



# Welcome the Green Party Seniors Newsletter

August 2021

## NOEL LYNCH

A tribute to Green Party Seniors Co-Chair, Noel Lynch, from Green Party London Assembly members Caroline Russell, Sian Berry and Zack Polanski.



We are sorry to hear the sad news today of the death of Noel Lynch, who was the fourth Green elected to the London Assembly. Standing on the list for the London Assembly sometimes means jumping into the breach at short notice some time after an election. Noel stepped up to represent Londoners in 2003, taking a full part in the work of the London Assembly until the May 2004 election.

In just one year he was able to publish four reports - covering local shops, plastic bags, the decline of public toilets and the need for green space. All of these were topics where his focus was ahead of the agenda and, indeed we continue working on these topics even now. His work behind the scenes since he was an Assembly Member has been invaluable, and he was a friendly face for many people new to green politics. He will be much missed.

## **GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE - Voting opens 1 August**

The following Co-ordinator posts are up for election.

Equality and Diversity  
Local Party Support

Finance  
Publications

Internal Communications  
Policy Development

See all the candidates and their statements in Green World

<https://greenworld.org.uk/article/who-can-i-vote-years-gpex-elections>

You should have received an email on 1 or 2 August from Claire Nash, ERO, with full voting details including your identifying number.

### **Political Committee meeting 28 July**

Attended by Nicola Watson

This group agrees the GPEW response to current issues and our external communications line.

#### **VACCINE PASSPORTS**

Agreed that we are against these, for the following reasons:

The impact it could have on the care sector - 3-12% of staff could be lost

There is a mixed message pitting the care sector against night clubs

Compulsion drives resistance to vaccination and is counter productive

#### **HEALTH AND CARE BILL 2021**

Rosie Sexton has taken an interest in this Bill, as it has implications for local government.

It was agreed that elements of the Bill are good and it seeks to roll back unwelcome changes brought in under Andrew Lansley. Much of what is in it has been requested by the NHS. There are concerns but Rosie does not believe these revolve around privatisation.

The Bill seeks to bring back local scrutiny but gives some powers to the Secretary of State. It is quite light touch and gives local authorities the ability to implement it in different ways.

As a Party, we don't have the resources to research and propose amendments. A small group will meet to formulate our response, which will be constructively critical.

*I have a pdf of this Bill if anyone is interested. It seems that this is something that Seniors should take an interest in. It does not cover social care, but this will be coming along next.*

PolCom  
Meeting  
Report

## **Booking for Conference is open 22-24 October, Birmingham.**

Workshops will take place online in the week leading up to the 3-day physical Conference. Look out for information on what plans Green Party Seniors will have for a stall and, hopefully, a social event.

## Green Party National Executive Meeting - Saturday 30 July

*(These are drastically edited notes. Please let me know if you would like a fuller version.)*

GPEX  
Meeting  
Report

New Young Greens Co-Chairs in attendance, Kelsey Trevett and Jane Baston.

### **Finances**

After some discussion, it was agreed to hold Finances discussion confidentially.

**Spokespeople.** The new Code of Conduct for Spokespeople is more restrictive than rules for other members of the Party. Some on GPEX wondered about the consultation process and whether people with legitimate interest had been excluded.

Molly Scott Cato (External Comms) said that Speakers, need support not sanctions. The list of spokespeople to be reviewed in 6 months. Julia Lagoutte (Publications) asked whether there will also be a review of the code of conduct.

**Accessibility issues for Conference.** Presented by Louisa Greenbaum (Conference Organiser) Online Conferences - there had been some gains & some challenges. On balance, accessibility was increased. Autumn Conference will be hybrid online and physical.

Many questions about what format is most accessible and costs of online versus physical.

SOC needs to ensure that Conference is quorate and that only members attend. Questions about proxy voting.

Members have had difficulties re digital access, tickets for help went up & up. Being dealt with. Increased membership, but fewer clicks on email communications. The change from CIVI to Action Network has been challenging. We need more digital staff.

**Martha James (GPRC) re Complaints.** Needs wholesale review so volunteers can cope - too many complaints. Need a system that is consistent & fair & trusted by members.

**Adrian Spurrell,(GPRC) Culture Working Group.** We need to be better at talking to each other. Need to disagree well.

### **Safeguarding.**

Claudine is concerned it's being used by sides of an argument while genuine safety issues are not addressed. Safeguarding is so important - worrying that children under 16 are mixing with adults in Young Greens.

### **Co-option of Campaigns Co-ordinator**

Tom Scott will be co-opted (co-opted members have no vote on GPEX.)

Green Party Seniors website <https://seniors.greenparty.org.uk/>

twitter [https://twitter.com/seniors\\_uk](https://twitter.com/seniors_uk)

facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GreenPartySeniors>

Contact the Committee through the Google Group.