

# [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**

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."

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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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## [Green Party action at St Pancras](#)

# today: Call for affordable, convenient European train travel



18 May 2019

**Let the train take the strain, says Green Party deputy leader**

**Young Green action coordinated with German compatriots**

Green Party deputy leader Amelia Womack will today (Saturday 18th of May) join London Young Greens to demand that train travel from London across Europe be made more convenient and cheaper.

They will be protesting outside St Pancras station, calling for improvements in rail travel, rather than cutbacks. This follows the recent announcement that sales of relatively cheap “through” tickets to German, Austrian and Swiss destinations will end. (1)

Amelia said: “Huge numbers of young people don’t want to fly but want to take advantage of the free movement now available to them as citizens of the European Union. It is possible to travel by train to and from most destinations in Europe, as Nobel Prize-nominee Swede Greta Thunberg showed on her recent visit to Britain.

“I know this personally, having been to the South of Italy, Berlin and many other European destinations by train.

“But the price makes it prohibitive for many, particularly young people. That flying is so much cheaper in pound terms, even though it is costing us the Earth, is a massive policy failure of their elders. Aviation is massively subsidised through lack of fuel tax and VAT.

“That costs the Treasury billions, and helps push people into the air, when for many journeys rail would be a far more convenient and pleasant way to travel.”

Amelia added: “The Young Green event is being held in coordination with a similar German Young Greens event, reflecting the way in which as part of the European Greens, we work cooperatively across the continent.”

Greens across Europe are also campaigning for the restoration of sleeper trains, to make longer journeys more practical and convenient, a campaign that has met with success in Sweden. (2)

For further information contact the Green Party press office, [press@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:press@greenparty.org.uk), 0203-6919401. To cover the protest on the day, contact Matthew Hull, 0785 615783.

Notes

1

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/eurostar-train-rail-brussels-germany-austria-switzerland-through-ticket-a8902431.html>

2

<https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2019/04/europe-night-train-sweden-eco-travel-sleeper-car-fossil-free/586228/>

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## [North East Green Party lead candidate says coal claims 'blown away' by study](#)



14 May 2019

Rachel Featherstone, Green Party lead candidate for the North East, is tonight to visit the site of the proposed Dewley Hill open cast coal mine in Northumberland.

She will be marking the release of figures today showing that existing coal stockpiles in the UK are more than double the level needed required until 2025, when the government is committed to completely ending coal-fired electricity generation.

Rachel said: "The issue of coal mining is of great concern in the North East, where not only Dewley Hill but also our treasured Druridge Bay is threatened by a proposed new open cut coal mine, despite strong local opposition.

"But this is a national issue. The parliament has declared a climate emergency, but we are still in danger of not just losing wonderful natural environments, but also further driving greenhouse gas emissions globally by exporting coal, when we should be ensuring no more is removed from the ground.

"Proponents of coal try to argue that their mines will ensure we aren't importing coal for the final days of its use. This important work by Friends of the Earth and the Coal Action Network blows that claim away.

"The government has often talked about promoting carbon capture and storage from fossil fuel burning, but there is no need for new technology. Nature has already done the storage for us, if we just leave the fossil fuels in the ground."

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## [Molly Scott-Cato focuses on tax justice with 10-point plan](#)



14 May 2019

Molly Scott-Cato, Green Party MEP for the South West, and lead candidate in next week's European election, today launched a "10-step Plan for Tax Justice" before an audience of small business owners in Bournemouth.

She said: "Greens are proud to have led on cracking down on corporate tax avoidance in this parliament. But there's still a lot more to do to make sure national government stop blocking European co-operation on this issue.

"Multinational corporations use their transnational structures to out-compete local independent businesses who pay their taxes and fund the public services that the corporations rely on to help generate their profits. They are parasites who are not paying their way."

Molly added: "Bournemouth is one of the country's financial centres, which is why we are launching this plan here. We need to clean up our financial sector so it stops serving our tax dodgers. Currently, it works for the benefit of the elite."

The plan was launched simultaneously across Europe, reflecting the close cooperation between Green parties across the European Union.

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