

Green deputy leader selected as Newport West candidate



23 November 2018

*** Amelia Womack selected as Newport West candidate in event of snap General Election**

*** Newport born and raised Womack pledges to give voters a “real alternative to the status quo”**

*** Womack: “Newport has been overlooked and left behind for too long”**

Green Party of England and Wales deputy leader Amelia Womack has been selected as the party’s candidate in Newport West in the event of a by-election or snap general election.

The announcement follows news that Newport West MP Paul Flynn will stand down at the earliest opportunity. [1]

Womack, who was born and raised in Newport, has pledged to bring green jobs to her hometown, support local businesses and champion environmentally sustainable alternatives to the M4 motorway expansion.

After being elected as Green Party deputy leader in 2014, Womack stood for Cardiff Central in the 2016 Welsh Assembly election.

The local party in Newport selected Womack as the Newport West Parliamentary candidate at a meeting on the evening of Thursday 22 November.

Amelia Womack, deputy leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, said:

“Newport has been overlooked and left behind for too long. I’m honoured to have been selected to represent the Green Party in my hometown and am excited to get stuck in and give voters a real alternative to the status quo.

“I have seen first hand the impact decades of underinvestment have had on Newport and am committed to securing new clean, sustainable jobs to help revitalise our forgotten local economy.

“With plans for toxic sludge to be dumped just down the coast the need for fearless, independent Green voices to stand up for our city has never been greater. I pledge to oppose the short-term thinking behind plans for the polluting M4 expansion, and will fight for the protection of Newport’s local environment to be at the heart of all decisions made for our city.” [2] [3]

Notes:

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-45975674>

2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-41347137>
3. https://bettertransport.org.uk/campaign_against_levels_motorway

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Caroline Lucas: Flights to Cornwall will accelerate climate disaster



22 November 2018

The Green Party has responded to the [Government's announcement of new flights between Heathrow and Cornwall](#).

Caroline Lucas said MP: "The world's top scientists say we've got 12 years to avoid climate catastrophe.

"Yet this Government appears to be doing all it can to accelerate disaster. These extra flights will add to noise, air pollution and climate-wrecking emissions – all for the benefit of a tiny minority.

"Chris Grayling should be investing in improving creaking rail links to Cornwall – not wasting public money on damaging domestic flights."

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Caroline Lucas: "This isn't a parlour game for the Westminster class"



15 November 2018

Responding to the Prime Minister's statement on the Brexit deal, Green Party MP Caroline Lucas said: "The Prime Minister knows the maths – her deal is never going to get through the Commons, and no deal would be an unmitigated disaster.

"We now risk chaos – job losses, businesses going under, crisis for our NHS, families divided and environmental rules torn up. That was never the will of the people.

"This isn't a parlour game for the Westminster class. MPs are playing with people's real lives.

"At this moment of conscience we must put aside party politics. Parliament must give control back to the public and deliver a People's Vote."

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Bristol Greens declare climate emergency and bring city's CO2 emissions target forward 20 years



13 November 2018

A Green party motion calling on the Mayor of Bristol to declare a climate emergency and bring the city's carbon neutrality target forward by 20 years (to 2030) passed in a Full Council meeting this evening (Tuesday 13 November) with support from councillors of all parties, committing Bristol to the most ambitious climate change target out of all UK Core Cities.

The motion, submitted by Councillor Carla Denyer, was inspired by the recent IPCC report which warned that humanity has 12 years to take emergency action in order to prevent global warming greater than 1.5°C. Above this, the risks to humanity of floods, droughts, extreme heat and poverty become much greater, impacting on hundreds of millions more people.(2) The motion text notes the progress already made by Bristol Council, and argues that as a former European Green Capital, Bristol has an important role to play in leading the UK in reducing carbon emissions as fast as possible. It asks the city's Mayor Marvin Rees to declare a Climate Emergency and pledge to make Bristol carbon neutral by 2030 (bringing forward the current target by 20 years), call on national government for more powers and resources to support

this, work with partners in Bristol and other governments both in the UK and nationally to prevent climate change above 1.5°C, and to report back in six months on the actions that will be taken to address the emergency.

Councillor Denyer said:

"This is a fantastic day for Bristol and I'm delighted the Council will be bringing forward its target for carbon neutrality to 2030. The IPCC report made it clear that time to preserve Earth as we know it is running out. We can't wait for the UN or national governments to negotiate when we have just 12 years to act – we have to show how it's done and commit to ambitious action at the level of cities, which we did this evening.

"I'm grateful to my colleagues in the Green Group, who supported me in bringing this motion to council and leading the other political groups in the right direction, to those councillors from other parties who saw the importance of taking action, and to the public who did a fantastic job submitting statements and emailing their councillors in support of this motion. Thanks to all of you, Bristol is now leading the rest of the UK on climate change."

Councillor Steve Clarke, who seconded the motion, said he was overjoyed by the outcome and added:

"The next step is to ensure that this evening's commitments are followed by ambitious action. Over the coming years, Greens will continue to hold Bristol Council to account on today's decision, no matter what party is in power. We know that 2030 is a big commitment for the city and to meet this target an awareness of carbon emissions will have to factor into every decision the Council takes. We look forward to the Mayor reporting back to us in 6 months on what action he will take."

Background:

Full text of the motion is attached [here](#). Actions that the Council could take might include involving carbon reduction in every decision the Council takes, stepping up the electrification of its vehicle fleet, requiring higher energy efficiency standards for new development, putting further work into reducing food waste across the city, working with city partners to encourage lower emissions and reviewing contradictions, for example the Mayor's support for the expansion of Bristol Airport.

The IPCC report (available [here](#)) focusses on the impact that 1.5°C would have on the planet compared to 2°C. Some of the key findings were:

- Insects and plants were almost twice as likely to lose half their habitat at 2°C compared with 1.5°C warming
- Coral populations would be wiped out at 2°C warming but more than 10% would have a chance of surviving at the lower temperature
- Global fish stocks would lose 3 million tonnes at 2°C, twice the decline of 1.5°C, due to lower oxygen levels and greater acidity in the ocean

- Hundreds of millions more people, particularly in less developed countries, would be at risk of climate-related poverty with a 2°C increase
- The global population exposed to water stress would be 50% lower with 1.5°C warming
- At current levels, the world is on course for 3°C of warming

The motion was supported by Climate activists [Rising Up](#), who organised the prominent Extinction Rebellion protests in London and protested outside Bristol Council before the meeting.

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[Review of Government's bovine TB strategy published](#)



13 November 2018

Responding to the conclusions of the 'Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) strategy review 2018' [1], Keith Taylor MEP, the Green Party of England and Wales' spokesperson on animal rights, said:

"This report makes for frustrating reading. The findings make it clear that cattle movements, land management and poor biosecurity measures are the main driving force behind the spread of bTB in England. At the same time, it highlights that the main use of the inhumane and hugely expensive badger cull is to placate farmers otherwise reluctant to take the less bloodthirsty but more effective measures."

"It is worth pointing out, as Sir Godfray does, that the review was specifically asked not to look at the effectiveness of the current badger cull with Ministers fearful it would have exposed the fact the government has consistently been unable to muster any reliable data to demonstrate its effectiveness."

"Ultimately, the report calls on the government to urgently adopt humane bTB controls, including vaccinations, that aren't based on blind ideology or appeasing vested interests. It is time to end to put an end to the Tories' mass badger extermination programme once and for all."

On claims that the report supports the current culling programme, Mr Taylor

added:

“Anyone spinning today’s findings as a vindication of the current badger cull is deliberately misleading the public and farmers. The government explicitly limited the scope of this review to ensure it couldn’t be critical of nor call for an end to the current inhumane badger cull policy. But, as veterinary surgeons exposed only yesterday, lies and misrepresentation are a common tactic used to defend the Conservatives’ cruel, expensive and ineffective cull.”

[1] <https://bit.ly/2JJZotS0>

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