, but also by ensuring that our Government delivers the changes that our communities need.

Policies

There are certain distinguishing characteristics about areas represented by the Forty. They are not rural idylls, or rich urban areas. They tend to have more deprivation than other Conservative held seats, and have a high proportion of coastal towns. For instance, average unemployment is higher than in other Conservative held seats. If we look at the statistics for Jobseekers Allowance, the level ranges widely from the highest at 9.1% (Wolverhampton South West) to the lowest at 1.9% (Oxford West and Abingdon), whilst the average rate for the Forty is 4.7% (compared to the UK average of 5.1%). The average amongst other Conservative held seats is 3.5%. The Forty are more typical of so called “Middle England”.

In November 2010 a survey of the Forty asked the MPs to rank the issues that their constituents found most important. This was a reflection of their post bag (and inbox) from their first six months. Unsurprisingly, the economy was at the top. This Government, like every other, will be judged on their handling of the economy. The second was health, followed closely by transport. That health was second, confirms the view of both major parties during the election campaign of 2010 that this was vital for voters.

That transport came so high was perhaps more surprising. It reflects the needs of a large number of the Forty constituencies, particularly coastal towns, such as Hastings, where the poor transport infrastructure is a constant drag on economic recovery. As the battle rages amongst other Conservative MPs on High Speed Rail Two (HS2), members of the Forty are often found speaking passionately in favour of it (such as Graham Evans, MP for Weaver Vale), as they recognise the need to provide economic growth outside of London.

Europe was not mentioned in our survey. That is not to say that the Forty MPs are not eurosceptic, or do not recognise the need for limiting the EU's powers, but they do not consider it a priority now (with one or two notable exceptions, who care passionately about this). But typically the Conservative colleagues who have made Europe their priority have large majorities. That is their choice, of course, but it is not what our constituents are saying is of importance to them.

Politics is about priorities. No Government can set out to change everything at once. Our survey reflected the fact that the undoubted problems with our relationship with the EU are not the ones that our constituents are most concerned about.

But we are not a focus group. We are not trying to provide feed-back to Government on policies as they emerge. We want to influence the priorities of this Government by making clear what is most pressing for change in our constituencies. We are Conservatives, who have fought hard, and sometimes long, to become MPs.

We believe that the Forty should develop a distinct voice. We will be encouraging members to contribute ideas and content to publish in order to share them with a wider audience.

We are launching our first pamphlet (See Appendix 3 for future publications) on Localism, because we think it has enormous potential for stimulating growth and promoting communities, **despite** the growing wave of protest against the planning element covered in the press. Some commentators are ready to greet the Bill with giddy enthusiasm, and others decry it as a scourge on our countryside. It is extraordinary that they are talking about the same Bill. The Bill is fundamental to Conservative beliefs about devolving power and reducing central planning. It should create opportunities for growth in the Forty constituencies.

But it is our contention that this can only be done with leadership. Members of Parliament themselves must actively engage with the Localism Bill to ensure that their constituencies receive the benefits of this revolutionary Bill. Central planning must be replaced by local leadership. Although the Bill provides for local activism and controls, it is MPs who must ensure that this is taken up by their local Councils and communities. We need to be the lightning rods for stimulating local activism to ensure that communities take up the rights being laid out for them. Only then will the benefits of this Bill be felt throughout the communities, as they become the decision makers.

CHAPTER 2: THE STATE WE ARE IN

Centralism has Failed

The last 13 years of British politics has had a planning policy based on the centralist ideology of New Labour. This policy has failed.

It failed to deliver on the key aspirations that planning policy should achieve; affordable housing, sustainable development and economic growth.

Sustainability is a word that is bandied about with great ease nowadays without coherent explanation. The Localism Bill is clear on what it means by sustainability. Greg Clark has given a very clear evaluation in the *Draft National Planning Policy Framework*, “sustainable means ensuring that better lives for ourselves don’t mean worse lives for future generations.”¹

For the 13 years that the last Government held the reins on planning policy, they chose to create bureaucratic bulwarks in the form of *Regional Spatial Strategies* (RSS)². These new tiers of bureaucracy stifled local communities from fashioning positive visions for their future developments.

¹ Clark, Greg. Introduction to *Draft National Planning Policy Framework*, by the Department for Communities and Local Government, V. London: DCLG, July 2011.

² Barclay, Christopher, and Wilson, Wendy. Localism Bill: Planning and Housing, Bill 126 of 2010-11, Research Paper 11/03. London, House of Commons Library, 11 January 2011, 4.

In 2004 the planning authority at Whitehall was strengthened by giving power to regional government³. Through this policy local decision making diminished and the seeds of mistrust were sewn. This was the birth of modern NIMBYISM.

Since this move to centralism, planning has been “lost in translation”⁴. Planners and developers have to work with policy documents that have more words than the complete works of Shakespeare.⁵ It is ludicrous to believe that anyone would want to engage with planning decisions, when the official documents are over 1,000 pages long.

This bureaucracy has also stifled creativity. Centralism failed to provide the architectural vision that is desperately needed on planning committees and in housing development design. For too long this country has been burdened with the ‘Modern Estate’, an eyesore on the geographical fabric of Britain.

The Localism Bill aspires to topple the planning tyranny and create a policy that is accessible to all. This is not just about changing a document; it is about changing a culture.

³ Barclay and Wilson, *Localism Bill: Planning and Housing*, 4.

⁴ Clark, Introduction, V.

⁵ Department for Communities and Local Government. “Dramatic simplification of planning guidance to encourage sustainable growth”, Accessed 22nd August 2011.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1951729>

Fight! Fight! Fight!

Over the last 30 years, changes in planning policy have led to a culture of ‘Fight! Fight! Fight!’ The public are at logger heads with developers and planners. Town hall disputes with developers and local residents fiercely quarrelling have become the norm. MPs stay outside of these battle zones, rightly highlighting that they have no influence over planning policy. That is going to change. For the Localism Bill to succeed, MPs need to stimulate local activity to be organised and influence policy.

Unfortunately, the public have become very sceptical of developers, who have been perceived to force planning decisions on local communities, and planning committees who can appear supine in the face of draconian planning regulations.

The *Localism Bill* seeks to reform this culture and create an environment based on cooperation. Local residents and businesses have the opportunity to work with developers and influence the final planning proposals. The move towards a cooperative culture is emphasised in the *Draft National Planning Policy Framework*.⁶

The key tool that will empower local communities is the plan for *Neighbourhood Forums*.

It is essential that as these changes take place, MPs jettison their traditional “hands off” approach to planning and “lean in” to ensure that their communities are arming themselves with the new local powers. In Truro, MP Sarah Newton is

⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Draft National Planning Policy Framework. London: DCLG, July 2011, 13.

already doing this by helping to facilitate a steering committee that will construct a joint Neighbourhood Plan between Truro City Council and Kenwyn Parish Council. Over the last 30 years this area of the West Country has seen a large amount of housing applications. However, there is a fear that local residents will not be given a say in what developments take place. Now Sarah Newton has facilitated an environment where a joint Neighbourhood Plan will be drawn up between the two Councils, and following this a community vote will be held allowing local residents to have a say in the development of their local area.

New Labour and 'Plan-Led' Development

The state that the housing sector now finds itself in is a disaster. Huge strains are now being exerted on the system with house construction at its lowest level since 1949⁷ and demand increasing per annum. Labour's answer was to add layers of bureaucracy, removing decision making from the local level to central and regional government. Instead of working with communities, Labour chose to instruct them. This was their way of ensuring there was more house building. It failed.

The *Localism Bill* will remove many of the bureaucratic bulwarks of the past 13 years. Already plans are in place to reduce 1,000 pages of documents into 52. Already the regional strategies have been abolished. They are to be replaced with an empowerment strategy aimed at providing local residents and businesses with the opportunities to help shape the physical landscape in which they live and work.

⁷ Department for Communities and Local Government, "Live Tables: Table 241 House Building: Permanent Dwellings completed, by tenure, United Kingdom historical calendar year series." Accessed 18th August, 2011.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livatables/>

The *Localism Bill* will increase house building, but this is not, as organisations like the *National Trust*, and the *Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)* have suggested, a disastrous move⁸. Unlike the sceptical rhetoric that comes from these institutions, Greg Clark and the Coalition state that “the government’s position ha[s] been misrepresented given that the greenbelt, national parks and areas of special scientific interest would retain protections.”⁹ The notion that “planning reforms would lead to breakneck development across the greenbelt”¹⁰ is just plain wrong. This view is supported by organisations within the construction industry. *Taylor Wimpey*, one of the largest homebuilders in the country, supports the proposed reforms to the planning system. Cynics might say “well, they would wouldn’t they”, but their comments show that they recognise the need to consult locally to bring communities with them if home building is to accelerate.

Local residents and businesses must take up this new opportunity, as is being trialled in Truro, to prevent a vacuum. MPs can help with this, as shown by Sarah Newton MP’s pioneering initiative.

⁸ Pickard, Jim, and Rigby, Elizabeth. “Minister criticises National Trust over planning reform.” *Financial Times*, August 22, 2011. Accessed 22nd August 2011. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/71aa06f2-ca7f-11e0-94d0-00144feabdc0.html>

⁹ Pickard and Rigby, “Minister criticises National Trust.”

¹⁰ Ibid

Why Demand has Outstripped Supply

Housing supply has not been able to keep pace with the country's growing population. With the combination of immigration, extended living and new lifestyle choices, where more and more people are choosing to live alone, housing must increase. Unfortunately central Government set housing targets that needed to be met, yet at the same time created a lethargic and complicated planning system that prevented any progress being achieved quickly.

The effects of an ageing population have taken effect and the need for a variety of amenities and specialised housing are in demand. Again the centralist polices failed to provide for the very people who needed the help and support of government. An increased need for care homes and sheltered accommodation has grown, but the complicated planning system and the dictatorial target setting housing policy has failed to adapt and provide. This has left the housing sector with ominous burdens, as it is left to the Coalition to reform the system and create a cohesive and competent solution.

Urban areas in the Forty will benefit from a system that allows housing and planning to improve its communities. By resolving the impasse between developers and communities, more houses will be built, crucially with the support of local neighbourhoods. As a result, economic bonuses could be considerable for those communities which take up these new opportunities open to them.

CHAPTER 3: WHY LOCALISM IS THE SOLUTION

The potential is for a transformational bonus to the areas in the Forty constituencies that will benefit from new construction supported by local communities. They are already reaping the benefits of the *New Homes Bonus* and the additional growth is from employment through construction and investment in these areas. The removal of central planning will not lead to an explosion of inappropriate house building, because it will be headed off by effective local community organisations. This is not in the form of local petitioning or placard waving, as is the case now. This must be in the form of taking up the tools provided by the Bill. MPs need to ensure that this is happening and, if necessary, lead on it themselves.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is about “positive growth – making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations.”¹¹ The *Localism Bill* will achieve this and deliver, affordable housing, sustainable development and economic growth.

Sustainable development can only occur through decentralisation. Local people are the experts who will best understand and tackle local issues. When there is a demand for more care homes, who better to know than local doctors, nurses and carers? When there is a need for improved or enhanced transports links, who better to know than the early morning commuter? These decisions cannot continue without the input of local residents.

¹¹ Clark, *Introduction*, V.

It is much easier for people to say no. It is easier for communities to ask that everything stays the same. But by involving them in the decision making process, a positive outcome is more likely.

Growth will only come to local economies if local people play a part in the decisions that are made.

Local Decisions Made by Local People

Neighbourhood Forums are the key to bringing empowerment to local people. These forums are made up of twenty-one local residents, businesses and elected Councillors. Each forum must have a combination of these¹². They will work with developers and planners. This is the loudest voice local councils will listen to. This is done through the creation of *Neighbourhood Development Orders*¹³, which are submitted to the Council. This is the armour plating for the opportunities in local planning (please see Appendix 2 for a simplified diagram).

These orders will enhance the authority of the 'local voice'. It will present local Councils and Local Planning Authorities with a vision for the environment that people have to live and work in. In the constituency of Hastings and Rye on the South East Coast, a community of local residents has come together to create a vision for their local area. The *Save The Archery Ground (STAG)*¹⁴ forum felt disengaged from the planning development planned for their local area. With professional architects, local residents and businesses, they came up with an alternative for the local Council to consider. This forum is an example of how

¹² House of Lords and House of Commons, *Localism Bill*, (Printed 19th May 2011), Volume II, Schedule 9, Neighbourhood planning, Part 1, Neighbourhood development orders, page 306, 61F (5)(b).

¹³ Barclay and Wilson, *Localism Bill: Planning and Housing*, 24.

¹⁴ Save the Archery Ground (STAG), "Home", last modified 14th July, 2011, <http://www.savethearcheryground.org/>

local residents and local businesses have a better understanding of what is needed and required in their local area, and how local communities can influence policy.

However *Neighbourhood Forums* are not just about magnificent visions and loud local voices. They also need to encourage local economic growth.

Business Views

It is not easy to create growth in the climate in which this country finds itself. Nevertheless, Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has created a framework through the *Localism Bill* in which he wants to encourage local businesses to invest in their local areas.¹⁵ Giving control to Councils over their local business rates will help create the stimulus for local economies to encourage business investment. Councils can control the rise and fall of local business rates, so that business can be persuaded to invest in local developments.

This is a proposal strongly supported by Richard Harrington, MP for Watford. Richard Harrington is pleased that he can envisage Councils being able to negotiate encouraging terms for new businesses – such as a rates free period for three months in order to stimulate local growth. This will give Councils the necessary independence from national policy. This will mean that Councils can react to local economic situations and not to national problems. An example might be that Councils could turn a row of empty shops into residential dwellings, if that is what the local community needed. The Secretary of State has confirmed

¹⁵ Department for Communities and Local Government, *Localism Bill: Discretionary Business Rate Discounts (Impact Assessment)*, London: DCLG, January 2011, 5

that areas of deprivation, which fall short of raising business rates, will receive top ups to meet the need required¹⁶.

Neighbourhood Development Plans can incorporate the use of local businesses into the development and construction of the visions they have: whether using local architects, to design the development; or asking local construction firms to help build the development; or even drawing on local resources to form the foundations on which these projects can be built. Allowing local residents the opportunity to influence these decisions can only be a good thing.

Other elements of the *Localism Bill* have shown how the Forty will benefit from the successes of these reforms. MP for Weaver Vale, Graham Evans MP, has campaigned for a reform that will give power over planning on green belt sites back to local Councils. Travellers have been able to move on to greenbelt sites on a Bank Holiday and then apply, and gain retrospective planning from Local Authorities. Now that local Councils will have control over this issue, situations like this will be more manageable. Graham Evans commented that, “The true test of this Bill will be if communities can finally head this off at the pass.”

A Vision for Planning and Development

The *Localism Bill* recognises that planning is in need of simplicity, inspiration and creativity. Greg Clark stated that, “...our standards of design can be so much higher. We are a nation renowned worldwide for creative excellence, yet, at

¹⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government, “Communities and Neighbourhoods, Councils to lead local path to growth boosting jobs and firms”, Accessed on 18th August 2011, <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/communities/1969220>

home, confidence in development itself has been eroded by the too frequent experience of mediocrity.”¹⁷

We know this country is capable of great design and creative accomplishment. For example, look at the fantastic work at the *Poundbury* site¹⁸. We have stylish office blocks and conference centres springing up through many towns and cities across the country. This is a nation that has the creative talent needed to enhance our planning structure and housing developments. All that is needed now is for Local Authorities to tap into this talent.

Would it be so wrong to suggest that local architects should sit on planning committees? What would be perplexing if local creativity was to contribute and influence housing development design? We would be witness to a future planning policy that would inspire the minds of developers, unite Local Authorities and residents and ultimately bring an end to the NIMBY culture of the past 30 years.

It is time to be bold and put creativity into our planning committees.

Supply Meets Demand

Complete power will not be handed over to local residents. Local Authorities will still have control over local planning and housing decisions. Local communities are being handed the power to influence. It is through *Local Development Plans* that Councils will need to ensure the *Neighbourhood Development Orders* (from

¹⁷ Clark, *Introduction*, V.

¹⁸ Duchy of Cornwall, “Design and Development: Poundbury”, Accessed 20th August 2011, http://www.duchyofcornwall.org/designanddevelopment_poundbury.htm

the *Neighbourhood Forums*) are in line with the reality of Local Authority plans¹⁹. The focus will be on cooperation. Local people can still influence policy ideas, but they have to be realistic with their visions.

Through the Department for Communities and Local Government, there will be a financial incentive for Local Authorities to increase housing construction. This incentive takes the form of *The New Homes Bonus*²⁰. This policy will "...match fund the additional Council tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, with an additional amount for affordable homes, for the following six years".²¹ This is a further lever to allow the supply of housing to gradually meet demand. It will also open up the doors to local economic growth. Businesses will want to move into these areas to create bases for their enterprises to grow.

Constituencies in the Forty which have received large cash bonuses from the *New Homes Bonus* have benefitted greatly. In this first year Local Authorities, like Amber Valley and Corby have been allocated £204,689²² and £415,135²³ respectively for 2011/12. Such figures show that there is clearly financial support available through the decentralisation programme to encourage the rise in house construction.

¹⁹ DCLG, *Draft National Planning Policy Framework*, 14.

²⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government. "Housing: New Homes Bonus." Accessed 22nd August, 2011. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply,newhomesbonus/>

²¹ DCLG. "Housing: New Homes Bonus."

²² Department for Communities and Local Government. "New Homes Bonus 2011-12 Allocations." Last modified 4th April, 2011. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1879924.pdf>

²³ DCLG, "New Homes Bonus 2011-12 Allocations."

The Emotional Capital Kickback

The riots that plagued the streets of our cities up and down this country in the early days of August saw an ugly face of Britain. The Prime Minister, David Cameron, stated that, “We didn’t just see the worst of the British people; we saw the best of them too.”²⁴ He was right.

But the image of individuals turning up for the ‘Big Clean Up’²⁵ with brooms in hand and determination in spirit was a shining example of the *Big Society* in action. This spirit of cooperation and self-worth is exactly what the *Localism Bill* will try to instil in the British public.

The *Localism Bill* will start to address the fundamental issues in our society. The individuals that we speak of, who destroyed businesses and homes are part of a society that feels it has no control over itself, that it has no responsibility. If the government can give these individuals some ownership and responsibility, then perhaps a change in culture can be fostered, where the “sickness” in certain areas of society can recover to one of health.

Attempts have been made to give communities and individuals ownership in the past, for example ‘Homes for Heroes’ after World War II and later with Margaret Thatcher’s home ownership schemes. If this government can create a framework in which more individuals can own their own properties, take control of the

²⁴ Goodman, Paul, “Cameron post-riots speech in full”, *Conservative Home*, last modified Monday, 5th August, 2011, <http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/08/cameron-post-riots-speech-in-full.html>

²⁵ Lazzeri, Antonella, Soodin, Vince and Crick, Andy, “Defiant Londoners start fighting back”, *The Sun*, 10th August 2011, Accessed 20th August, 2011, <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/3741881/Twitter-calls-spur-on-riot-clean-up.html>

environments they live and work in, and ultimately plan the future of their communities, then perhaps order can be restored.

The *Community Right to Buy*²⁶ will start to increase community ownership. If important amenities are threatened with closure and these are considered to be “assets of community value”, then individuals and organisations can come together to bid for them, and take them over. Local amenities from pubs and clubs, to town halls and village shops, can be owned by the community and become the physical lever to local empowerment. In Hastings, the *Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust (HPWRT)*²⁷ has taken ownership of the pier and with the help of funding from the National Lottery Fund, they are set to restore it to its former glory.

With ownership comes responsibility. With influence comes creativity. The Forty would greatly benefit from this. Whether Enfield North or Wolverhampton South East which were caught up in the riots, or the other members, the *Localism Bill* will empower the communities of the Forty, by giving them the opportunities they need. But this empowerment will not occur on its own; it is MPs that must provide local leadership to achieve this.

²⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government, “Proposal to introduce a Community Right to Buy – Assets of Community Value (Consultation Paper)”, Accessed on 20th August 2011, 14, <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1835775.pdf>

²⁷ Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust. “About Us.” Accessed 20th August, 2011. <http://hpwrt.co.uk/about-us/> .

Appendix 1

Who's in the Forty

The Forty – General Information²⁸

Member	Constituency	Majority	Majority %	Swing %	Con Gain from	Region
Dan Byles	North Warwickshire	54	0.11%	4%	Lib Dem	West Midlands
George Eustice	Camborne and Redruth	66	0.16%	5%	Lib Dem	South West
Jackie Doyle-Price	Thurrock	92	0.20%	6%	Labour	East
Matthew Offord	Hendon	106	0.23%	4%	Labour	London
Nicola Blackwood	Oxford West and Abingdon	176	0.31%	6%	Lib Dem	South East
Jonathon Evans	Cardiff North	194	0.41%	1%	Labour	Wales
Mark Spencer	Sherwood	214	0.43%	8%	Labour	East Midlands
James Wharton	Stockton South	332	0.66%	7%	Labour	North East
Eric Ollerenshaw	Lancaster and Fleetwood	333	0.78%	4%	Labour	North West
Anna Soubry	Broxtowe	389	0.74%	2%	Labour	East Midlands
Sarah Newton	Truro and Falmouth	435	0.89%	5%	Lib Dem	South West
Anne-Marie Morris	Newton Abbot	523	1.08%	5%	Lib Dem	South West
Nigel Mills	Amber Valley	536	1.16%	6%	Labour	East Midlands
Paul Uppal	Wolverhampton South West	691	1.72%	3%	Labour	West Midlands
Peter Aldous	Waveney	769	1.50%	6%	Labour	East

²⁸ There are actually 41 members of the Forty.

John Stevenson	Carlisle	853	2.01%	7%	Labour	North West
David Morris	Morecambe and Lunesdale	866	1.99%	6%	Labour	North West
Graham Evans	Weaver Vale	991	2.25%	8%	Labour	North West
Andrew Jones	Harrogate and Knaresborough	1,039	1.94%	9%	Lib Dem	Yorkshire and The Humber
Karl McCartney	Lincoln	1,058	2.31%	5%	Labour	East Midlands
Oliver Colvile	Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport	1,149	2.61%	6%	Labour	South West
Glyn Davies	Montgomeryshire	1,184	3.50%	13%	Lib Dem	Wales
Neil Carmichael	Stroud	1,299	2.24%	2%	Labour	South West
Simon Kirby	Brighton Kemptown	1,328	3.11%	3%	Labour	South East
Richard Fuller	Bedford	1,353	2.99%	5%	Labour	East
Richard Harrington	Watford	1,425	2.57%	2%	Lib Dem	East
Simon Reeve	Dewsbury	1,526	2.81%	5%	Labour	Yorkshire and The Humber
David Mowat	Warrington South	1,553	2.82%	5%	Labour	North West
Stuart Andrew	Pudsey	1,659	3.38%	7%	Labour	Yorkshire and The Humber
Nick de Bois	Enfield North	1,692	3.79%		NEW SEAT	London
Mike Weatherley	Hove	1,868	3.74%	2%	Labour	South East
Louise Mensch	Corby	1,895	3.48%	3%	Labour	East Midlands
Michael Ellis	Northampton North	1,936	4.79%	6%	Labour	East Midlands
Mary Macleod	Brentford and Isleworth	1,958	3.62%	5%	Labour	London
Amber Rudd	Hastings and Rye	1,993	3.99%	3%	Labour	South East
James Morris	Halesowen and Rowley Regis	2,023	4.58%	7%	Labour	West Midlands

Marcus Jones	Nuneaton	2,069	4.62%	7%	Labour	West Midlands
Ben Gummer	Ipswich	2,079	4.43%	8%	Labour	East
David Nuttal	Bury North	2,243	4.98%	5%	Labour	North West
Anne Main	St Albans	2,305	4.35%	3%	Con Hold	East
Richard Graham	Gloucester	2,420	4.75%	8%	Labour	South West

Summary

Gender	
Male	32
Female	9
Forty % Female	22%
Con % Female	16%

Con Gain	
Labour	31
Lib Dem	8
Hold	1
New Seat	1

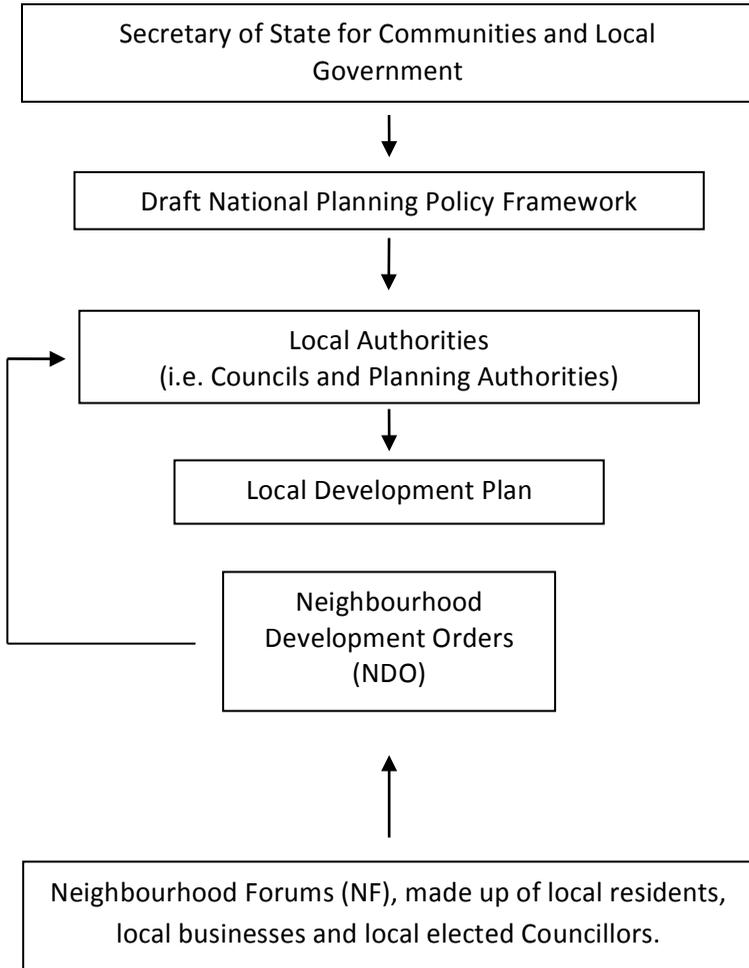
Region	
North East	1
North West	6
Yorkshire and The Humber	3
East Midlands	6
West Midlands	4
East	6
London	3
South East	4
South West	6
Wales	2
Scotland	0
Northern Ireland	0

Majority	
Highest	2,420
Lowest	54
Average	1,140

Swing	
Highest	13%
Lowest	1%
Average	5%

Appendix 2

The New Planning Regime



Appendix 3

Future Publications from Members of the Forty

MP	Subject
Sarah Newton	The Future of Care
David Mowat	Energy Poverty
Eric Ollerenshaw	The North/South Divide
James Morris	LEPs and Economic Development
Richard Graham	Urban Regeneration
Nick de Bois	Health Reforms – What they mean for Local Communities and Patient Choice
Anna Soubry	Drugs
Karl McCartney	Car Insurance – Time for an MOT?

