

Medway Conservatives announce candidates for February 2025 by-elections

Saturday 4th January 2025

The Medway Conservative Group, Gillingham and Rainham Conservative Association and Rochester and Strood Conservative Association, are delighted to announce that Saboor Ahmed has been selected for Gillingham South, and George Clarke and Tolga Sirlan for Rochester East and Warren Wood.

Saboor Ahmed has lived in Gillingham South for over 25 years, raising three sons, who all went to Napier Primary School, and running a local restaurant. As a local resident and business owner, he is passionate to see change in Gillingham, which is why he is standing for the Conservatives. Saboor is very keen to work with fellow local residents and businesses to make Gillingham a better place to live, work and enjoy life.

George Clarke is lifelong resident of Rochester East and Warren Wood, studied at the Math School, and has been an active member of St Justus and Cornerstone Churches. As a local man, he is proud to have graduated from Cambridge University, setting up a charity to support the homeless shelter whilst he was there. He has worked in the social housing sector and currently works in digital communications for the Diocese of Southwark. In this work he has seen the importance of green spaces in towns, he is a keen gardener and hopes to be able to support additional tree planting in the ward.

Tolga Sirlan was born in Turkey, but 16 years ago his job as a geophysical engineer brought him to the UK. He lives in the ward with his wife and son and runs a small engineering consultancy business. He joined the Conservative Party many years ago with the belief that he can help his community.

Commenting on the announcement, Cllr George Perfect, Leader of Medway Conservatives commented:

“Congratulations to Saboor, George and Tolga, on their selections as the by-election candidates for 6th February. All three are fantastic candidates that I know will do a tremendous job if elected, representing the people of Gillingham South and Rochester East and Warren Wood.

I would also like to thank both the Gillingham and Rainham and Rochester and Strood Conservative Associations for their work in selecting three brilliant candidates. I look forward to joining them on the doorstep soon.”

Habib Tejan, Chair of Rochester and Strood Conservative Association, and Bob Russell, Chair of Gillingham and Rainham Conservative Association added:

“We are really pleased that George, Tolga and Saboor have been selected to fight Rochester East and Warren Wood, and Gillingham South. Thank you to all Members that expressed an interest in being the Conservative candidates.

All candidates are longtime residents of the ward and committed to our area. We will be fighting hard for them every day between now and the by-election on 6th February.”