

German candidate reflects on standing for the Green Party in the North West Region



22 May 2019

Astrid Johnson, 55, is a candidate in the Green Party in the North West region in tomorrow's election.

Writing for Metro, she's reflected on the experience of being an EU27 candidate in these elections, and how she's felt since the 2016 referendum result.

She wrote: "I fell in love with England when I was 12 years old. I came for a language exchange, and immediately knew that I wanted to move to live here from my native Germany. I loved the easy-going politeness of the English people in comparison to the formalities of home.

"So over twenty years ago I left Germany to enjoy the cosmopolitan atmosphere of London. In 2009, I went to the Proms, and met my now husband.

"My step daughter is 19, and she wants to go and live in Paris. But without freedom of movement from the UK's membership of the EU, her options are likely to be much more limited than the ones I had when I was younger."

Astrid added: "I felt immediately at home when I moved to the UK, but since 2016 I've felt like 'a migrant'. This is my home, but I'm not being treated like it is.

"Applying for settled status is frightening and angering. Even the technology is not fit for purpose. Why do they tell me I have to have an Android phone? (I don't.)

"Why should I have to 'apply' to stay in my own home? Why did I not have a vote in 2016?

"Those with resources, skills and money will probably find a way through eventually, but what of those without the language skills, the computer knowledge, or the resources to navigate their way through the new 'settled status' procedure? What about their children, if they don't have sufficient documentation?"

Astrid concluded: "I want to improve life here in Manchester and the North West, my home, to make things better for my neighbours, my community, the country in which I hope to live for the rest of my life. But I also see the EU as a way that we can make life better for people across Europe."

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[Greens rally against hate in Burnley today](#)



21 May 2019

Green Party candidate for the North West region Gina Dowding, also a Lancashire County Councillor, will today be speaking at a rally in Burnley for a community preparing to resist messages of hatred and xenophobia.

Reports suggest that Stephen Yaxley Lennon, AKA Tommy Robinson, is coming to Burnley, and is likely to be in the ward of Green councillor Andy Fewings.

Andy is organising a rally in conjunction with local anti-racism organisations offering solidarity and support to the community and a strong anti-hate message.

He has invited Gina Dowding, lead candidate for the North West and a Lancashire County Councillor, to address it.

Gina said: "We have seen this carrier of the message of hate going from place to place across the North West, from Liverpool to Oldham, Warrington to Preston, seeking to fan the flames of bigotry.

"Now he is trying Burnley. But this town has already demonstrated that it is united against the poisonous fiction that people can't stand together.

"The BNP has died in the town and shows no signs of making a comeback. Instead the Greens are rising, and following the local elections this month are now the second-largest group on the Council."

Gina added: "The Green Party stands for everything that he doesn't. We stand for hope not hate, for unity not division, for finding solutions to problems not blaming others for them.

"The Green Party, from local councils through to Brussels, offers positive leadership that looks to a brighter future, celebrating diversity."

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Lewes Liberal Democrats hand power to Tories

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Zoe Nicholson, leader of the Green group of councillors on Lewes District Council, tonight expressed frustration and anger at the actions of Liberal Democrats in refusing to join an agreed co-operative alliance for the council, which included Labour and independent councillors.

She said: "The Liberal Democrats actively obstructed the proposed move to put people, planet and place ahead of party politics, leaving control with the Tory Party administration.

"Over the past two weeks Greens took the leadership and put people first and party second. We developed an agreement that met every one of the Liberal Democrat Group's request for equality in decision making, to implement their manifesto and that of the other groups. We agreed to them taking over the leadership in a year. Every one of their ideas and needs we built into the agreement.

"Throughout the local election they told voters that they were the party that was ready to govern, the only choice was between them and Conservatives, but it seems that they really aren't ready to step up. People will feel very let down.

"I would like to thank our Independent and Labour colleagues who have been so supportive of the alliance that we developed together. It takes courage and conviction to step forward to lead. I have had so many messages of support for this approach, we will continue to do what is right for our local communities."

Alexandra Phillips, Green party candidate for the South East in the European election on Thursday, said: "I am sure many Liberal Democrat voters in Lewes, and potential voters in the European elections across our region and beyond, will be disgusted by the actions of the Liberal Democrats in Lewes.

“The people of Lewes were looking for a change. That’s how they voted. Instead they’ve found that voting Lib Dem delivers more of the same, old, disastrous politics of obfuscation and narrow party interest.”

[Lewes Liberal Democrats hand power to Tories](#)



Lib Dems back away from deal for anti-Tory alliance

They actively obstructed a plan to put people, planet and place ahead of party politics, says Green leader

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[Robert Macfarlane backs vote for the Green Party in European election](#)



18 May 2019

Highly successful nature writer Robert Macfarlane has tweeted his support for the Green Party in the European election.

He wrote:

The [@TheGreenparty](#) are currently polling ahead of the Tories in the upcoming European elections. A vote for them next Thursday is anti-Brexit, anti-austerity-& puts nature, climate & people together & first. More on the Green surge here:

<https://t.co/XVaAf0pHlu#VOTEGREEN2019> <https://t.co/DrqkSbgX37>

– Robert Macfarlane (@RobGMacfarlane) [17 May 2019](#)

He had earlier released the following statement showing his support

"If you want to see an end to air pollution and an end to fossil-fuel dependency; if you want to see the recovery of biodiversity and the growth of a Green New Deal; if you believe that social justice and environmental justice are closely aligned, then I'm with you. I'll be voting Green on Thursday May 23rd – join me! It's time."

Macfarlane is famous for his works that explore the human place in nature and his latest book *Underland* is described as a work of huge range and power, and a remarkable new chapter in Macfarlane's long-term exploration of landscape and the human heart.

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